

## **Black Sea Bass Research Fleet: Project Overview**

### General Description

- The CFRF, in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, operates a Black Sea Bass Research Fleet in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Bight region. The project employs commercial fishermen, utilizing a variety of gear types, collecting biological and fishery data on black sea bass throughout the year. Data is recorded using the On Deck Data application on Android tablets.
- Research Fleet participants sample black sea bass catch and discards from their routine commercial fishing operations following the guidelines outlined below.

### Participant Responsibilities

- Each participant fishermen will conduct at-sea black sea bass sampling sessions during three fishing trips per month.
- For each sampling session, fishermen will record:
  - Gear type
  - Habitat info (stat area, bottom type, depth)
  - Effort deployed (length of trawl or number of traps, nets or hooks fished, etc.)
  - Total number of black sea bass retained and discarded
  - Length, sex, and disposition (kept/discarded) of up to 150 black sea bass per month
  - Total number of black sea bass retained and discarded
- Participant fishermen will use On Deck Data on a provided tablet to collect black sea bass data at-sea and submit CFRF upon return to port via Wi-Fi.

### Compensation

- Participants will receive a stipend of up to \$600 per month for at-sea sampling
- CFRF will provide all equipment, training, and technical support

### Timeline

- The Research Fleet was launched in December of 2016 and will continue sampling through August of 2021
- There is no deadline to apply to the Fleet however vacant slots will be filled as qualified applications are received

### Project Team:

- David Bethoney, Executive Director, CFRF
- Jason McNamee, Chief, RI DEM Department of Natural Resources
- Thomas Heimann, Research Biologist, CFRF

### Contact Information:

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