

New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council
Recreational Black Sea Bass Advisory Committee Report
September 7, 2022

Black Sea Bass

A meeting of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council's Recreational Black Sea Bass Advisory Committee was held via webinar on August 31, 2022 to discuss current fisheries performance occurring in the 2022 recreational season and possible management concepts for future New Jersey recreational black sea bass seasons in 2023.

2022 Season

The current 2022 New Jersey recreational black sea bass regulations are a 13-inch minimum size with an open season from May 17 – June 19 with a 10-fish possession limit, July 1 – August 31 with a 2-fish possession limit, October 7 – October 26 with a 10-fish possession limit, and November 1 - December 31 with a 15-fish possession limit, again, all seasons have a 13-inch minimum size limit. The 2022 management regulations differ most markedly from 2021 in the increased minimum size limit going from 12.5 to 13 inches for all seasons except the winter. Advisors provided comments stating that they are generally happy with the 2022 season so far, but would prefer a smaller size if possible, however given the required reduction in 2022, felt the measures worked rather well under the current constraints. Advisors commented that future regulations should focus on opening all of September and October. In addition, advisors would like to explore the options of sector split between private and for-hire boats commenting that less than 5% of black sea bass landings occur in the for-hire sector and asked that staff explore options that differ between the two to allow for better business planning with other species availability during varying seasons in 2023.