



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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NOTICE OF FISHERY CLOSURE

2023 COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS FISHERY

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A, §3 and under the authority of G.L. c. 130, §§ 17A, 21 and 80 and 322 CMR §§ 6.41(2)(c) and 7.01(7), the Commonwealth's 2023 commercial black sea bass quota, as established at 322 CMR § 6.28(1), will be taken on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. In accordance with 322 CMR § 6.28(2)(c)(6), the 2023 commercial black sea bass fishery in Massachusetts will be closed effective 0001 hours on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. Unless otherwise notified, the commercial black sea bass fishery will remain closed until it reopens in 2024.

During the closure period, 322 CMR 6.28(2)(c)(6) makes it unlawful for any commercial fisher to possess or land black sea bass for commercial purposes or under the authority of a commercial fishing permit, and 322 CMR 7.07(5)(b) makes it unlawful for seafood dealers, permitted in accordance with G.L. c. 130 § 80 and 322 CMR § 7.01(3), to purchase black sea bass from any commercial fisher. Seafood dealers may purchase black bass from dealers in other states and import this fish for processing or sale.

In addition, 322 CMR 6.12(2)(b) makes it unlawful for any black sea bass pot to remain in the marine waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth effective 0001 hours on Saturday, September 14, 2023.

Dated: September 8, 2023

By: _____