



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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### Marine Fisheries Advisory

#### **DMF to Renew Pilot Program that Allows the Possession of Multiple States' Limits of Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass During Offshore Wintertime Fishery**

For 2021, DMF is renewing a pilot program that allows the possession of multiple states' limits of summer flounder and black sea bass during the offshore wintertime fishery. Through this program, vessels which are also permitted to land summer flounder and black sea bass in adjacent states (e.g., Connecticut and Rhode Island) will be authorized to possess non-confirming quantities of these species when landing in Massachusetts. This allowance is contingent on the vessel properly labeling the catch destined for each state, not exceeding the aggregate trip limit for the participating states where they are permitted, and not offloading more than the state's applicable landing limits

To participate in this pilot program, a vessel must hold a summer flounder permit endorsement in Massachusetts and a similar permit in a neighboring participating adjacent state (e.g., Connecticut and Rhode Island). If the vessel holds black sea bass permit endorsement, the pilot program authorization will further apply to this species. Additionally, the vessel must be equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System as authorized by NOAA Fisheries.

If you meet these qualifying criteria, you may apply for a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to participate in this pilot program by providing DMF with the following information: (1) permit holder name; (2) vessel name; (3) DMF's permit ID number; and (4) vessel documentation number. Please provide this necessary information to the attention of Julia Kaplan via e-mail ([julia.kaplan@mass.gov](mailto:julia.kaplan@mass.gov)). DMF will begin to issue Letters of Authorization in mid-December 2020 for implementation on January 1, 2021.

For more information regarding the management of marine fisheries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, please visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)