



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mail Code 501-03

PO BOX 420

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

DAVID CHANDA, DIRECTOR

609-292-9410

Visit our Division Website: www.njfishandwildlife.com

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

December 21, 2011

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 2012 New Jersey commercial black sea bass quota, seasons, and trip limits.

The 2012 black sea bass Coastwide Landings Allowable Catch Target (ACT) is 3.6 million pounds. After deducting the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Research Set-Aside Program's 108,000 pounds, the Coastwide ACT is 3,492,000 pounds, producing a preliminary Coastwide Commercial Quota of 1,711,080 pounds.

The preliminary 2012 black sea bass commercial quota allocated to New Jersey is 342,216 pounds. This quota does not represent any overages that may have occurred by the end of the 2011 season. If the NMFS adopts a Coastwide Landings ACT different than 3.6 million pounds, or if the 2011 NJ 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 2012 is 307,994 pounds. This quota is allocated through four seasons as follows:

Directed Season	Directed (pounds)	By-Catch (pounds)
January 1-April 15	119,502	13,278
April 16-June 30	63,447	7,050
July 1-September 30	41,579	4,620
October 1-December 31	83,466	9,274

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

January 1 - April 15 500 pound trip limit with a maximum of four landings per week.
OR
1,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of two landings per week.

April 16 - June 30 500 pound trip limit with a maximum of two landings per week
OR
1,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of one landing per week.

- July 1 - Sept. 30 500 pound trip limit with a maximum of two landings per week
OR
1,000 pound trip limit with a maximum of one landing per week.
- October 1 - Dec. 31 500 pound trip limit with a maximum of two landings per week
OR
1,000 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, Chief
Bureau of Marine Fisheries