

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM 1d.
COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT OF BLACK SEA BASS

Option 1: Status quo

7.14.2 Commercial:

(A) Minimum size: Eleven (11) inches ~~total length~~, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

(B) Seasons, allocations, and possession limits: A state quota for Black sea bass will be established annually and shall be the most recent amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the ASMFC and/or the Secretary of the NOAA Fisheries. The quota shall be available during the following sub-periods:

(1) January 1 – April 30:

(a) Allocation: Twenty-five percent (25%) of the quota.

(b) Possession limit: 750 pounds per vessel per calendar day.

(2) May 1 – June 30:

(a) Allocation: Twenty-five percent (25%) of the quota.

(b) Possession limit: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day.

(3) July 1 – July 31:

(a) Allocation: Nineteen and a half percent (19.5%) of the quota.

(b) Possession limit: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day.

(4) September 1 – October 31:

(a) Allocation: Nineteen and a half percent (19.5%).

(b) Possession limit: Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day.

(5) November 1 – December 31:

(a) Allocation: Eleven percent (11%).

(b) Possession limit: One hundred (100) pounds per vessel per calendar day.

7.14.3 Black sea bass pot construction: All black sea bass pots must be constructed with two escape openings in the parlor portion of the pot. Openings may be circular, rectangular, or square, and must be a minimum of 2.5" diameter if circular, 1- 3/8" X 5-3/4" if rectangular, 2" X 2" if square. Escape vents must be attached with biodegradable fasteners which allow vents or panels to fall away from the trap after loss.

(A) The hinges or fasteners of one panel or door must be made of one of the following degradable materials:

- (1) Un-treated hemp, jute, or cotton string 3/16" (4.8mm) or smaller;
- (2) Magnesium alloy, timed float releases (pop-up devices) or similar magnesium alloy fasteners;
- (3) Un-galvanized or uncoated iron wire of .094" (2.4mm) or smaller; or
- (4) If "bungee" cord or other elasticized material is used to fasten the top, it must be secured to the trap with a degradable hog ring.

(B) Buoy Lines: The use of floating line within eight (8) feet of the surface of the water is prohibited on all scup pots, traps, or similar contrivances.

Option 2: Aggregate program (Note: The DFW may adjust these numbers moderately based on additional analysis)

7.14.2 Commercial:

(B) Minimum size: Eleven (11) inches ~~total length~~, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

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(1) January 1 – April 30:

(a) Allocation: Twenty-five percent (25%) of the quota.

(b) Possession limit: ~~750 pounds per vessel per calendar day.~~ **One thousand (1,000) per vessel per calendar week.**

(2) May 1 – June 30:

(a) Allocation: Twenty-five percent (25%) of the quota.

(b) Possession limit: ~~Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day.~~ Two hundred and fifty (250) pounds per vessel per calendar week.

(3) July 1 – July 31:

(a) Allocation: Nineteen and a half percent (19.5%) of the quota.

(b) Possession limit: ~~Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day.~~ Two hundred and fifty (250) pounds per vessel per calendar week.

(4) September 1 – October 31:

(a) Allocation: Nineteen and a half percent (19.5%).

(b) Possession limit: ~~Fifty (50) pounds per vessel per calendar day.~~ Two hundred and fifty (250) pounds per vessel per calendar week.

(5) November 1 – December 31:

(a) Allocation: Eleven percent (11%).

(b) Possession limit: ~~One hundred (100) pounds per vessel per calendar day.~~ Two hundred and fifty (250) pounds per vessel per calendar week.

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(B) Buoy Lines: The use of floating line within eight (8) feet of the surface of the water is prohibited on all scup pots, traps, or similar contrivances.