



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626.1520
Fax (617) 626.1509



Deval Patrick
Governor
Ian Bowles
Secretary
Mary B.
Griffin
Commissioner

May 23, 2008
Marine Fisheries Advisory

**COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS SEASON CLOSED FOR THE PERIOD
MAY 29TH THROUGH JULY 31ST**

Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) has projected that 50% of the 2008 annual black sea bass quota will have been reached by Wednesday, May 28, 2008. Consequently, effective 0001 hours on Thursday, May 29, 2008 through July 31, 2008 fishermen are prohibited from possessing black sea bass for commercial purposes. The fishery will re-open on August 1, 2008.

Commercial hook-and-line and pot fishermen are also reminded that consequent to closure of the commercial black sea bass fishery, possession of scup is prohibited during May 29 th through July 31st. Pot fishermen and hook-and-line fishermen are prevented from having a "directed" scup fishery until August 1. Draggers may continue to land and possess up to 400-lbs. of scup during the squid season.

The following possession limits and no-fishing days apply to commercial harvest of black sea bass when the fishery re-opens August 1st:

Season	Gear Type	Possession Limit	No Fishing Days
Aug - Dec	Fish pot & weir	500 lb	Tuesday, Friday & Saturday
	Lobster traps	100 lb	
	All other authorized gear types	200 lb	

For further information including quota totals and regulations please visit the *Marine Fisheries* web site at: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.