

v. Any person who has had his or her New Jersey Summer Flounder Dealers Permit suspended or revoked shall not land or permit the landing of any summer flounder at his or her facility during the suspension or revocation under the provisions of another permittee's New Jersey Summer Flounder Dealers Permit.

vi. Prior to revocation of the permit, the permittee shall have the opportunity to request a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and 52:14F-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1.

(j) The following provisions are applicable to the commercial harvest of winter flounder:

1. No person shall fish for or land any winter flounder taken by any net, trap, dredge or commercial gear in New Jersey waters, except during the open season of December 1 through May 31. No dealer shall accept any winter flounder taken in New Jersey waters except during such open season. No person shall have in possession, and no dealer shall accept from any person, more than the daily possession limit of 38 winter flounder. The harvest of winter flounder by the use of fyke net is subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.5(g)2 in addition to the daily possession limit specified in this paragraph.

(k) The following provisions are applicable to the commercial harvest of scup:

1. Annual coastwide scup quotas and daily trip limits for the periods of January 1 through April 28 and November 1 through December 31, and an annual New Jersey scup quota for the period from May 1 through October 31 shall be determined by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council as implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service or determined by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. All landings of scup in New Jersey during the period from May 1 through October 31 shall be applied to the New Jersey scup quota.

i. Any closure of the scup fishery by the National Marine Fisheries Service in adjacent Federal waters or any closure which includes New Jersey marine waters during the periods January 1 through April 28 and November 1 through December 31 would automatically close New Jersey to commercial landings of scup.

ii. The Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall implement annual and seasonal scup quotas and daily trip limits as determined by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission upon two days public notice. The implemented quotas and limits shall also be reflected in this subsection through a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 1:30-2.7.

iii. The Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall close the season for the commercial scup fishery upon two days public notice of the projected date the New Jer-

sey seasonal quota shall be caught. Public notice shall include letters by first class mail to all New Jersey Scup Dealer Permit holders and Federal scup moratorium permit holders that are New Jersey residents.

iv. Once any season has been closed for the commercial scup fishery, no vessel shall land any scup and no dealer shall accept any scup landed in New Jersey.

v. If the Commissioner, or his or her designee, closes the New Jersey season prematurely because of unanticipated events resulting in the quota not being landed by the project date, then the Commissioner, or his or her designee, may reopen the season for a specified period of time upon two days public notice. Public notice shall be made as specified in (k)1iii above.

vi. If the quota for any season is exceeded, the amount overharvested shall be deducted from the following year's quota for that season.

2. No vessel shall have in possession or land and no dealer shall accept from any vessel more than the lesser of the daily trip limits set by the National Marine Fisheries Service or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for the season of January 1 through April 28 and November 1 through December 31 and no vessel shall have in possession or land and no dealers shall accept from any one vessel more than the daily trip limit of 1,000 pounds of scup during the season of May 1 through October 31 or as provided for in (k)2i below.

i. If a minimum of 25 percent of the New Jersey scup quota is projected to remain unlanded as of October 1 in any calendar year, then there shall be a 4,000 pound trip limit for the remainder of the season or until the season is closed as provided in (k)1i above.

ii. The trip limit for scup shall be two trips per week (Sunday through Saturday) with landings not to exceed 30,000 pounds during any two-week period from January 1 through April 28 and a daily limit as established by the National Marine Fisheries Service from November 1 through December 31. During the period of January 1 through April 28, the daily trip limit will be reduced to 1,000 pounds when it is projected that 80 percent of the period quota will be harvested. No person or vessel shall land or possess and no dealer shall accept any scup on April 29 and 30.

3. No fish dealer shall accept any scup from any vessel or harvester unless such dealer is in possession of a valid New Jersey Scup Dealer Permit. A New Jersey Scup Dealer Permit may be obtained by completing an application supplied by the Department and submitting it to:

New Jersey Scup Dealer Permit
Nacote Creek Research Station
PO Box 418
Port Republic, NJ 08241-0418

4. A harvester or vessel shall not land scup for the purpose of sale or sell any scup unless such harvester or vessel is in possession of a valid scup moratorium permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

5. Any harvester or vessel landing scup in New Jersey for the purpose of sale shall sell all scup to a permitted New Jersey Scup Dealer.

6. All permitted New Jersey Scup Dealers shall provide weekly reports to the Division listing the amount of scup landed on a daily basis and any other information that may be required by the Commissioner or as a result of an agreement with other states pursuant to (k)9 below. Such report shall be faxed to the Division at the number specified on the reporting forms supplied by the Division no later than two days following the week's end or sent by any other method approved by the Department. For the purpose of this provision, the week shall begin on Sunday and end on Saturday.

7. All scup moratorium permit holders landing scup in New Jersey shall be required to complete monthly reports supplied by the Department. The monthly report shall be signed by the permittee attesting to the validity of the information and be submitted so it is received by the Department no later than 15 working days following the end of the reported month at the following address:

New Jersey Scup Program
Nacote Creek Research Station
PO Box 418
Port Republic, NJ 08241-0418

i. The monthly report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information: name, scup moratorium permit number, total amount (in pounds) of each species taken, dates caught, time at sea, duration of fishing time, gear type used to harvest, number of tows, area fished, crew size, landing port, date sold and buyer. This information shall be provided for any trip in which scup are landed. Scup moratorium permit holders may submit the "STATE" copy of the Federal log book in satisfaction of the New Jersey reporting requirements.

8. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in N.J.S.A. 23:2B-14 in addition to the following:

i. Failure to comply with the provisions of (k)1iv above, landing or accepting scup after the season has been closed; (k)2 above, landing or accepting more than the daily trip limit; (k)3 above, accepting scup from a vessel without first having obtained a valid New Jersey Scup Dealer Permit; (k)4 above, landing for the purpose of sale or selling scup without first having obtained a valid scup moratorium permit; (k)5 above, selling scup to a non-permitted fish dealer; or (k)6 and 7 above, failure to submit accurate and timely reports, shall result in the suspension during the open seasons or revocation of

the dealer's New Jersey Scup Dealer Permit according to the following schedule:

- (1) First offense: 60 days suspension.
- (2) Second offense: 120 days suspension.
- (3) Third offense: Permanent revocation.

ii. In calculating the period of suspension or revocation applicable under (k)8i above, the number of previous suspensions shall be reduced by one for each three-year period in which the permit holder does not commit any other violation subject to this subsection, provided, however, that if more than one suspension is imposed within a three-year period, only one of those suspensions may be forgiven under this subparagraph; therefore, a permit holder who incurs more than one suspension in a three-year period shall not be considered a first offender under this subsection regardless of the length of any subsequent period without violation. The reduction in suspensions provided in this subparagraph applies only to determination of suspension periods; all prior suspensions shall be taken into account in calculating monetary penalties in accordance with N.J.S.A. 23:2B-14.

9. Pursuant to Amendment 8 of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Fishery Management Plan for the Summer Flounder and Scup Fishery, the Commissioner may enter into agreements with other states to transfer or combine scup commercial quotas. Such agreements shall specify the terms and conditions under which vessels may land scup in New Jersey, as well as how the landings will be applied to the quota. Any agreement developed by the Commissioner and any other state is not valid until such time as it has been reviewed and approved by the Northeast Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

(I) Special provisions applicable to an Atlantic herring fishery are as follows:

1. The possession of more than 5,000 pounds of Atlantic herring on board a vessel or landed from a vessel shall constitute a directed fishery for Atlantic herring.

2. A person shall not fish for or land any Atlantic herring in excess of 5,000 pounds using any vessel in excess of 165 feet in length and in excess of 3,000 horsepower in a directed fishery for Atlantic herring.

3. Atlantic herring taken in a directed fishery for Atlantic herring shall not be processed for use as fish meal or oil.

4. Any closure of the Atlantic herring fishery by the National Marine Fisheries Service or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent Federal waters or in any area which includes New Jersey marine waters would automatically close New Jersey waters to the commercial harvest of Atlantic herring.

5. If any of the management areas identified in the joint New England Fishery Management Council Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring are closed by the National Marine Fisheries Service or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the landing of Atlantic herring harvested from any management area that is closed shall be prohibited in New Jersey.

(m) Dealer business records may be used as admissible evidence in any proceeding to document violations of trip limits, weekly landing limits or closed seasons specified in this section.

(n) For the purpose of this section, "land" shall mean to begin offloading fish, to offload fish or to enter port with fish.

(o) The Commissioner, with the approval of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, may modify quotas, trip limits and/or seasons, as well as gear types and gear restrictions, specified in this section by notice in order to maintain and/or to come into compliance with any fishery management plan approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §5104(b) or to maintain consistency with any Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council plan adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Commissioner, with the approval of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, may modify trip limits and/or seasons, as well as gear types and gear restrictions, specified in this section by notice in order to provide for the optimal utilization of any quotas specified in this section. The Commissioner will review the catch rate for a particular species in relation to the season quota and, if harvest data indicate that upward adjustments in harvest control measures are warranted to maximize utilization of the available quota within a specific season for a specific fishery, the Commissioner may adjust the above specified control measures to achieve optimal utilization of the total allowable catch. The Department shall publish notice of any such modification in the New Jersey Register.

(p) An applicant who is otherwise eligible for a license or permit under (c)2 and 5; (e)2 and 5; or (h)1 above, but who fails to apply prior to the application deadline, may request an extension of time to apply in accordance with this subsection and (q) through (s) below.

1. The written request, along with any supporting documentation, shall be submitted to:

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
 PO Box 400
 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400

2. The request shall:

i. Identify the specific permit for which the extension of time to apply is requested;

ii. Explain in detail why the extension of time to apply is needed, including a statement of the type and

degree of hardship that prevented the timely application of the permit, and the hardship that will result to the applicant if the permit is not granted; and

iii. Provide appropriate documentation as necessary to support the request for extension.

(q) The Department shall approve an extension request under (p) above only if it determines that the request and documentation demonstrate that:

1. By reason of extraordinary hardship or exceptional situation or condition, the applicant was precluded from applying for his or her Tautog, Non Directed Fishery Tautog, Shad Commercial Net, Shad Incidental Harvest, or New Jersey Black Sea Bass permit during the 12-month application period preceding the year for which the permit is requested;

2. By reason of extraordinary or exceptional situation or condition, strict compliance with the deadline in (c)2 and 5; (e)2 and 5; or (h)1 above would result in exceptional and undue hardship upon the applicant; and

3. The circumstances supporting (q)1 and 2 above were not created by the applicant or persons under his or her control, and the approval of the extension will not unreasonably interfere with the orderly administration of the permitting program.

(r) The Department shall provide written notice to the applicant of its decision to approve or deny the request for extension.

(s) The denial of an extension request may be appealed pursuant to the procedures outlined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.17, Request for adjudicatory hearing.

New Rule, R.1992 d.143, effective March 16, 1992.
 See: 24 N.J.R. 4(c), 24 N.J.R. 1113(a).
 Amended by R.1993 d.56, effective January 19, 1993.
 See: 24 N.J.R. 4249(a), 25 N.J.R. 303(a).
 Former (a) and (i) recodified to new rule at 7:25-8.14; remaining subsections recodified as (a)-(g).
 Administrative Correction to N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12(b) through (g).
 See: 25 N.J.R. 2001(d).
 Administrative Correction to (c).
 See: 25 N.J.R. 2281(a).
 Amended by R.1994 d.201, effective April 18, 1994.
 See: 26 N.J.R. 789(a), 26 N.J.R. 1632(a).
 Repeal and New Rule, R.1995 d.82, effective February 6, 1995.
 See: 26 N.J.R. 4277(b), 27 N.J.R. 487(a).
 Formerly "Weakfish management."
 Administrative Correction.
 See: 27 N.J.R. 1794(a).
 Administrative Correction.
 See: 27 N.J.R. 3420(a).
 Administrative Correction.
 See: 27 N.J.R. 3420(b).
 Administrative Change.
 See: 28 N.J.R. 3786(a).
 Amended by R.1996 d.587, effective December 16, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).
 See: 28 N.J.R. 3998(a), 28 N.J.R. 5231(a).
 Inserted (b)1, (c), and (d); recodified former (b)1 through (b)6 as (b)2 through (b)7 and former (c) and (d) as (e) and (f); and made conforming changes throughout.

Amended by R.1998 d.40, effective January 5, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 4595(a), 30 N.J.R. 226(a).

Inserted (a)2 and recodified (a)2 as 3; deleted (c)2iii through v, added (c)3 through 10 and recodified (c)3 and 4 as 11 and 12; deleted (d), and recodified (e) and (f) as (d) and (e).

Administrative change.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1402(b).

Amended by R.1999 d.52, effective February 16, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3881(a), 31 N.J.R. 538(a).

In (a)3, substituted "more than 150 pounds of" for "any" following "accept?"; inserted a new (d); and recodified former (d) and (e) as (e) and (f).

Administrative change.

See: 31 N.J.R. 1612(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.10, effective January 3, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2555(a), 32 N.J.R. 48(a).

Rewrote (a); inserted a new (e); and recodified former (e) and (f) as (f) and (g).

Amended by R.2000 d.395, effective October 2, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2555(a), 32 N.J.R. 3592(b).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2001 d.73, effective March 5, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 4435(a), 33 N.J.R. 874(a).

Amended by R.2001 d.346, effective September 17, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 453(a), 33 N.J.R. 3352(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2002 d.277, effective August 19, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1375(a), 34 N.J.R. 2995(a).

In (c)2i and (c)5i, inserted "and submit their application no later than December 31, 2002" after "Department"; in (c)7i, substituted "has no greater than 10 percent increase in length overall and 20 percent increase in shaft horsepower" for "is of equal or less gross registered tonnage and vessel registered length"; in (d)1, added i; added a new (h), recodify existing (h), (i) as (i), (j).

Administrative change.

See: 34 N.J.R. 3264(a).

Administrative change.

See: 35 N.J.R. 709(a).

Administrative change.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1927(a).

Administrative correction.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4285(a).

Amended by R.2004 d.20, effective January 5, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4224(b), 36 N.J.R. 174(b).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 36 N.J.R. 1191(c).

Administrative correction and change.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2420(c).

Administrative correction.

See: 36 N.J.R. 3276(a).

Administrative change.

See: 37 N.J.R. 589(c).

Amended by R.2005 d.413, effective November 21, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 742(a), 37 N.J.R. 4408(a).

Rewrote the section.

Administrative change.

See: 38 N.J.R. 1318(d), 5359(a).

Amended by R.2008 d.15, effective January 7, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 143(a), 40 N.J.R. 126(a).

Rewrote (e)9 and (o).

Administrative change.

See: 40 N.J.R. 150(c), 879(b), 2109(c), 6204(a).

Administrative change.

See: 41 N.J.R. 220(a), 4114(a).

Administrative change.

See: 42 N.J.R. 68(b), 789(a).

Amended by R.2010 d.155, effective July 19, 2010.

See: 42 N.J.R. 700(a), 42 N.J.R. 1527(a).

Rewrote (d)1 and (d)2; added (d)4 through (d)7; and in (o), inserted "as well as gear types and gear restrictions," twice, inserted a comma following "season quota and", and substituted the first occurrence of "this section" for "the section,".

7:25-18.13 Striped bass bonus program

(a) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:5-45.1(c), the possession of one "bonus sized" striped bass, measuring not less than 28 inches in length, will be allowed in addition to the possession limit allowed under N.J.S.A. 23:5-45.1(a), pursuant to (b) through (o) below.

(b) Any person intending to take one "bonus sized" striped bass, as defined in (a) above, in addition to his or her striped bass possession limit as specified at N.J.S.A. 23:5-45.1 shall apply to the Division to participate in the striped bass bonus program. Applications may be obtained from the following:

1. Division of Fish and Wildlife

Striped Bass Bonus Fish Program

Nacote Creek Research Station

PO Box 418

Port Republic, NJ 08241-0418

2. Fish checking stations, as authorized by the Division and identified pursuant to (i) below.

3. On the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com.

(c) The application form shall be completed to include the name, address and telephone number of the applicant.

(d) Applications to participate in the striped bass bonus program shall be processed in order of receipt by the Division.

(e) Successful applicants will receive non-transferable fish possession cards, the number to be determined by the Commissioner or his or her designee based on the available quota and the number of applicants. One card shall be filled out completely and the month and day numbers perforated immediately upon retention of a bonus striped bass. A finite number of cards shall be available to participating party and charter boat captains in the name of the vessel and owner. Fish possession cards issued to party and charter boats are for the use of patrons on that vessel and shall not be sold, offered for sale or used for barter.

(f) Fish possession cards shall be valid in the calendar year for which they were issued except during those periods in which the Department has closed the State's waters to harvesting as provided at (l) below.

(g) Successful applicants may keep and submit annual records of their striped bass fishing activity as requested on forms furnished by the Division. Such records shall include the name, address, and card number(s) of the fishermen, the days and hours fished, the lengths of striped bass caught, the location of fishing activity and the type of fishing. Party and charter boat captains shall be required to maintain and submit logbooks developed by the Division.

(h) A person shall not have in his or her possession at any time more than the number of striped bass provided for in