

## MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## 2015 Proposed (P) and Final (F) Federal Commercial Management Measures

This table is a summary of proposed and final federal regulations and should be used only as a guide. Final federal regulations are or will be published in the Federal Register and will be the ones applicable for 2015. Fishermen should also contact state agencies to obtain a complete copy of current state regulations. Check final rules as published in the Federal Register.

SPECIES	FISHING YEAR	INITIAL QUOTA*	SIZE LIMIT	GEAR	REMARKS
<b>(F) Summer Flounder</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11.07 million pounds	14"	5.5" minimum diamond mesh; 6" minimum square mesh.	State-by-state quotas.
<b>(F) Scup</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	21.23 million pounds (Trimesters - see REMARKS)	9"	5.0" minimum diamond mesh; Gear Restricted Areas (GRA): Northern GRA restrictions from Nov 1 - Dec 31. Southern GRA restrictions from Jan 1 - Mar 15.	TRIMESTER QUOTAS & POSSESSION LIMITS: Winter I: (Jan-Apr) 9.58 million pounds (45.11%); 50,000 pounds per trip possession limit reduced to 1,000 pounds when 80% of the commercial quota is projected to be taken. Summer: (May-Oct) 8.27 million pounds (38.95%). Winter II: (Nov-Dec) 3.38 million pounds (15.94%); 12,000 pounds per trip possession limit. Possession limit will increase by 1,500 pounds for each 500,000 pounds unused Winter I period quota transferred to Winter II.
<b>(F) Black Sea Bass</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	2.21 million pounds	11"	4.5" minimum diamond mesh; Pots/Traps: circular vents: 2.5", square vents: 2", rectangular vents: 1.375"x 5.75". Two vents required in parlor portion of pot/trap.	State-by-state quotas.
<b>(P) Bluefish</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	5.119 million pounds**	none	none	State-by-state quotas.
<b>(F) Surfclams</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	3.400 million bushels	suspended	none	Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQ).
<b>(F) Ocean Quahog</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	5.333 million bushels	none	none	Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQ); Maine Ocean Quahog Quota - 100,000 Maine bushels.

\*Initial Quotas are rounded, not adjusted for prior year overages.

\*\*Unadjusted commercial quota.

\*\*\*Joint Council (MAFMC and NEFMC) recommendation.

NOTE: RSA is set at zero for all species.

SPECIES	FISHING YEAR	INITIAL QUOTA*	SIZE LIMIT	GEAR	REMARKS
<b>(F) Spiny Dogfish</b>	May 1 - Apr. 30	50.6 million pounds***	none	none	Trip limit: 5,000 lb in Federal waters; however, individual states may set more restrictive possession limits.
<b>(F) Golden Tilefish</b>	Nov. 1 - Oct. 31	1.755 million pounds	none	none	The TAL will first be reduced by 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch. The remaining TAL will be allocated to vessels participating under the IFQ program. Incidental possession limit of 500 pounds whole weight (458 pounds gutted weight).
<b>(F) Long-finned Squid</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	49.5 million pounds	none	Trimesters I and III: 2.125" diamond mesh; Trimester II: 1.875" diamond mesh; 5" cod-end cover. Consult the regulations for summer gear exceptions related to <i>Illex</i> fishing.	TRIMESTER QUOTAS & POSSESSION LIMITS: Trimester I (Jan-Apr): 43%; Trimester II (May-Aug): 17%; Trimester III (Sep-Dec): 40%. When the fishery is open there are no trip limits for limited access vessels and a 2,500 pound trip limit for incidental permits. Closure details for each trimester (including new post-closure trip limits for <i>Illex</i> vessels) may be found at: <a href="http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/info.html">http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/info.html</a> The butterfish discard cap can also close the longfin squid fishery and is tracked at: <a href="http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports_frame.htm">http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports_frame.htm</a> .
<b>(F) Short-finned Squid (<i>Illex</i>)</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	50.5 million pounds	none	none	The directed fishery for <i>Illex</i> closes when 95% of the DAH is taken. There is a daily 10,000 pound incidental catch limit in effect at all times for incidental catch permits and also for directed permits when the directed fishery closes.
<b>(F) Atlantic Mackerel</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	46.0 million pounds	none	none	Amendment 11 implemented a tiered limited access system for mackerel. Vessels in Tier 1 have no open-season trip limit but these are the trip limits for the other tiers: Tier 2: 135,000 pounds; Tier 3: 100,000 pounds; open access: 20,000 pounds. The directed fishery for mackerel closes when 95% of the DAH is projected to be taken. During a closure, there is a daily 20,000 pound incidental catch limit in effect. Tier 3 has a sub-quota (7%) that will reduce the Tier 3 trip limit to 20,000 pounds if reached. A cap of 89-155 metric tons of river herring and shad has been proposed for 2015 for the mackerel fishery.
<b>(F) Butterfish</b>	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	49.7 million pounds	none	3" minimum diamond mesh if in possession of 2,500 pounds or more of butterfish.	Initially vessels issued moratorium permits may land unlimited amounts of butterfish if using mesh greater than or equal to 3 inches until projected landings reach within 1,411 mt of a given year's DAH. Once landings are within 1,411 mt of the DAH, NMFS will implement a 5,000-lb trip limit and a 600 pound trip limit is implemented at the DAH. Incidental permits have a 600 pound trip limit at all times.

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## 2015 Proposed (P) and Final (F) Federal Recreational Management Measures

This table is a summary of proposed (P) and final (F) federal regulations for recreational fisheries managed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Final federal regulations are or will be published in the Federal Register and will be the ones applicable for 2015. Fishermen should contact state agencies to obtain a copy of current state regulations. This publication was prepared for general informational purposes and has no legal force or effect. Regulations are subject to change. Check final rules as published in the Federal Register.

	Species	Recreational Harvest Limit	Fishing Season	Minimum Size Limit	Bag Limit
	<b>(P) Summer Flounder (Fluke)</b>	7.38 million pounds	state specific	state specific	State-specific
	<b>(P) Scup</b>	6.80 million pounds	All year	9" total length	50 fish
	<b>(P) Black Sea Bass</b>	2.33 million pounds	May 15 – Sept. 21 and Oct. 22 – Dec. 31	12.5" total length	15 fish
	<b>(P) Bluefish</b>	13.073 million pounds <i>(Unadjusted)</i>	All year	state specific	15 fish
	<b>(F) Atlantic Mackerel</b>	3.1 million pounds	All year	none	none
	<b>(F) Golden Tilefish</b>	none	All year	none	8 fish per angler per trip

Note: RSA is set at zero for all species.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901

302-674-2331/Toll-Free: 877-446-2362

[www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)

### NOAA Contacts

- NOAA Federal Fishing Violations Hotline - 800-853-1964
- NOAA Fisheries National Website - [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov)
- NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office - 978-281-9300, [www.garfo.noaa.gov](http://www.garfo.noaa.gov)
- NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center - 508-495-2000, [www.nefsc.noaa.gov](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov)
- NOAA Fisheries Northeast Permits - 978-281-9370, [www.nero.noaa.gov/permits](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits)
- NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regulations - [www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs)
- NOAA Fisheries Northeast Protected Resources - [http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot\\_res](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res)
- NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office - 727-824-5301, <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>
- NOAA Fisheries Southeast Permits Branch - 877-376-4877

### Regional Fishery Management Contacts:

- New England Fishery Management Council - 978-465-0492, [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org)
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council - 843-571-4366, [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission - 703-842-0740, [www.asmfmc.org](http://www.asmfmc.org)

### State Fisheries Agencies:

- New York - (631) 444-0430
- Pennsylvania - (717) 705-7800
- New Jersey - (866) 337-5669
- Maryland - (877) 620-8367
- Delaware - (302) 739-9910
- Virginia - (757) 247-2200
- North Carolina - (800) 682-2632