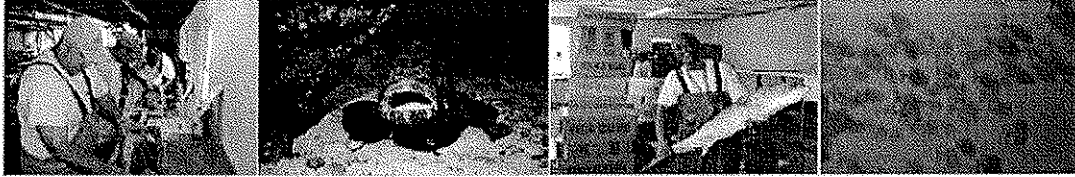


Forwarding: New Regulations for Black Sea Bass in South Atlantic Effective July 1, 2012

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council [kim.iverson@safmc.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 4:30 PM

To: Frank E. Gibson, III



Below is a *Southeast Fishery Bulletin* recently distributed from NOAA Fisheries Service that may be of interest:

NOAA Fisheries Service Announces New Regulations for South Atlantic Black Sea Bass

Regulations effective July 1, 2012

NOAA Fisheries Service has published the Final Rule for Amendment 18A to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan of the South Atlantic Region. Effective **July 1, 2012**, new regulations for black sea bass include:

- Increases to both commercial and recreational minimum size limits;
- Implementation of a commercial trip limit;
- Establishment of an endorsement program and other changes for the commercial black sea bass pot fishery;
- Modifications to recreational accountability measures; and
- Reporting requirements for selected for-hire vessels.

(NOTE: The recreational black sea bass season opens tomorrow, June 1st with a bag limit of 5 fish per person/day and minimum size limit of 12" TL. The size limit will increase to 13" TL on July 1, 2012. The opening of the commercial black sea bass fishery has been delayed until July 1, 2012 in order to allow for implementation of the endorsement program and other commercial measures in Amendment 18A).

To view a complete list of *Fishery Bulletins*, visit the NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Regional Office website at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>. Relevant copies are also posted on the Council's website at