



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## Revised 2019 Summer Flounder Fishery Specifications

*Effective Date: May 16, 2019*

NOAA Fisheries announces revised 2019 specifications for the summer flounder fishery (Table 1), based on new information provided by the 2018 benchmark stock assessment.

**Table 1. Summary of Previous and Revised 2019 Summer Flounder Fishery Specifications, in millions of pounds.**

	<b>Previous</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Difference (%)</b>
<b>Overfishing Limit</b>	20.60	30.00	46
<b>Acceptable Biological Catch</b>	15.41	25.03	62
<b>Commercial Annual Catch Limit (ACL)</b>	9.18	13.53	47
<b>Commercial Annual Catch Target (ACT)*</b>	8.14	12.98	59
<b>Expected Commercial Discards</b>	1.47	2.00	36
<b>Commercial Quota*</b>	6.67	10.98	65
<b>Recreational ACL</b>	6.22	11.51	85
<b>Recreational ACT</b>	6.22	11.51	85
<b>Expected Recreational Discards</b>	1.08	3.82	254
<b>Recreational Harvest Limit</b>	5.15	7.69	49

\*Commercial ACTs and quotas shown after a 547,000 lb accountability measure from 2017 has been applied.

This action makes no changes to the current commercial management measures, including the minimum fish size (14-inch total length), gear requirements, and possession limits. The 2019 recreational management measures for summer flounder are being developed in a separate concurrent action.

Table 2 shows the revised commercial summer flounder fishery state allocations for using the allocated percentages defined in the FMP. This table incorporates state-incurred overages from 2018, and a state-to-state quota transfer in the 2019 fishing year from North Carolina to New Jersey. Delaware has an accumulated overharvest from previous years that is greater than its allocated amount of commercial quota for 2019. As a result, there is no quota available for 2019 in Delaware, and federally permitted vessels are prohibited from landing summer flounder in that state, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer.

*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. Revised 2019 Summer Flounder State Commercial Quotas, in pounds.**

State	% Share	Revised 2019 Quotas*	Adjustment for Overages through October 31, 2018	State Quota Transfer	Final Revised 2019 Quotas
ME	0.0476	5,224	0		5,224
NH	0.0005	51	0		51
MA	6.8205	749,091	-7,559		741,532
RI	15.6830	1,722,462	0		1,722,462
CT	2.2571	247,895	0		247,895
NY	7.6470	839,869	0		839,869
NJ	16.7250	1,836,906	0	3,270	1,840,176
DE	0.0178	1,954	-55,047		-53,093
MD	2.0391	223,954	0		223,954
VA	21.3168	2,341,220	0		2,341,220
NC	27.4458	3,014,377	0	-3,270	3,011,107
Total	100.00	10,983,000	0		10,973,488**

\*The 2017 AM payback of 547,000 lb has already been applied to the total coastwide allocated quota.

\*\*Total quota is the sum for all states with an allocation. A state with a negative number has a 2019 allocation of zero (0). Total final 2019 quota, less overages, does not include negative allocations (i.e., Delaware's overage).