



COMMERCIAL FISHERIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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CFRF & RI DEM Black Sea Bass Research Fleet: Project Overview

General Description

- The CFRF, in partnership with RI DEM, is launching a Black Sea Bass Research Fleet in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Bight region. The project will employ Rhode Island commercial and recreational fishermen, utilizing a variety of gear types, to collect biological and fishery data on black sea bass throughout the year. Data will be collected and transmitted using a specifically designed black sea bass sampling app on Android tablets.
- Research Fleet participants will sample black sea bass within their typical fishing grounds throughout the year following the guidelines specified by the project team, as outlined below.

Participant Responsibilities

- Each participant fishermen will conduct at-sea black sea bass sampling sessions during three fishing trips per month for one year.
- For each sampling session, fishermen will record:
 - Gear type
 - Effort deployed (length of trawl or number of traps, nets or hooks fished)
 - Depth
 - Habitat type
 - Total number of black sea bass retained and discarded
 - Length and sex of at least 25 black sea bass
- Participant fishermen will use a pre-programmed tablet app to collect black sea bass data at-sea and wirelessly communicate data to CFRF upon return to port.

Compensation

- If sampling protocols have been followed, participants will receive a stipend of \$600 per month.
- CFRF will provide all equipment, training, and technical support to each participant without cost.

Timeline

- **Applications Due: Monday, September 9, 2019**

Project Team:

- Christopher Glass, Executive Director, CFRF
- Jason McNamee, Chief, RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries
- Thomas Heimann, Research Associate, CFRF

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