

RI Department of Environmental Management

Division of Marine Fisheries

PUBLIC HEARING

November 19, 2018



Public Hearing Items

1. 2019 commercial black sea bass management
2. 2019 commercial scup management
3. 2019 commercial summer flounder management
4. 2019 recreational Tautog management
5. 2019 commercial Tautog management



Commercial Black Sea Bass

Option 1: Status quo.

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Starting Poss. limit
11"	Jan 1 – Apr 30	25%	500 (vsl/week)
	May 1 – June 30	25%	50 (vsl/day)
	July 1 – July 31	19.5%	50 (vsl/day)
	Aug. 1 – Sept. 14	Closed	
	Sept 15 – Oct 31	19.5%	50 (vsl/day)
	Nov 1 – Dec 31	11%	50 (vsl/day)

Option 2: Amend starting possession limit from 50 lbs/day to 25 lbs/day during July sub-period.

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Starting Poss. limit
11"	Jan 1 – Apr 30	25%	500 (vsl/week)
	May 1 – June 30	25%	50 (vsl/day)
	July 1 – July 31	19.5%	50 25 (vsl/day)
	Aug. 1 – Sept. 14	Closed	
	Sept 15 – Oct 31	19.5%	50 (vsl/day)
	Nov 1 – Dec 31	11%	50 (vsl/day)



Commercial Scup

Proposal 1: Management Program

- Option 1: Status quo.

Min. size	Seasons	Sub-periods	Quota	Starting Poss. limit
9"	<u>Winter I:</u> (1/1 – 4/30)		Coastwide	50,000 lbs/vsl/day
	<u>Summer – Fall:</u> (5/1 – 9/30)	Gen. Cat. Summer	40% of sub-period quota	10,000 lbs/vsl/wk
		Floating Fish Traps	60% of sub-period quota	Unlimited
	<u>Winter II:</u> (10/1 – 12/31)		Coastwide	2,000/28,500 lbs/vsl/day*

* Winter II possession limit begins at 2,000 lbs/vsl/day; change to 28,500/day after Winter I roll over calculated.



Commercial Scup cont'd:

Proposal 2: Amend the maximum Scup pot limit.

- **Option 1:** Remove the maximum pot limit (50 pots).
- **Option 2:** Increase maximum pot limit from 50 to 300 pots.



Commercial Summer flounder

Option 1: Status quo.

Min. size	Season	Alloc.	Days closed	Poss. limit
9"	Winter (1/1 – 4/30)	54%	Open 7 days/wk	100 lbs/day
	Summer (5/1 – 9/15)	35%	Fri/Sat/Sun	50 lbs/day
	Fall (9/16 – 12/31)	11%	Open 7 days/wk	100 lbs/day
	2/5 – 4/30	Agg. Program	Open 7 days/wk	1,500 lbs/2 wks



Commercial Summer flounder cont'd:

Option 2: Re-open on Sundays during the Summer sub-period.

Min. size	Season	Alloc.	Days closed	Poss. limit
9"	Winter (1/1 – 4/30)	54%	Open 7 days/wk	100 lbs/day
	Summer (5/1 – 9/15)	35%	Fri/Sat/ Sun	50 lbs/day
	Fall (9/16 – 12/31)	11%	Open 7 days/wk	100 lbs/day
	2/5 – 4/30	Agg. Program	Open 7 days/wk	1,500 lbs/2 wks

Option 2 considerations:

- Average daily harvest rate Summer 2018 \approx 4,000lbs/day. Remained open all 79 days of the sub-period (no early closures).
- If 2019 quota increases by 15%, would equal 99.88 days of fishing at 2018 avg. harvest rates.
- Opening one additional day in 2019 would add 20 days to the season, or 99 days. Therefore, any increase in 2019 harvest rates would likely result in an early closure.



Recreational Tautog

Option 1: Status quo.

Min. Size	Season (includes P/C)	Poss. Limit (includes P/C)
16"	April 1 – May 31:	3 fish/person/day*
	June 1 – July 31:	Closed
	Aug. 1 – 3 rd Sat. in Oct:	3 fish/person/day*
	3 rd Sat. in Oct. – Dec. 15:	5 fish/person/day*

* max. 10 fish/vessel (n/a for P/C)



Commercial Tautog

Proposal 1: Management program.

- Option 1: Status quo.

Min. Size	Season	Allocation	Possession Limit
16"	April 1 – May 31	40%	10 fish/vsl/day
	June 1 – July 31		Closed
	Aug. 1 – Sept. 15	20%	10 fish/vsl/day
	Oct. 15 – Dec. 31	40%	10 fish/vsl/day

- Option 2: Remove summer sub-period, split allocation 50/50 between spring and fall sub-periods.

Min. Size	Season	Allocation	Possession Limit
16"	April 1 – May 31	40 <u>50</u> %	10 fish/vsl/day
	June 1 – July 31		Closed
	Aug. 1 – Sept. 15	20 %	10 fish/vsl/day
	Oct. 15 – Dec. 31	40 <u>50</u> %	10 fish/vsl/day



Commercial Tautog

Proposal 2: Proposed adoption of a fish tagging program.

- Necessary for compliance with Amendment 1 of the Tautog FMP
- Main points: (see annotated regulations for full details)
 - All tautog commercially harvested in RI must be tagged at the time of harvest by the harvester.
 - **Tags to be affixed to the left opercula bone with the tag number displayed.**
 - Tags will be issued to RI commercially licensed fishermen eligible to participate in the tautog fishery.
 - **Tags are valid for 1 calendar year; new tags req'd each year.**
 - Unused tags must be returned. Failure to return tags and reports may result in the harvester's inability to participate in the commercial tautog fishery in the future.
 - **Rules would take effect 1/1/20.**
 - Ordering form and process to be developed.



End of Slides!



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