

# SPECIES: BLACK SEA BASS

PRELIMINARY

Biological Attributes	Risk of Overexploitation			Notes	Black Sea Bass			
	High (1)	Medium (2)	Low (3)		Default Score	AP Score	SSC Score	Council Score
Estimated natural mortality (M)	M ≤ 0.20	0.20-0.40	M ≥ 0.4	SEDAR 56 (2018): M = 0.38 SEDAR 76 (2023): M = 0.375	2	2	2	
Age at maturity	≥ 4 years	2-4 years	≤ 2 years	The size at 50% maturity (L50) for females fell from 137 to 108 mm SL in the southern segment (FL/GA) and from 145 to 115 mm SL in the northern segment (McGovern et al. 2002). These SL correspond to age ~0-1.  Size at 50% probability of sex change was 355 mm TL (McGovern et al 2002). This TL corresponds to age ~5-6.	3	3	3	
<b>Final Biological Score</b>					2.5	2.5	2.5	#DIV/0!
Human Dimension Attributes	High (1)	Medium (2)	Low (3)	Notes	Default Score	AP Score	SSC Score	Council Score
Ability to regulate fishery	fishery consistently exceeds Total ACL (ex. 3+ out of 5 years) and/or exceeds Total ACL by more than 15%	fishery mostly kept below Total ACL (ex. Exceeds ACL 1-2 out of 5 years) and/or does not exceed ACL by more than 15%	fishery consistently kept below Total ACL	<b>Total ACL:</b> not exceeded in any year 2020-2024 <b>Commercial ACL:</b> not exceeded in any year 2020-2024 <b>Recreational ACL:</b> not exceeded in any year 2020-2024  Notes: - Commercial, Recreational, and Total Landings all consistently around 30% of ACL.  AP: not hitting ACL targets is a warning	3	3	3	
Potential for discard losses	Dead discards are a significant proportion of the total catch (over 40%)	Dead discards are a moderate proportion of the total catch (20%-40%)	Dead discards very small component of total catch (<15%-20%)	<b>Recreational Discards:</b> DMR: 13.7%, MRIP Average (2020-2024) Proportion of Dead Discards (B2*DMR) to Total Catch (A+B1+B2) = 13.1% Proportion of Dead Discards (B2*DMR) to Total Removals (A+B1+Dead Discards) = 74.3%  <b>Commercial Discards:</b> recent discard data unavailable; from SEDAR 76 (avg: 2015-2019), commercial discards = 3.89%, DMR: 14% (pots) - 19% (handline)	1	1	1	
Annual Commercial value	> 10% total annual revenue	Between 1% and 10% of total annual revenue	< 1% total annual revenue	Average Annual Revenue (2019-2023) = 2.8%  AP: deflating price leading to less fishing activity, influence of mid-atlantic boats	2	2	2	
	> 40% of total trip revenue, on average	Between 10% and 40% of total trip revenue, on average	< 10% total trip revenue, on average	Average Total Trip Revenue (2019-2023) = 11.3%	2	2	2	
Recreational desirability	> 5% trips report targeting this species	Between 1% and 5% of trips report targeting this species	< 1% trips report targeting this species	Average percent of all trips (2019-2024) = 2.2% Average percent of all SG trips (not including Gray Snapper) = 13.2%  AP: non targeted anymore in FL (fort pierce south), regional differentiation	2	2	2	
Social concerns	>13 communities highly reliant on this species	7-13 communities highly reliant on this species	<7 communities highly reliant on this species	Of the communities with the highest black sea bass landings, 4 were highly reliant on commercial and/or recreational fishing. (Sneads Ferry, Wanchese, and Hobbucken, NC; Murrells Inlet, SC).	3	3	3	
<b>Final Human Dimension Score</b>					2.17	2.17	2.17	#DIV/0!
Environmental Attributes	High (1)			Notes	Default Score	AP Score	SSC Score	Council Score
Ecosystem importance	Does this species significantly affect other species, e.g. as a keystone predator, primary prey, habitat builder etc.?			SSC: important component of the SG complex before declines in biomass			1	
Climate change	Is this species likely to experience/be experiencing negative stock impacts due to climate change?							
Other Environmental Variables	Are other environmental variables causing negative effects on this stock, e.g. in the form of regime shifts, recruitment failure, etc.?			Occurrence or potential range shift? Recent recruitment is lowest in time series for South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic biomass is highest in time series.  AP: range shifts occurring		1	1	
<b>Final Environmental Score</b>					0	1	1	0
<b>Final Risk Score</b>					2.333	1.889	1.889	#DIV/0!
					Medium	High	High	#DIV/0!