



Black Sea Bass Landings From Commercial Lobster Pots Weekly Reporting Requirement Reminder

NOTICE

Effective May 01, 2022, a mandatory call-in reporting requirement was implemented for black sea bass landings from commercial lobster pots: To provide for timely monitoring of black sea bass landings from lobster pots, the Marine Fisheries Program implemented a **mandatory weekly call-in reporting requirement for black sea bass landings from commercial lobster pots.** Effective May 1, 2022, any commercial fisherman landing black sea bass from lobster pots **is required to contact the Marine Fisheries Program weekly (deadline of 2359 hours on Monday, beginning Monday, May 9, 2022) by calling 860-447-4323** and leaving a message with the following information: the fisherman's name, commercial fishing plate number, the reporting week ending date (reporting weeks run Sunday through Saturday) and total pounds of black sea bass landed from lobster pots during the reporting week.

Weekly call-in reports, as well as timely submission of monthly commercial logbooks, are crucial to maintenance of the opportunity for black sea bass landings from lobster pots. Failure on the part of fishery participants to adhere to the weekly call-in requirement or to submit monthly logbooks in a timely manner will lead to discontinuation of the allowance for seabass landings from lobster pots.

Reminders:

The current commercial possession limits for black sea bass are:

- 600 pounds effective May 1, 2022, for holders of a Black Sea Bass License Endorsement.
- Effective May 1, 2022, from lobster pots when in possession of lobsters: 60 pounds. No Black Sea Bass License Endorsement required. This does not apply to personal use lobster license holders. Note: Black Sea Bass endorsement holders **may not be in possession of 60 pounds of black sea bass taken from lobster pots in addition to the prevailing possession limit for endorsement holders** (i.e., endorsement holders may not currently be in possession of 660 pounds of black sea bass; the possession limit for endorsement holders is 600 pounds, regardless of gear type used).
- The weekly call-in reporting requirement is implemented under authority of CGS Sec. 26-157b. Failure to comply with this reporting requirement is punishable as a Class D misdemeanor and may result in commercial fishing license suspension.
- The weekly call-in reporting requirement is not a substitute for other existing reporting requirements. Fishermen must still report their landings in monthly commercial logbooks or via electronic vessel trip reports.

- The department may adjust the possession limit for black sea bass landed from lobster pots or discontinue the allowance for black sea bass landings from lobster pots at any time.
- Only holders of a Connecticut Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License, a Connecticut Principal Commercial Fishing License, or a Connecticut Restricted Lobster Pot Fishing License may legally fish lobster pots in Connecticut state waters and therefore land black sea bass from lobster pots. As a reminder, lobster pots must be tagged with current fishing year trap tags issued by the Department or New York Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Lobster pots cannot be fished in Connecticut state waters during the fall lobster closure (Sept. 8 – Nov. 28, inclusive). Therefore, no black sea bass may be landed from lobster pots during the fall closure.

The possession limits above apply to the aggregate of all persons on board the vessel per trip or per day whichever is the longer period of time. Transfer of these species between vessels at sea is prohibited. In any instance where there is a violation of the possession limit on board a vessel carrying more than one person when the catch is commingled, the violation shall be deemed to have been committed by the owner of the vessel, or the operator of the vessel, if the owner is not on board. *When any person on a vessel is commercial fishing, the commercial possession limit applies to the entire vessel and no person on that vessel may also possess fish under a recreational creel limit.*

For current commercial fishery trip limits and quota status:

Call 860-434-6374 24/7 for a recorded message of current possession limits, or see: www.ct.gov/deep/TL.

The Department monitors landings and adjusts trip limits according to Department regulations in an attempt to provide fishing opportunity throughout the year for all participants in the commercial fishery. In addition, the Department strives to provide advance notification of trip limit changes, although this may not always be possible due to rapidly escalating or unanticipated landings. In such circumstances, only a short notification period may be possible.

The information provided in this notice is a summary of possession limits and other general rules only. For complete information on commercial fishing regulations please see: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/commercial/marinecircpdf.pdf>, or contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program by email at deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov, by mail at PO Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or leaving a voicemail at 860.434.6043 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

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