



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 6, 2019

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ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board Approves Status Quo Measures for 2019 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery

Arlington, VA – The Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved status quo measures for the 2019 black sea bass recreational fishery (see Table 1 on next page). This action is based on the recommendations of its Technical Committee, which found a low risk of status quo measures having a negative impact on the black sea bass stock. Based on the most recent stock assessment, the stock is estimated to be above the biomass target and not experiencing overfishing.

Table 1. 2019 Black Sea Bass Recreational Management Measures

State		Minimum Size	Possession Limit	Open Season
ME		13"	10 fish	May 19–Sep 21; Oct 18–Dec 31
NH		13"	10 fish	Jan 1–Dec 31
MA		15"	5 fish	May 19–Sep 12
RI		15"	3 fish	Jun 24–Aug 31
			7 fish	Sep 1–Dec 31
CT	Private/Shore Authorized Party/Charter	15"	5 fish	May 19–Dec 31
			5 fish	May 19–Aug 31
			7 fish	Sep 1–Dec 31
NY		15"	3 fish	Jun 23–Aug 31
			7 fish	Sep 1–Dec 31
NJ		12.5"	10 fish	May 15–Jun 22
		12.5"	2 fish	Jul 1–Aug 31
		12.5"	10 fish	Oct 8–Oct 31
		13"	15 fish	Nov 1–Dec 31
DE, MD, VA, & NC (North of Cape Hatteras)		12.5"	15 fish	May 15–Dec 31

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

The Board also approved proposals from Virginia and North Carolina to participate in the February 2019 recreational fishery specified by NOAA Fisheries. The season will be open from February 1-28, 2019 with a 12.5 inch minimum size limit and 15 fish possession limit. To account for any harvest in February, Virginia and North Carolina will adjust their management measures later in the season, if necessary. Recreational anglers should verify regulations with their respective states.

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