



David E. Pierce
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617)626-1520

fax (617)626-1509



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

George N. Peterson, Jr.
Commissioner

Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

October 9, 2015

Marine Fisheries Advisory

DECLARATION TO INCREASE COMMERCIAL SCUP TRIP LIMITS FOR DRAGGERS THROUGHOUT REMAINDER OF OCTOBER 2015 AND ESTABLISH 2015 WINTER II SCUP TRIP LIMITS

With the approval of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) has issued a [Declaration](#) to increase the commercial scup trip limits from trawl fishermen from 800 pounds to 1,500 pounds. Accordingly, to accommodate this change in the trip limit, those trawl fishermen participating in the 2015 Summertime Weekly Scup Aggregate Landing Limit Pilot Program will receive a revised Letter of Authorization that will increase their weekly limit to 10,500 pounds. These changes are effective from Friday, October 9, 2015 through Friday, October 31, 2015. The existing 1,500 pound trip limit for pot gear or for hook and line gear will remain unchanged. This action was taken to provide commercial trawl fishermen with better access to the remaining Massachusetts' annual inshore (May – October) commercial scup quota.

Similarly, the Director, with the approval of the MFC, has also issued a [Declaration](#) to establish the Winter II (November 1 – December 31) commercial scup limits. During this period, commercial fishermen may possess and land 18,000 pounds of scup per day. This limit is designed to match the federal limit established by the National Marine Fisheries Service for this period and thereby allow commercial fishermen to possess and land legally caught fish in Massachusetts.

The complete text of Massachusetts commercial scup regulations can be found at 322 CMR 6.28 and more information regarding the management of scup in Massachusetts can be found on the *Marine Fisheries* website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries