



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

CHANGES TO COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS LIMITS

DMF is amending the state’s directed commercial black sea bass regulations in response to this quota increase and commercial fishery performance in recent years. For 2022, Massachusetts’ commercial black sea bass quota is set at 998,901 pounds million pounds. This is a 26% increase from 2021. This quota increase is being driven a new state-by-state quota allocation approach to address changes in regional biomass distribution evidenced by the most recent stock assessment. The 2022 regulations affecting the commercial black sea bass are described in the table below with the text following explaining the changes to the directed fishery limits. The limits for the winter-time fishery, the weir fishery, and the mobile gear (trawl) fishery will remain status quo.

Fishery	Season	Gear	Trip Limit	Open Days	Min Size
Winter	Jan 1 – Mar 31	All	100 pounds	Sun – Sat	12”
Weirs	Jan 1 – Quota	Weir	No limit; 24,000-pound annual cap	Sun – Sat	12”
Trawl	Apr 23 – Quota	All mesh	100 pounds	Sun – Sat	12”
Summer Directed	July 1 – Sept 14	BSB Pot	500 pounds	Sun – Thurs	12”
		Hooks/Other	250 pounds		
Fall Directed	Sept 15 - Quota	BSB Pot	600 pounds if >15% of quota remains; status quo otherwise.	Sun – Sat	12”
		Hooks/Other	300 pounds if >15% of quota remains; status quo otherwise.		

Directed Fishery During the Summer and Fall

The directed summertime fishery—typically pursued by black sea bass pots and hook and line gear—will open on July 1 (moved up from July 8). Mondays and Wednesdays are being added as open fishing days, allowing commercial fishing to occur Sundays through Thursdays. Trip limits are being increased from 400 to 500 pounds for black sea bass pots and from 200 to 250 pounds for hook and line and other non-trawl gear types. Then effective September 15, Fridays and Saturdays will be added as open fishing days, allowing commercial fishing to occur seven days per week. Additionally, should more than 15% of the quota remain on September 15, the trip limit will be increased to 600 pounds for black sea bass pots and to 300 pounds for hook and line and other non-trawl gear types. If less than 15% of the quota remains on September 15, the trip limits will not change.

For more information regarding the management of black sea bass, please visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.