

measures. Any state may implement conservation equivalent measures without a determination of equivalency by the Summer Flounder Technical Committee review, if the state uses the state-specific tables provided by the Commission and maintains a 15-inch (38-cm) or greater total length minimum fish size.

Once a state receives a determination of equivalency from the Summer Flounder Technical Committee or a state implements conservation equivalent measures contained in the state-specific table provided by the Commission, the Commission is

required to recommend to the Administrator, Northeast Region (Regional Administrator) that a notification be published in the *Federal Register* to waive the annual Federal recreational summer flounder measures and to notify vessel permit holders of the equivalent recreational measures approved by the Commission for each state involved.

The Regional Administrator received a determination from the Commission on July 12, 1999, stating that all states included in the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan have

implemented conservation equivalent recreational management measures using a combination of fish sizes, possession limits, and closed seasons that achieve the required 40-percent reduction in fishing effort for 1999. Therefore, effective 0001 hours, September 27, 1999, through December 31, 1999, the annual Federal recreational summer flounder management measures are waived and the following conservation equivalent recreational measures are approved for each state affected.

	Minimum Size inches (See note)	Possession Limit/ Person	Open Season
Massachusetts	15	8-fish	May 29-Sept.11
Rhode Island	15	8-fish	May 29-Sept.11
Connecticut	15	8-fish	May 29-Sept.11
New York	16	8-fish	Jan.1-Dec.31
New Jersey	15.5	8-fish	May 15-Oct.11
Delaware	15	8-fish	Aug.8-July 15
Maryland			
Bay	15	8-fish	May 8- Dec.31
Coast	15.5	8-fish	Apr. 15-Nov.30
Potomac River	15	4-fish	May 1-Dec. 31
Fisheries Comm.			
Virginia	16	8-fish	Aug.1-July 24
North Carolina	15	8-fish	Jan.1-Dec.31

Note: Metric equivalents are 16 in = 41 cm, 15.5 in = 39 cm, and 15 in = 38 cm.

Vessels fishing in the EEZ are subject to the regulations of the state where the vessel is registered or homeported or where the fish are landed, whichever is more restrictive.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 21, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 990422103-9209-02; I.D. 031099B]

RIN 0648-AL75

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Recreational Measures for the 1999 Fisheries; Correction

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains corrections to the effective dates of the recreational measures for the 1999 fisheries that was published on September 9, 1999, and adds an appropriate justification for the change in date in the Classification section.

DATES: Effective September 9, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul H. Jones, Fisheries Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9273.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS published a final rule and interim provisions for the 1999 recreational fisheries for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass in the **Federal Register** on September 9, 1999 (64 FR 48965). The rule delayed the effectiveness of the conservation equivalent measures for the summer flounder fishery (§ 648.107) until October 12, 1999. However, the states have already complied with the requirements of the section and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has certified that the states have implemented conservation equivalent measures. Delaying the effectiveness of this regulation would preclude the states from tailoring their regulations to meet the needs of their individual fisheries and potentially place unnecessary restrictions on fishermen.

Corrections

In FR Doc. 99-23444, published in the **Federal Register** issue of September 9,

1999, on page 48965, in column 2, correct the "DATES" caption to read as follows:

DATES: Effective September 9, 1999.

On page 48966, in column 2, under the heading, "Classification," in the second paragraph, insert between the third and fourth sentences, the following:

A 30-day delay in the effective date of the conservation equivalent measures

for the summer flounder fishery would reduce the flexibility of the states to tailor their fisheries for the most effective management and could place unnecessary restrictions on fishermen.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

Dated: September 21, 1999.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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