



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114
p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES
Secretary

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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

August 10, 2020

STATEMENT OF PERMIT CONDITIONS AND LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION: EXTENSION OF FOR-HIRE RECREATIONAL BLACK SEA BASS SEASON

On August 6, 2020, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) received approval from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on a conservation equivalency proposal to extend the recreational black sea bass fishery for for-hire operations through October 9. This proposal was based on the for-hire fishery being prohibited from participating in the first seven days of the 2020 recreational black sea bass season (May 18–May 24) due to public health related shutdowns in response to COVID-19 per Governor Baker’s Stay At Home Advisory and Essential Services Order and resulting DMF issued [permit conditions](#). This Statement of Permit Conditions and Letter of Authorization implements the approved seasonal extension allowing for-hire operations to continue to fish for and retain black sea bass during the period of September 9 through October 9, 2020.

In accordance with the authority at G.L. c. 130, § 80 and 322 CMR 7.01(7) and 7.10(7), this Letter of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions is being applied to 2020 For-Hire Permits issued prior to August 6. Effective September 9, 2020 all 2020 For-Hire Permits issued prior to August 6 are hereby exempt from the recreational black sea bass fishing limits set forth at 322 CMR 6.28(3)(b), subject to the permit conditions enumerated below.

1. Anglers fishing aboard your vessel during for-hire trips may retain, possess, and land black sea bass during the time period of September 9, 2020 through October 9, 2020.
2. All anglers fishing aboard your vessel during for-hire trips shall not retain, possess, or land more than 5 black sea bass measuring at least 15” during any calendar day.
3. Effective October 10, 2020 anglers fishing aboard your vessel during for-hire trips shall be prohibited from retaining, possessing, or landing any black sea bass.
4. These conditions shall only apply when taking patrons fishing on for-hire trips. This shall not apply to any private recreational fishing activity done by the permit holder or onboard the vessel named on the for-hire permit.

Except as explicitly provided herein, this Letter of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions does not exempt the permit holder from any marine fishery laws and regulations of the Commonwealth. This written authorization and the applicable 2020 Massachusetts’ For-Hire Permit shall be on board the vessel at all times while participating in this seasonal extension.

This Statement of Permit Conditions shall remain in effect until October 10, 2020, unless otherwise notified or sooner revoked for cause. The Director may amend this Statement of Permit Conditions

at any time. Any amendments shall become effective upon written notice. Violation(s) of any condition or restriction as contained herein shall result in an adjudicatory hearing to suspend or revoke the for-hire permit, as well as any other fines and penalties provided in G.L. c.130.



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
Division of Marine Fisheries

September 9, 2020

Effective Date