

R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations  
PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

**7.14 Black Sea Bass**

**7.14.1 Commercial Harvest**

**7.14.1-2 Commercial Seasons and Possession Limits** -- A state quota for black sea bass will be established annually and shall be the most recent amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and/or the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce as published in the Federal Register. The quota shall be available during the following seasons:

- (a) **January 1 – April 30**: Twenty-five percent (25%) of the quota established in this part shall be available from January 1 through April 30. It shall be unlawful to possess aboard or land from a vessel, in any one calendar day, more than 750 pounds of black sea bass during this period. Any modifications made by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to the possession limit as set forth above will be promulgated in Part III, section 3.2.1-3
- (b) **May 1 – June 30**: Twenty-five percent (25%) of the quota established in this part shall be available from May 1 through June 30. It shall be unlawful to possess aboard or land from a vessel, in any one calendar day, more than 50 pounds of black sea bass during this period. Any modifications made by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to the possession limit as set forth above will be promulgated in Part III, section 3.2.1-3
- (c) **July 1 – ~~October 31~~ July 31**: ~~Thirty-nine (39%)~~ **Nineteen and a half percent (19.5%)** of the quota established in this part shall be available from July 1 through ~~October 31~~ **July 31**. It shall be unlawful to possess aboard or land from a vessel, in any one calendar day, more than 50 pounds of black sea bass during this period when open. ~~The commercial black sea bass fishery will be closed from August 1 through August 31.~~ Any modifications made by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to the possession limit as set forth above will be promulgated in Part III, section 3.2.1-3.
- (d) **September 1 – October 31**: **Nineteen and a half percent (19.5%) of the quota established in this part shall be available from September 1 through October 31. It shall be unlawful to possess aboard or land from a vessel, in any one calendar day, more than 50 pounds of black sea bass during this period when open. Any modifications made by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to the possession limit as set forth**

**above will be promulgated in Part III, section 3.2.1-3.**

- (e) November 1 – December 31: Eleven percent (11%) of the quota established in this part shall be available from November 1 through December 31. It shall be unlawful to possess aboard or land from a vessel, in any one calendar day, more than ~~250~~ **100** pounds of black sea bass during this period. Any modifications made by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to the possession limit as set forth above will be promulgated in Part III, section 3.2.1-3**
- (f) Any unused portion of the quota from a ‘sub-period’ will be equally distributed to the allocations of the remaining sub-periods. The over-harvest of a sub-period allocation will be deducted from the allocations of the remaining sub-periods. Annually, the quota allocations specified in the above sections shall be adjusted by the DFW to charge over-harvest of a sub-period allocation during a given year to the same sub-period of the following year.**