



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION: IN-SEASON ADJUSTMENTS TO 2021 COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS LIMITS

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A §3 and under the authority at G.L. c. 130 §§2, 17A and 80 and 322 CMR §§6.41(2)(d) and 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries hereby issues this Declaration to make the following in-season adjustments to the 2021 commercial black sea bass limits:

1. **Open Fishing Days.** Effective from Monday, August 30, 2021 through Thursday, September 30, 2021, the Division of Marine Fisheries is adding Mondays and Wednesdays as open commercial fishing days in the summertime black sea bass pot and hook and line fishery. Accordingly, during this period, commercial black sea bass fishermen fishing with black sea bass pots, under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass pot endorsement, or hook and line gear, under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass endorsement, may retain, possess and land commercial limits of black sea bass on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Then, effective from Friday, October 1, 2021 through Friday, December 31, 2021, or when the 2021 commercial black sea bass quota is taken and the fishery is closed in accordance with 322 CMR 6.28(2)(c)(6), whichever occurs sooner, the Division of Marine Fisheries is eliminating closed commercial fishing days in the summertime black sea bass pot and hook and line fishery. Accordingly, commercial black sea bass fishermen fishing with black sea bass pots, under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass pot endorsement, with hook and line gear, under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass endorsement, may retain, possess and land commercial limits of black sea bass on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

2. **Trip Limits for Black Sea Bass Pot Fishermen.** Effective from Monday, August 30, 2021 through Friday, December 31, 2021, or when the 2021 commercial black sea bass quota is taken and the fishery is closed in accordance with 322 CMR 6.28(2)(c)(6), whichever occurs sooner, the Division of Marine Fisheries is increasing the commercial trip limit for black sea bass pot fishermen from 400 pounds to 500 pounds. Accordingly, commercial black sea bass fishermen fishing with black sea bass pots under the authority of regulated fishery black sea bass pot endorsement may retain, possess and land up to 500 pounds of black sea bass on any open fishing day, as described in #1 above.
3. **Trip Limits for Black Sea Bass Hook and Line Fishermen.** Effective from Monday, August 30, 2021 through Friday, December 31, 2021, or when the 2021 commercial black sea bass quota is taken and the fishery is closed in accordance with 322 CMR 6.28(2)(c)(6), whichever occurs sooner, the Division of Marine Fisheries is increasing the

commercial trip limit for fishermen fishing for black sea bass with hook and line gear from 200 pounds to 250 pounds. Accordingly, commercial black sea bass fishermen fishing with hook and line gear for black sea bass under the authority of regulated fishery black sea bass endorsement may retain, possess and land up to 250 pounds of black sea bass on any open fishing day, as described in #1 above.

Dated: August 23, 2021

Signed: 
Daniel J. McKiernan, Director