



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

Building 96

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

*380 Fenwick Road
Fort Monroe, VA 23651*

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

Attention Virginia Black Sea Bass Anglers,

The special recreational season for black sea bass will open on February 1st and close on February 29th, 2020. The minimum size limit remains 12.5" and the possession limit is 15 fish per person. The captain or operator of any vessel MUST have a recreational black sea bass permit, which 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).

The permittee MUST contact Marine Law Enforcement Operations at **1-800-541-4646** before or immediately after the start of each fishing trip. The permittee shall provide the Marine Law Enforcement Operations with their name, MRC ID number (which can be found on the permit), the point of landing, a description of the vessel, estimated return to shore time, and a contact phone number. A condition of Virginia holding this special season is collecting biological samples of black sea bass landed in February and we thank you for your help in coordinating our efforts.

Reporting Requirements - The permittee, which should only be the captain or operator of the vessel, MUST report all fishing activity and all black sea bass caught or released for everyone on their vessel through the Virginia Saltwater Fisherman's Journal (<https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com>) or on paper forms provided by the commission (https://mrc.virginia.gov/Forms/2020/2020_Recreational_Reportin.pdf). We ask that all successful trips where fish were either kept or released be reported within 7 days. Permittees that did not make any trips during the 2020 February recreational black sea bass fishing season or that made trips but did not catch any black sea bass must report no later than March 15th, 2020.

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 2020 February black sea bass fishery and helps promote future efforts in retaining this special season.

Should you have any questions regarding recreational reporting, please contact the VMRC at (757) 247-2069 or (757) 247-2267.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD