

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

## Marine Resources Headquarters

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Marine Recreational Fishing Public  
**FROM:** John Maniscalco  
**RE:** NY's 2016 Recreational Black Sea Bass Regulations  
**DATE:** February 18, 2016

**ISSUE:** Black sea bass recreational harvest has exceeded 2015 limits in the northern region. New York (along with all states from Massachusetts to New Jersey) is required to develop more restrictive rules governing recreational black sea bass fishing in order to restrain harvest to the 2016 limits. The required reduction is estimated by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to be 23.2%. Preliminary MRIP Wave 6 data became fully available on February 18, 2016.

The purpose of this memo is to provide interested and involved constituents with some idea of what the required reduction could look like in terms of regulatory adjustments so that they can consider the matter and provide the Bureau of Marine Resources (BMR) with feedback.

Compliance with the minimum size limit in 2015 was poor and changes to the minimum size will not be considered for 2016. All options in the table below include a 14.0" minimum size.

As was done last year, interested parties can request additional options by email ([john.maniscalco@dec.ny.gov](mailto:john.maniscalco@dec.ny.gov)) or phone (631-444-0437). All constructive and productive suggestions will be considered to the best of my ability and the limitations of the data. The goal is to generate a list of options that meet the required 23.2% reduction by March 1, 2016 that can be used by both NY's Marine Resource Advisory Council (MRAC) and the BMR. MRAC is next scheduled to meet on Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM (tentatively at Stony Brook University SoMAS).

\*\*\*For additional consideration, a regional option is currently being considered by Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. Would the NY Public support the following 2016 regional measure?

*14.0" minimum size, 3 fish from July 23-August 31 and 5 fish from Sept. 1-Dec. 31*

**Options provided below are subject to change and approval by the NYSDEC and various bodies of the ASMFC.**

*Note: Federal Wave 5 closure in 2016 will be Sept. 22 – Oct. 21*

OPTION	POSSESSION LIMIT	OPEN SEASON
2015	8/10	July 15-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
1	3	July 16-Dec.31
2	3/10	July 17-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
3	4	July 22-Dec. 31
4	4	July 21-Dec. 15
5	4	July 15-Oct. 17
6	4/10	July 23-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
7	5/10	July 16-Sept. 21 and Oct. 22-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
8	5/10	July 28-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
9	2/8/10	July 12-Aug. 31/Sept. 1-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31

*Note: All options above include a 14.0" minimum size*

**DATA:**

WAVE DAILY RATE	3	4	5	6	2015 TOTAL
NEW YORK HARVEST	1,189	472,416	237,091	23,412	734,108
DAYS OPEN	0	48	61	61	
DAILY RATE		9,842	3,887	384	
PERC/DAY		1.34%	0.53%	0.05%	

POSSESSION LIMIT	REDUCTION
2	35.4%
3	22.5%
4	14.4%
5	8.3%
6	4.8%
7	1.8%

**Notes:**

1. All data used and shown here is from MRIP website queries and downloads  
<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/recreational-fisheries/index>
2. Reduction value from season loss is not additive with reduction value from decreased possession limit. Simply adding up bag limit changes and days lost will have you close, but over-estimate the actual reduction by ~2-3%.
3. Possession limit in November and December (Wave 6) of 2015 was 10 fish. An analysis of the catch record (MRIP data) indicates there is no additional value to reducing the possession limit during this Wave to more than 7 fish.