



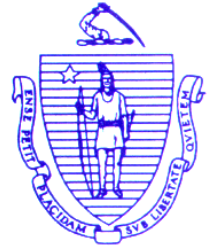
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Marine Fisheries Advisory

New Regulations Affecting Recreational Fishing Limits for Black Sea Bass and Summer Flounder

For 2017, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has adjusted the recreational fishing limits for black sea bass and summer flounder (fluke). Please note that the black sea bass limits published in our Sportfish Guide are incorrect with regards to the season start and closure dates; this advisory serves to notify you of the 2017 limits and correct the information that was published in the Guide.

Black Sea Bass

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved status quo regulations for 2017. Status quo regulations would have Massachusetts' fishery being open from May 21 through August 31 with a 5-fish bag limit and 15" minimum size. However, to accommodate a full weekend of recreational fishing to start the season, DMF is making slight modifications to the season dates. The fishery will instead open on Saturday May 20 and will close two days earlier on Tuesday, August 29. Due to black sea bass harvest rates being higher in May than they are in August two-days are being taken off the end of the season to provide an additional day at the start of the season. No changes are being made to the bag limit or the minimum size. The 2017 black sea bass limits are described in the table below.

2017 Massachusetts Recreational Fishing Limits for Black Sea Bass

Open Season	Bag Limit	Size Limit
May 20 – August 29	5 fish	15"

Summer Flounder

The 2016 recreational fluke harvest estimates indicate that the 2017 coast-wide recreational fluke harvest needs to be reduced to stay within the 2017 recreational harvest limit. In February 2017, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission voted to approve an addendum that required all states north of North Carolina to increase their minimum size by 1-inch and implement a reduced bag limit. Accordingly, DMF is adjusting Massachusetts' recreational fluke limits for 2017. The bag limit will be reduced from 5 fish to 4 fish and the minimum size will be increased from 16 inches to 17 inches. The open season of May 22 – September 23 will remain unchanged. The 2017 summer flounder limits are described in the table below.

2017 Massachusetts Recreational Fishing Limits for Fluke

Open Season	Bag Limit	Size Limit
May 22 – September 23	4 fish	17"

For more information regarding black sea bass and fluke management please view our [website](#). The full text of these regulations may be found at [322 CMR 6.22 and 6.28](#). Official copies of the CMR are maintained by the [Secretary of State](#).