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Marine Fisheries Advisory
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COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS FISHERY TO CLOSE TUESDAY, AUGUST 24th

The Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) has projected that 100% of the annual black sea bass quota has been taken. Consequently the black sea bass commercial fishery will close effective 0001 hours on Tuesday, August 24th. The 2004 commercial black sea bass fishery will remain closed through December 31, 2004. Possession of black sea bass for commercial purposes will be prohibited until the 2005 fishery opens on January 1, 2005 with a possession limit of 100 lbs.

Dealers are reminded that it is unlawful to purchase black sea bass from Massachusetts commercial fishermen when the fishery is closed. State-only permitted dealers are required to submit dealer transaction forms by December 31, 2004.

Quota totals and regulations can be monitored through the *Marine Fisheries* web site at:
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.