



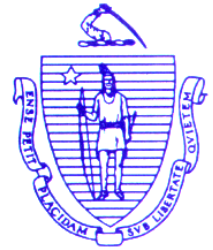
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August 31, 2015

MarineFisheries Advisory

2015 COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS FISHERY CLOSED EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

The Commonwealth's 2015 commercial black sea bass quota of 287,680 pounds is projected to be taken by the end of the fishing day on Wednesday, September 2, 2015. Accordingly, Massachusetts' commercial black sea bass fishery is closed effective 0001 hours on Thursday, September 3, 2015 ([Closure Notice](#)). During the quota closure and until the 2016 commercial black sea bass fishery opens, it is unlawful for any commercial fisherman to harvest or land black sea bass and for any seafood dealer to purchase or receive black sea bass from any fisherman. All black sea bass pots must be removed from the waters of the Commonwealth prior to Sunday, September 6, 2015, and cannot be set until Saturday, July 30, 2016.

Commercial fisherman trip level reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Ave, Gloucester, MA 01930. Reports must be submitted monthly by the fifteenth of the following month. Failure to submit these reports for all months of year may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its regulated fishery permit endorsements in 2016. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2015 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained from the *MarineFisheries* website at: [Trip-Level Reporting](#).

Please also note that Massachusetts' 2015 recreational black sea bass fishery has closed, and recreational harvest of black sea bass is prohibited until the 2016 season opens (dates to be determined).

For more information on the management of black sea bass, contact *MarineFisheries* at 617-626-1520 or visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.