



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

DIONNE DELLI-GATTI  
*Secretary*

JOHN G. BATHERSON  
*Acting Director*

**FF-28-2021**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: BLACK SEA BASS – RECREATIONAL PURPOSES - NORTH OF CAPE HATTERAS**

**This proclamation establishes the season opening, size and creel limits for the recreational black sea bass fishery north of Cape Hatteras.**

John G. Batherson, Acting Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., May 15, 2021**, the following restrictions will apply to the **recreational black sea bass fishery north of Cape Hatteras (35° 15.3'N. Latitude)**:

I. **SEASON**

The recreational fishing season for black sea bass in all coastal fishing waters north of Cape Hatteras (35° 15.3'N Latitude) will open at **12:01 A.M., May 15, 2021**. **The season will close at midnight on December 31, 2021.**

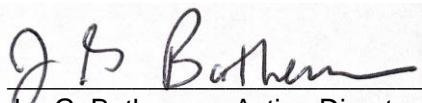
II. **SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS**

- A. It is unlawful to possess black sea bass for recreational purposes less than 12 ½ inches in total length, excluding the caudal fin filament.
- B. It is unlawful to possess more than 15 black sea bass per person per day taken for recreational purposes.
- C. It is unlawful to possess black sea bass for recreational purposes in coastal fishing waters north of Cape Hatteras except during the season specified in I. above.

III. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52; and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 03M.0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Director under his delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. The intent of this proclamation is to allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fisheries Management Plan.
- D. In accordance with N.C. General Statute 113-221.1(c) all persons who may be affected by proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director are under a duty to keep themselves informed of current proclamations.
- E. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557, phone 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).

- F. This proclamation establishes the season opening, size and creel limits for the recreational black sea bass fishery north of Cape Hatteras.

By:   
John G. Batherson, Acting Director  
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

April 12, 2021  
12:03 P.M.