



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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CHRIS CHRISTIE

Governor

KIM GUADAGNO

Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN

Commissioner

December 11, 2014

Dear New Jersey Black Sea Bass Permit Holder:

New Jersey Black Sea Bass Dealer:

As required by N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12(h)8i, the Department must notify all New Jersey Black Sea Bass Permit Holders of the annual and seasonal quotas and trip limits. This letter shall serve as notice regarding the 2015 New Jersey commercial black sea bass quota, seasons, and trip limits.

The 2015 preliminary black sea bass coastwide commercial quota is 2,170,000 pounds, the same as the 2014 coastwide quota. This results in a New Jersey commercial quota of 434,000 pounds, 20 percent of the coastwide commercial allocation for 2015.

This quota does not represent any overages that may have occurred by the end of the 2014 season. If the NMFS adopts a coastwide commercial quota different than 2,170,000 pounds, or if the 2014 New Jersey commercial black sea bass season incurs any overages, the seasonal quotas listed below will be adjusted. After allocating ten percent of the quota for by-catch landings as required by N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12(h)8, the directed fishery quota for 2015 is 390,600 pounds. This quota is allocated through four seasons as follows:

Directed Season	Directed (pounds)	By-Catch (pounds)
January 1-April 15	151,553	16,839
April 16-June 30	80,464	8,940
July 1-September 30	52,731	5,859
October 1-December 31	105,853	11,761

The daily trip limits and maximum weekly (Sunday to Saturday) or bi-weekly (Sunday to the Second Saturday) landing days for the directed fishery for each season are listed below. **Note: Seasons 1, 2, and 4 trip limits and landing periods (Season 1) have changed for 2015.**

Jan 1-April 15

1,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of three landings per two week period OR 1,500 pound trip limit with a maximum of two landings per two week period OR 3,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of one landing per two week period. The first period shall begin on January 1, 2015 and end on January 17, 2015. Each two week period will run consecutively from Sunday to the second Saturday thereafter.

- April 16 - June 30** 500 pound trip limit with a maximum of three landings per week OR
1,500 pound trip limit with a maximum of one landing per week.
- July 1 - Sept 30 500 pound trip limit with a maximum of six landings per week
OR 1,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of three landings per week
OR 3,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of one landing per week.
- Oct 1 - Dec 31** 1,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of three landings per week OR
3,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of one landing per week.

When the directed fishery is closed, no vessel shall land or possess any black sea bass in excess of the by-catch trip limit. By-catch landings of black sea bass may not exceed ten percent (10%) by weight of all species landed and sold with a maximum daily trip limit of 100 pounds from January 1 through March 31 or 50 pounds from April 1 through December 31.

New Jersey Black Sea Bass Dealers must provide daily reports during the period January 1 through April 15 and weekly (Sunday through Saturday) reports during the period April 16 through December 31 to the Division of Fish and Wildlife listing the amount of black sea bass landed on a daily basis by vessel and gear type. Reports must be filed electronically on the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) **OR** faxed to the Division at the number specified on the reporting form no later than 10:00 AM on the following day for daily reports and 12:01 PM on Monday following the week's end. If no landings occurred, a report to that effect is required. **If a dealer is reporting electronically through SAFIS, a faxed report is not required.**

In addition, any vessel participating in the directed black sea bass fishery must call the Marine Enforcement Office at 609-748-2050 at least two (2) hours prior to off loading and any such off loading may occur only between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM from November 1 through April 30 and between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM from May 1 through October 31.

Commercial seasons, quotas, openings, and closing information is available on the Division of Fish and Wildlife website at www.njfishandwildlife.com/comquotas.htm.

If you have any questions, please call the Bureau of Marine Fisheries at 609-748-2020 or 609-292-7794.

Sincerely,



Brandon Muffley, Administrator
Marine Fisheries Administration