**Black Sea Bass**

The purpose of this meeting was to review the 2021 commercial black sea bass fishery and discuss trip limit modifications to the 2022 fishery.

NJDFW staff provided advisors with current 2021 black sea bass commercial fishery

landings. Based upon the unharvested quota remaining in the 2021 commercial fishery, the Committee recommends not adjusting the Season 6 directed trip limits at this time.

Additionally, Advisors were presented with the preliminary 2022 commercial black sea bass quota for New Jersey. The preliminary quota for New Jersey is 1,294,000 pounds, which includes a 6% increase relative to the 2021 fishing year.

Based upon this preliminary quota for the black sea bass commercial fishery, the Committee’s preferred trip limits for the 2022 commercial fishing year are as follows:

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

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

option B- 2,500-pound trip two times per week **or**

Season 4 (July-August): option A- 800-pound trip five times per week **or**

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

option C- 2,000-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**

options 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.

The Committee recommends the commercial trip limits for the 2022 commercial black sea bass fishing year as provided in this report.