



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

January 28, 2013

**To: Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board**  
**From: Law Enforcement Committee**  
**Subject: Draft Addendum XXIII**

Members of the LEC have reviewed the recreational harvest measures for black sea bass in Addendum XXIII and offer the following comments regarding the five options for applying recreational harvest regulations.

Though not unanimous, the consensus view of the LEC is that our general principle of consistency and standardization applies. We recommend coastwide or consistent regional regulations for minimum size, possession limits and seasons (Option 1 or Option 3). Some members pointed to specific problems when regulations between state and federal waters do not match. In New Jersey, private sport fishing, charter and party boats fish in both state and federal waters. Differing closed periods have become difficult to enforce and create confusion for the public. Similar problems are identified in Maryland. For New York and Connecticut, variations among neighboring state-waters regulations present similar problems.

Our members do understand the desire to provide flexibility to states given the movement and seasonality of this fishery. Massachusetts has taken advantage of that flexibility to adopt conservative regulations for its large but brief recreational fishery. Enforcement officers there have been able to adapt to size-limit differences in adjacent state waters.

Nonetheless, the consensus view of the LEC is summed up by the following statement: *“Consistency is the key and the larger the area encompassing consistent regulations, the better.”* The least desirable options are any ad-hoc measures (Options 4 or 5) that would tend to encourage highly variable regulations among the states and between state and federal waters.

The LEC appreciates the opportunity to provide input on Draft Addendum XXIII.