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MarineFisheries Advisory

**SUMMER PERIOD COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS FISHERY TO REMAIN
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

The summer period (August 1st) commercial black sea bass fishery will not open at this time. The Director may establish the summer-time (August 1st and beyond) trip limits based on available quota, however *MarineFisheries'* quota monitoring staff have reported MA landings to date have reached (and possibly exceeded) the annual quota of 130,403-lbs. After reconciling what amount of these landings is Research Set-Aside (that does not count against the state quota) we expect there may be limited unused quota remaining, but a re-opening at this time, even with low trip limits, likely will result in a 2009 quota overage that will have to be subtracted from next year's quota.

Should *MarineFisheries* consider reopening the fishery later this year a declaration process would be required involving a two-week public comment period and MFC approval. Notice of any provisions to fish for black sea bass would subsequently be provided to the public via newspapers, Massachusetts Register, *MarineFisheries* Listserv and website.