



David E. Pierce, PhD  
Director

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

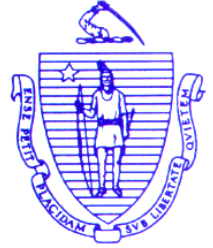
## Division of Marine Fisheries

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May 18, 2017

### Public Hearing Notice

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at M.G.L. c. 130 §§ 17, 80 and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has scheduled public hearings and a public comment period to on emergency regulations that amend 322 CMR 6.00 to establish the 2017 recreational black sea bass and summer flounder fishing limits and commercial black sea bass limits. The hearing schedule and proposals are as follows:

10:30 AM

June 15, 2017

DFW Headquarters

1 Rabbit Hill Road

Westborough, MA

1. **2017 Recreational Summer Flounder Limits (322 CMR 6.22)**. This action reduces the bag limit from 5 fish to 4 fish and increases the minimum size from 16" to 17" to conform to the interstate plan.
2. **2017 Recreational Black Sea Bass Limits (322 CMR 6.28)**. This action adjusts the opening and closing dates of the recreational black sea bass fishery. The season will start on Saturday, May 20 rather than Sunday, May 21. To accommodate a full weekend of fishing to start the season two-days had to be removed from the end of the season to account for seasonal differences in harvest rates. Accordingly, the last day of the open fishing season will be Tuesday, August 29, rather than Thursday, August 31.
3. **Commercial Black Sea Bass Limits (322 CMR 6.28)**. This action moves the season start date for trap, hook and line and net fishermen from the first Tuesday in August to July 9 and increases the weir set aside from 10,000 pounds to 15,000 pounds.

### Instructions for Written Comments

Written public comments will be accepted until 5PM on June 12, 2017. Address all comments to Director Pierce at [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us) or 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. A full copy of the emergency regulations is available through Jared Silva (617-626-1534 or [jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us)).