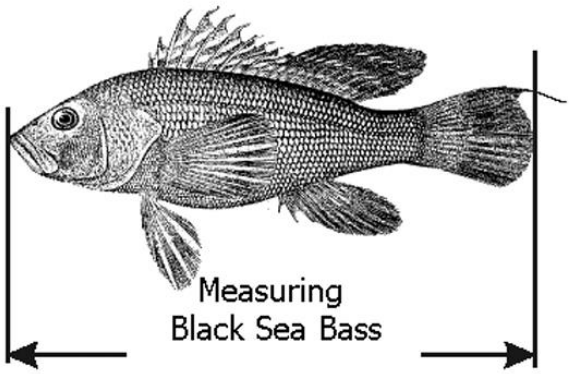
PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Updated 2026 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery — Effective 5/2/2026

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES
The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces modifications to the recreational season, catch limit, and minimum size for black sea bass. This notice supersedes all previous public notices pertaining to the 2026 recreational black sea bass fishery. The following rules are effective 12:01 a.m. May 2, 2026:

SEASON
The season is open May 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. It is closed all other dates.

CATCH LIMIT
Anglers may keep up to 15 black sea bass per person per day.

MINIMUM SIZE
The minimum size is 12-1/2 inches, excluding the tail filament.



WHY THIS IS NECESSARY
This action is necessary to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The Department previously issued a notice that reflected differing rules in State and federal waters due to the delayed approval of the Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework by NOAA. NOAA has since approved the framework; therefore the rules in federal waters now mirror those in State waters.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS
This applies to all individuals who catch black sea bass recreationally.

AUTHORITY
Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.05.21

Josh Kurtz
Secretary of Natural Resources