



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Extension of Commercial Black Sea Bass Fishery through November 5, 2020

Earlier this week, DMF projected that Massachusetts' 2020 commercial black sea bass quota of 728,565 pounds would be taken on Monday, November 2, 2020 and the fishery was scheduled to close on November 3, 2020. However, with persistent inclement weather and high seas through early next week, it is likely that fishing effort will be constrained, projected catch rates will not be met, and black sea bass potters will be unable to safely haul their gear and bring it in. Accordingly, DMF is extending the commercial black sea bass season through Thursday, November 5, 2020. The commercial fishery will now close on Friday, November 6, 2020 ([Closure Notice](#)).

The fishery will remain closed through December 31, 2020. During the closed period, it is unlawful for fishermen to possess and land black sea bass for commercial purposes and for seafood dealers to purchase or receive black sea bass from fishermen. Black sea bass pot fishermen are reminded that their pot gear must be removed from the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth by the end of the day on Sunday, November 8, 2020 and may be set again no sooner than July 6, 2021.

Commercial fishermen are required 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 2021. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2020 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

For more information about the management of black sea bass in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.