



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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August 23, 2021

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

#### **In-Season Adjustments to the 2021 Commercial Black Sea Bass Limits**

In response to fishery performance and quota utilization so far this calendar year, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is making the following in-season adjustments to the 2021 commercial fishing limits for black sea bass (see [Declaration](#)):

- **Open Fishing Days.** Effective August 30, 2021, Mondays and Wednesdays will be added as open commercial fishing days for the directed commercial black sea bass pot and hook and line fisheries, thereby allowing these fishermen to fish for black sea bass from Sunday–Thursday. Then, on October 1, 2021, Fridays and Saturdays will be added as open commercial fishing days for the same fisheries, thereby allowing these fishermen to fish for black sea bass seven days per week.
- **Trip Limits.** Effective August 30, 2021, the directed commercial black sea bass trip limits for pot and hook and line fishermen will increase by 25%. This will allow black sea bass potters to retain, possess, and land up to 500 pounds of black sea bass on any open fishing day, and for hook and line fishermen to retain, possess, and land up to 250 pounds of black sea bass on any open fishing day.

Unless otherwise adjusted, these limits will remain in effect until December 31, 2021, or until 100% of the 2021 commercial black sea bass quota is taken and the fishery is closed, whichever occurs sooner (see [Quota Monitoring](#) webpage). Except as provided above, all other regulatory limits and permitting requirements affecting the commercial black sea bass fishery remain in effect.

These adjustments were approved by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission based on recommendations made by the Division of Marine Fisheries. DMF last adjusted the regulatorily set commercial fishing limits for the directed hook and line and pot fishery for black sea bass in 2017. Since that time, the annual commercial black sea bass quota allocated to Massachusetts by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has increased by about 32%. Despite these quota increases, DMF has not amended the regulatory limits for the directed fishery, instead favoring using the quota to extend the fishery into the fall and relying on annual in-season adjustments to ensure full quota utilization.

For more information about the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).