



Summer Flounder

Commercial Allocation Modifications

At their March 2019 meeting, the Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board (Board) identified preferred alternatives for the [Summer Flounder Commercial Issues & Goals and Objectives Amendment](#) to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The commercial quota allocation is proposed to be modified as described below.

Summary of Allocation Changes

The Council and Board selected a modified version of Alternative 2C, which modifies the state-by-state commercial quota allocations in years when the annual coastwide commercial quota exceeds the specified trigger of 9.55 million pounds. Annual coastwide commercial quota of up to 9.55 million pounds will continue be distributed according to the current allocations. In years when the coastwide quota exceeds 9.55 million pounds, the *additional* quota amount beyond this trigger would be distributed by equal shares to all states except Maine, Delaware, and New Hampshire, which would split 1% of the additional quota (Table 1). The total percentage allocated annually to each state is dependent on how much additional quota beyond 9.55 million pounds, if any, is available to be distributed in any given year. This allocation system is designed to provide for more equitable distribution of quota when stock biomass is relatively higher, while also considering the historic importance of the fishery to each state.

Table 1: Modified version of Alternative 2C adopted by the Council and Board as the preferred alternative for commercial allocation.

State	Allocation of baseline quota ≤9.55 mil lb	Allocation of <u>additional</u> quota <u>beyond 9.55 mil lb</u>
ME	0.04756%	0.333%
NH	0.00046%	0.333%
MA	6.82046%	12.375%
RI	15.68298%	12.375%
CT	2.25708%	12.375%
NY	7.64699%	12.375%
NJ	16.72499%	12.375%
DE	0.01779%	0.333%
MD	2.03910%	12.375%
VA	21.31676%	12.375%
NC	27.44584%	12.375%
Total	100%	100%

Implementation Timeline and Expected 2021 Allocations

The amendment will be submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for final approval. Once approved, these revised allocations may be effective as early as January 1, 2020 but would more likely be effective January 1, 2021.

The proposed initial commercial quota for 2019-2021 (prior to deductions for overages) is 11.53 million pounds, meaning that once revised allocations are implemented the "additional quota" in the implementation year would be approximately 2 million pounds. Table 2 compares how an 11.53 million pound coastwide quota would be distributed currently, versus how it will be distributed once the revised allocations take effect.

Table 2: Current allocation of an 11.53 million pound quota compared to proposed distribution under revised allocation system, once implemented.

State	Current (<i>status quo</i>) state allocation percentages	<i>Status Quo</i> distribution (lb) of 11.53 mil lb quota ^a	Revised allocation percentages under 11.53 mil lb quota ^{a,b}	Revised allocation distribution (lb) in pounds of 11.53 mil lb quota ^a
ME	0.04756%	5,484	0.09663%	11,142
NH	0.00046%	53	0.05762%	6,644
MA	6.82046%	786,399	7.77432%	896,379
RI	15.68298%	1,808,248	15.11491%	1,742,750
CT	2.25708%	260,241	3.99459%	460,576
NY	7.64699%	881,698	8.45891%	975,313
NJ	16.72499%	1,928,391	15.97798%	1,842,262
DE	0.01779%	2,051	0.07198%	8,299
MD	2.03910%	235,108	3.81404%	439,759
VA	21.31676%	2,457,822	19.78123%	2,280,776
NC	27.44584%	3,164,505	24.85779%	2,866,103
Total	100%	11,530,000	100%	11,530,000

^a Initial 11.53 mil lb quota for 2019-2021 is proposed by the Council and Board and pending implementation by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Quota level is prior to any deductions for past overages.

^b Percent allocation by state varies with overall coastwide quota in any given year; the revised percent allocations listed here will not apply to all future years.

Additional Resources

- [Summer Flounder Commercial Issues and Goals and Objectives Amendment Action Page](#)
- [March 2019 Council and ASMFC Board Meeting Summary](#)
- [Amendment Public Hearing Document](#)

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