



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



MAURA T. HEALEY  
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER  
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA  
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

September 8, 2023

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## **2023 COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS FISHERY CLOSED EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 13<sup>TH</sup>**

DMF is projecting that 100% of Massachusetts' 2023 commercial black sea bass quota will be taken on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Accordingly, the fishery will close effective 0001 hours on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 ([Closure Notice](#)). Unless otherwise notified, the commercial black sea bass fishery will remain closed until it reopens in 2024.

During this closed period, it is unlawful for fishers to retain, possess, or land black sea bass for commercial purposes. Commercial black sea bass potters are to remove their black sea bass pot gear from the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth by no later than Friday, September 15, 2023. For seafood dealers, during this quota closure it is unlawful to purchase or receive black sea bass from commercial fishers. Dealers may continue to possess black sea bass, import black sea bass from dealers operating in another state, and sell lawfully possessed black sea bass.

Commercial fishers are to submit monthly trip-level reports by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit was not fished. Reports should be sent to: DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its endorsements in 2024. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2023 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

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