

Attention Virginia Black Sea Bass Anglers,

The 2019 February recreational black sea bass fishing season will start February 1<sup>st</sup> and end on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2019. We want to remind all anglers that a recreational black sea bass permit is required **ONLY** for the captain or operator of the vessel and that it is their responsibility to report all black sea bass caught or released during the 2019 February recreational black sea bass season. All recreational species permits, including the recreational black sea bass permit, can be obtained through our website <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/mpermits/index.php> or through one of our licensing agents [http://mrc.virginia.gov/map\\_mrcagents.shtm](http://mrc.virginia.gov/map_mrcagents.shtm). All reporting activity, even “no activity” can be reported through the Virginia Saltwater Fisherman’s Journal <https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/> or through paper forms provided by the commission. We ask that all successful trips where fish were either kept or released be reported within 7 days. Permittees that did not participate in the 2019 February recreational black sea bass fishing season or targeted black sea bass without success must report no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> of the current calendar year.

**(New to 2019)**

**Recreational black sea bass permittees must contact Law Enforcement Operations at 1-800-541-4646 before or immediately after the start of each fishing trip.** The permittee shall provide the Law Enforcement Operations with his name, MRC ID number, the point of landing, a description of the vessel, estimated return to shore time, and a contact phone number. Notifying Operations at the beginning of a trip allows VMRC staff to plan sampling events of permittee’s catch upon returning to port to obtain biological information for scientific and management purposes.



We want to thank you for providing this information to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. The data that you provide will be used to characterize Virginia’s 2019 February black sea bass fishery and help promote continuing this fishery into the future. Should you have any questions regarding recreational reporting, please do not hesitate to contact the VMRC at (757) 247-2078.