



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Visit our Division Website: www.njfishandwildlife.com

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

December 23, 2011

Dear New Jersey Summer Flounder Permit Holder:
New Jersey Summer Flounder Dealer:

As required by N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12(i)2xii, the Department must notify all New Jersey Summer Flounder Permit holders of the annual season allocations. This letter shall serve as notice regarding the 2012 New Jersey commercial summer flounder quota, seasons, and trip limits.

Please be advised, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC) did not take action for revising the 2012 commercial trip limits as discussed during the October 2011 Summer Flounder Advisory Committee meeting. At the October Committee meeting the preliminary 2012 coastwide quota had been increased by 7% from 2011 with a New Jersey quota of 3,073,780 pounds. Since that meeting, NMFS updated the summer flounder assessment and the ASMFC and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council needed to re-adjust the coastwide quota. For New Jersey, this resulted in a new commercial quota of 2,197,049 pounds, a 28.5% reduction from the earlier approved quota and a 23% reduction from the 2011 quota. The NJMFC may be revisiting the trip limits for the revised 2012 quota for season 2 through 6 during the January 2012 Council meeting. If any changes occur for 2012, you will receive a follow-up notice providing the final trip limits for 2012.

The updated 2012 summer flounder Coastwide Landings Allowable Catch Target (ACT) is 22.571 million pounds. After deducting the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Research Set-Aside Program's 677,130 pounds, the Coastwide Landings ACT is 21,893,870 pounds, producing a preliminary Coastwide Commercial Quota of 13,136,322 pounds.

The preliminary 2012 summer flounder commercial quota allocated to New Jersey is 2,197,049 pounds. This quota does not represent any overages that may have occurred by the end of the 2011 season. If the NMFS adopts a Coastwide Landings ACT different than 22.571 million pounds, or if the 2011 NJ summer flounder season incurs any overages, the seasonal quotas listed below will be adjusted. After allocating ten percent, but not more than 200,000 pounds of the quota for by-catch landings as required by N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12(i)2, the directed fishery quota for 2012 is 1,997,049 pounds. This quota is allocated for six seasons as follows:

Directed Season	Directed (pounds)	By-Catch (pounds)
January 1-February 29	559,346	56,000
March 4-April 30	219,743	22,000
May 6-June 30	209,755	21,000
July 1-August 31	209,755	21,000
September 2-October 31	579,322	58,000
November 4-December 31	219,743	22,000

The daily trip limits and maximum weekly (Sunday to Saturday) landing days for the directed fishery for each season are listed below.

Jan-Feb	3,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of two landings per week OR 5,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of one landing per week.
Mar-April	1,500 pound trip limit with a maximum of three landings per week.
May-June	250 pound trip limit with a maximum of seven landings per week OR 500 pound trip limit with a maximum of four landings per week.
July-Aug	250 pound trip limit with a maximum of seven landings per week OR 500 pound trip limit with a maximum of four landings per week.
Sept-Oct	750 pound trip limit with a maximum of four landings per week OR 3,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of one landing per week.
Nov-Dec	1,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of four landings per week OR 3,500 pound trip limit with a maximum of one landing per week.

When the directed fishery is closed, no vessel shall land or possess any summer flounder in excess of the by-catch trip limit. By-catch landings of summer flounder may not exceed ten percent (10%) by weight, of all species landed and sold with a maximum daily trip limit of 100 pounds from May 1 through October 31 and 200 pounds from November 1 through April 30.

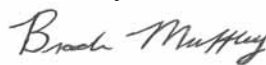
All New Jersey Summer Flounder Dealers must provide daily reports during the period January 1 through February 28 and weekly (Sunday to Saturday) reports during the period March 1 through December 31 to the Division of Fish and Wildlife listing the amount of summer flounder landed on a daily basis by vessel and size category. Reports must be filed electronically through the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) **OR** faxed to the Division at the number specified on the reporting form no later than 10:00 AM on the following day for daily reports and 12:01 PM on Monday following the week's end for weekly reports. If no landings occurred, a report to that effect is required. **If a dealer is reporting electronically through SAFIS, a faxed report is not required.**

In addition, any vessel participating in the directed summer flounder fishery must call the Marine Enforcement Office at 609-748-2050 at least two (2) hours prior to off loading and that any such off loading may occur only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. from November 1 through April 30 and between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. from May 1 through October 31.

Commercial seasons, quotas, opening, and closing information is available on the Division of Fish and Wildlife website at <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/comquotas.htm>.

If you have any questions, please call the Bureau of Marine Fisheries at 609-748-2020 or 609-292-7794.

Sincerely,



Brandon Muffley, Chief
Bureau of Marine Fisheries