

Other Business

Should the transit area already created under existing Striped Bass FMP could be used as a template that would allow commercial and recreational fisherman to transit home from RI State waters around Block Island regardless of the species, if retaining that species is allowed in state waters. Gear would be stowed and federal rules would apply to fishing in the transit area.

This is an important issue because of the current Federal recreational BSB regulations, but also because “state only” permitted commercial and for hire vessels are technically restricted from fishing within Block Island and retaining their catch (if they plan to return to the mainland with that catch).

Current regulations:

Striped Bass - [50 CFR 697.7\(b\)](#)

(b) *Atlantic striped bass fishery.* In addition to the prohibitions set forth in §600.725 of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

- (1) Fish for Atlantic striped bass in the EEZ.
- (2) Harvest any Atlantic striped bass from the EEZ.
- (3) Possess any Atlantic striped bass in or from the EEZ, except in the following area: The EEZ within Block Island Sound, north of a line connecting Montauk Light, Montauk Point, NY, and Block Island Southeast Light, Block Island, RI; and west of a line connecting Point Judith Light, Point Judith, RI, and Block Island Southeast Light, Block Island, RI. Within this area, possession of Atlantic striped bass is permitted, provided no fishing takes place from the vessel while in the EEZ and the vessel is in continuous transit.
- (4) Retain any Atlantic striped bass taken in or from the EEZ.

Black Sea Bass - [50 CFR 697.7\(b\)](#)

<https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/bsbass/>

[Summer Flounder/Black Sea Bass/Scup Rec. Management Measures](#) (also attached)

- Summer Flounder conservation equivalency measures adopted. CT, NY, MA all closed Summer Flounder at the end of September. RI is open until Dec 31. RI registered/saltwater licensed FVs can possess Summer Flounder in the EEZ as long as they abide by the state of RI summer flounder regulations. If a violation occurs of the state regs (i.e. size/possession limit) while vessel is in the EEZ it is still a federal violation.
- Black Sea Bass/Scup in 2016 cannot be in EEZ with during closed season because conservation equivalency measures were not adopted for BSB/Scup and federal regulations are more restrictive than state regulations.