

2019 SEASON OUTLOOK (from page 25)

How fish managers decide to use new stock assessment data will be determined at the February, 2019 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting. We may have an indication of the 2020 season after that meeting.

Black Sea Bass

The black sea bass bite will be enhanced in 2019. The black sea bass bite is expected to get better with large fish being caught in 2019. Some monster fish were caught in 2018 (like the 24.5 inch fish caught off Newport on my boat last year... the State of Rhode Island and U.S. record is 26 inches.)

Summer Flounder

But the summer flounder bite will likely remain spotty. Summer



Lucy Churchill and fiance' Chris Monti of Providence with a 24" summer flounder she caught at Austin Hollow, Jamestown in August.

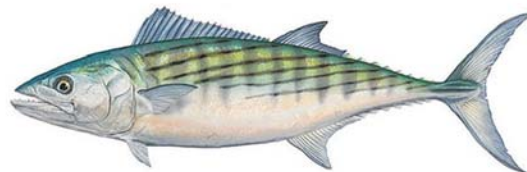
flounder (fluke) is experiencing overfishing and with a reduced bite this year, the bite is expected to be the same in 2019... spotty.

Tautog

Tautog fishing in Massachusetts and Rhode Island will likely be status quo next year which is a minimum size of 16 inches. In Rhode Island there is a split season with three fish allowed in early spring, no fishing during the spawning months of June and July. The season opens again in August with three fish and then jumps to five fish/person/day in mid-October. A ten fish boat maximum is still in place for all seasons.



Captain Dave Monti is RISAA's 2nd Vice President, a member of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, and holds a captain's master license and a charter fishing license. He is the owner/operator of No Fluke Charters. Contact Dave at monti@risaa.org or visit his website at www.noflukefishing.com.



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