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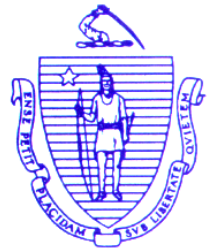
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September 18, 2017

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Adjustments to Commercial Black Sea Bass Trip Limits and Open Fishing Days

Current quota monitoring data demonstrates that approximately 80,000 pounds or 15% of the 2017 commercial black sea bass quota remains. In recent weeks, daily harvest levels have averaged 5,000 pounds. If current conditions persist, the fishery is not projected to close until the end of October. However, as we move into fall these fish move out of our inshore waters as they migrate offshore, making them less available to Massachusetts fishermen, particularly our inshore small boat fleet. This makes it likely that under current commercial fishing limits our 2017 commercial quota will be under-utilized.

To ensure that the 2017 commercial quota is taken, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with the approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC), has issued a Declaration ([Declaration Notice](#)) to adjust the commercial black sea bass trip limits and open fishing days. Accordingly, the following changes to the state's commercial black sea bass limits have been implemented ([Statement of Permit Conditions](#)) effective immediately:

- (1) **Black sea bass potters may now fish for, possess and land 400 pounds of black sea bass per open fishing day (an increase from the prior 300-pound limit);**
- (2) **Black sea bass fishermen using all other gear types may now fish for, possess and land 200 pounds of black sea bass per open fishing day (an increase from the prior 150-pound limit);**
- (3) **All commercial black sea bass fishermen may fish for, possess and land black sea bass on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (an increase from the prior three-day week).**

DMF is accepting public comment on these commercial fishery limit adjustments. Public comment will be accepted through 5PM on Monday, October 2, 2017. Any comment received will be provided to the MFAC. The MFAC is scheduled to hold a business meeting on October 3, 2017. At that time, DMF may recommend further adjusting these limits based on these comments.

For more information about black sea bass management, please visit our website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries