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:
  o Gear type
  o Effort deployed (length of trawl or number of traps, nets or hooks fished)
  o Depth
  o Habitat type
  o Total number of black sea bass retained and discarded
  o 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

Contact Information:

Thomas Heimann, Research Associate, CFRF
Email: theimann@cfrfoundation.org, Phone: (401) 515-4892
Project Website: www.cfrfoundation.org/black-sea-bass-fleet