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*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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September 28, 2018

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## **COMMERCIAL SCUP LIMIT FOR WINTER II PERIOD SET AT 28,500 POUNDS**

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The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has established permit conditions ([notice](#)) to set the state possession and landing limit for the 2018 Winter II (October 1–December 31) commercial scup fishery at 28,500 pounds. This state limit complements the federal limit recently announced by the National Marine Fisheries Service ([federal bulletin](#)). While scup are not typically available in these quantities in our state waters during the fall and early winter, this will allow vessels fishing in other jurisdictions (e.g., federal waters) to land their catch of scup in our ports. The possession limit for the federally-managed Winter II fishery is based on the magnitude of the period's quota, which has been increased from 3.82 million pounds to 9.77 million pounds due to rollover of unused quota from the 2018 Winter I fishery (January 1–April 30).

DMF is accepting public comment on this action to set the 2018 Winter II trip limits commensurate with the federal limit. Public comment will be accepted through 5PM on Tuesday, October 9. Written comment may be submitted to Director David Pierce by e-mail to [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us) or by post sent to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will then review this action at their October 11, 2018 business meeting.

For more information regarding the management of scup in Massachusetts, please visit our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.