

# Research Priorities and Recommendations to Support Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management

## BLACK SEA BASS

(Full citation: Northeast Fisheries Science Center. 2017. 62th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (62th SAW) Assessment Report. US Dept Commerce, Northeast Fish Sci Cent Ref Doc. 17-03; 822 p.)

This list includes research recommendations identified by the SAW 62 Working Group during the 2017 stock assessment and additional research recommendations provided in the most recent operational assessment (2019).

### SAW 62 Black Sea Bass Working Group research recommendations:

1. Expand on previous genetic studies with smaller spatial increments in sampling.
2. Consider the impact of climate change on black sea bass, particularly in the Gulf of Maine.
3. Evaluate population sex change and sex ratio, particularly comparing dynamics among communities.
4. Study black sea bass catchability in a variety of survey gear types.
5. Investigate and document social and spawning dynamics of black sea bass.
6. Increased work to understand habitat use in sea bass and seasonal changes.
7. Evaluate use of samples collected by industry study fleets.

### 2019 operational assessment research recommendations:

- The recent recruitment of large year classes in the assessment time series (the 2011 and 2015 year class) has contributed to increases in catch, particularly in the northern region. Additional research examining recruitment events, distribution shifts and the changing environment should be explored.
- Spatial differences in recruitment and fisheries have been accounted for with independent assessment models for north and south regions. A single model which tracks the spatial differences in the population dynamics should be developed.
- Allocation issues continue to be an important management issue. Development of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) model could be helpful in determining the best approach.