

## Commercial Fishery Black Sea Bass Possession Limit Decrease

### NOTICE

**Effective 0001 hours, Sunday, March 12, 2023, the commercial possession limit for black sea bass will be reduced to 500 lbs per bi-weekly (two-week) period.**

As of Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 19% of the 2023 commercial black sea bass quota has been landed. The 2023 Winter I (January 1 through April 30, 2023) cumulative landings target for the commercial fishery is 25% of the quota. The Department is reducing the commercial possession limit to maintain a steady landing rate, with the goal of landing not more than 25% of the annual quota through April 30.

The next bi-weekly period begins Sunday, March 12, 2023, and ends Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. A black sea bass license endorsement is required to land sea bass, except that in the commercial lobster fishery when in possession of lobsters, the possession limit is 60 pounds.

**For current commercial fishery trip limits and quota status, call 860-434-6374 24/7 for a recorded message of current possession limits, or visit [www.ct.gov/deep/TL](http://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.

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](mailto: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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