



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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### **Pilot Program for Commercial Black Sea Bass Pot Fishery**

DMF is initiating a pilot program to enhance the utilization of the available 2022 commercial black sea bass quota. This pilot program will allow black sea bass pot fishermen to land two daily limits of black sea bass caught and retained over consecutive fishing days. This enables fishermen to fish more efficiently and safely by limiting the amount of steaming time as fish migrate offshore by allowing them to lay up overnight in ports on the islands south of Cape Cod or at-sea closer to the fishing grounds and fish consecutive daily limits before having to return to port and land their retained catch. This is similar to the program that DMF runs seasonally for trawlers fishing for summer flounder.

This pilot program will be implemented through a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the Director. To be eligible to participate, an applicant must hold a commercial fishing permit in good standing with a regulated fishery permit endorsement for black sea bass pots. Permit holders issued an LOA will also receive DMF issued tags, which are used to identify and lock fish taken on the first day of fishing activity, as well as a logbook to document and report daily catch taken as part of this pilot program.

To apply to participate in this program, please complete the [Declaration to Participate Form](#) and return it by e-mail to Jared Silva ([jared.silva@mass.gov](mailto:jared.silva@mass.gov)). Once received and processed, the LOA, daily logbook, and DMF issued tags will be provided via US post to the permit holder.

For more information regarding the management of black sea bass in Massachusetts, please visit our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)).