



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road
Building 96
Fort Monroe, VA 23651

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources

Joseph D. Grist
Acting Commissioner

April 23, 2026

TO: Recreational Black Sea Bass Anglers

FROM: Virginia Marine Resources Commission

RE: Recreational Black Sea Bass Regulations in Virginia State Waters

Effective May 1, 2026, the 2026 recreational black sea bass season in Virginia state waters is established as May 11 through December 31 with a 13" minimum size limit and a 15 fish bag limit. These measures are the result of a coastwide liberalization to recreational harvest and payback for the special February recreational black sea bass season, as voted on by the VMRC at their April 21, 2026, Commission meeting.

At this time, these regulations are only effective within Virginia state waters. For regulations in federal waters, see the [Public Notice from April 10, 2026](#).

If you have questions, contact Alexa Galvan at (757) 247-2069 or Alexa.Galvan@mrc.virginia.gov.