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Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

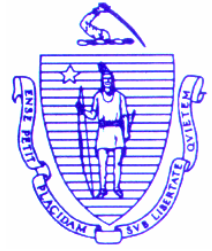
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May 20, 2005

Marine Fisheries Advisory

BLACK SEA BASS SEASON EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 23-31, 2005

Due to the unexpectedly low catch rates of black sea bass, the Director has rescinded the scheduled 9-day sea bass commercial closure during May 23 -31, 2005. This scheduled closure was designed to constrain the landings and allow *Marine Fisheries* to tally the cumulative landings at a time when the fishery is expected to peak.

Previously enacted daily limits will apply during this period: **During a 24-hour day, it is unlawful for commercial fishermen to land or possess more than 500 lbs. of black sea bass in the directed sea bass pot fishery and weir fishery, 200 lbs of black sea bass for all other gear types, or 100 lbs. in the commercial lobster trap fishery.**

The landing and/or possession of black sea bass on Fridays and Saturdays is prohibited.

Once the Director has projected that 50% of the Massachusetts commercial fishery quota will be reached, the commercial fishery shall be closed until August 1 when it will be re-opened.

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