

Commercial Black Sea Bass Possession Limit Increase

NOTICE

Effective 0001 hours, Sunday, August 30, 2026, the possession limit for holders of a Black Sea Bass License Endorsement will be increased to 500 pounds. See below for more information.

As of Thursday, August 27, 2026, the Department estimates 62% of Connecticut's 2025 commercial black sea bass quota has been landed.

Black Sea Bass possession limits:

- 500 pounds for holders of a Black Sea Bass License Endorsement.
- From lobster pots, when in possession of lobsters: 60 pounds during the open lobster season. No Black Sea Bass License Endorsement required. This does not apply to personal use lobster license holders.

Call-in required for Black Sea Bass landings from lobster pots: To provide for timely monitoring of Black Sea Bass landings from lobster pots, the Marine Fisheries Program is continuing the **mandatory weekly call-in reporting requirement for black sea bass landings from lobster pots**. Any commercial fisherman landing Black Sea Bass from lobster pots is required to contact the **Marine Fisheries Program weekly (deadline of 2359 hours on Mondays) 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.

Federally-permitted seafood dealers are reminded they must submit all reports for a reporting week (Sunday to Saturday) by midnight of the following Tuesday:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/resources-fishing/seafood-dealer-reporting-greater-atlantic-region>

For current commercial fishery trip limits and quota status, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL> or call 860-434-6374 24/7 for a recorded message of current possession limits.

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/marinecirpdf.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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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. 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.