



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-22-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: BLACK SEA BASS – RECREATIONAL PURPOSES – NORTH OF CAPE HATTERAS – 2023 RECREATIONAL SEASONS, SIZE, AND CREEL LIMITS

This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-23-2022, dated April 7, 2022. It establishes the 2023 season dates, size, and creel limits for the recreational black sea bass fishery effective at 12:01 A.M., May 15, 2023. The fishery will have two harvest periods stated in Section I. The fishery will close at 11:59 P.M., December 31, 2023.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., May 15, 2023**, the following restrictions will apply to the recreational black sea bass fishery in Coastal Fishing Waters which includes the Atlantic Ocean **north of Cape Hatteras (35° 15.3'N. Latitude)**:

I. SEASON

It is unlawful to possess black sea bass for recreational purposes except from:

- A. **12:01 A.M., May 15, 2023, through 11:59 P.M., September 30, 2023; and**
- B. **12:01 A.M., October 10, 2023, through 11:59 P.M., December 31, 2023.**

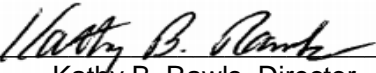
II. SIZE AND CREEL LIMIT

- A. It is unlawful to possess black sea bass less than **13 inches 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 from Coastal Fishing Waters which includes the Atlantic Ocean north of Cape Hatteras except during the seasons specified in Section I. above.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-134.1; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-182.1; 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 Fisheries Director under their delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. The intent of this proclamation is to maintain North Carolina's compliance with the requirements of the joint Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery 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 N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557; 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- F. **This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-23-2022, dated April 7, 2022. It establishes the 2023 season dates, size, and creel limits for the recreational black sea bass fishery north of Cape Hatteras effective at 12:01 A.M., May 15, 2023. The Fishery will have two harvest seasons as stated in Section I. The fishery will close at 11:59 P.M., December 31, 2023.**

By: 
Kathy B. Rawls, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

April 11, 2023
9:15 A.M.