



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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*Marine Fisheries Advisory*

### REMINDER ON IN-SEASON ADJUSTMENTS TO COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER AND BLACK SEA BASS LIMITS AND EXPIRATION OF SEASONAL PILOT PROGRAMS

Per our prior [Advisory](#), the following in-season adjustments are scheduled to occur. Effective October 2, the open commercial fishing days for black sea bass and summer flounder will include Fridays and Saturdays, allowing commercial fishing seven days per week. Effective October 4, the commercial summer flounder trip limit will increase to 1,000 pounds for all gear types. Unless further adjusted, these revised limits are to remain in place through the remainder of the calendar year or until 100% of the respective species specific annual commercial quota is taken.

Additionally, two seasonal pilot programs affecting trawl vessels that target summer flounder during the summertime fishery are set to expire on October 1. The first expiring program allows trawlers to take and land consecutive days trips of summer flounder, black sea bass, and horseshoe crabs subject to certain tagging and catch segregation requirements. Upon expiration, trawl vessels will instead be subject to the daily trip limits for these species. All unused tags may be discarded and logbooks returned to DMF. The second expiring pilot program allows trawlers without a horseshoe crab endorsement to retain and land up to 300 horseshoe crabs per trip as bycatch. With the expiration of this pilot program, these fishermen will instead be subject to the open entry trip limit of 75 horseshoe crabs.

For more information regarding the management of these species in Massachusetts, please visit our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.