



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

INCREASE TO COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS TRIP LIMITS AND EXPANSION OF OPEN FISHING DAYS, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 15

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has determined that more than 15% of the state's 2024 commercial black sea bass quota will remain available on September 14. Accordingly, effective Sunday, September 15, there will be two adjustments to the commercial fishing limits for black sea bass to encourage the utilization of the remaining quota this season. First, the trip limit will increase 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; the trip limit will remain at 100 pounds for trawlers. Second, the closed fishing days on Fridays and Saturdays will be eliminated and lawfully permitted commercial fishers will be authorized to retain, possess, land, and sell black sea bass seven days per week. Unless otherwise notified, these changes will remain in effect until the 2024 commercial fishery is closed for the year.

The recreational fishery for black sea bass closed on September 4 and the retention of black sea bass by recreational anglers is now prohibited. Accordingly, any person retaining, possessing, and landing black sea bass must hold a valid DMF-issued commercial fishing permit endorsed for black sea bass or black sea bass pots. It also remains unlawful to mix commercial and recreational fishing trips. Therefore, if the retention of black sea bass is occurring under the authority of a commercial fishing permit, then all catch of all species by the permit holder or onboard the vessel must conform with the Commonwealth's commercial fishing rules.

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