



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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February 14, 2022
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Public Scoping on 2022 Recreational Fluke & Black Sea Bass Measures

The Division of Marine Fisheries is holding a virtual public scoping meeting regarding the setting of 2022 recreational measures for summer flounder (fluke) and black sea bass as follows:

Thursday, February 17, 2022
6:30 PM

Zoom Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d0oVulSnR0-LOCUWkFLQzg

Interstate deliberations have identified the opportunity to increase fluke recreational harvest by 16.5% coastwide and the need to reduce black sea bass recreational harvest by 20.7% coastwide in order to achieve but not exceed their recreational harvest limits (RHL) for 2022. These decisions were based on a comparison of the species' average coastwide recreational harvest the past four years (2018–2021) to their 2022 RHLs. Each management region is tasked with developing regulatory proposals to achieve these outcomes; regional proposals are due to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission later this month.

In advance of this and to inform regional discussions, DMF is seeking public input on preferred approaches to achieve the liberalization for fluke and reduction for black sea bass. Note that Massachusetts is considered its own region for fluke and thus has considerable flexibility to develop its own regulatory proposals achieving the 16.5% liberalization using the approved methodology. For black sea bass, the state must work cooperatively with its Northern Region partners of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York to develop regulatory proposals; while state regulations within the region may differ, each state is expected to contribute to achieving the required 20.7% regional harvest reduction.

You must [register online](#) in advance to attend the virtual meeting; after registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information to join the meeting. Those unable to attend the meeting or preferring to submit written input after the meeting can e-mail Director Daniel McKiernan at marine.fish@mass.gov. Such e-mail must be received by Monday, February 21 to be reviewed in time for regional proposal development. For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve at nichola.meserve@mass.gov or 617-626-1531.