

BLACK SEA BASS – Commercial Quota

What is being considered?

The Department would like to update the commercial quota information to reflect recent changes made by the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC). The annual total allowable landings of black sea bass for the commercial fishery is set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and shall be published through a public notice.

Why is this change necessary?

Due to changes made by ASMFC/MAFMC, the Maryland commercial black sea bass quota is no longer 11% of the coastal quota as currently written in COMAR. The Department will publish the quota as established by those agencies when it is available through a public notice on the Department's website, as well as sending it out to the Department's email listserv and social media accounts. More information about the ASMFC/MAFMC action is available here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/09/2023-04588/magnuson-stevens-fishery-conservation-and-management-act-provisions-fisheries-of-the-northeastern>

Who will this affect?

Commercial harvesters and seafood dealers

When would this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the winter of 2023-2024. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal proposal procedures if this concept moves forward.

Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?

These changes were discussed with stakeholders attending the June 2023 ASMFC/MAFMC meetings.