

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 648**

[Docket No. 241203-0308; RTID 0648-XF260]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From Massachusetts to Rhode Island**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.**ACTION:** Temporary rule; quota transfer.**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is transferring a portion of its 2025 commercial summer flounder quota to the State of Rhode Island. This adjustment to the 2025 fishing year quota is necessary to comply with the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) quota transfer provisions. This announcement informs the public of the revised 2025 commercial quotas for Massachusetts and Rhode Island.**DATES:** Effective September 26, 2025, through December 31, 2025.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**
Matthew Rigdon, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9336**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found in 50 CFR 648.100 through 648.111. These regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the coastal states from Maine through North Carolina. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state is described in § 648.102, and the final 2025 allocations were published on December 10, 2024 (89 FR 99138).

The final rule implementing Amendment 5 to the FMP, as published in the **Federal Register** on December 17, 1993 (58 FR 65936), provided a mechanism for transferring summer flounder commercial quota from one state to another. Two or more states, under mutual agreement and with the concurrence of the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Administrator, can transfer or combine summer flounder commercial quota under § 648.102(c)(2). The Regional Administrator is required to consider three criteria in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or combinations: (1) the transfers or combinations would not preclude the

overall annual quota from being fully harvested; (2) the transfers address an unforeseen variation or contingency in the fishery; and (3) the transfers are consistent with the objectives of the FMP and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Regional Administrator has determined these three criteria have been met for the transfer approved in this notification.

Massachusetts is transferring 609 pounds (lb; 276 kilograms (kg)) of summer flounder to Rhode Island through a mutual agreement between the states. This transfer was requested to repay landings made by an out-of-state permitted vessel under a safe harbor agreement. The revised summer flounder quotas for 2025 are: Massachusetts, 594,240 lb (269,543 kg); and Rhode Island, 1,379,116 lb (625,556 kg).

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 648.102(c)(2)(i) through (iv), which was issued pursuant to section 304(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and is exempted from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 25, 2025.

Kelly Denit,*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 648**

[Docket No. 241203-0308; RTID 0648-XF089]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Adjustment to the 2025 Winter II Quota**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.**ACTION:** Temporary rule; in-season adjustment.**SUMMARY:** NMFS adjusts the 2025 Winter II commercial scup quota and per-trip Federal landing limit. This action is necessary to comply with regulations implementing Framework Adjustment 3 to the Summer Flounder,

Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan that established the rollover of unused commercial scup quota from the Winter I to the Winter II period. This notification informs the public of the quota and trip limit changes.

DATES: Effective October 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**Matthew Rigdon, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9336; or Matthew.Rigdon@noaa.gov.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS published a final rule for Framework Adjustment 3 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan in the **Federal Register** on November 3, 2003 (68 FR 62250), implementing a process to increase the Winter II (October 1 through December 31) commercial scup quota by the amount of the Winter I (January 1 through April 30) under-harvest and to adjust the Winter II possession limits consistent with the amount of the quota increase, based on the possession limits established through the annual specifications-setting process.

For 2025, the initial Winter II quota is 3,114,608 pounds (lb; 1,412,762 kilograms (kg)). The best available landings information through July 10, 2025, indicates that 1,047,723 lb (475,239 kg) remain of the 8,814,300 lb (3,998,099 kg) Winter I quota. Consistent with Framework 3, the full amount of unused 2025 Winter I quota is being transferred to Winter II, resulting in a revised 2025 Winter II quota of 4,162,331 lb (1,888,02 kg). Because the amount transferred is between 1 and 1.5 million lb (453,592 and 680,338 kg), the Federal per-trip possession limit will increase from 12,000 lb (5,443 kg) to 15,000 lb (6,804 kg), as outlined in the final rule that established the possession limit and quota rollover procedures for this year, published on December 10, 2024 (89 FR 99138). The new possession limit will be effective October 1 through December 31, 2025. The Winter II possession limit will revert to 12,000 lb (5,443 kg) at the start of the next fishing year, which begins January 1, 2026.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 648.122(d), which was issued pursuant to section 304(b), and is exempted from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on