

Commercial Fishery Black Sea Bass Winter I Closure

NOTICE

Effective 0001 hours Friday, March 17, 2023, the Winter I commercial black sea bass fishery will be closed through April 30, 2023. Vessels which have sailed prior to 0001 hours Friday March 17, 2023, and have not yet landed the biweekly limit of 500 lbs previously in place for the period that began at 0001 hours on Sunday, March 12, 2023, will be allowed to complete their trip and offload, subject to the previous 500 lb landing limit for the period March 12 – March 25 and provided such offload occurs no later than 2359 Saturday March 25, 2023.

As of Thursday, March 16, 2023, 26% of Connecticut's 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 was unable to implement a closure at the 25% Winter 1 target or provide more advanced notice of the closure implemented via this notice due to late seafood dealer reports of black sea bass landings. **Federally-licensed seafood dealers are hereby reminded:** [Dealers must submit all reports for a reporting week \(Sunday to Saturday\) by midnight of the following Tuesday.](#)

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.

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, 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.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact us at 860-418-5910 or by email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.