A meeting of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council’s Recreational Black Sea Bass Advisory Committee was held via webinar on October 26, 2021 to discuss future management approaches for the New Jersey recreational black sea bass fishery.

**Future NJ Black Sea Bass Management**

At the September 9, 2021 New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council meeting, Council requested the Marine Fisheries Administration staff investigate several alternative recreational black sea bass fisheries management options for 2022 and forward.

Currently, the recreational black sea bass fishery in New Jersey has four seasons with varying size and possession limits in each season as follows; May 15-June 22, 10 fish, 12.5 inches, July 1-August 31, 2 fish, 12.5 inches, October 8-October 31, 10 fish, 12.5 inches, and November 1-December 31, 15 fish, 13 inches. Staff presented several options which would eliminate or minimize the two current gaps in the open black sea bass seasons occurring between June 22 to July 1 (8 days) and August 31 to October 8 (37 days) by using a combination of increased size limits and decreased bag limits to remove these gaps in fishing. At the conclusion of the meeting, advisors preferred a possible adjustment to the July1-August 31 season where the size would go from 12.5 inches to 13 inches while retaining the two fish possession limit allowing for an additional 10 days to be placed into the September/October season and still retaining the September/October size limit of 12.5 inches and 10 fish possession limit. These possible adjustments are conceptual only and intended to guide future advisory committee discussions when final recreational harvest limits for 2022 become available in December. This is for guidance only and does not represent any adjustments for the 2022 black sea bass recreational fishing season.