

NOTICES OF CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

NOTICE OF CLOSED SEASONS FOR BLACK SEA BASS AND TAUTOG AND EXTENSION OF OPEN SEASONS FOR SCUP, SUMMER FLOUNDER AND WINTER FLOUNDER

Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 26-25, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection (“the Commissioner”) is providing notice of season closures for black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*) and tautog (*Tautoga onitis* or blackfish) and season extensions for scup (*Stenotomus chrysops* or porgy), summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus* or fluke) and winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) which shall be effective from the date that this notice is published in the Connecticut Law Journal through and including April 30, 2019.

In support of this notice the Commissioner finds that the sport fishing harvest level for black sea bass, and tautog will exceed the harvest level for efficient management of these species without additional season closures and the sport fishing harvest for scup, summer flounder and winter flounder will fail to meet the harvest level for efficient management without additional open seasons as noted below.

For black sea bass, the season shall be *closed* from the date this notice is published in the Connecticut Law Journal until and including May 18, 2018, and shall be *open* from May 19, 2018 to July 17, 2018, inclusive, and shall be *closed* from July 18, 2018 to August 6, 2018, inclusive, and shall be *open* from August 7, 2018 to December 31, 2018, inclusive, after which the season shall be *closed* and will remain *closed* through and including April 30, 2019;

For scup (porgy), the season shall be *closed* from the date this notice is published in the Connecticut Law Journal until and including April 30, 2018, and shall be *open* from May 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, inclusive; after which the season shall be *closed* and will remain *closed* through and including April 30, 2019;

For summer flounder (fluke) the season shall be *closed* from the date this notice is published in the Connecticut Law Journal until and including May 3, 2018, and shall be *open* from May 4, 2018 to September 30, 2018, inclusive, after which the season shall be *closed* and will remain *closed* through and including April 30, 2019;

For tautog (blackfish) the season shall be *open* from the date this notice is published in the Connecticut Law Journal until and including April 30, 2018, inclusive, then shall be *closed* from May 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018, inclusive, then shall be *open* from July 1, 2018 to August 31, 2018, inclusive, then shall be *closed* from September 1, 2018 to October 9, 2018, inclusive, then shall be *open* from October 10, 2018 to November 28, 2018, inclusive, then shall be *closed* from November 29, 2018 to March 31, 2019, inclusive, then shall be *open* from April 1, 2019 to April 30, 2019, inclusive.

For winter flounder, the season shall be *open* from the date this notice is published in the Connecticut Law Journal until and including December 31, 2018, after which the season shall be *closed* and will remain *closed* through and including March 31, 2019.

As a reminder, no person, while on the waters of this state or on any parcel of land, structure, or portion of a roadway abutting tidal waters of this state shall take, possess or land any of the species noted above by sport fishing methods, regardless of where taken, during a closed season, except as may otherwise be authorized by law.

For further information, contact the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Marine Fisheries Program by email at deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or by telephone at 860-434-6043 Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 4:30 pm.
