



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FISH & WILDLIFE

MARINE RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

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PHILIP D. MURPHY

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TAHESHA L. WAY

Lt. Governor

SHAWN M. LATOURETTE

Commissioner

December 20, 2024

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 2025 New Jersey commercial black sea bass quota, seasons, and trip limits.

The 2025 preliminary black sea bass coast wide commercial quota is 6,000,000 pounds, status quo from the 2024 commercial fishing year. This results in a New Jersey commercial quota of 1,168,455 pounds, 19.42 percent of the coast wide commercial allocation.

This quota does not represent any overages that may have occurred by the end of the 2024 season. 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 2024 is 1,051,610 pounds. This quota is allocated for six seasons as follows:

| Season | Directed (Pounds) | Bycatch (Pounds) |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| January 1- February 28 | 231,354 | 25,706 |
| March 1- April 30 | 220,838 | 24,538 |
| May 1- June 30 | 178,774 | 19,864 |
| July 1- August 31 | 94,645 | 10,516 |
| September 1- October 31 | 136,709 | 15,190 |
| November 1- December 31 | 189,290 | 21,032 |

The daily trip limits and maximum weekly (Sunday to Saturday) landing days for the directed fishery for each season are listed below.

Season 1 (January-February): option A- 500-pound trip four times per week **or**

option B- 1,000-pound trip two times per week **or**

option C- 2,000-pound trip one time per week.

Season 2 (March-April): option A- 500-pound trip four times per week **or**

option B- 1,000-pound trip two times per week **or**

option C- 2,000-pound trip one time per week.

Season 3 (May-June): option A- 1,000-pound trip six times per week **or**

option B- 2,000-pound trip three times per week **or**

option C- 3,000-pound trip two times per week.

Season 4 (July-August): option A- 1,000-pound trip six times per week **or**

option B- 2,000-pound trip three times per week.

Season 5 (September-October): option A- 1,000-pound trip six times per week **or**

option B- 2,000-pound trip three times per week **or**

option C- 3,000-pound trip two times per week.

Season 6 (November-December): option A- 750-pound trip four times per week **or**

option B- 1,500-pound trip two times per week **or**

option C- 3,000-pound trip one time per week.

Options cannot be combined under any circumstance for a given season. Once a trip has been landed under one option, the vessel is restricted to only that option for the remainder of the



fishing week (Sunday-Saturday). Once the following fishing week begins (12:00 a.m. Sunday), the vessel can choose another option under the corresponding season.

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 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 email (njdfwcommercialnotify@dep.nj.gov) or call the Marine Enforcement Office at 609-748-2050 at least two (2) hours prior to offloading and any such offloading 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 <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/commercial-quotas-trip-limits-and-notices/>

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

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Cimino,
Marine Resources Administrator

