

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Marine Resources Headquarters

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Recreational Fishing Public
FROM: John Maniscalco
RE: NY's 2016 Recreational Black Sea Bass Regulations (III)
DATE: March 17, 2016

ISSUE: Black sea bass recreational harvest has exceeded 2015 limits in the northern region. New York (along with all states from Massachusetts to New Jersey) is required to develop more restrictive rules governing recreational black sea bass fishing in order to reduce harvest by 23.2% in 2016 limits. Options meeting this reduction were previously provided in memos dated February 18, 2016 and March 9, 2016.

It is now extremely likely that Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut will adopt 2016 recreational black sea bass regulations that include a 15.0" minimum size limit. New Jersey's 2016 regulations will include 12.5" and 13.0" minimum size limits. This difficult situation now requires that NYS consider options that also include a 15.0" minimum size limit. Use of a larger minimum size limit for black sea bass is problematic for NY due to geographic differences in the availability of such large fish, poor compliance with the 14.0" size limit in 2015, and the smaller size limits in place in NJ.

Input on these additional options (below) can be provided to the Bureau of Marine Resources by email (john.maniscalco@dec.ny.gov) or phone (631-444-0437). NY's Marine Resource Advisory Council (MRAC) will meet to discuss 2016 recreational black sea bass regulations on Wednesday March 23th at 6:30PM at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University.

OPTION	POSSESSION LIMIT	OPEN SEASON	SIZE
2015	8/10	July 15-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31	14.0"
15.1	3/8/10	June 27-Aug. 31/Sept. 1-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31	15.0"
15.2	4/8/10	July 3-Aug. 31/Sept. 1-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31	15.0"
15.3	5/8/10	July 8-Aug. 31/Sept. 1-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31	15.0"
14.1	3	July 16-Dec.31	14.0"
14.2	3/10	July 17-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31	14.0"
14.3	4	July 23-Dec. 31	14.0"
14.4	4	July 22-Dec. 15	14.0"
14.5	4	July 15-Oct. 17	14.0"
14.6	4/10	July 24-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31	14.0"
14.7	5/10	July 15-Sept. 21 and Oct. 22-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31	14.0"
14.8	5/10	July 28-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31	14.0"
14.9	2/8/10	July 12-Aug. 31/Sept. 1-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31	14.0"

Options provided above are subject to change and approval by the NYSDEC and various bodies of the ASMFC.