

In July 2012, the provisions of Snapper Grouper Amendment 18A (black sea bass pot endorsement program, modification to recreational size limit) were implemented via proclamation FF-37-2012:

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamation-ff-37-2012>

In October 2013, the provisions of Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 19 (prohibition on use of black sea bass pots from November through April) were implemented via proclamation FF-52-2013:

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamation-ff-52-2013>

From October 2008 through 2014, all commercial and recreational snapper grouper regulations were contained in the same proclamation. Beginning with the 2015 fishing year, snapper grouper regulations (including seasonal ACL closures) were issued via separate proclamations for the commercial and recreational sectors.

In December 2016, the provisions of Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 16 (modifications to seasonal prohibition on use of black sea bass pots) were implemented via proclamation FF-67-2016, and revised via proclamations FF-67-2016 (revised):

[FF-67-2016 \(http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=02e22a2e-a7e5-46a3-853e-e1d8dac6fed7&groupId=38337\)](http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=02e22a2e-a7e5-46a3-853e-e1d8dac6fed7&groupId=38337)

[FF-67-2016 \(REVISED\) \(http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=76a5853f-0a6f-49ae-85b7-47b14157de95&groupId=38337\)](http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=76a5853f-0a6f-49ae-85b7-47b14157de95&groupId=38337)

South Carolina:

1987: SC Code of Laws Section 50-17-55 established 8 inch minimum size limit for Black Sea Bass. (Added through H2612 during the 85/86 session of the SCGA?)

1989: SC Code of Laws Section 50-17-510(3) adopted to include size limits for many Council Snapper Grouper species, including 8 inch minimum size limit for Black Sea Bass.

1992: SC Code of Laws Section 50-5-510(C) adopted the federal minimum size limits automatically for all species managed under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL94-265); and Section 50-5-510(F) adopted the federal catch and possession limits for all snapper grouper species managed under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL94-265) as the Law of the State of SC. (Changes came through S788 during the 91/92 session of the SCGA?)

1999: SC Code of Laws Section 50-17-510(D)(4) established a 10 inch minimum size limit for Black Sea Bass; 510(E) established a requirement for Black Sea Bass to be sold (wholesale and retail) with head and fins intact. (A product of S1135 and H4843 of the 97/98 SCGA?)

2000: SC Marine-related Laws reorganized under SC Code of Laws Title 50 Chapter 5. Section 50-5-1710(4) retained the 10 inch minimum size limit for Black Sea Bass. 1710(4) maintained a requirement that “Black Seabass sold or offered for sale must be processed, marketed, and sold to the ultimate consumer with head and tail fins intact. A commercial retailer or restaurant may remove the head at the request of the ultimate consumer after completion of the transaction but before the transfer of the purchase or serving of the dish.”

Added:

- SC Code of Laws Section 50-5-2730
‘Unless otherwise provided by law, any regulations promulgated by the federal government under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL94-265) or the Atlantic Tuna Conservation Act (PL 94-70) which establishes seasons, fishing periods, gear restrictions, sales restrictions, or bag, catch, size, or possession limits on fish are declared to be the law of this State and apply statewide including in state waters.’ As such, SC black sea bass regulations are pulled directly from the federal regulations as promulgated under Magnuson.

2007: SC General Assembly repealed the code section that established a 10 inch minimum size limit on Black Sea Bass

2013: SC Code of Laws Section 50-5-2730 amended as follows:

SECTION 50-5-2730. Federal fishing regulations declared to be law of State; exception for black sea bass.

(A) Unless otherwise provided by law, any regulations promulgated by the federal government under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL 94-265) or the Atlantic Tuna Conservation Act (PL 94-70) which establishes seasons, fishing periods, gear restrictions, sales restrictions, or bag, catch, size, or possession limits on fish are declared to be the law of this State and apply statewide including in state waters.

(B) This provision does not apply to black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*) whose lawful catch limit is five fish per person per day or the same as the federal limit for black sea bass, whichever is higher. The lawful minimum size is thirteen inches total length. Additionally, there is no closed season on the catching of black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*).

Georgia:

Georgia began regulating Black Sea Bass in 1989.

Georgia General Assembly - O.C.G.A. 27-4-130.1 became effective April 18, 1989. It set the parameters around which the Board of Natural Resources could manage Black Sea Bass. those parameters were:

No Closed Season - No Limit on max Daily Creel - 8-15 inches minimum size

GA Board of Natural Resources then adopted Rule 391-2-4-.04 Saltwater Finfishing which became effective on. Sept. 13, 1989 - The original rule stated - No Closed Season - No Creel Limit - 8 inch minimum size

Since then, the following has been amended:

Effective Nov. 17, 1999 - 20 fish creel limit - 10 inch minimum size limit Effective Dec. 8, 2006 - 15 fish creel limit - 11 inches minimum size limit Effective July 1, 2007 - 12 inch minimum size

Commercial limits follow federal permit restrictions.

In May 2012, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed into law House Bill 869 which moved managed saltwater species from O.C.G.A. 27-4-130.1 to a more comprehensive section, O.C.G.A. 27-4-10. This Code Section contains all fish species legislatively mandated for management and provided for greater flexibility by the Board of Natural Resources. The bill set the maximum daily creel at 15 and broadens the minimum size range from 0 to 15 inches. The bill also gave the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources the ability to close the fishery for short durations, not to exceed six months. These changes will become effective January 1, 2013. Current management measures are 12 inches minimum size and a 15 fish creel limit in state waters.

Florida:

Black Sea Bass Regulation History (Atlantic only)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Possession Limit</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>
1980	None	None	Specified a 2x2x2 foot cube with a vertical throat of 5 inches high by 2 inches wide. Prohibited trap use below 27° latitude.
1981	None	None	
1982	None	None	
1983	None	None	
1984	None	None	

1985	8 in TL	None	
1986	8 in TL	None	
1987	8 in TL	None	
1988	8 in TL	None	
1989	8 in TL	None	
1990	8 in TL	None	Prohibited all commercial harvest of any species of snapper, grouper, and sea bass in state waters whenever harvest of that species is prohibited in adjacent federal waters.
1991	8 in TL	None	
1992	8 in TL	None	
1993	8 in TL	None	
1994	8 in TL	None	
1995	8 in TL	None	Established degradability requirements for black sea bass traps.
1996	8 in TL	None	
1997	8 in TL	None	
1998	10 in TL	20 fish per person per day	Required escape vents on sea bass pots. Black sea bass designated as a “restricted species.” Required black sea bass to be landed in whole condition required.
1999	10 in TL	20 fish per person per day	Allowed the use of trap lid tie-down straps secured at one end by a loop composed of non-coated steel wire measuring 24 gauge or thinner, 2 X 3/8 inch non-treated pine dowels or squares to replace the hook on tie-down straps, a 3 X 6 inch panel attached to the trap opening with 24 gauge or less wire or single strand jute on black sea bass traps.

2000	10 in TL	20 fish per person per day	
2001	10 in TL	20 fish per person per day	
2002	10 in TL	20 fish per person per day	
2003	10 in TL	20 fish per person per day	
2004	10 in TL	20 fish per person per day	
2005	10 in TL	20 fish per person per day	<p>Required each trap used for harvesting black sea bass to have the trap owner's Saltwater Products License (SPL) number permanently attached.</p> <p>Required a buoy or time-release buoy to be attached to each black sea bass trap or at each end of a weighted trap trotline. The buoy must be constructed of Styrofoam, cork, molded polyvinyl chloride, or molded polystyrene, be of sufficient strength and buoyancy to float, and be either white in color or the same color as the owner's blue crab or stone crab buoy colors. These buoys must be either spherical in shape with a diameter no smaller than six</p>

2006	10 in TL	20 fish per person per day	<p>inches, or some other shape that is no shorter than 10 inches in the longest dimension and the width at some point exceeds five inches.</p> <p>Required each buoy attached to these traps have the letter "B" and the owner's SPL number affixed to it in legible figures at least 1.5 inches high.</p>
2007	<p>Recreational: 11 inches TL</p> <p>Commercial: 10 inches TL</p>	15 fish per person per day	<p>Established a June 1 - May 31 harvest season.</p> <p>Required a minimum 2-inch mesh for the back panel of black sea bass traps in the Atlantic.</p> <p>Required removal of black sea bass traps in the Atlantic when the commercial quota is reached.</p>
2008	<p>Recreational: 12 inches TL</p> <p>Commercial: 10 inches TL</p>	15 fish per person per day	Allowed the use of black sea bass traps to 8 cubic feet in volume.
2009	<p>Recreational: 12 inches TL</p> <p>Commercial: 10 inches TL</p>	15 fish per person per day	
2010	<p>Recreational: 12 inches TL</p> <p>Commercial: 10 inches TL</p>	15 fish per person per day	

2011	Recreational: 12 inches TL Commercial: 10 inches TL	15 fish per person per day	
2012	Recreational: 12 inches TL Commercial: 10 inches TL	15 fish per person per day	
2013	Recreational: 13 inches TL Commercial: 10 inches TL	5 fish per person per day	Required anyone fishing with black sea bass traps in Atlantic state waters to have a federal South Atlantic black sea bass pot endorsement and a commercial snapper grouper unlimited permit. Changed Atlantic state trap requirements to match federal trap specifications
2014	Recreational: 13 inches TL Commercial: 10 inches TL	5 fish per person per day	
2015	Recreational: 13 inches TL Commercial: 10 inches TL	5 fish per person per day	
2016	Recreational: 13 inches TL Commercial: 10 inches TL	5 fish per person per day	

[1980]**SNAPPER, GROUPE, AND SEA BASS, F.S.**

- Eliminated finfish traps except for pinfish traps and black sea bass traps.
- Specified a 2x2x2 foot cube with a vertical throat of 5 inches high and 2 inches wide.
- Prohibited used below latitude of 27 degrees