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Marine Fisheries Advisory

COMMERCIAL SCUP TRIP LIMIT TO DROP TO 1,000-LBS. ON MARCH 16 TH
80% of Federal Winter I period quota projected to be harvested

The Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) is providing this notice that the commercial possession limit for scup will decrease from 30,000-lbs. to 1,000-lbs. effective 0001 hours on March 16, 2008. As noted in the January 24 th notice of annual specifications for the Winter I period commercial scup fishery, the possession limit drops once 80% of the Winter I period commercial scup quota has been harvested. On March 12 th, NOAA Fisheries notified *Marine Fisheries* that 80% of this quota is projected to have been harvested.

NOAA Fisheries manages the Winter I commercial scup fishery under a coastwide quota. To ensure consistent management, *Marine Fisheries* finalized annual specifications that complement federal regulations for the Winter I period. The Winter I commercial scup fishery remains open through April 2008 or until the federal coastwide quota is fully harvested, whichever comes first. The 2008 Winter I commercial scup quota allocated to vessels landing scup from Maine through North Carolina is 2,388,611 pounds.

The Summer period commercial scup fishery is set to open May 1. *Marine Fisheries* is finalizing regulations for the 2008 summer period. Notification of final regulations will be provided via the *Marine Fisheries* Listserv and website. *Marine Fisheries* administers a state-specific commercial scup quota during the summer period, which is managed through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.