**Black Sea Bass**

The purpose of this meeting was to review the 2023 commercial black sea bass fishery and discuss trip limit modifications to the 2024 fishery.

NJDFW staff provided advisors with current 2023 black sea bass commercial fishery

landings. Currently there is approximately 200,000 pounds of black sea bass projected to be available for the final season of the 2023 commercial fishery. Given the relatively low rollover into Season 6, Advisors recommended not modifying trip limits at this time.

Additionally, Advisors were presented with the preliminary 2024 commercial black sea bass quota for New Jersey. The preliminary quota for New Jersey is 1,188,600 pounds, which reflects a 25% increase relative to the 2023 fishing year.

Based upon this preliminary quota for the black sea bass commercial fishery, the Committee’s preferred trip limits for the 2024 commercial fishing year are as follows:

Season 1 (January-February): 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.

Season 2 (March-April): 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.

Season 3 (May-June): option A- 1,333-pound trip six times per week **or**

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

option C- 4,000-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 **or**

option C- 3,000-pound trip two 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- 1,000-pound trip four times per week **or**

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

option C- 4,000-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.

The Committee recommends the commercial trip limits for the 2024 commercial black sea bass fishing year as provided in this report.