

3.7 Summer Flounder (Fluke)

3.7.2 Commercial:

(A) Minimum size: Fourteen (14) inches.

(B) Seasons, allocations, and possession limits: A total annual statewide quota for Summer flounder will be established for the State by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and/or NOAA Fisheries.

(1) Winter sub-period: January 1 - April 30 annually:

(a) Target allocation: 54% of the annual quota.

(b) Possession limit between January 1 and the start of the Winter sub-period of the Aggregate Landing Program, annually:

(i) Vessels that possess a valid RI Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate (Exemption Certificate): Two hundred (200) pounds per vessel per calendar day.

(ii) Vessels that do not possess a valid Exemption Certificate: Two hundred (200) pounds per vessel per calendar day.

(c) Possession limit during the Winter sub-period of the Aggregate Landing Program, annually:

(i) Vessels not permitted in the Aggregate Landing Program but which possess a valid Exemption Certificate: Two hundred (200) pounds per vessel per calendar day. When 90% of the Winter sub-period quota has been harvested as determined by the DFW, the possession limit per vessel shall be one hundred (100) pounds per calendar day.

(ii) Vessels that do not possess a valid Exemption Certificate: Two hundred (200) pounds per vessel per calendar day. When 90% of the Winter sub-period quota has been harvested as determined by the DFW, the possession limit per vessel shall be one hundred (100) pounds per calendar day.

(iii) Aggregate Landing Program: ~~Two thousand five hundred (2,500)~~ **One thousand three hundred (1,300)** pounds per vessel per bi-weekly period. The bi-weekly periods shall be specified in the Aggregate Landing Permit. When 90% of the Winter sub-period quota has been harvested as determined by the DFW, the Aggregate Landing Program will terminate and the possession limit shall be one hundred (100) pounds per vessel per calendar day.

(2) Summer sub-period: May 1 - September 15 annually:

- (a) Target allocation: 35% of the annual quota.
- (b) Possession limit between May 1 and May 31, annually:
 - (i) Vessels that possess a valid Exemption Certificate: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day. The fishery is closed Friday, ~~and~~ Saturday, ~~and~~ **Sunday** each week.
 - (ii) Vessels that do not possess a valid Exemption Certificate: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day. The fishery is closed Friday, ~~and~~ Saturday, ~~and~~ **Sunday** each week.
- (c) Possession limit during the Summer sub-period of the Aggregate Landing Program, annually:
 - (i) Vessels not permitted in the Aggregate Landing Program, but which possess a valid Exemption Certificate: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day. The fishery is closed Friday, ~~and~~ Saturday, ~~and~~ **Sunday** each week.
 - (ii) Vessels that do not possess a valid Exemption Certificate: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day. The fishery is closed Friday, ~~and~~ Saturday, ~~and~~ **Sunday** each week.
 - (iii) Aggregate Landing Program: ~~Two hundred and fifty (250)~~ **Two hundred** pounds per vessel per week. When 80% of the Summer sub-period quota has been harvested as determined by the DFW the program will terminate and the possession limit per vessel shall be fifty (50) pounds per calendar day. The fishery is closed Friday, ~~and~~ Saturday, ~~and~~ **Sunday** each week.
- (3) Fall Sub-Period: September 16 – December 31 annually:
 - (a) Target allocation: 11% of the annual quota.
 - (b) Possession limit:
 - (i) Vessels that possess a valid Exemption Certificate: One hundred (100) pounds per vessel per calendar day.
 - (ii) Vessels that do not possess a valid Exemption Certificate: One hundred (100) pounds per vessel per calendar day.

3.14 Black Sea Bass

3.14.2 Commercial:

- (A) Minimum size: Eleven (11) inches, whether caught within the jurisdiction of

this State or otherwise.

(B) Seasons, allocations, and possession limits: A state quota for Black sea bass will be established annually and shall be the most recent amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the ASMFC and/or the Secretary of the NOAA Fisheries. The quota shall be available during the following sub-periods:

(1) January 1 – April 30:

(a) Allocation: Twenty-five percent (25%) of the quota.

(b) Possession limit: ~~One thousand (1,000)~~ 750 pounds per vessel per week.

(2) May 1 – June 30:

(a) Allocation: Twenty-five percent (25%) of the quota.

(b) Possession limit: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day. The commercial fishery is closed on Friday of each week during this sub-period.

(3) July 1 – July 31:

(a) Allocation: Nineteen and a half percent (19.5%) of the quota.

(b) Possession limit: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day. The commercial fishery is closed on Friday of each week during this sub-period.

(4) August 1 – September 14: Closed.

(5) September 15 – October 31:

(a) Allocation: Nineteen and a half percent (19.5%).

(b) Possession limit: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day. The commercial fishery is closed on Friday of each week during this sub-period.

(6) November 1 – December 31:

(a) Allocation: Eleven percent (11%).

(b) Possession limit: One hundred (100) pounds per vessel per calendar day.

3.24 Coastal Sharks

3.24.2 Commercial:

(K) Prohibition of finning: Finning is defined as the act of taking a shark and removing its fins. Finning of sharks is prohibited in all state waters. All sharks, with the exception of smoothhound, possessed by commercial fishermen within state boundaries must have the tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass until landed. Fins may be cut as long as they remain attached to the carcass, by natural means, with at least a small portion of uncut skin. Sharks may be gutted and bled provided the tail is not removed. Sharks taken and possessed by commercial fishermen may have the heads removed, but no commercial fisherman shall fillet a shark at sea or otherwise cut a shark into pieces at sea.

(1) Commercial fishermen may eviscerate and remove the head and all shark fins of smooth dogfish while at sea provided smooth dogfish make up at least 25 percent, by weight, of total catch on board at the time of landing. Trips that do not meet the 25 percent catch composition requirement can land smooth dogfish, but the fins must remain naturally attached to the carcass ~~completely remove all smoothhound fins year-round~~. If fins are removed, the total wet weight of the shark fins may not exceed 12 percent of the total dressed weight of smoothhound carcasses landed or found on board a vessel. Commercial fishermen may retain other sharks on board provided the fins of other shark species remain naturally attached to the carcass through offloading