



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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MarineFisheries Advisory

Adjustments to Commercial Black Sea Bass Limits Effective September 1

Effective Tuesday, September 1, 2026, the commercial black sea bass possession and landing limit and open fishing day schedule will change. The trip limit increases from 500 pounds to 600 pounds for pot fishers and from 250 pounds to 300 pounds for hook and line fishers (and other non-trawl gear). Additionally, Fridays and Saturdays will be eliminated as closed fishing days allowing commercial fishers to retain, possess, land, and sell black sea bass seven days per week. Unless otherwise notified, these changes will remain in effect throughout the remainder of the calendar year or until 100% of the annual quota is taken and the commercial fishery is closed for 2026.

These trip limit increases occur automatically when more than 15% of the state's annual quota is projected to be available after August 31 to support utilization of the available commercial quota. As of today, 44% of the annual quota has been landed and DMF can safely project that at least 15% will remain available on September 1. Similarly, the open fishing day adjustment occurs annually on September 1 (provided quota remains available) to allow for additional fishing opportunities as safe weather windows for small boat fishers become sparser during the fall months.

The Consecutive Daily Trip Limit Program remains in effect for the black sea bass pot fishery throughout the remainder of the 2026 season. Consistent with this September 1 trip limit adjustment, potters with a valid Letter of Authorization will be able to possess and land up to 1,200 pounds of black sea bass on any trip spanning two consecutive calendar days provided no more than 600 pounds of black sea bass is retained during any single calendar day.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries