

STATE OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Order No. EO 13-07**

**Black Sea Bass Harvest Requirements**

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, through its Executive Director under Delegations of Authority Paragraph 17 and Paragraph 22, and due to changes in the federal fishery for black sea bass, the FWC hereby modifies regulation in order to provide consistency as follows:

(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-14, F.A.C.,:

a) Size limits for black sea bass shall be:

1. Black sea bass harvested in the Gulf of Mexico 10 inches total length.
2. Black sea bass harvested recreationally in the Atlantic Ocean 13 inches total length.
3. Black sea bass harvested commercially in the Atlantic Ocean 11 inches total length.

b) Recreational bag limits in the Atlantic Ocean shall be 5 per person per day.

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-14, F.A.C., regulations for the use of black sea bass traps in the Atlantic Ocean shall be as follows:

a) For a person to use a black sea bass trap in the Atlantic Ocean, a valid South Atlantic black sea bass pot endorsement as defined in 50 C.F.R. § 622.4(a)(2)(xv) (2/13) and a valid commercial South Atlantic snapper-grouper unlimited permit must be issued to and possessed aboard the vessel.

b) A black sea bass trap must have a valid identification tag issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service attached when fished in the Atlantic Ocean. Traps shall only be used north of Latitude 28°35.1'North in the Atlantic Ocean (due east of the

NASA Vehicle Assembly Building, Cape Canaveral, FL). Each such trap shall comply with the following:

1. Each trap in the Atlantic Ocean shall comply with the definition of sea bass pots in 50 C.F.R. § 622.2 (2/13).
  2. Each trap in the Atlantic Ocean shall comply with the degradable panel and mesh size requirements for black sea bass pots defined in 50 C.F.R. § 622.40 (2/13).
- c) Each black sea bass trap in the water or onboard a vessel in the Atlantic Ocean must have a valid identification tag issued by National Marine Fisheries Service attached pursuant to 50 C.F.R. § 622.40(d)(1)(i)(D) (2/13).
- d) In the Atlantic Ocean, black sea bass traps shall be removed from the water at the conclusion of each trip.
- (3) All other provisions governing harvest of black sea bass in Florida shall remain in effect.
- (4) This order shall take effect upon execution and remain in effect through May 31, 2013 unless repealed, extended, or modified by subsequent order.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution  
Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution and 120.81(5), Florida Statutes

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

Attest:   
Agency Clerk

  
Nick Wiley, Executive Director

