



[New] [External] Sea bass refs 2026 for NJ

From Amy Welsh <amywelsh@gmail.com>

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To Tracey Bauer <TBauer@ASMFC.org>

As an avid and long term recreational bottom fisherman from NJ I am thoroughly disappointed in the latest liberalization estimates for NJ. That said, and as a realist, I ask that the following ideas be considered:

- A. With a mid May start (as it has been) elimination of all closed dates until 12/31.
- B. Increase of the bag July thru Sept to 3 fish.
- C. Increase in min size to 13.5 inches.
- D. Bag limit of 10 thru June, 3 fish July thru September, 10 fish limit October thru December.

While I do not have the ability to calculate all the impacts of the above, by raising the minimum and reducing the bag in the late season (from prior years regs) I would think this should accommodate no closures and increase in bag during the summer months.

Let's face it, this isn't art or science. And the data is inaccurate at best. But we know that BSB is in great shape. And, Mother Nature takes care of our fishable days. So adding days cannot be that demanding on the fishery.

Again, I cannot overstate my true disappointment in how the liberalization is playing out. But with some reasonable adjustments I feel the ideas presented above provide a win for us private boat rec fishermen.

I appreciate the opportunity to be heard.

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