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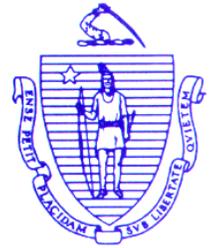
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February 18, 2016

Marine Fisheries Advisory

DMF Scoping Meeting to Discuss Recreational Black Sea Bass Regulations

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has scheduled a scoping meeting to discuss management options for the Commonwealth's recreational black sea bass fishery in 2016. The meeting is scheduled for:

February 26, 2016 at 1:00 PM
Hyannis Doubletree Hotel
287 Iyannough Road
Hyannis, MA

As announced in an [Advisory](#) last month, Massachusetts faces a mandatory harvest reduction for its 2016 recreational black sea bass fishery due to the magnitude of coastwide harvest in 2015. On February 17, NOAA Fisheries released updated 2015 harvest data (full-year estimates).

DMF is in the process of using these data to develop various regulatory options to comply with the mandatory reduction (preliminary estimate of 23%). **Another Advisory will be issued early next week to provide possible options.** These will include potential changes to the opening date, closing date, and possession limit. In 2015, Massachusetts' regulations included a May 23–August 27 open season, 8-fish daily limit, and 14-inch minimum size.

Recreational anglers, charter and head boat captains, and other interested constituents are invited to the scoping meeting to provide input on the management options for 2016. Those unable to attend the scoping meeting are encouraged to provide written comment to DMF. Next week's advisory will include instructions on how to submit written comment.

As another follow-up to our prior [Advisory](#), Massachusetts' recreational fluke (summer flounder) and scup regulations will remain unchanged from last year, as anticipated. Refer to the [Recreational Regulations Table](#) on our website.

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