



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION: IN-SEASON ADJUSTMENTS TO COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS, BLACK SEA BASS AND SUMMER FLOUNDER LIMITS

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A §3 and under the authority at G.L. c. 130 §§2, 17A and 80 and 322 CMR §§6.41(2)(d) and 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries hereby issues this Declaration to make the following in-season adjustments to the commercial striped bass, black sea bass, and summer flounder limits:

1. **Commercial Fishing Days for Striped Bass.**

Effective September 1, 2020 commercial striped bass fishermen, fishing under the authority of regulated fishery striped bass permit endorsements, may retain, possess and land commercial limits of striped bass on Tuesdays. For the remainder of the 2020 commercial striped bass fishing season, the open commercial striped bass fishing days, as described at 322 CMR §§ 6.07(2)(4) and (7), shall be Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

2. **Commercial Fishing Days for Black Sea Bass Pots and Hook and Line Gear.**

Effective August 31, 2020 commercial black sea bass fishermen, fishing with black sea bass pots under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass pot endorsement, or commercial black sea bass fishermen, fishing with hook and line gear under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass endorsement, may retain, possess and land commercial limits of black sea bass on Mondays and Wednesdays. During the period of August 31 – October 1, the open commercial black sea bass fishing days for these gear types, as described at 322 CMR §§ 6.28(3)(c)(4) and (5), shall be Sundays Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Then, effective October 2, 2020, commercial black sea bass fishermen, fishing with black sea bass pots under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass pot endorsement, or commercial black sea bass fishermen, fishing with hook and line gear under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass endorsement, may retain, possess and land commercial limits of black sea bass on Fridays and Saturdays. From October 2, 2020 through the end of the 2020 commercial black sea bass fishing season, the open commercial black sea bass fishing days for these gear types, as described at 322 CMR §§ 6.28(3)(c)(4) and (5), shall be Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

3. **Commercial Black Sea Bass Pot Fishing Limits.**

Effective August 31, 2020 commercial black sea bass fishermen, fishing with black

sea bass pots under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass pot endorsement, may retain and land up to 500 pounds of black sea bass during any open commercial fishing day as described in Section 2 of this Director's Declaration. This 500 pound trip limit replaces the 400 pound trip limit at 322 CMR 6.28(3)(c)(4).

4. **Commercial Hook and Line Black Sea Bass Fishing Limits.**

Effective August 31, 2020 commercial black sea bass fishermen, fishing with hook and line gear under the authority of a regulated fishery black sea bass endorsement, may retain and land up to 250 pounds of black sea bass during any open commercial fishing day as described in Section 2 of this Director's Declaration. This 250 pound trip limit replaces the 200 pound trip limit at 322 CMR 6.28(3)(c)(5) for this gear type.

5. **Commercial Summer Flounder Trip Limits.**

Effective beginning on August 23, 2020 through October 3, 2020, commercial summer flounder fishermen, fishing under the authority of a regulated fishery fluke endorsement and using net gear, may retain and land up to 600 pounds of summer flounder during any commercial fishing day, as described at 322 CMR 6.22(2)(d)(2). This 600 pound trip limit replaces the 400 pound trip limit at 322 CMR 6.28(2)(d)(2)(b).

Then, effective October 4, 2020 through October 31, 2020, all commercial summer flounder fishermen, fishing under the authority of a regulated fishery fluke endorsement, may retain, and land up to 1,000 pounds of summer flounder during any commercial fishing day, as described in Section 6 of this Director's Declaration.

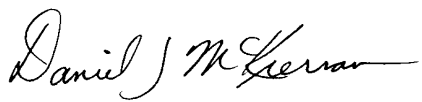
6. **Commercial Fishing Days for Summer Flounder**

Effective October 4, 2020, commercial summer flounder fishermen, fishing under the authority of a regulated fishery fluke endorsement, may retain, possess, and land summer flounder on Fridays and Saturdays. During this period, the open commercial fishing days in the summer flounder fishery, as described at 322 CMR 6.22(2)(d)(2), shall be Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

7. **Applicability and Liability.**

Unless otherwise specified herein or through subsequent notification, this Declaration shall expire on December 31, 2020 or once 100% of the 2020 commercial quota for the specific species is taken, whichever occurs first. Except as explicitly provided for in this Declaration, or as otherwise provided through a valid Letter of Authorization or Statement of Permit Conditions, affected commercial fishermen are not exempt from any marine fisheries laws or regulations of

Dated: August 21, 2020

Signed: 
Daniel J. McKiernan, Director