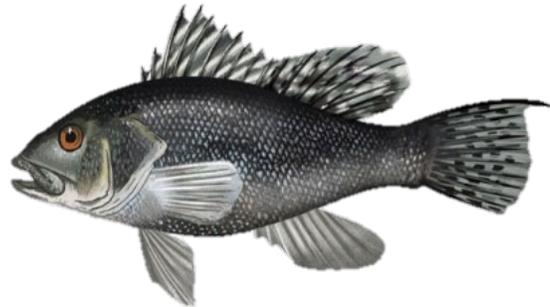


Proposed Black Sea Bass Recreational Management Measures



Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

March 5, 2026

Presentation Overview

- Background
- 2026-2027 Black Sea Bass Proposed Regional/State Measures and Coastwide Liberalization
- Board Actions for Consideration:
 - Consider approval of 2026-2027 recreational management measure options for black sea bass

Background

- **December 2025 Joint Board/Council Meeting**
 - 20% liberalization for black sea bass
 - Board agreed to meet again in early February to discuss the distribution of the liberalization, based on direction from Addendum XXXII.

Addendum XXXII

- Established 3 region framework:
 - Northern Region: MA–NY
 - New Jersey
 - Southern Region: DE–NC (north of Cape Hatteras)
- Directs states to develop measures to meet the coastwide target in a manner that aims to reduce intraregional and interregional disparities where possible

State	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season
MASSACHUSETTS	16.5"	4 fish	May 17-September 1
RHODE ISLAND	16.5"	2 fish	May 22-August 26
Private & Shore		3 fish	August 27-December 31
RI For-Hire	16"	2 fish	June 18-August 31
		6 fish	September 1-December 31
CONNECTICUT	16"	5 fish	May 17-June 23;
Private & Shore			July 8-November 25
CT (Authorized For-Hire Monitoring Program vessels)		5 fish	May 17-August 31
NEW YORK	16.5"	7 fish	September 1-December 31
		3 fish	June 23-August 31
NEW JERSEY	12.5"	6 fish	September 1-December 31
		10 fish	May 17-June 19
		1 fish	July 1-August 31
		10 fish	October 1-October 31
DELAWARE	13"	15 fish	November 1-December 31
MARYLAND			May 15-September 30;
VIRGINIA			October 10-December 31
			May 15-July 15;
NORTH CAROLINA - North of Cape Hatteras (N of 35° 15'N)			August 5-December 31
	May 15-September 30;		
	October 10-December 31		

Background Con't

- **February 5, 2026 Board Meeting Motion**

Move to approve to distribute the 20% coastwide liberalization as follows:

- *Southern region 16.5%*
- *Northern region not to exceed 27%*
- *NJ region to receive the remaining liberalization from the Northern and Southern regions*

- Recreation Demand Model: Calculated median percent liberalization
 1. States submitted preliminary options for consideration
 2. R code used to calculate the median coastwide percent liberalization for all combinations of options between Northern Region + NJ + Southern Region
 3. States fine-tuned options if necessary and submitted final options for approval

Proposed 2026-2027 Recreational Measures for Black Sea Bass

Northern Region

State	Option	Mode	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season
MASS	NR1 (Status Quo)	All	16.5"	4	May 17 – Sept 1
	NR2	All	16"	4	May 16 – Aug 31
				2	Sept 1 – Oct 14
RHODE ISLAND	NR1 (Status Quo)	Private/Shore	16.5"	2	May 22 – Aug 26
				3	Aug 27 – Dec 31
		For-Hire		2	June 18 – Aug 31
	NR2	Private/Shore	16"	6	Sept 1 – Dec 31
				3	May 16 – Dec 31
		For-Hire		4	May 16 – Aug 31
			6	Sept 1 – Dec 31	
CONNECTICUT	NR1 (Status Quo)	Private/Shore	16"	5	May 17 – June 23; July 8 – Nov 25
		Authorized For-Hire Monitoring Program Vessels		5	
				7	Sept 1 – Dec 31
	NR2	Private/Shore	15.5"	4	May 16 – Nov 25
		For-Hire		4	May 16 – Aug 31
			6	Sept 1 – Dec 31	
NEW YORK	NR1 (Status Quo)	All	16.5"	3	June 23 – Aug 31
				6	Sept 1 – Dec 31
	NR2	All	16"	3	May 16 – Aug 31
				6	Sept 1 – Dec 31

Northern region submitted 1 option.

Board motion:
Must not exceed 27%

Regional liberalization estimated by RDM: 26.9%

Southern Region

Southern region submitted 2 options

- **Board motion:** 16.5% liberalization
- **Regional liberalization estimated by RDM:** 13.3% and 15.6%

Region	Option	Mode	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season	Percent Liberalization
SOUTHERN REGION	SR1 (Status Quo)	All	13"	15	Delaware & Maryland: May 15 - Sept 30; Oct 10 - Dec 31	0%
					Virginia: May 15 - July 15; July 27 - Dec 31	
					North Carolina: May 15 - Sept 30; Oct 10 - Dec 31	
	SR2	All	12.5"	15	May 1 – Dec 31	15.6%
	SR3	All	Delaware & Maryland: 12.5"	15	Delaware & Maryland: May 1 – Dec 31	13.3%
Virginia & North Carolina: 13"			Virginia & North Carolina: April 1 – Dec 31			

New Jersey submitted 10 options.

- **Board motion:** allowed remaining liberalization
- **Regional liberalization estimated by RDM:** ranges between 16.1% - 17.8%

New Jersey

State	Option	Mode	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season	Percent Liberalization
NEW JERSEY	NJ1 (Status Quo)	All	12.5"	10	May 17 – Jun 19	0%
				1	July 1 – Aug 31	
				10	Oct 1 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
	NJ2	All	12.5"	10	May 15 – June 21	17.6%
				1	June 22 – Sept 20	
				10	Sept 21 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
	NJ3	All	12.5"	10	May 15 – June 21	16.5%
				2	July 1 – Sept 15	
				10	Oct 1 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
	NJ4	All	12.5"	10	May 15 – June 21	16.9%
				1	June 22 – Sept 15	
				10	Sept 16 – Oct 21	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
	NJ5	All	12.5"	10	May 15 – June 21	17.8%
				2	June 22 – Sept 7	
				10	Oct 1 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
	NJ6	All	12.5"	10	May 15 – June 21	16.3%
				1	June 22 – Sept 22	
				10	Sept 23 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	

State	Option	Mode	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season	Percent Liberalization
NEW JERSEY	NJ1 (Status Quo)	All	12.5"	10	May 17 – Jun 19	0%
				1	July 1 – Aug 31	
				10	Oct 1 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
	NJ7	All	12.5"	10	May 17 – June 30	17.4%
				1	July 1 – Aug 31	
				10	Sept 25 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
	NJ8	All	12.5"	10	May 17 – June 30	16.9%
				1	July 1 – Aug 31	
				10	Sept 26 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
	NJ9	All	12.5"	10	May 17 – June 30	16.3%
				1	July 1 – Aug 31	
				10	Sept 27 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
	NJ10	All	12.5"	10	May 15 – June 21	16.1%
				2	July 1 – Sept 14	
				10	Oct 1 – Oct 31	
				15	Nov 1 – Dec 31	
NJ11	All	12.5"	10	May 15 – June 21	16.7%	
			2	June 22 – Sept 4		
			10	Oct 1 – Oct 31		
			15	Nov 1 – Dec 31		

New Jersey Con't

Coastwide Liberalization

Combination ID	Proposed Regional Options			Coastwide Liberalization
	Northern Region	New Jersey	Southern Region	
A	NR2	NJ2	SR2	21%
B	NR2	NJ2	SR3	20%
C	NR2	NJ3	SR2	20%
D	NR2	NJ3	SR3	19%
E	NR2	NJ4	SR2	20%
F	NR2	NJ4	SR3	20%
G	NR2	NJ5	SR2	21%
H	NR2	NJ5	SR3	20%
I	NR2	NJ6	SR2	20%
J	NR2	NJ6	SR3	20%
K	NR2	NJ7	SR2	20%
L	NR2	NJ7	SR3	20%
M	NR2	NJ8	SR2	20%
N	NR2	NJ8	SR3	20%
O	NR2	NJ9	SR2	20%
P	NR2	NJ9	SR3	20%
Q	NR2	NJ10	SR2	20%
R	NR2	NJ10	SR3	19%
S	NR2	NJ11	SR2	20%
T	NR2	NJ11	SR3	20%

- 20 total combinations of the regional options
- Coastwide liberalization rounded to the nearest whole number
- Two combinations (A and G) = 21%

Next Steps

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| March 5 | Board action for consideration: Final approval of proposed black sea bass recreational management measure options for 2026-2027 |
| April 1 | States inform Commission staff of their measures selected for implementation |
| April 15 | Commission staff submit final state recreational measures to GARFO |
| Spring 2026 | States implement black sea bass management measures |
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Questions?



State	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season
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NORTH CAROLINA - North of Cape Hatteras (N of 35° 15'N)			August 5-December 31
	May 15-September 30;		
	October 10-December 31		

	Proposed Regional Options			Coastwide Percent Liberalization
Combination ID	Northern Region	New Jersey	Southern Region	
A	NR2	NJ2	SR2	20.6%
B	NR2	NJ2	SR3	20.3%
C	NR2	NJ3	SR2	20.1%
D	NR2	NJ3	SR3	19.3%
E	NR2	NJ4	SR2	20.4%
F	NR2	NJ4	SR3	20.1%
G	NR2	NJ5	SR2	20.5%
H	NR2	NJ5	SR3	20.2%
I	NR2	NJ6	SR2	19.9%
J	NR2	NJ6	SR3	19.6%
K	NR2	NJ7	SR2	20.3%
L	NR2	NJ7	SR3	20.0%
M	NR	NJ8	SR2	20.0%
N	NR	NJ8	SR3	19.7%
O	NR	NJ9	SR2	19.7%
P	NR	NJ9	SR3	19.5%
Q	NR	NJ10	SR2	19.9%
R	NR	NJ10	SR3	19.1%
S	NR	NJ11	SR2	20.0%
T	NR	NJ11	SR3	19.7%