



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

Date Issued: March 13, 2019

2019 Atlantic Bluefish Fishery Specifications

Effective Date: March 13, 2019

NOAA Fisheries announces final 2019 specifications for the Atlantic bluefish fishery (Table 1). These specifications are very similar to 2018, with only minor adjustments to the final commercial quota and recreational harvest limit to account for most recent full year of recreational catch data (2017), and an adjusted sector quota transfer.

Table 1. Summary of 2019 Bluefish Specifications.

	2019 Specifications (lb)
Overfishing Limit	27,972,252
Acceptable Biological Catch = Annual Catch Limit	21,814,741
Commercial Annual Catch Target (ACT)	3,708,175
Recreational ACT	18,106,565
Commercial Total Allowable Landings (TAL)	3,708,175
Recreational TAL	15,615,342
Sector Quota Transfer	3,999,185
Commercial Quota	7,709,565
Recreational Harvest Limit	11,620,566

All other management measures, including the recreational possession limit of 15 fish per person, remain unchanged. The commercial state allocations for 2019 are shown on the next page in Table 2. No states exceeded their allocated quota in 2018; therefore, no accountability measures need to be implemented for the 2019 fishing year.

The bluefish stock will undergo an operational assessment in 2019 that is designed to incorporate updated Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) information. The 2020 specifications will be developed using this assessment.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.

Table 2. 2019 Bluefish State Commercial Quota Allocations (lb).

State	Percent Share	Quota Allocation
Maine	0.67	51,538
New Hampshire	0.41	31,956
Massachusetts	6.72	517,828
Rhode Island	6.81	524,874
Connecticut	1.27	97,626
New York	10.39	800,645
New Jersey	14.82	1,142,264
Delaware	1.88	144,801
Maryland	3.00	231,426
Virginia	11.88	915,857
North Carolina	32.06	2,471,746
South Carolina	0.04	2,714
Georgia	0.01	732
Florida	10.06	775,558
Total	100.00	7,709,565