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September 29, 2017

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2017 COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS FISHERY CLOSED EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017

Massachusetts' 2017 commercial black sea bass quota of 535,652 pounds is projected to be taken on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. Accordingly, Massachusetts commercial black sea bass fishery is closed effective 0001 hours on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 ([Closure Notice](#)).

Until the 2018 commercial black sea bass fishery opens, it is unlawful for any fisherman to possess or land black sea bass and for any seafood dealers to purchase black sea bass from any commercial fisherman. All black sea bass pots must be removed from the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth by the end of the day on Friday, October 6, 2017.

Commercial fishermen are to submit monthly trip-level reports by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit as not fished. Reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its endorsements in 2018. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2017 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

For more information about the management of black sea bass in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.