



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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October 17, 2025

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2025 Commercial Black Sea Bass Fishery to Close Effective Tuesday, October 21

DMF is projecting that 100% of Massachusetts' 2025 commercial black sea bass quota will be taken on Monday, October 20, 2025. Accordingly, the fishery will close effective 0001 hours on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 ([Legal Notice](#)). Unless otherwise notified the commercial black sea bass fishery will remain closed until it reopens in 2026.

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 the end of the day on Thursday, October 23, 2025. 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 2026. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2025 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.