



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmf.org

MEMORANDUM

October 21, 2019

To: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
From: Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel
RE: Advisory Panel Recommendations on Draft Addendum VI

The Advisory Panel (AP) met in person on October 16, 2019 in Linthicum Heights, Maryland to comment on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6. Below is a summary of the meeting.

Attendees: Louis Bassano (Chair, NJ – recreational), Dave Pecci (ME – charter/recreational), Kyle Douton (CT – charter/recreational), Arnold Leo (NY – commercial), Al Ristori (NJ – charter), John Pedrick (PA – recreational), Leonard Voss JR. (DE – commercial), David Sikorski (MD – recreational), Bill Hall (VA – recreational), Kelly Place (VA – commercial)

Staff: Max Appelman (FMP Coordinator), Katie Drew (Stock Assessment Team Lead)

3.1 Proposed Management Scenarios

- There was no comment in support of Option 1, status quo.
- Charter and recreational representatives preferred Option 2, equal percent reduction to both sectors. Specific comments included:
 - The stock assessment and FMP does not distinguish commercial versus recreational fishing mortality, so the reductions should be applied proportionally to both sectors.
 - An 18% reduction from the recreational sector is a much bigger volume of fish and is a fair and equitable approach based on percentages.
 - Different percent reductions is essentially changing the allocation between sectors.
 - Generally, the AP doesn't support one sub-option strongly over the others, because there is little agreement among anglers within states (e.g., private anglers, for-hire, surfcasters, etc., all support different minimum size limit and slot limit options).
 - AP representatives support the use of conservation equivalency as a tool for states to develop and implement measures that work for its fishermen and industries while still achieving the required reductions at the state level.
 - If had to choose, some representatives support Option 2-A1, 1 fish at 35" minimum for the ocean fishery. Others favored 2-A3, 1 fish at 30"-38" slot limit, and some representatives also support this option as a backup.
 - AP representatives for Chesapeake Bay did not comment on a particular sub-option because the states are exploring conservation equivalency, and they support that direction for the Bay.
 - Representatives support regional consistency, especially from a for-hire/multispecies context (e.g., within Long Island Sound, Gulf of Maine, or Chesapeake Bay).

- Commercial representatives preferred Option 3, smaller percent reduction to the commercial quota. Specific comments included:
 - An 18% reduction in commercial quota will cause significant hardship to individual fishermen, and will not help solve the issue because commercial catch is such a small component of overall removals.
 - Current status of striped bass stocks and fisheries are driven by the recreational sector which includes a large release mortality component.
 - The commercial sector has hard quotas, strict monitoring, and enforcement, and there is no accountability for the recreational sector.
 - When the commercial sector takes a cut in quota, harvest comes down to that level and stays there until managers adjust the quota. When the recreational sector takes reductions, harvest still bounces back to prior levels without management action
 - The recreational sector wouldn't be expected to take cuts for overages from the commercial sector.
 - The recreational slot options for Chesapeake Bay will cause discards to go through the roof; the predicted increases in release mortality are grossly underestimated.

3.2 Circle Hook Provision

- In general, the AP recognizes the benefits of circle hooks to reduce hooking mortality and supports Option B, regulation requiring the use of circle hooks. Many anglers already use circle hooks and many more will switch over if it becomes law.
- The AP noted that the effectiveness of circle hooks to reduce hooking mortality varies under different conditions such as whether the tide is running or slack during fishing or whether the point of the hook is dulled or laser-sharpened.
- States should collaborate when developing regulatory language. The AP has strong concerns regarding enforceability and potential for inconsistent regulatory language across the coast, particularly in adjoining waters and jurisdictions.
- Without strong enforcement, anglers will revert back to non-circle-hooks; recommend making it an enforcement priority if it becomes a requirement.
- State efforts should focus on education component.

General Comments

- The Board should focus on the overall goal to reduce F by reducing total removals
- Need to have better accounting for commercial discards
- Need more discussion on season closures to achieve the reductions; the only way to effectively reduce recreational release mortality is through season closures and other measures that reduce the number of trips encountering striped bass.
- Board should consider other hook types to address discard mortality, not just circle hooks
- Constant reductions (i.e., Addendum IV, this addendum, and the next amendment) are difficult for business planning.
- Support regional consistency, especially in a multispecies, for-hire context.

- Virginia proactively took steps to address overfishing by eliminating the trophy fishery, changing regulations in recreational Fall fishery in Chesapeake Bay, and changing commercial mesh size requirements



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MEMORANDUM

September 24, 2019

To: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
From: Law Enforcement Committee
RE: Review of Draft Addendum VI for Atlantic Striped Bass

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) convened a teleconference on September 20, 2019 to review provide comments on proposed regulations regarding the recreational harvest of striped bass in state waters.

The following were in attendance:

LEC: LTC Kathy Cyr (USCG); Sgt. Greg Garner (SC); Capt. Doug Messeck (DE); Katie Moore (USCG); Maj. Patrick Moran (MA); Capt. Scott Pearce (FL); Capt. Jason Snellbaker (NJ); Maj. Jason Walker (NC)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS: Tobey Curtis (NOAA HMS)

STAFF: Max Appelman; Kirby Rootes-Murdy; Mark Robson

Circle Hooks

During this teleconference the LEC reviewed and commented extensively on a potential requirement for use of circle hooks in the coastal shark fishery. Subsequent to that discussion Max Appelman asked if the same comments and concerns would apply to a similar provision for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI. The LEC members affirmed that their concerns apply equally to striped bass, as follows:

The LEC reiterates the position that, despite the recognized potential value of a circle hook requirement to reduce release mortality in the recreational fishery, strict enforcement of a rule that depends on proving targeting or intent to catch striped bass with prohibited gear would be very difficult, at best. Unlike in the shark fishery, gear and techniques for catching striped bass would be difficult to distinguish from that of other species. Implementation of a regulatory approach such as that employed for shark-fishing in Florida would be much less effective. Therefore, if the Board were to implement such a requirement, the LEC emphasized the importance of using intensive education and outreach to garner support for a circle hook regulation.

If states are required to implement regulations regarding the mandatory use of circle hooks, the LEC recommends adopting a standard definition of a circle hook. For example, a definition as follows:

Non-stainless-steel circle hooks. A person targeting or harvesting sharks from Florida Waters must use non-stainless-steel circle hooks when fishing with live or dead natural

bait. "Circle hook" means a fishing hook designed and manufactured so that the point is not offset and is turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a general circular or oval shape.

The LEC stresses the importance of all jurisdictions agreeing on standardized regulatory language, especially where states share common borders and fishing areas.

Size and Bag Limits

Max Appelman reviewed the various options for size/bag limits in the Draft Addendum VI. The LEC concurred with previous written comments provided in a memorandum dated January 26, 2015. Among the points reiterated by the LEC were:

- A single size/bag limit should apply for all recreational sectors (i.e., private anglers and the for-hire sector). This will ensure the greatest enforceability on the water, dockside, or on land. It was pointed out that it is common to have these two sectors co-mingling at boat ramps, docks and marinas.
- Slot limits and trophy-fish provisions are enforceable, but may increase unintentional violations. LEC members on the teleconference pointed out that the relatively wide slot limits being proposed in Draft Addendum VI would help reduce unintentional violations.
- Enforcement of bag and size limits in closely adjoining states would be greatly enhanced if regulations are consistent across jurisdictions.

The LEC appreciates the opportunity to review the proposals of the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board and to provide ongoing enforcement advice.



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MEMORANDUM

October 22, 2019

To: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
From: Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee
RE: Technical Committee Criteria for Conservation Equivalency with Addendum VI

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board (Board) approved Draft Addendum VI for public comment in August 2019. The addendum aims to reduce fishing mortality to the target level in 2020 and maintains flexibility for states to pursue alternative regulations through the FMP's conservation equivalency process. In order to streamline implementation of Addendum VI measures, the Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee (TC) met via conference call on October 10, 2019 to establish criteria for the development of conservation equivalency proposals with Draft Addendum VI. The criteria developed are as follows:

Recreational Fishery

1. If deviating from the Board selected sub-option for recreational fisheries in the ocean region or Chesapeake Bay, states need to submit a state-specific analysis using state-specific data that demonstrates their proposal meets at least the required reduction in total recreational removals, as specified by the Board¹, relative to 2017 levels.
2. The TC created the following standards for treatment of datasets.
 - a. **Data source:** Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). Alternative data may be used to supplement or replace MRIP data, however, the state must justify its use including a description of source and its applicability to the analysis conducted.
 - b. **Data years:** Pooled 2016-2017 for all size-related analysis to best capture the potential available length frequency in 2020. States submitting seasonal and mode-based analyses should use 2015-2018 data (i.e., the most recent four years). *Note: all conservation equivalency proposals submitted as part of initial implementation for Addendum VI must meet the required reductions relative to 2017 levels and follow the standards established below. All subsequent conservation equivalency proposals need only demonstrate that the proposed measures are equivalent to current state measures in terms of total removals and, therefore, the data years specified above may not be appropriate for future analysis.*

¹ The recreational sub-options in Draft Addendum VI are projected to achieve at least the required reduction (i.e., 18% or 20%, respectively), but some achieve larger reductions. Accordingly, the Board must specify whether conservation equivalency means equal to 18% or 20% reduction (depending on primary option selected) or the percent reduction estimated under the selected sub-option(s).

- c. **Bag limit and size limit analysis:** Follow the standard procedure used for Draft Addendum VI to explore higher size limits and lower bag limits to achieve the required reductions. The TC does not have a standard methodology for pursuing lower minimum sizes, therefore, alternative methods may be used and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. The TC will consider the use of confidence intervals to achieve the required reductions, although the TC generally requires the point estimate to be at or above the required reduction. If states do use confidence intervals to justify conservation equivalency, it is recommended that the state submit a second proposal based on point estimates in case the first proposal is not endorsed by the TC.
 - d. **Treatment of sublegal harvest or trips that exceed the bag limit:** Assume the same level of non-compliance that occurred in 'data years' will occur in 2020 (this is what the Plan Development Team used in the analysis for Draft Addendum VI).
 - e. **Post release mortality:** Use 9% as the default. States may use alternative estimates with sufficient justification (e.g., supporting literature and data to estimate it).
3. If treating modes separately (e.g., private and for-hire party/charter) states must submit mode-specific data analyses adhering to the standards established in item 2.
Note: an individual mode may achieve a lower reduction, but the total, state-wide reduction (weighted by mode-specific removals) must equal at least the total required reduction.
 4. If using closed seasons to achieve the required reductions, states should consider the dynamics of its fishery and other fisheries that operate in the region during the proposed closed season when making assumptions about the level of removals that will occur (i.e., will there still be release mortality from other trips that could encounter striped bass?). The TC will evaluate proposed season closures on a case by case basis. The TC discussed that season closures less than two weeks duration are unlikely to be effective, but it did not specify a minimum season closure criteria. States must submit season-specific data and analysis adhering to the standards established in item 2 if treating seasons separately (e.g., different regulations between spring and fall).
 5. States may allocate the total required reduction differently between regions (e.g., ocean and inshore waters) and sectors (commercial and recreational) as long as the total, state-wide reduction is at least equal to the total required reduction.

Commercial Fishery

1. The reduced quotas in Draft Addendum VI account for previously approved conservation equivalency programs, therefore, states do not need to submit for conservation equivalency if they choose to maintain existing size limits in its commercial fisheries. *Note: Connecticut and New Jersey must go through conservation equivalency in order to transfer commercial quota to a recreational striped bass bonus program under Addendum VI.*

2. If a state chooses to modify existing size limits, the state needs to submit a proposal adjusting its quota relative to the new Addendum VI quota baseline (in the case of Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Maryland, the new Addendum VI quota baseline is that established in Addendum IV minus the required percent reduction in quota).

Timeline for Submission of Conservation Equivalency Plans

In order to be considered for approval at the February 2020 Board meeting, states must submit conservation equivalency plans by November 29 in order to allow sufficient time for TC review.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

FROM: Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator

DATE: October 22, 2019

SUBJECT: Public Comment on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass

The following represents an overview of all comment received by ASMFC on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI as of 5:00 PM (EST) on October 7, 2019 (closing deadline).

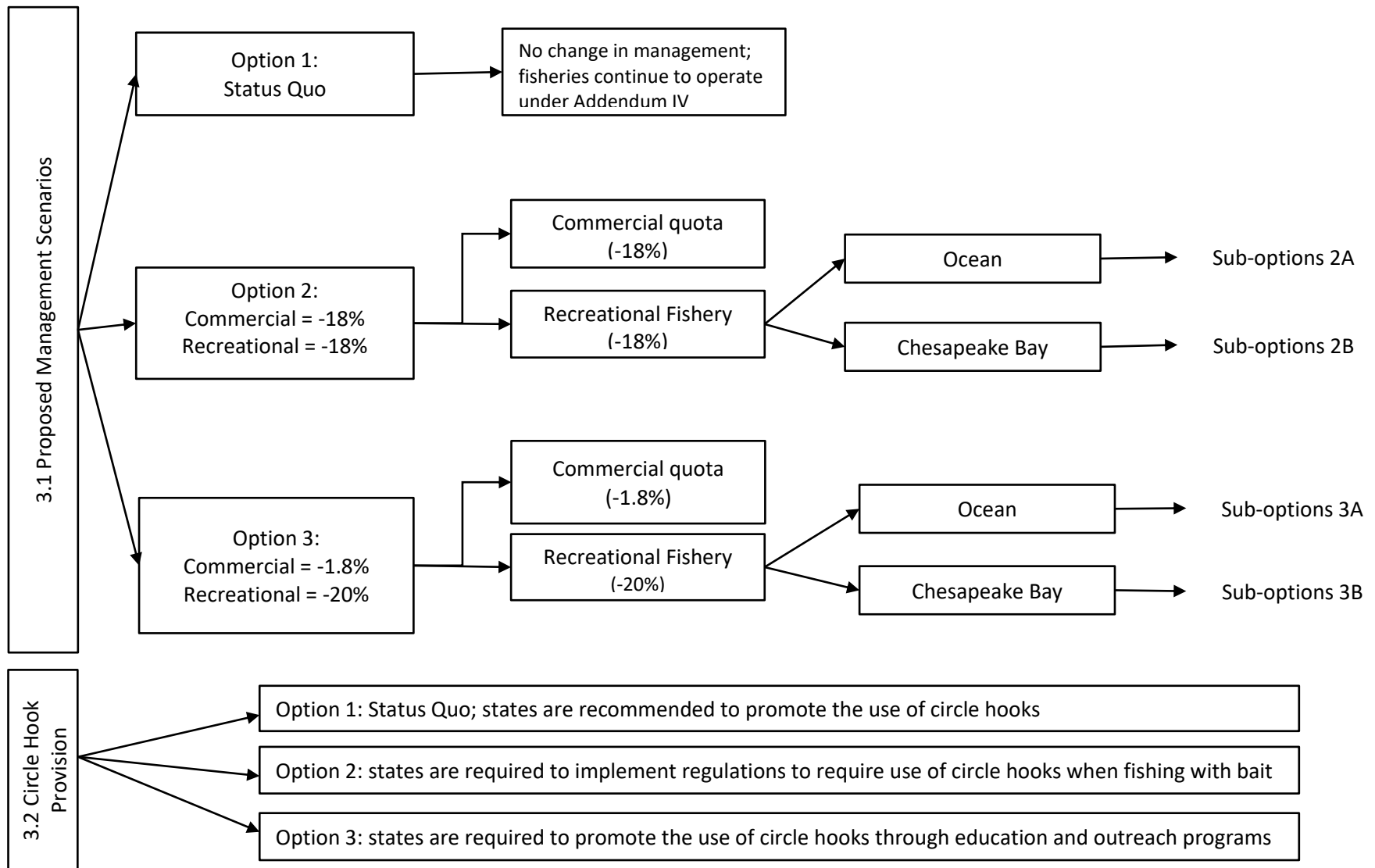
A total of 5,523 comments were received on Draft Addendum VI from individuals, organizations, and form letters. A total of 45 organizations submitted comments on Draft Addendum VI. A total of 4,486 comments were received through form letters (7 different form letters). The remainder of comments (992) came from individual stakeholders including commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, and concerned citizens.

Twenty-one public hearings were held in 14 jurisdictions. A total of 888 individuals are estimated to have attended the hearings.

The following pages (2-8) are intended to give the Board an overview of support for specific options and issues contained in Draft Addendum VI (included is a decision tree of proposed management options). This is then followed by form letters with total petitioner count, letters and emails sent by organizations, and letters and emails sent by individuals. Summaries of the public hearings can be found in [Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board Briefing Materials](#) (PDF Page 85).

M19-086

Decision Tree of Management Options for Draft Addendum VI



Public Comment Summary Tables

Table 1. All public comment received by individuals, organizations, and form letters, and attendance at public hearings by state. * 7 different form letters received. ^ ME, MA, CT, NY, and MD held two public hearings; NJ held three.

Public Comment Received	
Form Letters	4,486*
Organizations	45
Individual Comments	992
Total	5,523
Public Hearing	Attendance
Maine	34^
New Hampshire	24
Massachusetts	97^
Rhode Island	33
Connecticut	85^
New York	230^
New Jersey	143^
Pennsylvania	33
Delaware	17
Maryland	132^
PRFC	31
DC	2
Virginia	24
North Carolina	3
TOTAL	888

Table 2. Total number in support of proposed management options in Draft Addendum VI. I = individual comments; O = organizations; F = form letters. * see Draft Addendum VI for specific restrictions regarding seasons and trophy fish/seasons in the Ocean and Chesapeake Bay. ^ 33 from show of hands at Annapolis hearing. No show of hands at Cambridge hearing because meeting was adjourned due to lack of order.

3.1 Proposed Management Scenarios			Written Comment and Emails			Public Hearings by State													TOTAL		
			I	O	F	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	DC	VA		NC	
Primary Option	1	Status Quo	26	5		3		9		2		1	2	7	20			9		84	
	2	equal % reductions	516	31	4466	30	15	80	21	35	20	28	3	2	33^	3	2	2		5254	
	3	unequal % reductions	27	5				10		3			1	1	50	8		17		122	
Sub-options for Option 2	Ocean	2-A1	1 fish @ 35" min	234	14	48	18	13	57	4	22	17	14	1	1			2		445	
		2-A2	1 fish @ 28"-35" slot	47	9		4	2	24		9	2	8				1		1		107
		2-A3	1 fish @ 30"-38" slot*	5	3		4				1			2							15
		2-A4	1 fish @ 32"-40" slot*	26	2		1		1	17	3		1								51
	Ches Bay	2-B1	1 fish @ 18" min	150	8	48	9	11	1	21	4	8	4				2	2			268
		2-B2	2 fish @ 22" min		4			2											1		7
		2-B3	2 fish @ 18"-23" slot*	15																	15
		2-B4	2 fish @ 20"-24" slot*	15	1																16
Sub-options for Option 3	Ocean	3-A1	1 fish @ 36" min	5	1					2				1						9	
		3-A2	1 fish @ 28"-34" slot	10						1			1					1		13	
		3-A3	1 fish @ 30"-37" slot*																		0
		3-A4	1 fish @ 32"-40" slot*	2																	2
	Chesapeake Bay	3-B1	1 fish @ current min	4	1								1								6
		3-B2	1 fish @ 18" min	1					1					1		1					4
		3-B3	2 fish @ 23" min*																		0
		3-B4	2 fish @ 18"-22" slot*	2												1		1			4
		3-B5	2 fish @ 20"-23" slot*	2																	2
		3-B6	2 fish @ 22"-40" slot*	1																	1

Table 3. Total number in support of proposed circle hook requirement options in Draft Addendum VI.

Issue 2: Circle Hook Provision			
	Option A	Option B	Option C
Individual	8	336	10
Organization	2	21	8
Form Letter		4466	
Hearings			
ME		15	
NH	1	16	2
MA	6	45	5
RI		4	17
CT		17	
NY	4	14	6
NJ	2	6	
PA		4	1
DE	1	2	
MD	Support Use of Circle Hooks		
PRFC		2	
DC		2	
VA		20	
NC			
TOTAL	24	4970	49

Overview of circle hook options:

Option A: status quo, states are recommended to encourage the use of circle hooks to reduce the mortality associated with hooking and releasing striped bass

Option B: states would be required to implement regulations requiring the use of circle hook, as defined by ASMFC, with the intent of reducing striped bass discard mortality in their recreational fisheries when fishing with bait. States are also encouraged to promote the use of circle hooks to garner angler buy in and compliance.

Option C: states would be required to promote the use of circle hooks by developing public education and outreach campaigns on their benefits when fishing with bait.

General overview of support for specific options and issues in Draft Addendum VI from all public comment:

3.1 Proposed Management Scenarios

- **Support for Option 1 (status quo):** Least supported by number (26 individuals, 5 organizations, 53 from public hearings). Predation, forage, and poor habitat should be addressed instead of reducing fishing. The issue is release mortality from catch and release fishing and that can be addressed through education alone. All the options are estimated to increase release mortality. Harvest in 2018 dropped by 18% relative to 2017, so the goal has already met. Better science is needed before making decisions.
- **Support for Option 2 (equal percent reductions):** Most supported by number (516 individuals, 31 organizations, 4,466 form letters, 241 from public hearings). All sectors benefit from the resource, so all sectors should share the responsibility of ending overfishing and rebuilding the resource. The most equitable way to implement reductions in the fisheries. Option 3 is an unbalanced approach to reduce removals.
- **Support for Option 3 (unequal percent reductions):** Second most supported by number (27 individuals, 5 organizations, 90 from public hearings). An 18% reduction in quota will not help reduce removals, but will cause severe economic hardship to individual commercial fishermen. The fishery and stock status is driven by recreational removals (commercial removals is a small component of total mortality) and to share the burden equally does not necessarily mean equal percentages. There is already high accountability and monitoring for the commercial sector.
- **Specific sub-options:** There is little agreement among sectors within a state, region, and at the coastwide level. Commenters provided many alternative slot limits and minimum sizes that might be better for their fishery, state, or region. In general, the following statements were made to support the different sub-options:
 - **Higher minimum size limits** (e.g., 35" min) worked to rebuild the striped bass fishery once before by allowing fish to spawn multiple times before being of legal size. Slot limits put too much pressure on one or a few year classes. The impacts of a slot limit on the future population is unclear. Increasing the minimum size will likely reduce effort and do more to rebuild the stock.
 - **Slot size limits** (e.g., 28"-35" slot) protect the large breeding females and gives small fish a chance to spawn, while also allowing anglers to keep a fish in regions where there are few large fish around. A higher minimum size would put for-hire party/charter boats out of business, especially if neighboring states fishing the same water body (e.g., LIS, NY Bight, GOM) have different size limit.
 - **2-A1 (1 fish at 35" min) for the ocean fishery was most supported by number** (234 individuals, 14 organizations, 48 form letters, 149 from public hearings).
 - **2-B1 (1 fish at 18" min) for the Chesapeake Bay fishery was most supported by number** (150 individuals, 8 organizations, 48 form letters, 62 from public hearings).

3.2 Circle Hook Provision:

- **Option A:** Circle hooks were selected arbitrarily among other gear configuration changes that could do more to save fish. The benefits of requiring circle hooks is not quantifiable. Mandating the use of circle hooks is an overreach of authority and is not enforceable.
- **Option B:** Although difficult to enforce, there is little doubt that circle hooks save fish and that's what is needed now. Law abiding anglers will make the switch to circle hooks if they are required. Some states already require the use of circle hooks during all or part of the season, and the other states should follow suite. The requirement should be phased in to allow tackle shops time to go through inventory.
- **Option C:** There is little doubt that the use of circle hooks helps save fish, but there are real challenges with enforceability that have to be considered. State resources should focus on educating the public on the benefits of circle hooks rather than enforcing a mandatory requirement. Angler education should be viewed as a first step towards stricter compliance requirements down the road.

Additional commonalities from all public comment include:

- **Conservation Equivalency:** Commenters support the use of conservation equivalency when used appropriately as a tool to implement measures that are different because of availability or how the specific fishery operates. However, a lot of negative comment for conservation equivalency was received, primarily due to lack of accountability. Specific comments include:
 - Many commenters would like to do away with conservation equivalency altogether, noting that there should be uniformity across the coast because that's how the measures are designed to achieve the goals of the FMP.
 - The process is subjective and disparate measures create winners and losers among states and sectors within a state, particularly when a neighboring state has a lower size limit or higher bag limit.
 - Conservation equivalency harms the fishery and should not be allowed unless the program is enforceable, measurable, and actually equivalent to the standard.
 - Conservation equivalency has created a situation where political views endanger striped bass population.
- **Poor Data:** Commenters expressed little to no confidence in MRIP and the 2018 benchmark stock assessment results; underestimates commercial discards and strong concerns regarding the accuracy and application of recreational catch and harvest data. Estimated increases in release mortality under the proposed options is underestimated (release mortality will be much higher in reality).
- **Angler Education:** Commenters expressed strong support for additional education around the size limits, the use of circle hooks, and how to properly release fish. Individuals commented they would be willing to have a higher cost of a recreational license if that additional money went to education efforts. States should focus on aggressive education programs to teach proper fish handling techniques including no gaffing, no photos of fish that are not being kept, online training modules, etc. Hauling big fish on the boat for a

picture is a big issue. Any fish not being kept should stay in the water. Stricter regulations do not make good fishermen.

- **Restrictions to Protect ‘Trophy Fish’:** A number of commenters oppose the spring trophy fisheries in Chesapeake Bay and any measures that allow the legal harvest of a second ‘trophy fish’. Spring harvest of large pre-spawn females should not be allowed. All spawning areas (bays and rivers) should be closed to fishing in the spring.
- **Law Enforcement:** a notable amount of commenters expressed concerns about high levels of poaching, weak penalties for violations, and the need for more law enforcement officers. More funding is needed for law enforcement so they can effectively do their jobs. A permit system for striper fishing should be considered and that revenue should help fund law enforcement efforts. There is a lot of undocumented illegal catch and harvest of striped bass in federal waters.
- **Gear Restrictions:** The Board should consider other restrictions on hook types and fishing methods to address release mortality, like eliminating treble hooks, gaffing, and trolling, or exploring the use of barbless hooks.

Comments were submitted by the following groups and organizations:

American Saltwater Guides Association	New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing
American Sportfishing Association	Peninsula Saltwater Sports Fisherman's Association
Atlantic Surfcasters Club, New York State	Plum Island Surfcaster
Berkeley Striper Club	Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association
Brooklyn Urban Anglers Association	Regal Marine Products
Cape Cod Charter Boat Association	Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Stripers Forever
Coastal Conservation Association, Nationwide	The Fisherman Magazine
Coastal Conservation Association, Maryland	The Long Island Sound Lobstermen's association
Coastal Conservation Association, North Carolina	The Nature Conservancy
Coastal Conservation Association, New Hampshire	The New York Sportfishing Federation
Commercial Anglers Association, Massachusetts	The Tightlined Slam
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	The Twin Rivers Waterman's Association
Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association	Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association	Virginia Waterman's Association
Delmarva Fisheries Association	Wild Ocean
Fish Hawks Saltwater Angler Club	
Grey Owl Analytics	Comments were submitted via the following form letters:
Hi-Mar Striper Club of Middletown, New Jersey	
Hudson River Fishermen's association	Chesapeake Bay Foundation (4,022)
Jersey Coast Anglers Association	American Sportfishing Association (399)
Maine Association of Charterboat Captains	Five form letters from unknown sources:
Massachusetts Striped Bass Association	Form Letter 1 (11)
Montauk Boatmen and Captains Association	Form Letter 2 (6)
New Jersey Beach Buggy Association	Form Letter 3 (38)
New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs	Form Letter 4 (4)
New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association	Form Letter 5 (6)
New York For Hire	
North Fork Captains Association	

Comments

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: Comments on Striped Bass Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC Member,

Striped bass are one of the most iconic fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay region. The recently released benchmark stock assessment paints a concerning picture for the current status of the striped bass population, one that requires decisive action in order to restore this important resource along the Atlantic Coast and in the Chesapeake Bay.

First, I would like to thank ASMFC's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board for its swift action in initiating this Addendum to end overfishing during the 2020 fishing season. No matter which option is chosen, this action must ensure at least an 18% reduction in removals for each state.

On the issues presented in draft Addendum VI, I urge the Board to support the following:

Proposed Management Scenarios: Option 2

In the Chesapeake Bay region, striped bass catch is split nearly evenly between the recreational and commercial sectors. Because both sectors benefit equally, they should share the responsibility for needed management action. Both sectors need to conserve now in order to reap the rewards of a restored population later.

Circle Hook Provision: Option B

Reducing release mortality of striped bass is one way anglers can help positively influence the current status of the population. Circle hooks are a proven method to reduce release mortality in the recreational fishery. Mandatory regulations have already been implemented in Maryland with high levels of compliance; the other Atlantic states should follow suit.

Compliance Schedule

All states must ensure necessary regulations are in place by April 1, 2020 in order for conservation measures to be fully adopted prior to the start of the striped bass fishing season along the coast.

Conservation Equivalency

I commend the ASMFC Technical Committee for taking the initiative to develop conservation equivalency guidelines to support the implementation of Addendum VI. I urge the Technical Committee to support only those measures that are quantifiable and verifiable. Additionally, I urge the Board to reject any conservancy equivalency proposal whose objective is to circumvent the consensus of the Commission. Conservation equivalency should be reserved only for those instances in which the biology of the species, the statutory or procedural requirements of the state, or a desire to enact stricter conservation measures preclude the implementation of the ASMFC fishery management plan.

Thank you for consideration of these comments. I hope the swift, meaningful action of the ASMFC Striped

Bass Management Board will help reverse the trajectory of striped bass decline and start to rebuild this iconic species.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,

[Redacted signature block]

Comments

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 12:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: I Support Ending Overfishing and Rebuilding Striped Bass

Dear FMP Coordinator Appelman,

As an angler that loves sportfishing, I understand the responsibility of making tough management decisions to ensure the striped bass resource returns to a healthy status. Therefore, I support ending overfishing as a critical first step to rebuilding the striped bass population and offer the following management recommendations to ASMFC.

3.1 Proposed Management Scenario Recommendation

I support scenario 2: equal percent reductions between the recreational and commercial sectors. Rationale is detailed in the bullets below:

- Conservation efforts should be shared equally between the recreational and commercial sectors because everyone that uses the resource has a shared interest in its future.
- In both management scenarios (i.e., 2 and 3), the reductions for the commercial sector are based on Addendum IV quotas instead of 2017 harvest potentially allowing for an increase in removals if the quotas are fully utilized. This contradicts the intent of the Addendum.
- Scenario 3 would disproportionately punish states that only have a recreational fishery or convert their commercial quota to a recreational bonus fish program (e.g., ME, NH, CT, NJ, PA, DC).
- 97% of total economic contribution came from the recreational sector in 2016, and that amounted to expenditures totaling \$6.3 billion dollars. Therefore, placing more economic burden on the recreational fishery by taking a smaller reduction on the commercial fishery is not supported.

Conservation Equivalency

I recommend ASMFC strive for coastwide consistency in management measures but support the use of conservation equivalency programs if the proposed alternative measures quantifiably achieve the required reduction, and the Board follows up to hold states accountable for those reductions through the fishery performance review process.

3.2 Circle Hook Provision Recommendation

I support option 2: require the use of non-offset circle hooks when fishing with bait.

- Currently, circle hook requirements for the striped bass fishery vary across the states even though science supports the use of circle hooks reduces discard mortality.
- 90% of recreational catch is released alive so any efforts to reduce discard mortality will help the resource.
- Educational campaigns to teach anglers the various techniques of using circle hooks should be employed by all the states to support effective implementation of this option.

Thank you for taking the necessary action to end overfishing and start rebuilding the striped bass resource to a healthy stock status.

Sincerely,

Comments

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 6:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum VI

To Whom it May Concern:

The current proposals for recreational Striped Bass Reduction are not acceptable. Most options target larger breeding female Striped Bass. This has been proven over time to not be the solution. I also, want to state, New Jersey recreational fisherman should not be given the scraps! All the other states are commercial fishing Striped Bass. In Massachusetts alone there are 3500 permits for 30 Stripers per week. One if those permits catches more in a season than a New Jersey headboat does in a season catering to over a thousand customers in a typical Striper season. New Jersey listened to the public when the last reduction was created. New Jersey complied with the required reduction percentage using a different limit strategy. This gave the public the ability to keep 2 fish per day but in different size classes. This gives the perception of more, keeping folks interested. The reality is Striped Bass are schooling fish and rarely are we able to catch fish in the different size classes during the same trip. I would like to see additional proposals created. Maybe consider slot limits starting lower 24" to a max of 36", maybe creation of seasonal periods. Why allow fish to be caught and released during the warmest water months when mortality rates skyrocket? Ive seen mortality rates as high as 50% when the water is over 75 degrees. The commercial take MUST be lowered more than the recreational to help this fishery.

In conclusion, the current proposals are UNACCEPTABLE and need to be revised.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

Comments

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 6:42 AM
To: Comments

Dear Mr Appelman

In regards to Striper draft addendum VI

I am representing not only my interests but the interest of our for-hire industry and the passengers that fish with us in the hopes of bringing home fish to eat. What the for-hire industry has traditionally carried is anglers that do not own a boat. Over the last twenty or thirty years, the fishing regulations have gotten so lop-sided that it is no longer feasible for many to justify spending money on -not just the fare-but the expense of travel, tolls , tackle, ice and food -and not have an opportunity to bring home dinner for family and friends.

Speaking for my business, we do not need to bring home big female striped bass. We need to allow a reasonable opportunity to bring home a couple of smaller stripers for the table.

The truth is that we are not seeing great numbers of striped bass near shore --due to beach replenishment. Beach replenishment has done a lot of damage, not just to the animals that live near the surf, but has devastated fish habitat where the sand was dredged from -what were once hills are now holes! If this practice was done in a forest, there would be public outcry.

Striper stocks are not in trouble. Striped bass have been seen, in numbers, outside of our eez, along with great pods of menhaden -where surveys for striped bass are not being considered.

The points about the beach replenishment and the large schools offshore are not anecdotal. Both can be substantiated.

At the Manahawkin meeting I heard a comment by one gentleman who submitted that redfish and snook in Florida have a slot limit size and the biomass of both these fish have been doing well. It's something that NJ should look into.

Our for-hire industry cannot lose its bonus program. From what I understand, our industry has only utilized 9% of that quota. We also do not agree with the mandatory circle hook due to the fact that we often snag bunkers and let that bait immediately back into the drift. And I do not believe that most of our

form letter 2

6 people submitted this form letter

patrons would know how to set the hook with a circle hooks. In the past, we have referred to non-offset circle hooks as "rubber hooks".

If we must pick our poison, I would opt for the 28 - 35 inch fish and maintain our bonus slot.

Thank you for your consideration



Comments

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:43 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum

Dear Mr. Appleman,

I have been fishing for striped bass for well over 35 years and have experienced the crash of striped bass some years ago. Since that time striped bass rebounded fairly well but in the last 8 years roughly there has been a steady decline again. Below are my recommendations for stripe bass reductions. I am very concerned these recommendations if implemented still have about a 50% chance of success..

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sectors.

Option 2-A- 1@ 35"

Option 2-B1 1@ 18" for Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B - Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

It is important to protect the small fish we are seeing today and allow them to be able to breed as many years as possible before being taken away from the biomass.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Comments

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

These are the options that I think are best for striped bass:

Option 2

Option 2A-1

1 Fish at 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery

Option 2B-1

1 fish at 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Circle Hook Provision

Option B

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments,

[REDACTED]

Comments

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 8:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Christopher Carbone. I've been an avid surf caster for the past 15 years. Through those years I've seen a dramatic decline in large breeder fish with smaller schoolies being the norm. I am excited to hear that there is action taking place to protect this fishery!

I endorse the following options:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the sectors

My belief is that all sectors should share equally in the reduction. In my opinion, the commercial sector was handed a gift with Draft Addendum 6. The commercial harvest reductions are being based on the Addendum IV quotas. The recreational sector's harvest reductions are based on the 2017 harvest. Had the same 2017 standard been used for the commercial sector, the quota in the draft addendum actually represents an INCREASE, not a harvest reduction. If Option 2 is not adopted, the commercial sector will see a 22% increase over its 2017 harvest.

Option 2-A1: 1@35"

There are pros and cons to every option listed. I am worried when I read in the Draft Addendum that long term conservation benefits may not be realized if a slot limit is adopted. Basically the impact of a slot on the long-term health of the fishery is not known. We cannot take that chance.

I feel that it is vital that the small fish that we are seeing in our waters are protected. Option 2-A1 will allow these smaller fish with the largest number of spawning years before they become exploitable.

Ultimately, we cannot ignore past history. We have seen the positive effect of 1@36". It led to the successful rebuilding of the striped bass fishery for which ASMFC is applauded. With Option 2-A1 we are trusting that history will repeat itself.

For the Chesapeake Bay, Option 2-B1: 1@18"

I am deeply concerned about the impact of all of the Chesapeake Bay options on the critically important younger year classes. Exploiting fish before they have a chance to spawn makes no sense. While I am not in favor of any of the options listed for the Chesapeake Bay, Option 2-B1 is expected to achieve the greatest harvest reduction. It is for this reason that I recommend Option 2-B1.

Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of circle hooks

Circle hooks have been proven in multiple studies to reduce fish mortality and should be required when fishing live and dead bait. This must be accompanied by an effective education and awareness program.

Three additional comments:

First off, none of this will make any difference if the ASMFC does not tighten up how you analyze and manage conservation equivalency proposals. When an analysis is off by over 200% as it was with Maryland's harvest, this is not a mathematical error; it is a process error. You must press the Technical Committee to make sure this gets fixed. Given this track record, it was disappointing to see the proposal to eliminate CE proposals until after the species is restored was not adopted.

The fact that Maryland's harvest reduction in this Draft Addendum is based on their 2017 harvest when they were severely over their harvest total, leaves us scratching our heads. Why would you reward a state for overharvesting by 200%? The state harvested 2½ million more fish than they should have and a large percentage of those were from the 2011 year class that you were supposed to be protecting and would have restored the population that much sooner. There must be consequences when states do not live up to their harvest reduction goals. It is time for tough choices that bring the shenanigans in the Bay to end.

Secondly, the lack of enforcement is discouraging as I am sure it is for the officers in the field. It seems almost every time DEM goes looking they find folks breaking fisheries laws. While it may be hardest to get more officers I think we should examine greater consequence. Many times the fines are less than the value of the crime. It is essentially a cost of doing business and that seems like an easy fix. I understand ASMFC makes the rules and the states enforce them.

Finally, I recognize the ASMFC has a number of constituencies that need to be considered. However, you must manage for the benefit of the greater majority. Other constituencies always have the option of presenting conservation equivalency proposals. The best interests of the fishery and the great majority of your constituents must drive your fisheries management decisions.

Thank you,



Sent from my iPhone

Captain Sloan Gurney
Charter Boat Black Rock
P.O. Box 158
Orient, NY 11957
Captainsloan@gmail.com
(516) 819-5731

Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Sept 26, 2019

I am a life long career charter fishing business owner, operator and captain in Orient, NY spanning back over three decades. If the current striped bass proposed regulations do not consider the points I state below, great hardship will be caused to me and others in similar businesses, especially on the North Fork of Long Island and likely put many out of business. I appreciate the consideration of my comments and others but fear the consideration for a minimum size limit greater than 28" will not only cause such great hardship to me and others but will initiate a government created monopoly for Montauk charter businesses who will have a size limit only they alone can achieve. This will cause many or most customers of ours to flock to the one port that will have an obtainable minimum size limit.

A minimum of 28" will be sustainable, be fair and equitable to all businesses, and satisfy the proposed reductions as outlined below. It is the same proposal supported by the North Fork Captains Association and most all of the many like businesses on the North Fork and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Captain Sloan Gurney

Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

After reviewing all the data, it is very clear the For Hire fleet has had minimal effect on striped bass stocks.

- 1) We are asking to consider giving us back a For Hire striped bass category and let us maintain a 28" minimum at 1 per person.
- 2) We would be willing to give up April & December.
- 3) We would also consider giving up fish for crew.
- 4) We are in favor of circle hooks for bait fishing and no treble hooks for lures.

Keeping the size limit down will keep mortality down. It is very important for us to offer a fish for our customers to take home to eat. This is what our customers expect when they fish with us, not to catch and release.

If this is not possible then we would support 28"-35" slot. The conservation equivalent 30" fish would Not be good for us at all as most of the fish we have in The Long Island Sound are 26"-29", again creating more unnecessary mortality.

Captain Richard Jensen
Nancy Ann IV
North Fork Captains Association

September 17, 2019

Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

After reviewing all the data, it is very clear the For Hire fleet has had minimal effect on striped bass stocks.

- 1) We are asking to consider giving us back a For Hire striped bass category and let us maintain a 28" minimum at 1 per person.
- 2) We would be willing to give up April & December.
- 3) We would also consider giving up fish for crew.
- 4) We are in favor of circle hooks for bait fishing and no treble hooks for lures.

Keeping the size limit down will keep mortality down. It is very important for us to offer a fish for our customers to take home to eat. This is what our customers expect when they fish with us, not to catch and release.

If this is not possible then we would support 28"-35" slot. The conservation equivalent 30" fish would Not be good for us at all as most of the fish we have in The Long Island Sound are 26"-29", again creating more unnecessary mortality.

Thank You for consideration,

Captain Richard Jensen



NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS

32 Stratford Road
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724-3143
www.scubanj.org



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9/16/19

SEP 19 2019

ASMFC

COMMENT - DRAFT ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS FMP

The NJCDC is an organization of 14 sport diving clubs in NJ and nearby states. Sport divers observe Striped Bass in their natural habitat along the jetties and inlets off the Jersey coast and occasionally spearfish for Striped Bass. I have personally taken Striped Bass by both hook and line and by free diving spearfishing, and believe me that hook and line is a lot easier than spearfishing. This letter is trying to look at this Addendum from the point of view of the recreational spearfisherman as well as the hook and line fisherman. Regarding Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6, the NJCDC makes the following comments:

Regarding Option 1, the NJCDC believes Status Quo is your best option. This would have the least impact on a multi-billion-dollar industry along the east coast of the USA. Remember, the stock assessment is really only an educated guess at the actual numbers. The one fish limit would reduce mortality by stopping fishing for any fishermen after he or she takes a 28" or larger fish. This has the advantage of stopping further fishing effort and possible fish death from foul hooking, and so on.

From the point of view of the spearfisherman, 28" is a size limit he or she is familiar with and avoids a slot limit that could pose a challenge for the sport diver. The narrower the slot limit, the bigger the problem for the spearfisherman who does not have the option of first measuring the fish. Remember, the sport diver must safe side by taking a fish noticeable larger than the minimum size limit. A slot limit would cause additional safe siding on the upper limit that would be a further restriction and unfair to the sport diver.

Furthermore, if status quo is combined with conservation equivalency through closed seasons during some of the colder months, circle hook requirements, eliminating night Striped Bass fishing, and NJ elimination of the Bonus Bass Program in NJ, you should be able to easily reach a 25% reduction with almost no noticeable impact to the recreational fishery in NJ.

Regarding Option 2, the NJCDC rejects this option in order to avoid slot limits for reasons stated above. Regarding Option 3, the NJCDC rejects the idea of the commercial fishery taking a smaller percentage reduction as faulty logic. The idea that the recreational fishery should pay for the smaller percentage reduction of the commercial fishery with stiffer slot limits is particularly odious. We believe that Striped Bass should be a sport fishery.

Respectfully,

Jack Fullmer, Legislative Committee

jf2983182@msn.com

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SEP 30 2019



ASMFC

Mike Avery
President

September 23, 2019

John Satterly
Vice President

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Mike Ruggles
Treasurer

Lanie Avery
Secretary

On behalf of the more than 600 Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA) members, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of Interstate Fishery Management Plan FMP for Striped Bass.

Board of Directors

The Stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. In fact the stock has been overfished for 10 of the last 13 years. We commend the board for finally initiating this action to end overfishing in 2020.

Curtis Tomlin,
Chairman

Mike Avery
John Bello

Upon release of the draft addendum, VSSA initiated a poll presenting the options to our membership. To date we have had over 500 responses reflected in our positions below.

Mike Ruggles
Jerry Hughes

Option 1 – Status quo. VSSA does not support this option. With 547 votes in the VSSA poll, over 86% voted against maintaining the Status Quo, clearly indicating this is not the preferred option. Striped Bass are over fished and overfishing is occurring. VSSA supports proposed actions to reduce fishing mortality.

Lanie Avery
Mark Roy

Option 2 – apply an equal 18% reduction to both the recreational and commercial fisheries relative to the 2017 harvest. Striped bass is a shared resource and we believe all parties should share in the reduction as a matter of fairness and equity. With 547 voters responding, the majority voted in favor of this option. Accordingly VSSA endorses Option 2.

David Tobey
Sam Ashbee

Stan Sutliff

Sub Option Sub-Option 2-A: Ocean Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement).

Steve Atkinson
Denny Dobbins

VSSA supports Option 2A-2 which contains 25”to 35” slot with a bag limit of one. With 523 voters responding the majority favored option 2A-2. Limiting the harvest to one fish will help with the discard mortality issue.



September 23, 2019
 Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)
 Pg. 2.

Sub-Option 2-B: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC, DC and VA would implement).

There were 535 responses on the VSSA poll with only one vote separating the responses for 2B-2 and 2B-4. A copy of the poll question and responses is shown below.

VSSA Poll Response
<p>Sub Option 2B applies to the Chesapeake Bay for MD, VA, and Potomac River Fisheries Commission. If a slot option is selected there would be no take of any striped bass above or below the slot size.</p>
<p>2B-2. Minimum Size 22" with a bag limit of 2 (30%, 160 Votes)</p>
<p>2B-4. 20" to 24" slot with a bag limit of 2 (30%, 159 Votes)</p>
<p>2B-3. 18" to 23" slot with a bag limit of 2 (21%, 113 Votes)</p>
<p>2B-1. Minimum Size 18" with a bag limit of 1 (19%, 103 Votes)</p>
<p>Total Voters: 535</p>

Accordingly VSSA can support either option 2B-2 or 2B-4.

Option 3: The Commercial Sector Takes a Smaller Percent Reduction. VSSA does not support this option. Striped Bass is a shared public resource. We believe all parties must share in the reduction as a matter of fairness and equity. However, we will provide responses on the sub options to be used only if the commission decides in favor of a smaller reduction for the commercial fishery. The preferences shown below are based on the majority of voters responding to the VSSA poll.

Sub-Option 3-A: Ocean Recreational Fishery. VSSA would support Option 3A-2. 28"- 34" slot with a bag limit of 1.

Sub-Option 3-B: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC, DC and VA would implement). VSSA would support option 3B-4. 18" - 22" slot with a bag limit of 2.



September 23, 2019
Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

Pg. 3.

3.2 Circle Hook Provision. VSSA supports Option B. Whereby states/jurisdictions would be required to implement regulations requiring the use of circle hooks, with the intent of reducing striped bass discard mortality in their recreational fisheries. There were 500 votes cast and the majority was in favor of option B. All states will require monitoring and enforcement plans to ensure conservation gains are realized.

VSSA believes action on this addendum and current FMP has the necessary provisions to correct the overfishing situation. We do not believe a full amendment is necessary and oppose any action to initiate a full Amendment. The reference points in Amendment 6 offer the best path forward for Striped Bass. Undertaking the initiation of a full amendment will only cause additional undue delays and further weaken conservation efforts. Finally VSSA reminds the management board of the critical work underway developing Ecological Reference Points for Atlantic Menhaden. VSSA believes there is a strong correlation between a healthy population of Atlantic Menhaden and Striped Bass.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John J. Bello".

John J. Bello
Chair - VSSA Government Affairs Committee

cc: Steven G. Bowman - Virginia Marine Resource Commission



Maine Association of Charterboat Captains

www.mainechartercaptains.org

Date: October 2, 2019

To: Megan Ware, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Re: Striped Bass Amendment VI public hearing comments

From: The Maine Assn. of Charterboat Captains

Contact: Capt. Dave Pecci dave@obsessioncharters@gmail.com 207-841-1444 144 Whiskeag Rd. Bath, ME 04530

The Maine Association of Charterboat Captains (MACC) has surveyed its 52 members regarding amendment VI to the striped bass management plan. We submit this testimony regarding the slate of options being proposed to correct the current overfishing situation.

MACC supports option 2 of addendum VI. Striped bass are a valuable public marine resource along the eastern seaboard. Recreational and commercial users should equally share in the reductions needed to eliminate overfishing and to correct the fact that the stock is overfished. We do not support option 1 because it does not correct the current overfishing situation. We do not support option 3, commercial harvesters who exploit this fishery for profit should equally share in the reductions needed to restore it to a sustainable level.

Regarding the coastal stock fishery within Option 2:

- 54% of our members support sub option 2A2 (bag limit 1 @28"-35" slot with an estimated 19% reduction in harvest)
- 26% support sub option 2A1 (bag limit 1 @35" minimum with an estimated 18% reduction in harvest)
- 20% support sub option 2-A4 (bag limit 1 @32"-40" slot = estimated 21% reduction in harvest)

Regarding the Chesapeake Bay fishery within Option 2:

- 46% of our members support sub option 2B1 (bag limit 1 @18" = 20% estimated reduction in harvest)
- 38% of our members support sub option 2B2 (bag limit 2 @22" = 18% estimated reduction in harvest)
- 16% of our members support sub option 2B3 (bag limit 2 @18"-23" slot = 19% estimated reduction in harvest)

Additional comments received from our members:

- Several members feel that there should be consistency in regulations from state to state.
- Many members feel it is important to note that the impact Maine has on the striped bass fishery is insignificant when compared to the Mid-Atlantic states and the producer areas.
- Some members felt that the most restrictive options or even more restrictive ones than those proposed are needed.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important fishery to the Maine charter fishing and guiding industry.

An all-volunteer non-profit organization committed to the promotion of guided recreational fishing and eco-tourism and dedicated to the principles of conservation, professionalism and stewardship.



JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Working For Saltwater Resource & Marine Anglers

1594 Lakewood Rd (Rt. 9), Unit 13, Toms River, NJ 08755

Phone: 732-506-6565

FAX: 732-506-6975

Web Site <http://www.JCAA.org>

Email: jcaa@jcaa.org

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OCT 07 2019

10/1/19

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St. Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA. 22001

ASMFC

Max and ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association met on 9/24/19 and discussed Draft Addendum 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass. Except for one abstention, we **unanimously voted to support Option 2** which would require an 18% reduction for both the commercial and recreational sectors from 2017 levels. While some of our member clubs felt that the stocks have collapsed, others believe that the stock has diminished significantly but much of the biomass has shifted into federal waters. However, what we all agreed on is that striper fishing during the last decade or so has declined a great deal. Though there have been isolated areas such as Raritan Bay and the Cape Cod Canal where the striper fishing has been fabulous at times, most of the east coast has had very poor fishing. This is evidenced by surveys taken by the internet group Stripers Forever which has many avid striper fishermen throughout the various east coast states.

Whether you believe the stocks have collapsed or that the stocks have shifted to the east, something has to be done to further increase the biomass and improve our striper fishing. Even for those of you who may believe that the stocks have shifted to the east and that status quo is sufficient, please realize that by increasing the biomass, their range will expand not only to the north and south but hopefully to the west and into state waters where our many fishermen are allowed to fish for them.

Though we understand why some might argue for status quo, we don't agree with that for the reasons stated above and we are adamantly opposed to Option 3 that would result in a 20% reduction for recreational fishermen and only a 1.8% reduction for the commercial sector. JCAA was chiefly responsible for making striped bass a no-sale or gamefish in NJ and has been advocating for coastwide gamefish status for many years. While the commercial catch may seem relatively insignificant, the illegal sales of striped bass are a big problem in the states that allow stripers to be sold and these illegal fish are not added to the commercial harvest numbers.

Regarding the sub-options for Option 2, our clubs were almost equally divided with some favoring some form of the slot limit and others favoring a 35" minimum size limit. However, the majority of our clubs voted to support either **2-A1 with a 35" minimum size limit or 2-A 3 with a slot limit of 30"-38"** as **both these options would result in an 18% reduction**. Since option 2 requires an 18% reduction, we believe that the coastwide standard should be either or both of the aforementioned sub-options. We don't believe that a coastwide standard of 19% that would

be required under 2-A2 or the 21% that would be required under 2-A4 would be fair when the commercial sector would be required to only cut back by 18%.

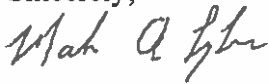
We thoroughly discussed the pros and cons of each of the options. Those clubs that preferred a slot limit felt the best way to restore the stocks would be by protecting the larger fish. However, those who preferred the 35" minimum size argued that the fastest way to restore the fishery is to protect the 2014 and 2015 year classes. The 2015 year class resulted in the largest recruitment of 1 year old fish (in 2016) since 2004. Some of these fish will be reaching spawning size in 2020. There was above average spawning in those two years so some of our members believe that we should be protecting them rather than forcing people to target them.

Though all of our clubs supported further conservation of the stocks, many were not happy with any of the sub-options. We believe that when reductions are necessary, they should be applied equally to all sectors of the angling community including C&R fishermen, those who prefer to take home a smaller fish to eat and those who prefer to fish in tournaments or target trophy fish. None of the sub-options offered allow us to do that. Therefore, we support conservation equivalency and we are hopeful that our state will develop options that will affect all sectors equally while meeting the anticipated mandatory reductions. For example, this could be done through seasonal closures or perhaps by allowing either a smaller striper or a larger striper to be harvested while protecting the medium sized fish that might be our best breeders.

Regarding the use of circle hooks, we support Option C which would require states/jurisdictions to promote the use of circle hooks by developing public education and outreach campaigns on their benefits when fishing with bait. We do not support Option B that would make circle hooks mandatory because it would create an enforcement nightmare for our limited law enforcement personnel. Further, the use of circle hooks is not practical under all circumstances. For instance, it would not be practical for long distance surfcasters who like to snag and drop bunker. We also suggest that additional ways to reduce the C&R mortality be included in educational efforts. People should be educated on the proper handling of fish so that they can be successfully released. The use of larger hooks and setting the hook quickly should be encouraged to reduce the chances of gut hooking fish. The use of heavier tackle so as not to unduly stress the fish should be encouraged. Fishermen should also be made aware of the effects of releasing fish when the water temperatures are high or the air temperatures are very cold.

In closing we would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please take the appropriate action to restore our striper stocks!

Sincerely,



Mark Taylor
JCAA President



JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Working For Saltwater Resource & Marine Anglers
1594 Lakewood Rd (Rt. 9), Unit 13, Toms River, NJ 08755
Phone: 732-506-6565
FAX: 732-506-6975
Web Site <http://www.JCAA.org>
Email: jcaa@jcaa.org

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OCT 6 7 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St. Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA. 22001

Max and ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

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Whether you believe the stocks have collapsed or that the stocks have shifted to the east, something has to be done to further increase the biomass and improve our striper fishing. Even for those of you who may believe that the stocks have shifted to the east and that status quo is sufficient, please realize that by increasing the biomass, their range will expand not only to the north and south but hopefully to the west and into state waters where our many fishermen are allowed to fish for them.

Though we understand why some might argue for status quo, we don't agree with that for the reasons stated above and we are adamantly opposed to Option 3 that would result in a 20% reduction for recreational fishermen and only a 1.8% reduction for commercial sector. JCAA was chiefly responsible for making striped bass a no-sale or gamefish in NJ and has been advocating for coastwide gamefish status for many years. While the commercial catch may seem relatively insignificant, the illegal sales of striped bass are a big problem in the states that allow stripers to be sold and these illegal fish are not added to the commercial harvest numbers.

Regarding the sub-options for Option 2, our clubs were almost equally divided with some favoring some form of the slot limit and others favoring a 35" minimum size limit. However, the majority of our clubs voted to support either **2-A1 with a 35" minimum size limit or 2-A 3 with a slot limit of 30"-38"** as both these options would result in an 18% reduction. Since option

2 requires an 18% reduction, we believe that the coastwide standard should be either or both of the aforementioned sub-options. We don't believe that a coastwide standard of 19% that would be required under 2-A2 or the 21% that would be required under 2-A4 would be fair when the commercial sector would be required to only cut back by 18%.

We thoroughly discussed the pros and cons of each of the options. Those clubs that preferred a slot limit felt the best way to restore the stocks would be by protecting the larger fish. However, those who preferred the 35" minimum size argued that the fastest way to restore the fishery is to protect the 2014 and 2015 year classes. The 2015 year class resulted the largest recruitment of 1 year old fish (in 2016) since 2004. Some of these fish will be reaching spawning size in 2020. There was above average spawning in those two years so some of our members believe that we should be protecting them rather than forcing people to target them.

Though all of our clubs supported further conservation of the stocks many were not happy with any of the sub-options. We believe that when reductions are necessary, they should be applied equally to all sectors of the angling community including C&R fishermen, those who prefer to take home a smaller fish to eat and those who prefer to fish in tournaments or target trophy fish. None of the sub-options offered allow us to do that. Therefore, **we support conservation equivalency** and we are hopeful that our state will develop options that will affect all sectors equally while meeting the anticipated mandatory reductions. For example, this could be done through seasonal closures or perhaps by allowing either a smaller striper or a larger striper to be harvested while protecting the medium sized fish that might be our best breeders.

Regarding the use of circle hooks, **we support Option C** which would require states/jurisdictions to promote the use of circle hooks by developing public education and outreach campaigns on their benefits when fishing with bait. We do not support Option B that would make circle hooks mandatory because it would create an enforcement nightmare for our limited law enforcement personnel. Further, the use of circle hooks is not practical under all circumstances. For instance, it would not be practical for long distance surfcasters who like to snag and drop bunker. We also suggest that additional ways to reduce the c&r mortality be included in educational efforts. People should be educated on the proper handling of fish so that they can be successfully released. The use of larger hooks and setting the hook quickly should be encouraged to reduce the chances of gut hooking fish. The use of heavier tackle so as not to unduly stress the fish should be encouraged. Fishermen should also be made aware of the effects of releasing fish when the water temperatures are high or the air temperatures are very cold.

In closing we would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please take the appropriate action to restore our striper stocks!

Sincerely,



Mark A. Taylor

JCAA President



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October 7, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Public Comments for Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am writing to you today on behalf of Regal Marine Products, Inc., regarding the Striped Bass draft Addendum VI. Regal Marine Products Inc., is a wholesale fishing bait and tackle distributor. We have over 300 accounts and service the NJ, NY, CT and RI region. We talk to our customers on a daily basis about not just business, but also regarding regulations and their impacts on the various regions, stakeholders and our livelihoods.

I have also submitted comments as a director of the New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association. And while my views here are relatively the same, I submit these comments on behalf of myself and my business.

Striped Bass is a vital fish to the recreational fishing community. For the industry, as stated right in the Addendum, the contribution to the recreational sector was "\$7.7 billion and supported 104,867 jobs." It goes without saying that the health of the Striped Bass fishery has a tremendous economic impact on the recreational fishing industry. However, it is not just the harvest of Striped Bass that lends to this impact, but the importance of access to the fishery for those who will become the future generation of fishermen.

Our customers represent, across multiple states, the shore-bound angler, the small boat angler, the Elite Surfcaster, the party/charter boat angler, the first-time angler and the experienced angler who's been through the rise, fall and rebuilding of this fishery. And while there was quite a divide as to which option was believed to be the right course of action, **we support Option 2**, that the reduction is applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector to achieve the proposed 18% reduction. Further, **we support Option 2-A2 for a 28" to 35" slot size**. With regards to the Chesapeake, we support an option to increase their minimum size.

With regards to **circle hooks**, **we support Option C**, to promote their use through education. There is no doubt that the use of circle hooks has a positive impact on the fishery. We believe it is premature to mandate the use at this time as there is much more to flush out on this concept. Step one is to educate the public on the benefits of using the circle hooks as well as education of proper catch and release methods to help reduce discard mortality. If the use of circle hooks is to be mandated, we need to properly define, not just a circle hook, but the enforcement guidelines. There are many hooks that cross species applications. How will enforcement determine if someone is using a non-circle hook and what they are targeting? In addition, the tackle industry needs time to react. Not only do our customers have non-circle hook inventory on hand, but manufacturers are planning 18-24 months in advance and need time to change over. Not just to adjust projections for the increased demand of a circle hook to have adequate supply available, but to change over the numerous pre-snelled hooks and rigs for Bass applications that are currently using non-circle hooks. The negative economic implications to ourselves and the industry on any quick changeover would be a severely harsh impact.

Sincerely,
Melissa Dearborn
Melissa Dearborn

Exec. Vice President, Regal Marine Products, Inc.

New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association
P.O. Box 3210
Patchogue, NY 11772
nyftta@gmail.com

October 7, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
RE: Public Comments for Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

The New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association (NYFTTA) represents retail and wholesale bait and tackle dealers in the New York Marine district. The livelihood of our members, our industry, depends upon healthy stocks of many species of fish. Our mission is not just to promote the sport of fishing, but also to do our part in conserving resources for the future. Conserving resources for the future is not just managing the fishery from a conservation or regulatory approach, but also accounting for the socioeconomic impact of such regulations and maintaining fair and equitable access.

Striped Bass is a vital fish to the recreational fishing community. For the industry, as stated right in the Addendum, the contribution to the recreational sector was “\$7.7 billion and supported 104,867 jobs.” It goes without saying that the health of the Striped Bass fishery has a tremendous economic impact on the recreational fishing industry. However, it is not just the harvest of Striped Bass that lends to this impact, but the importance of access to the fishery for those who will become the future generation of fishermen.

The members of NYFTTA were conflicted on the options laid forth in the Addendum, as New York’s fishery is quite diverse in region as well as participants to the fishery. And yet, there was still no clear cut delineation of divide, as at all corners of our marine district we represent; the shore-bound angler, the small boat angler, the Elite Surfcaster, the party/charter boat angler, the first time angler and the experienced angler who’s been through the rise, fall and rebuilding of this fishery.

NYFTTA supports Option 2, that the reduction is applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector to achieve the proposed 18% reduction. Further, we support **Option 2-A2 for a 28” to 35”** slot size. While a slot size is still not a “proven” winner in some minds, we believe it is the option that will allow equal access to the fishery while still meeting the required reduction. In addition, it is believed that the 2014-2015 year classes are strong and will be available in 2020. Jumping to a 1 fish at 35” size this year will result in a tremendous increase in discard mortality. In addition, 1 fish at 35”, also limits the access to the fishery for large sectors of the fishing community and in fact only the minority of anglers have the proper ways and means to get to the areas to harvest that size of a fish. **With regards to the Chesapeake, we support an option to increase their minimum size.**

With regards to circle hooks, NYFTTA supports **Option C, to promote their use through education**. There is no doubt that the use of circle hooks has a positive impact on the fishery. We believe it is premature to mandate the use at this time as there is much more to flush out on this concept. Step one is to educate the public on the benefits of using the circle hooks as well as education of proper catch and release methods to help reduce discard mortality. If the use of circle hooks is to be mandated, we need to properly define, not just a circle hook, but the enforcement guidelines. There are many hooks that cross species applications. How will enforcement determine if someone is using a non-circle hook and what they are targeting? In addition, the tackle industry needs time to react. Not only do retail shops have inventory on hand, but manufacturers are planning 18-24 months in advance and need time to change over, not just projections for the increased demand

of a circle hook to have adequate supply available, but to change the numerous pre-snelled hooks and rigs for Bass applications that are currently using non-circle hooks. The negative economic implications to industry on any quick changeover would be a severely harsh impact.

Many will comment that 1 fish at 35" is the way to go as it was the proven path we took before. However, we are smarter now than we were 30 years ago and we are taking action much sooner to prevent getting to that brink of collapse from the past. We sacrificed in the past and saw what that sacrifice could do to rebuild the fishery. We recognize the importance of the Striped Bass to the recreational fishing community, industry and ecosystem as a whole. And as stewards who have a vested interest, we are not afraid to make the right choice when it is required. However, we bring with us the knowledge of 30 years of rebuilding and managing this fishery. We are not at the same brink of collapse, but rather in a position recognizing the signs, that necessary reductions can be achieved now; thus rebuilding the stock while maintaining and keeping the opportunity of access for current and future generations of Striped Bass fisherman.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Melissa Dearborn
Vice President, NYFTTA



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October 7, 2019

[via email to comments@asmfc.org]

Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St, Ste. 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman:

The Twin Rivers Waterman's Association (the "Watermen") represents the interests of commercial fishermen who fish in an area located within the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. As counsel to the Watermen, we submit these comments concerning Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass dated August 2019 ("Draft Addendum VI"). Representatives of the Watermen and other commercial fishermen have previously submitted comments and spoken at the public hearings held by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission ("ASMFC"). We hope you will accept these comments as a supplement to theirs.

To begin, the Watermen share the ASFMC's goal of promoting the vitality of the entire Atlantic Striped Bass fishery, and particularly the Chesapeake Bay fishery. We understand that Draft Addendum VI was developed to address the results of the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment of Atlantic Striped Bass, which indicated that the stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing.¹ Consequently, the purpose of Draft Addendum VI is to bring fishing mortality to the target level. Specifically, Draft Addendum VI "proposes alternative measures for the Commercial and Recreational Fisheries aimed to reduce total removals by 18% compared to 2017 levels in order to achieve F Target in 2020." (Draft Addendum VI, § 2.1, p. 1.)

In order to achieve its ultimate goal of addressing fishing mortality to support the stock and prevent overfishing, it is essential that the actions taken by the ASFMC be directed at the

¹ We would also not that the results of the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment have been questioned, and ask that the Commission carefully review the evidence of successful spawn seasons in recent years,

problem that has been identified, be effective, and be fair. In order for those things to happen, the Watermen offer two principal comments: (1) Given that the problem of excess removals is largely the result of recreational fishing, the solution should be directed at that problem, and any reduction imposed on commercial fishing should be limited, at most, to the 1.8% reduction found in Option 3; and (2) Given that the burden on the Atlantic Striped Bass fishery is not uniform among the several states that participate in the ASMFC, and that the regulations that have been imposed to date by the different states – and the results of those regulations – have been extremely different, the ASFMC needs to consider solutions on a state-by-state basis, and not on an across-the-board basis which is unsupported and which will be ineffective.

1. Any Reduction Imposed on Commercial Fishing Should Be Limited, At Most, to the 1.8% Reduction Found in Option 3.

Simply stated, the problem of fishing mortality that Draft Addendum VI is designed to address is a problem caused by recreational fishing and not by commercial fishing. As the Draft Addendum itself recognizes, “[t]he current fishery is predominantly recreational with the sector accounting for roughly 90% of total harvest by weight since 2004.” (Draft Addendum VI, § 2.2.3, p. 3.) Moreover, approximately 90% of the recreational catch is released alive, of which 9% are estimated to die as a result of being caught. Release mortality accounted for roughly 48% of total removals in 2017 and 49% in 2018. (Draft Addendum VI, § 2.1, p. 1.)

The stark difference between the impacts of the recreational harvest and recreational release mortality, on the one hand, and commercial harvest and commercial discards, on the other hand, can be seen clearly in Figure 3 to the Draft Addendum. The commercial harvest is not only much smaller, but has been constant and declining in recent years, and the impact of commercial discards is insignificant. (Draft Addendum VI, Figure 3.)

Clearly, the commercial fishermen are not contributing to the problem. In fact, the system already in place for the commercial fishery has proven to be not only effective, but more than adequate.

The commercial fishery is managed via a state-specific quota system based on average landings during the 1970s, resulting in relatively stable landings since 2004. . . . From 2015-2018, commercial landings have decreased to an average of 4.8 million pounds (611,000 fish) due to implementation of Addendum IV and a reduction in the commercial quota.

(Draft Addendum VI, §2.2.3, p. 4.)

In contrast to the quotas imposed on commercial fishermen, both the current limitations on recreational fishing, and the limitations now being proposed, are admittedly insufficient to address the problem directly.

The current recreational striped bass management program uses bag limits and size limits to limit the number of fish that are harvested. However, these measures are not designed to reduce fishing effort and subsequent release mortality. While the proposed measures herein result in lower overall removals, the majority of them also increase dead releases. In order to address dead releases, effort controls that are better designed to reduce the number of fishing trips that encounter striped bass should be considered (e.g., closed seasons).

(Draft Addendum VI, § 2.1, p. 1.)

What is obvious from reading the Draft Addendum itself is that the commercial fishermen are not the problem. They need not, and in fairness should not, have an out-of-balance solution imposed upon them. A status quo option for commercial fishermen only, however, is not one of the options being offered. At most, any further reduction imposed on commercial fisherman should be limited to the 1.8% reduction found at Option 3.

2. The ASFMC Needs to Consider Solutions on a State-By-State Basis, and Not on an Across-The-Board Basis.

Draft Addendum VI recognizes that the commercial fishermen are subject to state-specific quotas, and that the Chesapeake Bay and Ocean fisheries present different situations and circumstances, but the Draft Addendum offers only across-the-board solutions that fail to recognize those differences. The differences between the current situations in the participating states, however, need to be recognized in order for any solutions to be effective, and in order for those solutions to be fair.

As currently proposed, no matter which one of the options that have been offered is selected, the commercial fishermen in every jurisdiction will see the same percentage reduction in their quotas – even though they are not subject to the same quotas. Every state will not be contributing to the solution in equal measure. In fact, those fishermen who have already been contributing the most to improve the situation will be asked to contribute even more than the others, and those that have been contributing the least will have the smallest additional burden imposed upon them. That is not an effective way to solve a problem.

The only accommodation to state specific circumstances that is found in the Draft Addendum is the possibility that Conservation Equivalency Proposals will be accepted. (Draft Addendum VI, § 2.2.6, p. 7.) This can be helpful, but only if appropriate state-specific proposals are offered and only if they are accepted. In Virginia, for example, regulations designed in anticipation of Draft Addendum VI have already been implemented in the expectation that they may be accepted as equivalents. Commercial fisherman, for example, are now subject to gill net

maximum mesh size requirements, which they were not subject to before, pursuant to emergency regulations adopted on August 28, 2019 that were made permanent on September 24, 2019. (See Amendments to 4 VAC 20-252-10 et seq., “Pertaining to the Taking of Striped Bass,” Sept. 24, 2019.)

But even if appropriate Conservation Equivalency Proposals are offered and accepted, that does not change the fact that they will need to provide equivalents for across-the-board quota reductions that are unsupported and unfair in the first place. The options currently offered in the Draft Addendum would apply an overly simplistic fix to a very complex situation.

Thank you for your attention to these comments, and for giving due consideration to the interests of Virginia’s commercial fishermen.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Quinan

cc: Douglas F. Jenkins, Sr.
Phyllis J. Jones



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October 7, 2019

Via Email

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
comments@asmfc.org

Dear Mr. Appelman:

The Delmarva Fisheries Association (DFA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. **Our members are united in their support of Option 3** – a 20% reduction to the recreational fishery and a 1.8% reduction to the commercial fishery. It is well-documented that the recreational fishery is responsible for 90% of the dead discards in this fishery and therefore their reduction should be commensurate with their impact.

We are also supportive of a mandatory circle hook requirement to further slow the alarming rate at which the recreational fishery reduces the biomass. The commercial fishery has hard catch limits and other checks and balances that simply don't exist in the recreational fishery and it is imperative that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission take this into consideration as it considers its next steps in protecting the Striped Bass resource.

The Delmarva Fisheries Association is a 501(c)(6) trade association established to protect, defend and enhance the commercial fishing industry in the DelMarVa region for present participants as well as future generations through all legal means while maintaining healthy and sustainable stocks of fish. We hope our comments are helpful. Do not hesitate to reach out for clarification or with questions.

Sincerely,

Capt. Robert Newberry
Chairman



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President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Director

Capt. Rick Bellavance
Capt. Steve Anderson
Capt. Andrew D'Angelo
Capt. Paul Johnson
Capt. Nick Butziger

October 4, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

On behalf of the 56 members of the R.I. Party and Charter Boat Association, I would like to submit the following comments regarding Draft Addendum VI to the ASMFC's Atlantic Striped Bass FMP.

After carefully reviewing the Draft Addendum and recognizing the importance of Striped Bass to our businesses and our clients, the RI Party and Charter Boat Association recommends **Option 1: Status Quo**.

Option 1 is the only option in the document that will not increase dead discards. All the sub-options listed in Options 2 and 3 will cause our members to fish harder than they do now to catch keeper striped bass with more fished released that could end up dead. Our members provide a means for the non-boat owning public to access the Striped Bass resource and most of our clients have the hope and expectation of being able to bring one striped bass home to eat. Once we catch our daily limit, we generally move onto another species for the remainder of the trip. As the document states, 49% of all Striped Bass mortality comes from recreational discards. Some of the sub-options could see that rate go as high as 55%! We see that as wasteful and not in line with the goals of the ASMFC.

Options 2 and 3 will negatively impact recreational anglers who wish to take a fish home to eat, but a catch and release recreational angler will not be impacted in any negative way. Mortality comes from all recreational fishers and management measures should be developed that recognize what drives mortality caused by all recreational fishers, not just those who want a fish to eat. Our clients rarely take part in the fishery management process, our voice is there's and we believe they should be treated fairly.

As stated in the document, Option 1 Status Quo has the potential to constrain mortality to the required F rate. This occurred in 2018 and we believe it will again in 2019. We expect recreational catch estimates to decrease in 2019 from 2018, and 2018 was already down 18% from 2017 levels under Status Quo measures. This would suggest our current measures already constrain catch to a level necessary to allow growth of the stock and meet the objectives of the Draft Addendum.

In Rhode Island, few species mean as much as Striped Bass to our industry. The pro-active measures taken by the Striped Bass Management Board in Addendum IV took an economic toll on our businesses. When we submitted comments for Addendum IV, we were 65 members now we are 56. We have had a difficult time adjusting and adapting to Addendum IV and our industry is finding it harder and harder to remain profitable, unnecessarily adding more restrictive Striped Bass regulations will hurt us further.

Our members are on the water nearly every day and we see a healthy stock with a very strong future. Most of us agree that there are less bigger fish than in years past, but they are still there. SSB has been significantly lower in the past and we believe current SSB levels are adequate to sustain and grow the stock. Considering the large amount of smaller sized fish we see and catch, its clear Addendum IV is doing its job. We recommend sticking with those measures and let the stock grow as the board intended. Selecting measures that impact only those who take fish home and promote increased release mortality is premature when measures to address release mortality have not been contemplated.

Additionally, the Striped Bass Management Board should consider increased non-compliance that will result from stricter regulations placed on a stock that is so abundant to the recreational fishery. Non-compliance and illegal poaching of fish is rampant under the current regulations, this is evident when one reviews different State enforcement social media postings. Selecting management Option's 2 and 3 will ultimately increase and reward bad behavior while punishing recreational fishers that abide by the regulations. Managers should develop measures that address illegal fishing and curb release mortality prior to looking to harm recreational fishers that pride themselves in following the rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Addendum. The Boards decisions are very important to our short- and long-term future and we hope our comments help to inform those decisions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Capt. Rick Bellavance, President
RI Party and Charter Boat Association

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Mark Ambrosia | Misty - 43' |
| 2 Steven Anderson | Bare Bones - 32' |
| 3 Stephen Babigian | Lady K - 43' |
| 4 Randell Bagwell | River Rebel - 26' |
| 5 Norm Bardell | Busy Line - 23' |
| 6 Chris Bell | Adventure - 35' |
| 7 Earl Bell | Aces Wild - 35' |
| 8 Rick Bellavance | Priority Too - 36' |
| 9 Russ Benn | Seven B's - 80' |
| 10 Russell Blank | Striker - 30' |
| 11 Frank Blount | Lady Frances - 105' |

12 Charles Boranian	Gail Ann - 27'
13 Jon Regini	Shortcake – 23'
14 Nick Butziger	Sea Hawk - 37'
15 Al Caletri	Avenger - 26'
16 Scott Capwell	A to Z - 35'
17 John Carpenter	Jackhammer - 24'
18 Rick Cataldi	Island Girl - 44'
19 Mitch Chagnon	Sakarak - 31'
20 Richard Chatowsky Sr	Drifter Too - 35'
21 Jason Howell	Pamela May – 23'
22 Barry Cherms	C.J. - 31'
23 Andrew Dangelo	Maridee II - 36'
24 Bill Della Valle	Old Salt - 31'
25 Denny Dillon	Persuder - 44'
26 Charles Donilon	Snappa - 46'
27 Steven Follett	Andrew&Steven - 41'
28 Matthew Cox	Laura Ann – 38'
29 Jeff Hall	Fully Involved - 23'
30 Chris Herz	Hiz and Herz - 30'
31 Kip Jenkins	Just Fish - 29'
32 Charles Jenison	Nasha III - 34'
33 Charlie Johnson	Hot Pursuit - 37'
34 Paul Johnson Sr	Carol J - 31'
35 Willam Kelly	Knotty dog - 25'
36 Tom Logan	Fish Trap - 36'
37 Scott Lundberg	Reel to Reel - 35'
38 John McCann	Mission - 25 '
39 David Monti	Virginia Joan - 26'
40 Joe Pagano	Stuff it - 23'
41 Steven Palmer	Lucky Lady - 32'
42 John Parente	Patty J - 35'
43 Brian Patterson	Fin Deep - 23'
44 John Rainone	L'il Toot - 35'
45 Linwood Safford	Cherry Pepper - 32'
46 Karl Schmaling	Vycore - 31'
47 Mark Sherer	Gannet - 21'
48 John Sheriff	Fish On - 29'
49 Kelly Smith	C-Devil II - 32'
50 Rich Templeton	Restless - 37'
51 David Tyrrell	Mako II - 43'
52 Brian Bacon	Big Game 35'
53 Rich Napolitano	Not Reel Teeth 50'
54 Joe Bleczinski	Lady Karen 28'
55 Jeff O'Brien	Gannset 48'
56 Mike Littlefield	Arc Angel 21'

To: Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator - ASMFC

From: Fred Golofaro, Senior Editor – The Fisherman Magazine

Thank you for your presentation and overseeing the public hearing on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass held at Bethpage State Park on September 4th. It was clear to all at the hearing that those in attendance are passionate about the striped bass fishery. Throughout the course of the hearing, the most debated and contested issue concerned the size limits proposed in the options laid out by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Many speakers from the recreational side supported the 35-inch minimum size limit while many of the for-hire captains supported a slot limit. Jim Gilmore, director of marine resources at DEC and chair of ASMFC made it clear that economic impact on user groups is a consideration, referencing the effect it could have on the for-hire industry. Release mortality was another issue that drew considerable attention.

We believe the 35-inch size limit makes sense for a lot of reasons, including the potential mortality levels associated with the catch and release of large stripers, especially during the warm water months. The handling alone of 30 to 50-pound stripers does not play well with releasing fish of this size, especially from the deck of a party or large charter boat. Most of the people I've spoken to over the last couple of years that were opposed to the higher size limit had never released or attempted to release a large striped bass. There are situations from the surf and boat which are too numerous to list that play against the successful release of fish weighing 30 pounds or more. The safest release is accomplished by not removing the fish from the water which isn't always an option. A 35-inch size limit would also protect the large numbers of small stripers currently in the fishery as a result of relatively recent good year classes in Chesapeake Bay and the Hudson River. It would allow them to reproduce multiple times before being harvested provided they are not decimated by the Virginia and Maryland fisheries as was the case with the 2011 year class. It should also be noted that these small fish survive release at a dramatically higher rate than large striped bass, especially during the spring and fall fisheries. Lastly, as was pointed out by several speakers, the 36-inch size played a large part in the fishery's recovery in the 1990s. It worked then, it should work now and it's easy to see why those concerned about the fishery would support the 35-inch minimum.

That said, for-hire captains, while concerned about the impact of regulations on their ability to make a living, also showed concern for the striped bass fishery. Many pointed out that the number of striped bass that would have to be caught and released before they were able to fill their limit of keeper size fish at 35 inches could result in a dramatic increase in the mortality rate, which most people feel is already too high. A slot limit beginning at 28 inches would greatly reduce the number of fish caught and released which should help reduce release mortality, providing fishing ended with their limit being filled. For those convinced that 35 inches is the only way to go, also consider that according to the "best available data,"

party boats account for less than two percent of the landings in New York. Given that figure, the number of smaller fish being harvested would be minimal and it makes for a valid argument in support of a slot for the for-hires. Pointing to the success of snook and redfish down south does not. Those are primarily small boat, light tackle fisheries that allow anglers to properly resuscitate and release large redfish or snook. Also, the redfish fishery is supplemented with stocked fish, and there is no commercial fishing for these species. Imagine if striped bass were given gamefish status how much healthier and easier to manage the fishery would be.

On the other side of the coin, there are party and charter boats, particularly in Montauk but also in Captree, the Western Sound and North Fork, that at various times during the season rely on catching mostly large stripers. Do we want party boats dropping 30 and 40-pound stripers from four or five feet back into the water without being revived? What are their chances of survival? There have been nights on summer moons when some Montauk open boats have limited out with 40 or more people on fish from 25 to 50 pounds. How many of those fish do we think would survive? Giving for-hire vessels the option of a 35 or over would also result in even less small fish from those good year classes being harvested which is one of the benefits of the 35 inch limit.

All of the above leads us to believe the one sensible solution that serves the best interest of the fish is to petition the ASMFC to have their technical committee go back and review the possibility of whether splitting up the regulations into a 35-inch minimum for recreational, and providing the option of keeping a 28 to 32-inch slot fish, OR one fish over 35 inches for the for-hire boats would meet the required reduction for New York. Since the approved options were factored on a coast wide basis, the technical committee would have to approve it for New York on a conservation equivalency basis. Several captains and for-hire organizations have already acknowledged a willingness to drop the captain and mates as being counted into the catch, as well as reducing the season to a May 1 opening and November 30 closing. Both of those changes should factor into the equation for getting approval of a divided fishery, for which there is already a precedent with scup, and previously with striped bass.

Other aspects of the Addendum addressed during the hearing include the split in reduction between commercial and recreational fisheries (Option 2). It was pretty much unanimous among those who spoke that the reduction should be shared equally at 18 percent by both user groups, to which we agree. Those who addressed the circle hook options, with one or two exceptions, favored the mandatory use of circle hooks for bait fishing for striped bass. We also support the mandatory use of circle hooks when bait fishing for striped bass. The use of circle hooks for baits like bunker chunks and especially clams is a no-brainer.

Despite the passion displayed by so many of the speakers at the hearing, it's important to remember that the fate of the striped bass extends far beyond these relatively minor changes in the big picture. There are many more concerns, none that I can recall being raised over the course of the meeting. There is the spring fishery in NY Bight and the Hudson River that target large females ripe with eggs staging and then entering the river. Common sense dictates we should not be fishing on those fish yet a fleet of boats pounded away at them from the Marine District's April 15 opening well into May this past spring. Once they made it up the river, fish over 40 inches were fair game from the April 1 Hudson River opening through April and May. And what about all of the other tributaries up and down the Striper Coast?

How about the proliferation of gillnetting on the East End which goes on pretty much unregulated. There are no restrictions on the distance a net can be set from the beach, the tagging system is ripe with abuse, and you have haul seiners circumventing the ban on haul seining for striped bass by replacing their netting with gill nets. Both groups have been responsible for the death of protected sharks, porpoises, great white pups and seals but the beat goes on. New York is the only state from Delaware to Maine that allows netting for striped bass with the exception of a small number of fish traps in Rhode Island.

The commercial rod and reel fishery in Massachusetts is a joke. Anyone, resident or not, can go up there and get a license to sell striped bass. Many of those lining the banks of the Cape Cod Canal during those major blitzes of big stripers are "recreational" anglers selling their catch. Abuse is rampant with over the limit catches commonplace given the demand for striped bass at the fish market. That rod and reel fishery should be restricted to those making a large percentage of their income from the sea.

The issue of release mortality needs to be addressed. While I don't necessarily buy the figures out there (again the best available data), whatever the percentage, there is much more we can do to improve on reducing the number. More education on catch and release practices, and the need to carry the right tools. Striped bass, or any fish for that matter, survive best when not removed from the water. How many boats carry a long handled hook disgorgers that would allow hook removal with the fish in the water? Is it too farfetched to make it a requirement for boats to carry such a tool?

Maintaining healthy fisheries is a complex undertaking faced with many variables that are difficult to control but need to be improved upon. Improving the water quality of our bays and estuaries should be a priority, and so should improving on the accuracy of the data we use to make decisions on issues that affect the livelihood and quality of life of so many people. Public hearings like Wednesday's are a good start, but it shouldn't end there if we want to leave a legacy of healthy fisheries for future generations of anglers.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Fred Golofaro

Director of Editorial

The Fisherman

fgolofaro@thefisherman.com

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CCA North Carolina

Celebrating 30 Years of Conservation

1989 - 2019

October 2, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St.
Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Appelman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum 6 to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. The Coastal Conservation Association is the largest marine resource conservation organization of its kind in the nation, with more than 130,000 members in state chapters on all three coasts.

Striped bass are an iconic species for legions of saltwater recreational fishermen on the Atlantic coast and are pursued from the time they reach 18 inches in the estuaries of their natal rivers. The fishery on them is conducted 12 months of the year as they migrate along the most heavily populated coastline in the country, with the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone acting as a refuge for the breeding population. It is a remarkable achievement that the ASMFC's management of this fishery has maintained the population as well as it has since the recovery in 1995.

Under proper conservation measures for both size and bag limits, fishing for the decade after the recovery was exceptional, seemingly everywhere from Maine in the summer to North Carolina in the winter. This period was also marked by a period of above-average recruitment. Predictably, however, recruitment went through a below-average period and the population started to decline. In hindsight, the ASMFC should have acted to reduce the fishing mortality during the low recruitment period to slow that decline. The Striped Bass Technical Committee advised the Board that spawning stock biomass (SSB) was declining and that unless recruitment changed, the stock would become overfished. The SSB declined below the target level in 2012 and finally declined below the threshold in the 2018 stock assessment report.

The ASMFC should be applauded for acting to end overfishing as soon as they received this stock status last year. However, given the importance of striped bass to the Atlantic recreational fishery, and the inherent critical importance of

Dedicated to the Conservation of North Carolina's Marine Resources

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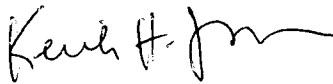
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abundance to the recreational fishery, the ASMFC should have heeded their Technical Committee's advice and stopped the steady slide of SSB. As we have argued since the inception of Amendment 6, fishing mortality was too high for the stock to remain abundant and indeed the population has declined to the great concern of the angling community. A reduction in fishing mortality, greater than the currently proposed 18 percent, would pay dividends for the future abundance of striped bass and help guard against the inevitable downward variations in recruitment success in the future.

With regard to the options that are available in Addendum 6, CCA supports Option 2 - equal percent reductions for all sectors - as all sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness.

Additionally, CCA supports the mandatory use of circle hooks when using natural bait as a matter of principle. We encourage all states to develop monitoring programs so that the conservation gains realized by the use of circle hooks translate into lower discard mortality and greater abundance.

Sincerely,



Keith Johnson, Chairman
CCA NC Government Relations Committee



Chris Elkins, PhD, Chairman
CCA NC Fisheries Committee

Copy: Steven Murphey, NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Jerry Mannen
Sen. Bob Steinburg, NC State Senate
Michael Blanton
Chris Batsavage, NC Division of Marine Fisheries



October 4, 2019

Max Appelman
ASMFC Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mr. Appelman,

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) regarding Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

ASA is the nation's recreational fishing trade association and represents sportfishing manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, and angler advocacy groups, as well as the interests of America's 49 million recreational anglers. ASA also safeguards and promotes the social, economic, and conservation values of sportfishing in America, which result in a \$125 billion per year impact on the nation's economy.

ASA recognizes that a healthy striped bass population and fishery is critical to the sportfishing industry and is a significant driver of angler engagement and participation along the Atlantic coast. While the stock is significantly healthier than it was when the moratorium was enacted in the 1980s, recent declining trends in the population and its fishery continue to be a cause for concern. Through the sportfish restoration program, the sportfishing industry and its anglers have cooperatively supported conservation efforts to restore significant fisheries like striped bass. This time is no different, and as an industry that loves our sport, we understand the responsibility of making tough management decisions to ensure our fisheries continue to thrive. Therefore, we support ending overfishing as a critical first step to rebuilding the striped bass population and offer the following management recommendations to ASMFC.

3.1 Proposed Management Scenario

ASA supports scenario 2, which would reduce total removals by 18% by taking equal percent reductions between the recreational and commercial sectors. Our justification is as follows.

- Conservation efforts should be shared equally between the recreational and commercial sectors because everyone that uses the resource has a shared interest in its future.
- In management scenarios 2 and 3, the reductions for the commercial sector are based on Addendum IV quotas instead of 2017 harvest potentially allowing for an increase in removals if the quotas are fully utilized. This contradicts the intent of the Addendum, and so although there is no option that achieves an 18% reduction from 2017 removals for the commercial sector, scenario 2 is the closest alternative.
- Scenario 3 would disproportionately punish states that only have a recreational fishery or convert their commercial quota to a recreational bonus fish program (e.g., ME, NH, CT, NJ, PA, DC).
- 97% of total economic contribution came from the recreational sector in 2016, and that amounted to expenditures totaling \$6.3 billion dollars. Therefore, placing more economic

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burden on the recreational fishery by taking a smaller reduction on the commercial fishery would be economically unwise.

Recreational Fishery Management Sub-Options 2-A and 2-B and Conservation Equivalency

Every sub-option for reducing removals in both the Ocean and Chesapeake Bay recreational fisheries meets or exceeds the 18% reduction. We recommend ASMFC strive for coastwide consistency in management measures but support the use of conservation equivalency programs if (1) the proposed alternative measures quantifiably achieve the required reduction and (2) the Board follows up to hold states accountable for those reductions through the fishery performance review process.

ASA also notes that the management addendum suggests the use of effort controls as a measure to more effectively reduce total removals. Although the use of seasons is difficult to implement as a coastwide measure, ASA recommends that states consider using effort controls when developing their conservation equivalency proposals with the understanding that any measures developed by states will be fully vetted through a stakeholder input process.

3.2 Circle Hook Provision

ASA supports option B, which would require the use of non-offset circle hooks when fishing with bait.

- Currently, circle hook requirements for the striped bass fishery vary across the states even though science supports the use of circle hooks reduces discard mortality.
- 90% of recreational catch is released alive so any efforts to reduce discard mortality will help the resource.
- Educational campaigns to teach anglers the various techniques of using circle hooks should be employed by all the states to support effective implementation of this option.

Conclusion

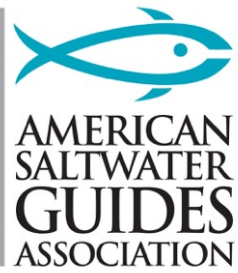
The sportfishing industry is supportive of ASMFC taking immediate action to end overfishing and start rebuilding the striped bass resource. Furthermore, the management options recommended within this letter are a fair and balanced approach to ensuring the future sustainability of this important resource.

Sincerely,



Michael Waine
Atlantic Fisheries Policy Director
American Sportfishing Association

American Saltwater Guides Association



Promoting Sustainable
Business Through
Marine Conservation

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

**Peter Jenkins,
Chairman**

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**ME, Capt. Kyle Schaefer,
Soul Fly Outfitters**

**NH, Capt. Peter,
Whalen, Shoals Fly
Fishing and Light Tackle**

**MA, Capt. Jamie, Boyle
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Fluke Fishing**

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**Washington, DC, Rich
Farino, District Angling**

**Capt John McMurray,
President**

**Tony Friedrich,
VP/Policy Director**

The American Saltwater Guides Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass. Rebuilding the striped bass population is critical to the future viability of our businesses. Our lives are intrinsically linked to the health of our shared marine resources.

Striped bass are overfished and overfishing is occurring. We have overfished the stock for eleven of the last thirteen years. It is time for all stakeholders to give back to the resource.

We spend our lives on the water and have known there was a problem for almost a decade. We have voiced our concerns. We have patiently waited for the stock assessment to be completed. The science paints a picture that is far more daunting than most would have imagined.

As we have mentioned in the past, the flexibility that is allowed at the Commission has caused striped bass populations to plummet to levels not seen since the early nineties. Under a more rigid framework like that governing the actions of federal fishery management councils, created by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, striped bass would likely not be in this situation. In fact, under the best circumstances, this amendment won't rebuild the stock until 2033. All the while, Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass mandates rebuilding within a ten-year time frame. This is a glaring example of the lack of accountability with ASMFC.



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American Saltwater Guides Association



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Peter Jenkins,
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Tony Friedrich,
VP/Policy Director

While we believe that more decisive action is required, we also understand the parameters of the comments for this addendum. We are committed to working within the system.

The American Saltwater Guides Association strongly urges the Commission to adopt the following options to end overfishing and rebuild the stock.

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

We are all stakeholders in this fishery. We all benefit from an abundant population of striped bass and we should all shoulder the responsibility of rebuilding the stock equally.

Sub-Option 2A-1

1 fish @35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery

We rebuilt the stock with a similar size and creel limit before. We know that this approach has a history of success. Furthermore, conservation equivalency severely limits the potential effectiveness of a slot limit. If all states are not REQUIRED to adhere to the same slot size, how can a slot limit possibly work?

Sub-Option 2B-1

1 Fish @ 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

As you are well aware, the recreational sector in Maryland was allowed to grossly overfish because their conservation equivalency proposal was not accurately assessed by the Technical Committee.



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Peter Jenkins,
Chairman

Board:

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Tony Friedrich,
VP/Policy Director

This is the most restrictive and quantifiable option for harvest reductions in the Chesapeake Bay. One fish would also address many of the concerns regarding catch and release mortality.

Circle Hook Provision

Option B

If we are truly concerned about catch and release mortality, and it is not a "red herring" to take the focus away from overharvest, then we must adopt mandatory circle hook regulations. Peer reviewed science shows us that circle hooks greatly improve catch and release mortality numbers. We urge the commission to adopt this measure.

As guides, it feels like we are being hit from all sides. Pollution, climate change, and overharvest are constantly threatening our ability to provide a stable life for our families. This addendum addresses overharvest. We hope that one day soon, we will be proactively addressing all the issues that impact our ability to introduce anglers to the outdoors as well as instill a love and stewardship for the ocean.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment

Tony Friedrich

Tony Friedrich
VP/Policy Director
American Saltwater Guides Association





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Saving a National Treasure

October 7, 2019

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Max Appelman
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Chesapeake Bay Foundation Comments on Striped Bass Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), I wish to provide the following comments on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP). CBF is the largest conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Our motto, *Save the Bay*, defines the organization's mission and commitment to reducing pollution, improving fisheries, and protecting and restoring natural resources such as wetlands, forests, and underwater grasses. CBF has more than 200,000 members who support the wise management of the region's living resources.

CBF has participated in the management process for striped bass for over 25 years because the population of striped bass and its various fisheries are of great importance to both our members and staff. Despite their current drop in abundance, striped bass remain one of the United States' greatest fisheries management success stories and continue to be one of the most popular recreational fisheries and valuable commercial fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Striped bass are one of the most iconic species in the Chesapeake Bay region and both Maryland and Virginia have designated the species as a state fish.^{1,2} From a biological perspective, the Chesapeake Bay spawning areas account for more than 70 percent of the coastal migratory striped bass population.³

The decline of striped bass in the late 1970s and early 1980s and the need to implement an effective interstate management plan laid the groundwork for the passage of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act by Congress in 1984.⁴ With the passage of the Act, the ASMFC could more effectively undertake coast-wide efforts to manage this species.

¹ Chesapeake Bay Program. Striped Bass. https://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/striped_bass. Accessed 10/4/2019.

² Code of Virginia. § 1-510. Official emblems and designations.

³ NOAA. Chesapeake Bay Office. Striped Bass. <https://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/fish-facts/striped-bass>. Accessed 10/6/19.

⁴ Chesapeake Bay Program. Striped Bass. https://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/striped_bass. Accessed 10/4/2019.

Despite the coast-wide stock having been declared “collapsed” in the early 1980s and the Chesapeake Bay spawning stock having been described as “severely depleted” in Amendment 3 to the IFMP, the conservation measures incorporated in Amendments 3 and 4 to the IFMP restored the stock from its “collapsed” status to a level at which it was declared “recovered” in 1995 by ASMFC.⁵

Unfortunately, the recently released benchmark stock assessment paints a concerning picture for the current status of the striped bass population, with the stock being both overfished and currently experiencing overfishing.⁶ Although the stock is not yet considered collapsed, it is at a point that requires decisive action in order to restore this important resource along the Atlantic Coast and in the Chesapeake Bay.

Draft Addendum VI must reduce overfishing and restore this vitally important population and the many fisheries that are dependent upon it. CBF urges ASMFC’s Striped Bass Management Board (the Board) to consider the following section specific comments during their deliberations.

Section 2.2.6, “Management Program Equivalency” of the draft Addendum VI discusses flexibility in ASMFC’s management program that is referred to as “conservation equivalency.” Conservation equivalency has been identified as an integral part of ASMFC’s management efforts;⁷ however, there is room for improvement. Some of the more recent conservation equivalency measures for striped bass have not met their intended conservation goals.

Considering the poor performance of some conservation equivalency plans, ASMFC’s Technical Committee should be commended for taking the initiative to develop conservation equivalency guidelines to support the implementation of Addendum VI. CBF urges the Technical Committee to support only those measures that are both quantifiable and verifiable. Additionally, we urge the Board to reject any conservancy equivalency proposal whose objective is to circumvent the consensus of the Commission. Conservation equivalency should be reserved only for those instances in which the biology of the species, the statutory or procedural requirements of the state, or a desire to enact stricter conservation measures preclude the implementation of the ASMFC IFMP.

The Board should be commended for its swift action in initiating this addendum to end overfishing during the 2020 fishing season. No matter which option is chosen, this action must ensure at least an 18 percent reduction in removals for each state. It should be noted that the Commonwealth of Virginia has already adopted changes that will result in an approximately 24 percent reduction during the 2020 fishing season. We hope other states will exhibit similar leadership in the effort to quickly restore the striped bass spawning stock biomass through conservative and easily quantifiable reductions in mortality.

Section 3.1 of the draft Addendum VI to the IFMP presents three different management scenarios for how mortality reductions will be split between the commercial and recreational sectors. The Chesapeake Bay region is unique in that in recent times, over 70 percent of the striped bass

⁵ ASMFC. Atlantic Striped Bass. <http://www.asmf.org/species/atlantic-stripped-bass>. Accessed 10/4/2019.

⁶ Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). 2019. 66th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (66th SAW) Assessment Report. US Dept Commer, Northeast Fish Sci Cent Ref Doc. 19-08; 1170 p.

⁷ ASMFC. Conservation Equivalency: Policy and Technical Guidance Document. October 2016.

commercial landings are attributed to the region and the harvest is split nearly evenly between the recreational and commercial sectors.⁸

CBF believes that since both sectors benefit from the striped bass resource, they should both share the responsibility for needed management action. It has been noted however, that reductions called for by Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the IFMP have not been realized across all sectors. CBF hopes that reductions can be made in an equitable manner to ensure both sectors reap the rewards of a restored population while recognizing the performance of past conservation efforts.

Reducing release mortality of striped bass is one of the easiest ways that anglers can help positively influence the current status of the population. Fortunately, efforts to better inform anglers about the importance of reducing catch and release mortality are not new. CBF embarked on a “Careful Catch” program developed with guidance from a host of academic and conservation partners in 2001 that highlighted practices such as removing the barbs from hooks and using circle hooks when fishing with bait. Since that time, circle hooks have become an accepted method to reduce release mortality in the recreational fishery. Mandatory regulations have already been implemented in Maryland with high levels of compliance; the other Atlantic states should follow suit. In order to ensure this happens, CBF supports Option B in Section 3.2 of the draft addendum.

Finally, Section 4.0 discusses the need for development of a Compliance Schedule. CBF believes all states must implement necessary regulations by April 1, 2020 to help ensure that conservation measures are fully adopted prior to the start of the striped bass fishing season along the coast.

Thank you for consideration of these comments on draft Addendum VI. CBF hopes that these comments are helpful in the final adoption of the addendum, which quickly helps to reverse the trajectory of striped bass decline and starts to rebuild this iconic species.

Sincerely,



Chris Moore
Senior Regional Ecosystem Scientist

cc: Lisa Felt, Vice President Environmental Protection and Restoration, CBF
Alison Prost, Maryland Executive Director, CBF
Rebecca Tomazin, Virginia Executive Director, CBF
Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist, CBF
Allison Colden, Maryland Fisheries Scientist, CBF

⁸ ASMFC. Summary of the 2019 Benchmark Stock Assessment for Atlantic Striped Bass. April 2019.

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October 3, 2019

Max Appelman
 Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
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Dear Mr. Appelman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum 6 to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. The Coastal Conservation Association is the largest marine resource conservation organization of its kind in the nation, with more than 130,000 members in state chapters on all three coasts.

Striped bass are an iconic species for legions of saltwater recreational fishermen on the Atlantic coast and are pursued from the time they reach 18 inches in the estuaries of their natal rivers. The fishery on them is conducted 12 months of the year as they migrate along the most heavily populated coastline in the country, with the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone acting as a refuge for the breeding population. It is a remarkable achievement that the ASMFC's management of this fishery has maintained the population as well as it has since the recovery in 1995.

Under proper conservation measures for both size and bag limits, fishing for the decade after the recovery was exceptional, seemingly everywhere from Maine in the summer to North Carolina in the winter. This period was also marked by a period of above-average recruitment. Predictably, however, recruitment went through a below-average period and the population started to decline. In hindsight, the ASMFC should have acted to reduce the fishing mortality during the low recruitment period to slow that decline. The Striped Bass Technical Committee advised the Board that spawning stock biomass (SSB) was declining and that unless recruitment changed, the stock would become overfished. The SSB declined below

the target level in 2012 and finally declined below the threshold in the 2018 stock assessment report.

The ASMFC should be applauded for acting to end overfishing as soon as they received this stock status last year. However, given the importance of striped bass to the Atlantic recreational fishery, and the inherent critical importance of abundance to the recreational fishery, the ASMFC should have heeded their Technical Committee's advice and stopped the steady slide of SSB. As we have argued since the inception of Amendment 6, fishing mortality was too high for the stock to remain abundant and indeed the population has declined to the great concern of the angling community. A reduction in fishing mortality, greater than the currently proposed 18 percent, would pay dividends for the future abundance of striped bass and help guard against the inevitable downward variations in recruitment success in the future.

With regard to the options that are available in Addendum 6, CCA supports Option 2 – equal percent reductions for all sectors – as all sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness.

Additionally, CCA supports the mandatory use of circle hooks when using natural bait as a matter of principle. We encourage all states to develop monitoring programs so that the conservation gains realized by the use of circle hooks translate into lower discard mortality and greater abundance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Bird". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Bill Bird, Chairman
CCA National Government Relations Committee

OFFICERS

Frank Bonanno, *Chairman*
Michael Wissel, *Vice-Chairman*
Chair, Management Committee
Larry Jennings, *Secretary*
Frank Bonnano, *Treasurer*
David Sikorski,
Executive Director



**RECREATIONAL ANGLERS
WORKING TO CONSERVE, PROMOTE, AND ENHANCE MARYLAND'S
MARINE RESOURCES**

October 7, 2019

Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St.
Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Via email only to: comments@asmfc.org

Dear Mr. Appelman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum 6 to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is the largest marine resource conservation organization of its kind in the nation, with more than 130,000 members in state chapters on all three coasts. As a state chapter with a long history of focusing on multiple Chesapeake Bay fisheries, CCA Maryland has a keen interest in ensuring the health and abundance of striped bass stocks.

As the state fish of Maryland and held in high regard throughout the coast, striped bass are an iconic species for legions of saltwater recreational fishermen here on the Bay, and up and down the Atlantic coast. The fishery is conducted 12 months of the year as they migrate along the most heavily populated coastline in the country, with the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone acting as a refuge for the breeding population. Given this large and complex range of the fishery, it is a remarkable achievement that the ASMFC's management of this fishery has maintained the striped bass population as well as it has since the recovery in 1995.

Under proper conservation measures for both size and bag limits, fishing for the decade after the recovery was exceptional, seemingly everywhere from Maine in the summer to North Carolina in the winter. This period was also marked by a period of above-average recruitment. Predictably, however, recruitment went through a below-average period and the population started to decline. In hindsight, the ASMFC should have acted to reduce the fishing mortality during the low recruitment period to slow that decline. The Striped Bass Technical Committee advised the Board that spawning stock biomass (SSB) was declining and that unless recruitment changed, the stock would become overfished. The SSB declined below the target level in 2012 and finally declined below the threshold in the 2018 stock assessment report.



The Striped Bass Management Board of the ASMFC should be applauded for acting to end overfishing as soon as they received this stock status last year. However, given the importance of striped bass to the Atlantic recreational fishery, and the inherent critical importance of abundance to the recreational fishery, the ASMFC should have heeded their Technical Committee's advice and stopped the steady slide of SSB. As we have argued since the inception of Amendment 6, fishing mortality was too high for the stock to remain abundant and indeed the population has declined to the great concern of the angling community. A reduction in fishing mortality, greater than the currently proposed 18 percent, would pay dividends for the future abundance of striped bass and help guard against the inevitable downward variations in recruitment success in the future.

With regard to the options that are available in Addendum 6 CCA Maryland offers the following comments:

CCA Maryland supports Option 2 – Equal percent reductions for all sectors

- All sectors should take equal percent reductions as a matter of fairness.
- By reducing removals at an even percentage (18%), this option decreases recreational catch at a much higher volume, which is the correct action given the proportion of coast-wide removals that the recreational sector accounts for.
- This option reduces the commercial catch at the same percentage (18%), but at much a lower given the smaller proportion of coast-wide catch by the commercial sector
- Because each state may have a different balance of recreational and commercial catch over time, this option presents the most straight forward approach to reducing removals in each state without reallocating overall catch from one sector to another.

CCA Maryland strongly opposes Option 3 – The Commercial Sector Takes a Smaller Percent Reduction

- Option 3 reflects a reallocation of allowed harvest between sectors based on the estimated proportion of coast-wide catch that occurred in a single year.
- Option 3 allows for a potential increase in catch for the commercial sector in Maryland which primarily operates in the largest and most valuable nursery for striped bass.
- Any re-allocation should consider multiple factors which recognize the many differences between recreational and commercial fishing, and include a thorough process which clearly defines reallocation as a goal, not to use an action which requires a reduction in removals based on one year as an opportunity to change the allocation between sectors.

Conservation Equivalency

CCA Maryland supports the use of Conservation Equivalency(CE) as a valuable management tool that can be used to provide a balance of conservation and angler access, and give states an opportunity to use regionally specific data to make the best decisions possible for fishery participants and the

resource in a specific state or region. CE plans are an important part of managing the striped bass fishery in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay. CCA Maryland believes:

- CE proposals should be crafted to improve the likelihood that any measure approved on paper, as part of a management plan, will meet the necessary goals of such plans on the water.
- CE plans should not be used as a way to benefit one stakeholder group or sector over another within a specific state, or to wildly shift plans from one year to another, therefore increasing uncertainty in the impacts that management changes may have.

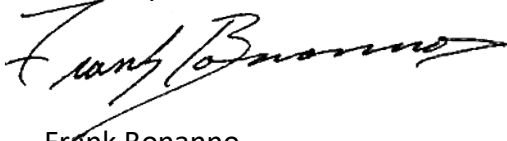
Circle Hooks & Discard Mortality

- CCA Maryland supports the mandatory use of circle hooks when using natural bait as a matter of principle.
- We encourage all states to develop monitoring programs so that the conservation gains realized by the use of circle hooks translate into lower discard mortality and greater abundance.
- We stand committed to working with managers and state leaders to continue to promote sound handling techniques, and studies necessary to ensure that recreational anglers participate in fisheries in a responsible manner, and by the letter of the law.
- We support and encourage future efforts to clearly communicate best practices for angling and fish handling to ensure that the assumed coast-wide and year-long survival rate of recreational live releases of 91% is maintained, or improved upon.
- We look forward to working with Maryland DNR and other stakeholders in the region on future efforts to better understand, and limit discard mortality for all sectors in the striped bass fishery.

CCA Maryland respectfully recognizes the challenges that come with any action to reduce fishing mortality, and the challenges inherent with managing any fishery. We stand committed to working within the spirit of the multi state/federal partnership which has worked to conserve and manage Atlantic coast fisheries for 78 years.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on Draft Addendum VI, and the Striped Bass Management Board's efforts to fairly and equitably return the striped bass fishing mortality to target levels, and begin rebuilding the stock to higher levels of abundance for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,



Frank Bonanno
Chairman



David Sikorski
Executive Director



President Capt. Marc Berger, V.Pres. Capt. Bob Wadsworth, Treasure Capt. TJ Karbowski, Secretary Capt. Mike Pirri

Max Appelman FMP Coordinator

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

comments@asmfc.org

Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

The Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association is comprised of 40 professional charter boats sailing from ten different Connecticut ports, covering the Western, Central and Eastern Long Island Sound. Our Captains have verified credentials, are held to the highest ethics standards and are out on the water everyday often acting as the Sheppard's of their areas.

Our organization is fully united for the Striped Bass Fishery to Remain Status Quo for the following reasons.

Status of the Stock

- Our organization has found that by following the method of assessing the Striped Bass stock, the methodology and timing of the assessment is what falsely returns results of overfished and overfishing occurring. In just one year, the 2015 Striped Bass year class will be mature enough to enter the SSB causing no need for a reduction in harvest.
- The method of combining breeding into a single stock, also narrows the believed biomass.

- Our 2016 reduction (just 3 seasons ago) with regulation changes from 2 fish at 28” to 1 fish at 28” has already posted an 18% reduction. Please understand that to our customers this has been perceived as a 50% reduction and has caused a significant decrease in business. Further reductions will be devastating.

Geography

- The Connecticut Shoreline is Long Island Sound, an estuary that extends 110 miles from Western to Eastern Sound. Similar to Maryland, we have smaller fish in our waters. Connecticut is NOT on the Atlantic Ocean and only receives “Ocean Fish” migrating through sporadically. Our boats harvest various sizes of fish inconsistently throughout the season due to this unique geographic location making neither option, 1 fish at 35” or a slot limit a reliable measure of reduction for our state.

M.R.I.P.

- Most Charterboats do not catch a limit of striped bass every trip or even pursue Striped Bass every trip. MRIP documents the For Hire harvest at less than 10% which is likely very accurate.
- By all recent statistics, Striped Bass mortality is lower when a fisherman does not have to throw back a fish (C &R) that will not meet the potentially new, more restrictive regulations.

Economics

- Not having an achievable harvest length regulation for our customers means they will be getting charged close to **a thousand dollars per trip** and will likely be going home with NOTHING for the dinner table. This will devastate the Connecticut charter fishing industry. Our charterboats provide access to those without boats and contribute to local and state wide economics; particularly our immediate shoreline businesses. These local

businesses will be greatly affected; ie: restaurants, gas stations, marinas and tackle shops.

Biology

- Smaller striped bass are both male and female. These smaller females spawn hundreds of eggs.
- Most striped bass over 30” are females (<https://www.edc.uri.edu/restoration/html/gallery/fish/bass.htm>) Larger females spawn MILLIONS of eggs.

Long Island Sound is our back yard. The Sound currently holds hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of both male and female striped bass in the 26/27” range. The 2019 season has most Captains reporting catching more stripers than they have before EVER.

A 1 fish at 28” status quo regulation would:

- Protect the large breeding year classes currently in the fishery, particularly relieving the targeting of Block Island and Montauk fish.
- Protect the year classes of those fish just entering harvest length. (They will not all be 28” next year.)
- Lower Catch and Release mortality.
- Better economics for our businesses and the local economy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association
President- Capt. Marc Berger
Vice President- Capt. Robert Wadsworth
Treasurer- Capt. Ted Karbowski
Secretary- Capt. Michael Pirri



Date: October 7, 2019

Comments to:
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,
- please distribute to Striped Bass Management Board for consideration

Subject: Comments - Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6

For your consideration, we provide comment to the Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, released August, 2019.

In broad terms, the Management Board seeks to implement a plan to achieve an 18% reduction in total removals compared to 2017, with a goal of achieving F target in 2020. Accordingly, the Plan Development Team has developed three mutually exclusive options to meet these goals.

- Option One is a 'do nothing' approach, leaving the regulations contained in Addendum IV in place with no change.
 - This option is not viable, as action is mandated when the fishery is overfished and overfishing is occurring.
- Option Two reduces removals to target in 2020 with proportional reduction to both commercial and recreational sectors.
 - While at first read this option may appear 'equitable' in sharing the reductions across sectors, in fact this approach does less than Option Three to address the egregious overages by Maryland's Chesapeake Bay recreational sector.
- Option Three reduces removals to target in 2020 with a greater share of the reduction taken from the recreational sector.
 - This option provides the greatest reduction in Chesapeake Bay recreational removals, and a 36" minimum in ocean areas prevents concentration of effort on slot-sized fish while also preserving breed stock from the more recent year classes.
- Recommendation:
 - 3-A1: 1 fish at 36" minimum// -20% total removal;
 - 3-B1: 1 fish at 19" for MD and 20" for PRFC, DC, VA// -29% total removal
 - 3.2: Circle Hook Provision// Option B – Mandated use with educational programs

While the ASMFC manages Atlantic striped bass as a coastwide stock the Chesapeake Bay region requires separate management to address its role in the fishery. The Chesapeake region is inextricably tied to the coast as the breeding ground for 70-90% of the very biomass we seek to increase, and while management must be tailored to the region, the region cannot be managed separately from the entirety of the stock. While Option Three goes furthest to reduce the recreational removals in the Chesapeake Bay fishery, it is unlikely to fully address the overages.

The ASMFC must seek new ways to specifically address and eliminate overages, particularly in Maryland waters, or the stock will continue to decline. As such, the Amendment 6 framework should continue as the basis for future plans, and periodic Addendum used to maintain flexibility, respond quickly to a dynamic environment and achieve management goals.

Sincerely,

Mark Eustis,
Managing Director.

Grey Owl Analytics - Davidsonville, MD - info@greyowlanalytics.com



October 7, 2019

Mr. Max Appelman
FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), I'm writing in support of Option 2 under 3.1 Proposed Management Options to the Draft Addendum VI of Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass. Furthermore, under the 3.2 Circle Hook Provision, we support Option B.

As perhaps the most economically and culturally important fish species from North Carolina to Maine, it is crucial that striped bass are sustainably managed for abundance and access by the angling public. Unfortunately, the most recent striped bass stock assessment indicated that the stock is both undergoing overfishing and is overfished, despite management actions in 2015 to reduce fishing mortality aimed at preventing this very situation from occurring. Additional restrictions to end overfishing and to begin rebuilding the stock are now imperative.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, there are more than 35 million recreational anglers in the nation that collectively support our nation's economy through generating \$46.1 billion in direct spending while engaged in their pursuits. According to the American Sportfishing Association's *Sportfishing in America* report, this spending supports over 800,000 jobs and generates over \$9.4 billion in federal taxes.

Not only are recreational anglers a powerful economic force, they also provide the vast majority of funds for fisheries conservation through the "user pays – public benefits" American

System of Conservation Funding. In 2018 alone, \$351.9 million was apportioned to the states through the Sport Fish Restoration Program, monies comprised of excise taxes on fishing tackle and motorboat fuel. Fishing license sales added another \$724.2 million to state fisheries management efforts, bringing the total contribution by America's anglers to fisheries conservation in 2018 to more than \$1 billion.

CSF recognizes the economic, social, and conservation benefits derived from recreational angling, as well as the important role striped bass play in the overall fisheries landscape of the Atlantic Coast. Due to the potential for far-reaching negative economic, social and ecological consequences of a declining striped bass fishery, as well as the current data that indicates striped bass are currently overfished and undergoing overfishing, CSF supports reducing fishing mortality through the actions detailed below.

3.1 Proposed Management Scenarios

Option 2 – Equally reduce removals by 18% in both the recreational and commercial fisheries beginning in 2020. Both fisheries have a shared interest in the future health of the striped bass population, and both should equally share the burden of harvest reductions in order to ensure the stock is successfully rebuilt. Furthermore, recreational angling accounts for more than 95% of the economic contributions of the combined striped bass fishery, and anglers should not have to bear the burden of reductions exclusively.

Conservation Equivalencies - CSF recommends that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission continues to afford states the flexibility to manage their fisheries with board-approved conservation equivalency proposals that use the best available data, meet the needs of their commercial and recreational sectors and are accountable in ensuring the necessary harvest reduction is achieved.

3.2 Circle Hook Provision

Option B – CSF supports the requirement for the use of non-offset circle hooks when fishing with bait across all states and jurisdictions. The science clearly shows that non-offset circle hooks can effectively reduce post-release mortality. The requirement to use circle hooks for all reef fish fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico was implemented in 2008, and while the regulation was met with resistance initially, Gulf of Mexico anglers quickly adjusted to their use and effectiveness.

In addition to the management options proposed in Addendum VI that are supported above, we encourage the consideration of closed seasons as options for individual state conservation equivalencies. It is clear from the most recent stock assessment that some reduction in effort is the best option to ending overfishing and rebuild the striped bass population.

Furthermore, we highly encourage each state to begin working towards their own angler harvest reporting systems that could supplement the Marine Recreational Information Program

(MRIP) with more real-time estimates of harvest and effort. While MRIP is improving, it still lacks the level of timely precision necessary for in-season monitoring and any appropriate harvest adjustments. All five states in the Gulf of Mexico have developed their own angler harvest reporting program instead of relying solely on MRIP, which has significantly increased the accuracy of their data, increased accountability and resulted in more time on the water for their anglers.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this iconic fishery. We realize that in order to ensure the health and abundance of striped bass in the future, immediate and difficult management decisions must be made now. Atlantic striped bass management has been heralded in recent decades as a model of good fisheries management, and it is imperative that the angling community, commercial fishermen and the states step up and continue that tradition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Horton".

Chris Horton
Senior Director, Fisheries Program



Massachusetts Striped Bass Association

Since 1950

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

October 7, 2019

RE: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman:

The following comments were adopted as formal positions of the Massachusetts Striped Bass Association (MSBA) at the October membership meeting AND as formal positions of the Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association (MBBA) at the October Board of Directors meeting. Together, MSBA & MBBA represent over 1500 families; most but not all who live & fish in Massachusetts. It is important for you to know that at least 12 MA based active striped bass commercial fishermen and over 15 for hire operators that target striped bass participated in these discussions.

Generally; our members are worried that if this addendum is not successful; after the next stock assessment the fishery will be facing devastating seasonal closures that will have massive social and economic impact across New England. We question whether any of the proposed options provide enough conservation benefits. In addition, we find this document fails to present adequate social and/or economic impacts of the options proposed.

MBBA & MSBA Support Option 2: 18% mortality reduction applied equally between recreation and commercial sectors:

We feel an 18% reduction applied equally is the most fair option proposed.

It is our experience on the water AND based on comments at the MA hearing in Buzzards Bay that the rate of catch to discards in the MA striped bass commercial fishery is similar to that of the MA recreational community; thus both sectors should be cut the same.

MBBA & MSBA Support Option 2-A1: 1 fish per day @ 35" minimum for the coastal migrating striped bass fishery :

Our members feel confident that 1 fish @ 35" is the best option with highest probability of achieving the 18% reduction because this is similar to the 1@36" option that re-built this fishery in the past.

Our members feel slot limit options will increase release mortality and negate perceived benefits. We do not believe existing data can adequately predict this and/or other unintended consequences of a slot limit.

In addition; we oppose all slot limit options because we oppose elimination of the ability to harvest the trophy fish of a lifetime. We believe trophy fish over 50" are unlikely to survive release. We feel the desire to catch a true trophy is a major part of sport fishing. Any decision to eliminate this basic part of fishing will have massive social impacts that have not yet been considered by the ASMFC.

We feel elimination of trophy fishing will have significant impact on the multi-million-dollar striped bass tournament industry. This impact clearly rises to the level which requires action via Amendment.

MBBA & MSBA Support Option 2-B1 1 fish per day @ 18 " minimum size for the Chesapeake Bay fishery:

We protest that under the prior striped bass addendum the Chesapeake fishery increased harvest instead of decreasing and was not held accountable.

In addition; observations by our members who participate in the Chesapeake fishery AND conversations with sales & marketing professionals related to the sales of circle hooks lead us to believe the state of Maryland has played fast and loose exaggerating benefits of a recent circle hook regulation. We urge the ASMFC to hold the Chesapeake fishery accountable by selecting this option and refusing to grant conservation equivalency.

MBBA & MSBA Support Option 3.2.B: Require mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

We must question why any gear prohibition would be proposed without clear understanding of the conservation benefit or economic impacts.

We question why "hooks" are targeted when other techniques such as wire line trolling and fly fishing are likely to have a higher release mortality than J hooks for bait.

We question why ASMFC has not taken action to work with industry to standardize the term "circle hook" as we are aware many non-offset hooks incorporate "circle" in their name.

These concerns being voiced, we agree this is a good regulation that will benefit striped bass and we support with the caveat that the regulation MUST apply to all anglers (commercial for-hire and private)

We thank you for your consideration.

Ray West
President
Massachusetts Striped Bass Association
410 Quincy Avenue
Braintree MA 02184

Patrick Paquette
President
Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association
61 Maple Street
Hyannis MA 02601

Captain Richard Jensen
Nancy Ann IV
North Fork Captains Association

September 17, 2019

Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

After reviewing all the data, it is very clear the For Hire fleet has had minimal effect on striped bass stocks.

- 1) We are asking to consider giving us back a For Hire striped bass category and let us maintain a 28" minimum at 1 per person.
- 2) We would be willing to give up April & December.
- 3) We would also consider giving up fish for crew.
- 4) We are in favor of circle hooks for bait fishing and no treble hooks for lures.

Keeping the size limit down will keep mortality down. It is very important for us to offer a fish for our customers to take home to eat. This is what our customers expect when they fish with us, not to catch and release.

If this is not possible then we would support 28"-35" slot. The conservation equivalent 30" fish would Not be good for us at all as most of the fish we have in The Long Island Sound are 26"-29", again creating more unnecessary mortality.

Thank You for consideration,

Captain Richard Jensen



NEW YORK SPORTFISHING FEDERATION

324 South Service Rd., Suite 302, Melville, NY 11747

www.nysf.org

The New York Sportfishing Federation would like to give our comments on Addendum VI to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. Established in 1981, New York Sportfishing Federation is a not-for-profit organization recognized as the voice of the recreational fishing community in New York State. Through the dedicated efforts of our volunteers, the Federation works to unite the varied interests of New York's recreational fishing community, bringing together the views and concerns of all recreational users and business owners throughout the marine district. [Members](#) of the New York Sportfishing Federation are dedicated to preserving the marine habitat and maintaining the bio-diversity of our marine [resources](#) through sound management practices, regulations, laws, promoting Sportfishing, educating youngsters on stewardship, and education through public awareness.

We have reviewed the draft Addendum and have the following comments and opinions. We believe that reducing the mortality on released fish as well as reducing harvest on the Striped Bass biomass is possible with the right management options.

We support Option 2, an even 18% reduction across both the Recreational and Commercial sectors. We have had trouble deciding whether to support sub-option 2-A1, 1 @ 35", or sub-option 2-A2, slot of 28-35". We believe that a minimum size as large as 35" will dramatically increase discard mortality as well as cause an unnecessary economic hardship on our for-hire sector. We also have concerns that any slot limit will target and remove the few year classes of decent recruitment we have remaining, specifically the 2014 and 2015 year classes which are now beginning to reach a size that they will be entering the coastal fishery if they haven't already. We believe that a Conservation Equivalency option can be used to find a compromise in the minimum size limit, season opening and season closure dates to meet the required 18% reduction.

We also support Option 2B1, a 1 fish at 18" bag and size limit within the Chesapeake Bay system. We believe that this option provides the most protection to the juvenile fish within the system and gives them a better chance of growing and being able to enter the coastal fishery.

We support Option 3-2C when it comes to circle hook regulations. We do not believe that a regulation requiring mandatory circle hook use when using bait is truly enforceable considering most anglers will encounter other species that will take their baits while targeting Striped Bass. We do believe that supporting the promotion of circle hook use is a more viable option.

Sincerely,
Capt. Joe Paradiso
President NYSF

*2019 Board of Directors- (President) Joe Paradiso, (VP) Bob Danielson, (Secretary) Jeffrey Leavitt, (Treasurer) Tom Wallace
Chuck Hollins, Mike Barnett, John Malizia, John Meringolo, Tom Mikoleski, Reed Riemer, Lisa Poyer, Brian Brown*



P.O. Box 1230
Marshfield, MA 02050
www.stellwagenbank.org

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John Richardson

September 20, 2019

Mr. Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

RE: Comments to Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman:

On behalf of the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association (“SBCBA”) we hereby submit the following comments to the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI measures.

Recommend Option No. 1 – Status Quo

Based on the current and historical status of the striped bass stock the Atlantic Striped Bass population is not facing an imminent conservation problem but a management problem that can be addressed with minor changes. In fact, reduced effort in the 2018 ocean striped bass fishery and all other fisheries, based on NOAA Fisheries MRIP estimates, has resulted in an 18% reduction in total removals of striped bass which is the goal of Addendum VI. This demonstrates that drastic changes to recreational regulations are not be needed at this time. Continued vigilance to assess if additional measures need to be implemented in 2020 and beyond need to be assessed annually.

There is no lack of 14 to 16 inch and 24 to 26 inch striped bass in our waters. Such observations are consistent with the sound year classes reported by ASMFC. Depending upon your location stripers greater than 28 inches are hard to come by unless you fish at night with live bait. Most anglers don't want to fish at night and as a result are frustrated due to lack of larger fish during the daytime hours.

There is no lack of forage fish to attract striped bass. Such significant numbers of forage fish are available that use of artificial lures reduces the potential for a hookup to the disadvantage of the light tackle angler. We have observed



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the change in behavior and spatial distribution of striped bass over time in our waters as a result of increased water temperatures and the significant increase in the population of gray seals and juvenile great white sharks that have moved the striped bass into deeper and cooler waters north and east of our historical fishing grounds. This makes it difficult for a shore side angler hookup as well as to land fish near shore and not within the EEZ where such is presently prohibited.

As an example from Boston Harbor to New Hampshire most anglers had a decent year of striped bass fishing, there was no lack of forage fish with cooler water temperatures. But from south of Boston Harbor, Cape Cod and the Islands most had a poor year other than the year classes in great abundance noted above due to increased water temperatures and presence of gray seals and great white sharks resulting in the movement of striped bass into deeper waters or further offshore.

Then we have Block Island having record year. Technically Block Island is located in the EEZ with cooler water temperatures and no lack of forage fish. The time has come to manage the stock and assess the population of striped bass in the EEZ. We have recognized that climatic shift has moved multiple species farther north and east into cooler waters. Such is being observed in the striped bass stock but management of the fishery does not take this into consideration to the detriment of us. This lack of information also results in a presumed underestimation of older female striped bass in the assessment. Surveys need to be adjusted to account for more fish being in deeper, cooler waters of the EEZ.

For many years striped bass have been present in Canadian waters. Reports of increased striped bass populations threatening the salmon runs in Canada has resulted in increased efforts to land the striped bass and protect the Canadian salmon stock. The Canadian commercial fishery has attempted to sell striped bass within our borders. Climatic shift may have resulted in the migration of our U.S. stock into Canadian waters that are being landed to the detriment of the U.S. stock. We recommend a joint



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Canadian/American study to obtain a clearer picture on the changes in striped bass coastal distribution and whether their increase population is comprised of American coastal stocks. Resources need to be made available to support research and tagging programs to investigate this trend and to determine what impact this is having on our ability to accurately assess the fishery.

Circle Hook Provision - Status Quo

The MassDMF is requiring the use of circle hooks by the recreational angling community in 2020. The Massachusetts commercial anglers and charter boat or for hire fleet is exempt from the requirement and represent a small percentage of the landing and discards. As noted the 9% dead discard rate by the recreational community is driving the mortality level below recommended thresholds.

There has been a growing culture within the recreational striped bass fishery that catch and release demonstrates ones commitment to this species long-term sustainability. This culture also tends to cast shame on anglers that opt to land a legal sized fish to eat. This is consistent with the trend to push the striped bass fishery more towards a sport fishery and away from a consumptive fishery. Catch and release does not come without consequences when discard mortality values are applied. Even the fisherman who employees an entirely catch and release philosophy with striped bass must have some discipline, restraint and self-acknowledgment that their net mortality on the striped bass population, despite not keeping any fish, may far exceed the casual angler who lands a few striped bass per year to eat.

The stress of fighting and landing a striped bass is another important factor that can result in elevated angler induced mortality on release striped bass. When fish struggle intensely for a prolonged period of time, lactic acid buildups up in the fish's tissue leading to acidosis which can cause physiological imbalances, muscle failure and death. This type of mortality is not always immediately seen and a fish that appears to swim away after being released may not resume its normal behavior, its feeding patterns may become disrupted, may become more vulnerable to predation and the fish's ability to fight off



P.O. Box 1230
Marshfield, MA 02050

www.stellwagenbank.org

parasites and diseases and heal from wounds becomes compromised. Based on a wide array of research, a fish that is landed quickly has a better chance of survival after release than one subjected to a prolonged fight. MassDMF should consider advising anglers against using inappropriate-sized gear when targeting striped bass due to its increased mortality on released fish.

ASMFC should avoid measures that focus solely on increasing the minimum size limit. Higher minimum size limits focus harvest mortality entirely on larger, more reproductively valuable fish while driving up dead discards. Higher minimum size limits also exclude a large faction of the recreational sector that prefers to harvest striped bass for food. The net mortality from these consumptive fishermen, in many cases, can be lower than a fisherman who only catches and releases striped bass when discard mortality is factored.

As set forth above we recommend Option No. 1 – Status Quo and Circle Hook Provision - Status Quo based on the measures to be implemented in Massachusetts waters in 2020.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at the email below.

Very truly yours,

Capt. Paul Diggins
Vice President
captain_paul@bostonfishing.com

Capt. David Waldrip
President
captdave@restlessecharters.com

Capt. Mike Pierdinock
Board of Directors
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**State Board of
Directors**

Capt. Zak Robinson
President

Christian Stallkamp
Vice President

Rick Sharp
Treasurer

Capt. Peter Whelan
Secretary



**Coastal Conservation Association
Of New Hampshire**

Post Office Box 4372 Portsmouth, NH 03802
Phone: (603) 731-2669 E-mail - info@ccanh.org
Web Address - ccanh.org

October 1st, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners,

Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Marine Resources here in New Hampshire.

We recently reviewed the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI with our Board of Directors and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the options. We feel the following options would promote the fastest recovery of the Striped Bass fishery and associated businesses. We recognize that an abundant and healthy Striped Bass fishery is vital to both the recreational and economic interests of the State of New Hampshire.

Our preferred options are:

Option 2: 18% reduction applied equally between the sectors

Option 2 – A-1: 1@ 35 inches

Circle Hook Provision B: Mandatory use of Circle Hooks

Sincerely,

Zak Robinson, CCA NH President

DEDICATED TO CONSERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MARINE RESOURCES

*The Coastal Conservation Association of NH ("CCA NH") is an unincorporated state chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association ("CCA"), which currently has over 96,000 members in seventeen states. CCA is a nonprofit, public charity corporation that is qualified under IRC §501(c)(3).
Donations to CCA NH are tax deductible under IRC §170.*



September 24, 2019

Max Appelman
FMP Coordinator
VIA Email: comments@asmfc.org
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman, with regard to the proposed changes to

With regard to the Board's proposed addendum to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass, I would like to underscore the following points, many of which have been made by the Rhode Island Party & Charter Boat Association, of which I am a member:

1. The fishing mortality rate calculated in the last assessment is based on new MRIP numbers that are very high and probably not accurate.
2. For the 2018 season we lost 18% of our catch amounts for the 2017 season. Therefore, it has been proven that 1 fish at 28 inches can effectively restrain harvest amounts.
3. Status Quo is working. According to the stock assessment, there are millions of small fish in the pipeline. Leave the regulations alone and let the stock do its thing.
4. Studies have proven that the largest amount of dead fish comes from releasing recreationally caught fish. As charter boats we tend to catch our bass limit, then move on to other species. Our customer base is not comprised of catch-and-release anglers. Also, we primarily use techniques that target larger fish, so our released fish numbers are lower than private and shore based anglers. More fishermen need to stop playing with the fish, increasing the overall mortality rate. They need to be encouraged to catch their 1 bass then go catch fluke, sea bass, scup, blues, etc.
5. All of the options in the document except Status Quo only affect recreational anglers that want to bring 1 fish home to eat. Catch-and-release anglers will not be impacted by this action, and that is not fair. Status Quo is the only option fair to all anglers, especially those that make their living on the water.
6. The Charter/Party Industry is the only way the non-boat owning public access the resource. If we cannot build an economic model to operate, those public will not have a way to go fishing

in the future. Regulations should be different for Charter/Party sector. We need consistency in our regulations to operate and 1 fish at 28 inches will do that.

7. All of the options in the document except Status Quo will increase release mortality and that is wasting an overfished resource.
8. I am HIGHLY disappointed there are zero alternatives in the document to address illegal fishing. We have all seen the numerous enforcement reports and something should be done. States should be given conservation credit for increased enforcement and curbing poaching. 90% of USCG species violations last quarter were for striped bass violations in the EEZ. Clearly it is a problem. The alternatives in the document punish good behavior and reward bad behavior. The winners are the ones willing to break the rules. Seizure of boat, equipment, and loss of license – and PUBLISHING OF OFFENDER NAMES is the only way to curtail this illegal activity that is happening EVERY SINGLE DAY.
9. Circle hooks are an effective method to avoid gut-hooking fish.
10. States must raise awareness about the mortality associated with catch and release.

Sincerely,

Captain Kelly Smith
President
C-Devil II Sportfishing, Inc.

C-Devil II Sportfishing, Inc., 31 Burdickville Rd., Charlestown, RI 02813
Vessel Address: 33 State Street, Dock S-S, Narragansett, RI 02882



THE TIGHTLINED SLAM 2019

Fly and Light Tackle Tournament
for Conservation

Western Long Island Sound
October 4-6, 2019

To the Commission:

We are a collective group of anglers, fishing guides and concerned citizens who appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the management of striped bass going forward.

With striped bass currently overfished, with overfishing continuing to occur, it is critical that action be taken now to help slow the decline in population and allow the fish to rebuild. After reviewing the options set forth by the Commission, we support Option 2A-1 and 2B-1, 1 fish at 35" in the ocean and 1 fish at 18" in the Chesapeake Bay. Given how the abundance of striped bass is distributed across sizes / age groups, we think it is essential that the strong 2015 and 2016 year classes are protected for several seasons after reaching sexual maturity, so they are able to spawn before being harvested.

In the Chesapeake, we urge the commission to allow for only one fish a day. This is the nursery for the vast majority of striped bass up and down the coast, and we must protect those younger fish until they are old enough to migrate and begin spawning.

As for circle hooks, we view mandatory circle hook regulations as the only viable way forward. It is well documented that circle hooks are materially effective in reducing catch & release mortality over J-hooks, even when swallowed. There is no reason to not require the use of these hooks to protect those fish that are being release by those fishing with bait.

We look forward to your decision and hope that you make these decisions to allow striped bass to recover. There is more needed down the line, but we believe this is the best step on the table to take to help protect these valuable fish.

Sincerely:

Tom McElvey, Floral Park, NY
Stephen Antonelli, Mamaroneck, NY
Roger Gendron, Fairfield, CT
Sue Bertoline, Floral Park, NY
Robert, Blosio, New Canaan, CT
Todd Scallen, Darien, CT
Matthew Quinlan, New York, NY
Eric Bonach, New Canaan, CT
Alexandra Bonach, New Canaan, CT
Sam Shoefflin, Brooklyn, NY
Andy Merrill, Rowayton, CT
Caitlin Herling, Rowayton, CT
Kyle Freiman, New York, NY
Lee Scholtz, New York, NY

Scott Meador, Mamaroneck, NY
Michael Tucker, New Canaan, CT
Stephanie Tucker, New Canaan, CT
Mimi Freiman, Madison, CT
Laura Ingraham, Darien, CT
Glenn Freiman, Madison, CT
Taylor Tait, New Canaan, CT
Chase Freiman, Madison, CT
Lizzy Sullivan, Ridgefield, CT
Rory Tait, New Canaan, CT
Scott Herling, Rowayton, CT
Whitney McNell, Darien, CT
Duncan Megroz, Brooklyn, NY
Chris LaGreca, Fairfield, CT

Madeline Torke, Ridgefield, CT
Taylor Ingraham, Norwalk, CT
Kelly Ingraham, Norwalk, CT
William Ingraham, Ridgefield, CT

Matt Frasca, Darien, CT
Alex Frasca, Darien, CT
Brittney Ingraham, New Canaan, CT
David Ingraham, New Canaan, CT

October 7, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
(submitted via email: comments@asmfc.org)

Re: Striped Bass Addendum VI to Amendment 6

Dear Commissioners and Commission Staff:

The Nature Conservancy appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the striped bass fishery management plan.

The Nature Conservancy has chapters in all U.S. coastal states, and our marine conservation work prioritizes sustainable seafood, strong coastal communities, restoration and protection of the habitats fish need to survive and thrive, and healthy ocean ecosystems. We are committed to working with stakeholders and managers to create and maintain the conditions necessary for sustainable fisheries.

We urge the Commission to reject Option 1 and establish provisions to achieve a fishing mortality level sufficiently low to rebuild the striped bass stock to meet or exceed the SSB target within ten years as specified in Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass ($F < 0.2$). It appears that the Addendum VI goal for achieving an 18% harvest reduction and an F target of 0.20 by 2020 is not conservative enough. While we appreciate the diverse concerns and short-term economic impacts the Commission must consider and weigh, this is no time for compromise decisions.

While The Nature Conservancy routinely provides input on select ASMFC fishery management plans, we have not previously commented on changes to striped bass management because historically striped bass management has been considered a national success story, often held up as an example of what can be accomplished when fishery management is done right. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case. While we appreciate and applaud the recent attention and concern exhibited by the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board, the fact that problems with this fishery have manifested over the course of a decade and past measures did not effectively curtail fishing mortality much sooner speaks to underlying challenges that the Commission has in achieving target levels for biomass and mortality for several of the fisheries it manages.

From forage fish like Atlantic menhaden to predators like striped bass and bluefish, more can and should be done at the Commission (and the regional councils) to properly account for the value of having high abundances of fish in the water, and to manage with goals of high abundance for concurrent environmental and socio-economic opportunities that high abundance provides.

We believe that the efforts initiated by the Management and Policy Board to have more thorough discussions around risk during decision-making processes could help in this regard. These processes should strive to more clearly illuminate short and long-term goals for management and how those goals might be achieved in desired time frames. If initiated early in the assessment and management process, prior to tasking technical committees and sub-committees with analyses, then Commissioners will be in a better position to make well-informed decisions when deliberating the pros and cons of various decision options.

For many fisheries, managing for an abundant resource is not at odds with the socio-economic goals for the fishery. Striped bass is one of many examples where the overwhelming support for rebuilding and maintaining striped bass at high abundance was expressed by fishermen and fishery dependent businesses during the public comment period. Thus, what is good for the fish is also good for the overwhelming majority of the fishing stakeholders. Simply put, management actions aimed at rebuilding striped bass abundance will simultaneously achieve both social and economic interests as well as the biological goals – and so options with lower chances of being successful will impart a higher risk for both the resource and the fishery.

This risk lens should also be used for critical evaluation of conservation equivalency proposals expected to be received from some states after the striped bass addendum is adopted. While conservation equivalency can be a convenient tool for accommodating different jurisdictional concerns, ASMFC could better acknowledge challenges and uncertainty inherent in conservation equivalency proposal evaluations, as well as the challenges, monitoring burdens, and time-lags needed to understand the impact of multiple state-by-state conservation equivalency provisions. Variation in management measures up and down the coast increases the uncertainty associated with stock assessments and thus increases risk to the fishery. Importantly, conservation equivalency proposals that are less likely to achieve the rebuilding objectives put the fish, the fishermen, and the fishing support businesses at greater long-term risk.

We are heartened by the number of striped bass fishermen and trade interests that have come out in support of rebuilding the striped bass population and maintaining levels of abundance that have been shown to have socio-economic benefits to coastal communities throughout the range of the striped bass population.

We encourage the Commission to take necessary actions to rebuild the striped bass population to achieve the SSB target within ten years, and to use this experience to re-evaluate how the

Commission's structure and function allowed its flagship fishery to be overfished for 11 out of the last 13 years. Lessons learned through this reflection process could then be applied to avoid repeating overharvest scenarios in other fisheries managed by ASMFC or jointly with the federal fishery management councils.

Thank you for considering these comments and as always please reach out if you have questions or there is anything that my colleagues and I can do to contribute to your success in achieving sustainable fisheries on the Atlantic coast.

Sincerely,



Jay Odell
North America Fisheries Director
The Nature Conservancy
jodell@tnc.org



Virginia Waterman's Association

10/7/19

To: Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

The Virginia Waterman's Association is willing to support the 1.8% coastwide commercial quota reduction in Option 3 of the DRAFT ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS.

We strongly oppose the unfair and inequitable commercial quota reductions found in the Sub-Options listed in Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions. Primarily, this is because the overfishing and excess mortality concerns this addendum is intended to address are solely a result of the recreational sector significantly exceeding the F targets and thresholds established in Addendum IV.

We have a number of concerns and observations, several of which are listed below.

1. As you know, unlike the recreational sector, the commercial quotas are managed as "hard caps" with any overages paid back the following year with no exceptions. Consequently, the commercial share of the coastwide mortality has been diminishing in both relative and absolute terms over time, while the recreational sector regularly exceeds its allowed F, often with little or no penalty. This is essentially the sole reason for the striped bass stock's "overfishing" and "overfished" designations derived from the conclusions of the Technical Committee and others.

2. We see the 1.8% commercial quota reductions in Option 3 as essentially another proactive measure by the commercial sector to help deal with a problem we did not cause.
3. In 2012, 14% reductions were proactively self-imposed across all sectors in the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions. We were led to believe we would get credit for this in Addendum IV, but most of this credit did not materialize and the small amount of credit that did, was only obtained through a convoluted and contentious process. These reductions were also prompted by excess F not inflicted by the stringently managed commercial fishery.
4. Similarly, in 2014 the 20.5% reductions across all sectors in the Chesapeake Bay in Addendum IV was caused by excess mortality from the recreational fisheries, but was again borne equally by both sectors.
5. For many consecutive years the Virginia commercial fishery (and commercial fisheries in other Bay jurisdictions) have been managed so strictly that the quota is never met and the yearly underages are quite significant. **For example, from 2006 to 2018 Virginia's Chesapeake Bay commercial fishery has a cumulative landings underage of 2,375,745 lbs. with no overage (or exceedance of F) in any year. That is nearly 200,000 lbs of quota each year that is allocated, but not caught due to a very conservation risk averse approach and stringent regulatory regime to protect the stocks.** (Source: VMRC mandatory reporting data, presumably reported to ASMFC)
6. Since 1993 Virginia commercial fishermen have had mandatory reporting for every significant organism landed for any purpose and recorded on a daily form. Striped bass management has additional regulations in order to tightly control the fishery. Failure to accurately report any landings is dealt with rather severely by VMRC management and Law Enforcement. Virginia was one of the first states to have such stringent mandatory reporting for all landings for all species, if not the very first.
7. We consider the significant burdens of our strict regulatory regime and our consistent quota underages in all of our commercial striped bass fisheries to have resulted in a conservation buffer that has helped offset the significant exceedance of F that has been endemic to the recreational fishery's management and loose enforcement.
8. Number 7 above being said, the Virginia Waterman's Association supports a robust and healthy recreational fishery that is more properly managed, so as to better protect the striped bass SSB and stocks in general.
9. While we will refrain from opining on which options and sub-options would be best for the recreational fishery, we would like to make one general comment based on our direct empirical observations resulting from our many years of experience as both

commercial and recreational fishermen. Sub-options in the proposed addendum such as 2-B3, 2-B4, 3-B4 and 3-B5 that have slot limits of just 3-5 inches for a legal fish are a clear recipe for discard mortality to go through the roof, even more so than it has already. We believe the 5% and 6% estimated increases in release mortality from these sub-options is likely to be severely underestimated. Depending on what size range the locally available fish fall into, that underestimation could be catastrophic and result in significantly more mortality and less recreational experience satisfaction as well.

10. With regard to the portion of the Striped Bass stock considered to be overfished, the SSB/coastal migrants, we would like to point out that many of the above-mentioned regulatory measures in Virginia, and others not mentioned, have resulted in the average size fish caught commercially in our portion of the Chesapeake Bay dropping by more than half in recent years. This has been intentional on our part in order to protect the SSB. We also can't help but notice that most of the jurisdictions to our North, largely, if not exclusively, concentrate on this very SSB segment of the stock that needs protection. These jurisdictions are the ones that need to be more proactive in the management measures they undertake.

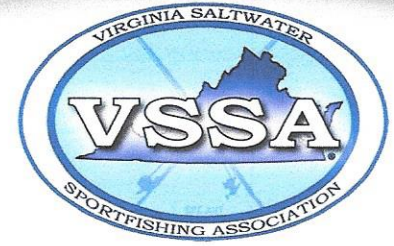
We consider the above listed reductions and regulatory measures as proactive stock protections our commercial fishery sector has consistently undertaken, but have not been acknowledged. We have filed many of these proactive and burdensome measures away in the "no good deed shall go unpunished" file.

Therefore, until some of the jurisdictions to our North better protect the SSB, and considering our years of proactive measures to do so, we feel that an 18% reduction in our commercial quota is unfair, unwarranted and violative of parts of ASMFC's charter, not to mention the basic rules of fairness and the principle of states taking responsibility for the excesses of their own fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Virginia Waterman's Association

757-897-1009
kelltron@aol.com



Mike Avery
President

September 23, 2019

John Satterly
Vice President

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator

Mike Ruggles
Treasurer

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Lanie Avery
Secretary

On behalf of the more than 600 Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA) members, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of Interstate Fishery Management Plan FMP for Striped Bass.

Board of Directors

Curtis Tomlin,
Chairman

The Stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. In fact the stock has been overfished for 10 of the last 13 years. We commend the board for finally initiating this action to end overfishing in 2020.

Mike Avery
John Bello

Upon release of the draft addendum, VSSA initiated a poll presenting the options to our membership. To date we have had over 500 responses reflected in our positions below.

Mike Ruggles
Jerry Hughes

Option 1 – Status quo. VSSA does not support this option. With 547 votes in the VSSA poll, over 86% voted against maintaining the Status Quo, clearly indicating this is not the preferred option. Striped Bass are over fished and overfishing is occurring. VSSA supports proposed actions to reduce fishing mortality.

Lanie Avery

Mark Roy

Option 2 – apply an equal 18% reduction to both the recreational and commercial fisheries relative to the 2017 harvest. Striped bass is a shared resource and we believe all parties should share in the reduction as a matter of fairness and equity. With 547 voters responding, the majority voted in favor of this option. Accordingly VSSA endorses Option 2.

David Tobey

Sam Ashbee

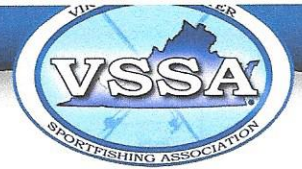
Stan Sutliff

Sub Option Sub-Option 2-A: Ocean Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement).

Steve Atkinson

VSSA supports Option 2A-2 which contains 25”to 35” slot with a bag limit of one. With 523 voters responding the majority favored option 2A-2. Limiting the harvest to one fish will help with the discard mortality issue.

Denny Dobbins



September 23, 2019
 Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)
 Pg. 2.

Sub-Option 2-B: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC, DC and VA would implement).

There were 535 responses on the VSSA poll with only one vote separating the responses for 2B-2 and 2B-4. A copy of the poll question and responses is shown below.

VSSA Poll Response
Sub Option 2B applies to the Chesapeake Bay for MD, VA, and Potomac River Fisheries Commission. If a slot option is selected there would be no take of any striped bass above or below the slot size.
2B-2. Minimum Size 22" with a bag limit of 2 (30%, 160 Votes)
2B-4. 20" to 24" slot with a bag limit of 2 (30%, 159 Votes)
2B-3. 18" to 23" slot with a bag limit of 2 (21%, 113 Votes)
2B-1. Minimum Size 18" with a bag limit of 1 (19%, 103 Votes)
Total Voters: 535

Accordingly VSSA can support either option 2B-2 or 2B-4.

Option 3: The Commercial Sector Takes a Smaller Percent Reduction. VSSA does not support this option. Striped Bass is a shared public resource. We believe all parties must share in the reduction as a matter of fairness and equity. However, we will provide responses on the sub options to be used only if the commission decides in favor of a smaller reduction for the commercial fishery. The preferences shown below are based on the majority of voters responding to the VSSA poll.

Sub-Option 3-A: Ocean Recreational Fishery. VSSA would support Option 3A-2. 28" - 34" slot with a bag limit of 1.

Sub-Option 3-B: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC, DC and VA would implement). VSSA would support option 3B-4. 18" - 22" slot with a bag limit of 2.



September 23, 2019
Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

Pg. 3.

3.2 Circle Hook Provision. VSSA supports Option B. Whereby states/jurisdictions would be required to implement regulations requiring the use of circle hooks, with the intent of reducing striped bass discard mortality in their recreational fisheries. There were 500 votes cast and the majority was in favor of option B. All states will require monitoring and enforcement plans to ensure conservation gains are realized.

VSSA believes action on this addendum and current FMP has the necessary provisions to correct the overfishing situation. We do not believe a full amendment is necessary and oppose any action to initiate a full Amendment. The reference points in Amendment 6 offer the best path forward for Striped Bass. Undertaking the initiation of a full amendment will only cause additional undue delays and further weaken conservation efforts. Finally VSSA reminds the management board of the critical work underway developing Ecological Reference Points for Atlantic Menhaden. VSSA believes there is a strong correlation between a healthy population of Atlantic Menhaden and Striped Bass.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John J. Bello".

John J. Bello
Chair – VSSA Government Affairs Committee

cc: Steven G. Bowman – Virginia Marine Resource Commission



October 7, 2019

Dr. Mike Armstrong, Chairman
Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Dr. Armstrong and Members of the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board,

On behalf of *Wild Oceans*, an organization founded and supported by conservation-minded anglers, I am writing in support of swift action to end overfishing of striped bass through Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Striped Bass.

The striped bass stock assessment released by NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center in April of this year reports that striped bass are overfished and overfishing is occurring.¹ Based on these findings, Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass IFMP requires the Management Board to reduce fishing mortality to the target level and to develop and implement a rebuilding schedule that does not exceed 10 years.²

The importance of striped bass to Atlantic coastal communities cannot be overstated. From Maine to North Carolina, striped bass recreational and commercial fishing supports over 100,000 jobs and annually generates close to 8 billion dollars in GDP for the region.³ Nearly 30% of all recreational trips taken in the region are attributed to striped bass.⁴ If current fishing pressure is left unchecked, the long-term socio-economic consequences would be devastating. Decisive action is needed to conserve and rebuild the striped bass population.

¹ Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). 2019. 66th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (66th SAW) Assessment Report. US Dept Commer, Northeast Fish Sci Cent Ref Doc. 19-08; 1170 p. Available from: <https://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/publications/crd/crd1908/>

² See Section 2.6 (Stock Rebuilding Program) in Amendment 6.

³ Southwick Associates. 2019. The Economic Contributions of Recreational and Commercial Striped Bass Fishing. A report produced for: The McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership. Revised April 12, 2019. 69 pp.

⁴ Ibid

Wild Oceans commends the Management Board for moving quickly to complete Addendum VI – an important first step, and we urge you to take final action to approve Addendum VI at the ASMFC annual meeting later this month. We recommend the following options for inclusion in the final addendum:

- Management Scenario Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions. This option would reduce striped bass removals by 18% for both the recreational and commercial sectors in order to bring fishing mortality down to the target. Both sectors should bear the conservation burden equally, just as they should benefit equally when the striped bass population is healthy.
 - Sub-option 2A-1. For recreational ocean fisheries, implement a bag limit of 1 fish and a minimum size of 35 inches. A maximum size limit that protects young fish until they have a chance to spawn has proven successful in the history of the striped bass fishery.⁵
 - Sub-option 2B-1. For recreational fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay, implement a bag limit of 1 fish and a minimum size of 18 inches. This option will help protect the strong 2014 and 2015 year classes as they become available to Bay fisheries in 2020.
- Circle Hook Provision Option B. Under this option, states and jurisdictions would require the use of circle hooks in recreational fisheries using bait in order to reduce striped bass discard mortality. Release mortality in recreational fisheries is projected to rise by 3-4% as a result of new minimum size limits.⁶ It is important to take steps to offset this projected rise in mortality, and scientific studies have demonstrated that circle hooks reduce serious injury and mortality rates while maintaining high catch efficiency.⁷
- Conservation Equivalency. We are concerned that permitting Conservation Equivalency could allow states and jurisdictions to sidestep conservation measures necessary for ending overfishing and rebuilding the stock. Conservation Equivalency should only be approved in cases where a state or jurisdiction submits a scientifically-rigorous plan that results in a measurable conservation benefit to striped bass that is greater than the benefit afforded through the measures selected in Addendum VI. If the intended results of a Conservation Equivalency plan are not realized, based on annual Technical Committee review, the Management Board should reserve the ability to rescind the plan.

⁵ Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, adopted in 1989, implemented a coast-wide maximum size limit (36 inches in 1989) for coastal waters to protect young females until they had a chance to spawn. A smaller maximum size limit (18 inches) was adopted for inshore waters. This strategy contributed significantly to the rebound in the striped bass population in the mid-1990s.

⁶ See Draft Addendum VI, p.11.

⁷ Cooke, S. and Suski, C. 2004. Are circle hooks an effective tool for conserving marine and freshwater recreational catch-and-release fisheries?. *Aquatic Conserv: Mar. Freshw. Ecosyst.*, 14: 299-326. doi:10.1002/aqc.614.

- Compliance Schedule. The intent of Addendum VI is to reduce fishing mortality to the target level in 2020.⁸ As such, we ask that a compliance schedule be developed to ensure that required state regulations are in place by early spring, before the start of the peak striped bass fishing season.

Addendum VI marks a significant step forward in the recovery of striped bass, and we once again thank the Management Board for taking expeditious action to end overfishing. However, even with an 18% across-the-board reduction in removals, there is only a 50% chance of achieving F_{TARGET} in 2020. As the Management Board moves ahead with a subsequent action to address rebuilding, we ask that a range of options be developed to ensure a high likelihood of success (greater than 50% chance of rebuilding within the required 10-year timeframe).

In closing, we are reminded of the words of the late Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island: “Americans have ‘symbols’ which they rally around and which signify some part of the quality of life we all seek. The striped bass is a symbol.” The Atlantic striped bass is indeed a symbol for fisheries management, for what we get right as well as what we get wrong. We must get this right. There is simply too much at stake.

Sincerely,



Pam Lyons Gromen
Executive Director

⁸ See section 2.1 (Statement of the Problem) of Draft Addendum VI (p.1).

Comments

From: srperna@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

October 6, 2019

Max Appelman
FMP Coordinator Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,
I am writing on behalf of the concerned members of the Berkeley Striper Club regarding the Draft Addendum VI, concerning the management of striped bass.

Founded in 1966, the Berkeley Striper Club is one of the largest recreational surf fishing clubs in New Jersey. The Club constitutes over two hundred members actively involved in shoreline habitat preservation, safeguarding beach access, youth education programs, fish conservation and striped bass tagging program.

After careful review of the ASMFC Draft Addendum VI, we offer our support and comment for your consideration.

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions Sub-Option 2-A4 (1 @ 32-40") -21% for total removals.

Option C: Requires states/jurisdictions to promote the use of circle hooks by developing public education and outreach campaigns.

On behalf of the Berkeley Striper Club, I thank you for your time and hope you consider our concerns regarding this critically important matter.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley Striper Club Executive Board

John Kravchek, President
Steven Perna, Vice President
Ed Mullen, Treasurer
Steve George, Secretary
Jon Pulaski, Delegate at Large
Tom Basile, Delegate at Large
Tony Senatore, Delegate at Large

Comments

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Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:56 PM
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October 6, 2019

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John Kravchek, President
Steven Perna, Vice President
Ed Mullen, Treasurer
Steve George, Secretary
Jon Pulaski, Delegate at Large
Tom Basile, Delegate at Large
Tony Senatore, Delegate at Large

Comments

From: Sean Fitzpatrick <flyfitz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments on Addendum VI

Hello,

As a MD resident and member of CCA MD, I would like to register my comments regarding Addendum VI.

Regarding Addendum VI, I support the same position as CCA Maryland. This include support for the following points:

- **CCA Maryland supports Option 2** – Equal Percent Reductions for all sectors. All sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector and equal percentages should be used.
- 18% taken off of recreational catch will account for 90% of the reduction necessary because 90% of removals coast-wide are from recreational fishing. 18% taken from the commercial catch will make up the remaining reduction necessary and be an equal reduction to both sectors.
- **CCA Maryland Strongly Opposes Option 3** - This option reflects a reallocation of harvest from recreational fishing to commercial fishing based on estimates of one year's harvest data. This is NOT the correct way to reallocate catch. No analysis was done or is planned to understand the socio-economic impacts of a reallocation, therefore one should not be done via this addendum. This option requires a 1.8% reduction of commercial catch, not 18% as is recommended by the technical committee. The remainder of the reduction would be placed on recreational fisheries with this option.
- **Option 3** was created using the coast-wide balance between commercial and recreational catch, not Maryland's historical balance. **If selected, the option could set the 2020 commercial quota, above the 2019 limits.**
- CCA Maryland has long supported reducing fishing mortality to provide for a greater abundance and develop a stock of larger, older fish. Thus, we support options that **meet or exceed the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI**, and support any proposed action with a higher probability of reducing fishing mortality.
- CCA supports conservation equivalency measures that meet or exceed the 18% reduction for all sectors, and are approved by the Technical Committee and SB Board.
- CCA supports the mandatory use of circle hooks when using natural bait as a matter of principle. All states should have monitoring programs, and enforcement plans in place so that conservation gains from circle hooks are realized.

Thank you very much,

Sean Fitzpatrick
704 Tyler Ave
Annapolis, MD 21403

Sean Fitzpatrick FlyFitz@yahoo.com

Comments

From: Michael Toole <toolemf@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass non-agenda comment for October meeting

Plum Island Surfcaster

Founded 1957

Michael Toole
Plum Island Surfcasters Executive Board
16 Raeder Drive
Stratham, NH 03885
603-765-6299

ASMFC
Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street
Suite A-N
Arlington, Va. 22201

Dear Sir:

I am responding as the Executive Board Representative of the Plum Island Surfcasters, a 388 member fishing club located in Newburyport Massachusetts established in 1957.

With the determination that striped bass are over fished and the female SSB below threshold any effort to open the EEZ to striper fishing should be opposed by the ASMFC. Targeting of stripers in the EEZ is mainly on the large breeder fish which need to be protected, especially at this time. This would include the EEZ area around the Block Island area.

Thank you for your work
Mike Toole

Comments

From: Michael Louie <mk.louie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:21 AM
To: Max Appelman
Cc: Comments; savethestripers@gmail.com; Maureen Davidson; James Gilmore; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY; Emerson Hasbrouck
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Max Appelman,

My name is Michael Louie and I represent the Brooklyn Urban Anglers Association, a group of over 1500 like-minded fishermen and lovers of our shared marine resource. I'm asking the ASMFC to protect the striped bass as it once did in the 1980s, to fulfill its charter, to honestly and aggressively act on the management triggers the Commission themselves created, and honor the requirements set out by Amendment 6 to the Interstate Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass: to reduce the fishing mortality rate to a level at or below the target within one year, and to rebuild the stock in no more than 10 years. This is the responsibility of the Commission.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

—Option 2: 18 percent reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector; specifically, I support Option 2-A1: 1 fish @ 35", and Option 2-B1: 1 fish @ 18" for the Chesapeake Bay.

—Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

The striped bass recovery of the 1980s was a remarkable success for the ASMFC, but it didn't happen without making difficult decisions. Surfcasters up and down the coast have for years noted the drop-off in striped bass fishing. It's been documented by the best-available science, and confirmed by your own studies. The Commission needs to take seriously the harsh reality those of us on the water have seen: that striped bass, along with critical baitfish species, need to be managed as an ecosystem and that time is of the essence to act. None of us will benefit from a further depleted stock.

We are nearing that precipice again and now is the time for the ASMFC to decisively act to protect the species. We are dependent on you to do what's right for the future. Please carefully and honestly evaluate your actions regarding striped bass in the upcoming months. We are only asking the ASMFC to fulfill its duties, and it's up to you to ensure the Commission remains a protector of our marine resources.

Sincerely,

Michael Louie
Brooklyn, New York

Comments

From: Rsquire <rsquire@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 10:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

October 6, 2019

Max Appelman Fishery Management Plan Coordinator 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Max,

My name is Ross Squire. I am the President of the NY Coalition for Recreational Fishing. The NYCRF is made up of fishing clubs, organizations and individual members with close to 2,000 New Yorkers. I am the founder of the 1@32 Pledge on Facebook which has 2,300 conservation-minded anglers from up and down the Coast and I am also a member of the Traditional Surfcasters.

The following represents the options which I and these organizations have endorsed:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the sectors

Our belief is that all sectors should share equally in the reduction. In our opinion the commercial sector was handed a gift. In Draft Addendum 6, the commercial harvest reductions are based on the Addendum IV quotas. The recreational sector's harvest reductions are based on the 2017 harvest. Had the same 2017 standard been used for the commercial sector, the quota in the draft addendum actually represents an INCREASE, not a harvest reduction. If Option 2 is not adopted, the commercial sector will see a 22% increase over their 2017 harvest.

Option 2-A1: 1@35"

There are pros and cons to every option listed. We are worried when we read in the Draft Addendum that long term conservation benefits may not be realized if a slot limit is adopted. The impact of a slot on the long-term health of the fishery is just not known. We feel strongly that we cannot take that chance.

We also believe that it is vital that the small fish that we are seeing in our waters are protected. Option 2-A1 will allow these smaller fish the largest number of spawning years before they become exploitable.

Finally, we cannot ignore past history. We have seen the positive effect of 1@36". It led to the successful rebuilding of the striped bass fishery. With Option 2-A1 we are trusting that history will repeat itself.

For the Chesapeake Bay, Option 2-B1: 1@18”

We do not like any of the options being offered for the Chesapeake Bay. Exploiting fish before they have a chance to spawn makes no sense to us. While we are not in favor of any of the options listed for the Chesapeake Bay, Option 2-B1 is expected to achieve the greatest harvest reduction. It is for this reason that we select Option 2-B1.

Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of circle hooks

Circle hooks have been proven in multiple studies to reduce fish mortality and should be required when fishing live and dead bait. This must be accompanied by an effective education and awareness program.

Two additional comments: None of this will make any difference if the ASMFC does not tighten up how you analyze and manage conservation equivalency proposals. When an analysis is off by over 200% as it was with Maryland’s harvest, this is not a mathematical error; it is a process error. You must press the Technical Committee to make sure this gets fixed.

That fact that Maryland was allowed to decimate the 2011 year class for years after it was known that this was occurring defies any logic. The fact that Maryland’s harvest reduction in this Draft Addendum is based on their 2017 harvest when they were severely over their harvest total, leaves us scratching our heads. Why would you reward a state for overharvesting by 200% and many of these fish were from the 2011 year class you were trying to protect? There must be consequences when states do not live up to their harvest reduction goals.

Finally, we recognize the ASMFC has a number of constituencies that need to be considered. However, we urge you to manage for the benefit of the greater majority. Other constituencies always have the option of requesting conservation equivalency options. According to the DEC, Vessel Trip Reports for 2018 showed there were just under 13,000 anglers on for-hire boats where a striped bass was caught. This is the industry’s data. There are close to 400,000 New Yorkers registered with the NY Recreational Marine Fishing Registry with estimates of another 400,000 that are not registered. The best interests of the fishery and the great majority of your constituents must drive your fisheries management decisions.

Thank You.

Ross Squire
264 Fillmore St
Centerport, NY 11721

Comments

From: Robert MiGdaski <crankycapt69@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 7:59 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Emerson Hasbrouck; James Gilmore
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max Appelman, FMPCoordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

The Long Island Sound Lobstermen's association has many members who commercially harvest striped bass. As an association we would prefer option 1: status quo for Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 for the interstate fishery management plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. If status quo is not possible we would opt for option 3: with a commercial quota reduction of 1.8%. However in NY state where the commercial quota is seldom harvested any reduction seems unfair. If the problems and overages occurred in the commercial sector it is highly unlikely the recreational sector would see any reduction and any overages would be paid back the following year by the commercial sector. The commercial sector should not be held accountable for the others overages.

Respectfully,
Robert J Migdalski
Board of Directors
Long Island Sound Lobstermen's Association

Comments

From: DOUGLAS TAYLOR <fishtrek@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Subject: Striped Bass, DraftAddendum VI

Importance: High

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St. Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA. 22001

Max and ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

Subject: Striped Bass, Draft Addendum VI

On behalf of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association membership (over 2000 members) and at the direction of the Board I have been requested to submit our comments for the Draft Addendum 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass.

As a majority, it was established that we would favor the option 2-2A, with the Chesapeake Bay recreational Fishery following the same restrictions and limits that the Ocean Recreational Fishery would follow. Because this would also effect the Tournaments, we are asking that a "one trophy tag per fisherperson per year " be issued for a fish greater than 40, but the tag must be requested by the fisherperson so that a record is kept of the catch.

Because the 2014-2016 breeding class is reaching the spawning size in 2020, it is also recommended that the data be reviewed in a timely manner (2 years) to see if the recruitment stock has increased . Also because other factors that include water temperature, air temperature, and salinity effect the mortality rate of fish released, if these extremes exist than that area be closed to striper fishing until the conditions improve.

Concerning circle hooks, Option B is favored with any designated breeding areas circle hooks being mandatory.

In closing we would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please take the appropriate action to restore our striper stocks!

Respectfully,

Douglas A. Taylor, NJBBA Director

Comments

From: Gary Steinmiller <steinmillergary@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 3:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

We the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association consisting of 185 members would like to see changes regarding the management of the Striped Bass fishery here in CT. We would like to see the moratorium that worked to restore the fishery years ago re-enacted. The fact is that the prior moratorium worked very well and restored the depleted fishery. It is also a fact that the management that followed this recovery came up short in an effort to maintain a viable Striped Bass fishery. This does not need to be complicated. The first thing that needs to be done is to restore the fishery by reapplying the moratorium that worked the first time. If it worked once no need to try something different. What needs to be different is the rules that follow the restoration. Get the fish back as quick as possible and learn from the mistakes made in the past to regulate the fishery. We support a one fish limit at 36 inches for everyone.

Sincerely,
Gary Steinmiller President
Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association
P.O. Box 380268
East Hartford, CT 06138-0268

that once restored the fishery was mismanaged

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Marc Sherry <marcandlori@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 6:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments on Addendum 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass
From The Fish Hawks Salt Water Angler Club, Lacey Township

FROM: Fish Hawks Salt Water Angler Club
P.O. Box 700
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

TO: Mr. Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

My name is Mickey Sherry, and I am the Political Advocate for the Fish Hawks Salt Water Angler Club located in Lacey Township. We are a Fishing Club, 200 members strong. We are dedicated to the Preservation Of The Marine Environment, and Safeguarding Our Natural Resources.

The Fish Hawks Salt Water Anglers Club met on 10/03/19 and discussed Draft Addendum 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass. Many of our members feel that Striped Bass Fishing over the last several years have diminished, and agree that something has to be done to further increase the biomass and improve our Striped Bass Fishing.

We discussed the three Options as presented per addendum 6 of the the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass. Our Membership adamantly opposed Option 3, that would result in a 20% reduction for recreational fishermen and only a 1.8% reduction for the commercial sector.

We, however voted to **support Option 2** which would require an 18% reduction for both the commercial and recreational sectors based on 2017 levels. Regarding the sub-options within Option 2, our membership was divided, however, after further discussion, our members did agree to **support option 2-A3** with a slot limit of 30"-38" , as this option would result in an 18% reduction.

As stated, our membership supports conservation of the Striped Bass stock and that is why we are supporting option 2-A3 as stated; **HOWEVER**, many members were not happy with any of the sub-options in Addendum 6. Our membership was some-what divided, and many members preferred to catch a smaller fish to eat, and many of our members fish in tournaments and target a trophy fish. Unfortunately, the sub options do not allow for both types of fishing. Therefore, we **support Conservation Equivalency** and we are hopeful that New Jersey will develop options that will affect all sectors equally, while meeting the anticipated mandatory reductions. For example, this could be done through seasonal closures or perhaps by allowing either a smaller striped bass or a larger striped Bass to be harvested, while protecting the medium sized fish that might be our best breeders.

Regarding the use of **circle hooks**, we support **Option C** which would require states/jurisdictions to promote the use of circle hooks by developing public education and outreach campaigns on their benefits when fishing with bait. We do not support Option B that would make circle hooks mandatory because it would create an enforcement nightmare. Further, the use of circle hooks is not practical under all circumstances. For

instance, it would not be practical for long distance surf-casters who like to snag and drop bunker.

In closing, I as well as our Fish Hawks Membership, would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment on Addendum 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass.

Respectfully,
Mickey Sherry
Political Advocate
Fish Hawks Salt Water Anglers Club

Comments

From: Charlie Muller <mullerc918@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 9:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

September 29, 2019

Max Appelman
FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
Email: comments@asmfc.org

Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appleman,

I am writing on behalf of the concerned members of the Berkeley Striper Club regarding the Draft Addendum VI, concerning the management of striped bass.

Founded in 1966, the Berkeley Striper Club is one of the largest recreational surf fishing clubs in New Jersey. The Club constitutes over two hundred members actively involved in shoreline habitat preservation, youth education programs, fish conservation & tagging, and safeguarding beach access.

After careful review of the ASMFC Draft Addendum VI, we offer our comment for your consideration.

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

Sub-Option 2-A4 (1 @ 32-40") -21% for total removals.

On behalf of the Berkeley Striper Club, I thank you for your time and hope you consider our concerns regarding this critically important matter.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley Striper Club Executive Board

John Kravchek, President

Steve Perna, Vice President

Ed Mullen, Treasurer

Steve George, Secretary

Jon Pulaski, Delgate at large

Tom Basile, Delgate at large

Tony Senatore, Delgate at large

Comments

From: mcbride <marshr@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: Comments regarding Amendment 6 on Striped Bass

----- Original Message -----

From: mcbride <marshr@optonline.net>
To: ETZBREAK@aol.com, Info@novemberraincharters.com
Date: October 2, 2019 at 4:51 PM
Subject: Comments regarding Amendment 6 on Striped Bass

The Montauk Boatmen and Captains Association (MBCA) would like to support option 2A1 but not a 35 inch minimum size as presented. We would like consideration re: our concessions for good conservation with a more reasonable minimum size.

The MBCA, at its September meeting, recommended the following:

1. A minimum size for Striped Bass. This is designed to avoid the discard problem which resulted in the current ASMFC proposals.

2. A separate category for charter and party boats.

3. Relinquish the captains and mates retention of Striped Bass allowed during the current season.

4. We are amenable to an adjusted season.

The above recommendations are designed to implement a conservation equivalency in New York State's Striped Bass fishery.

Respectfully submitted,

Capt. Rick Etzel, Pres.

Capt. Joe McBride, Leg. Rep.

Comments

From: smachalaba@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 7:57 PM
To: Comments
Cc: mancino.sam@gmail.com; members@hi-mar.com
Subject: Striped Bass Management Plan Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St., Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

The Hi-Mar Striper Club of Middletown, New Jersey, whose membership numbers 40 members, hereby conveys its position concerning the proposed Draft Addendum options to the ASMFC. The Hi-Mar Striper Club selects Sub-Option 2-A2, 1 Striped Bass at 28" -35" slot to achieve the required reductions in removals. The Hi-Mar Striper Club also endorses the voluntary use of (non-offset) Circle Hooks for fishing with bait. The selection of Sub-Option 2-A2 is based upon the information provided by ASMFC. Should other information become available that shows the required reduction may have already been achieved in 2018, we reserve the right to revise our selection. If this information does indeed show the required reduction has already been achieved, Hi-Mar Striper Club would be in favor of Option 1 - Status Quo. Thank you for this opportunity to submit our comments.

Hi-Mar Striper Club
P.O. Box 126
Middletown, NJ 07748

Stephen Machalaba, Vice President

Comments

From: Dan Harrison <DHarrison@cdtresources.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 12:54 PM
To: Comments
Cc: 'Arnie Ulrich (kavester@aol.com)'
Subject: Recreational Fishery Management, Amendment 6

The Hudson River Fishermen's Association feel that option 2-A2 would be the best for our 235 family members. One fish 28" – 35".

Thanks,
Dan Harrison
President
Hudson River Fishermen's Association.
Fight for the Hudson

Comments

From: WAYNE A BERGERON <wayne.bergeron@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 4:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

ASMFC Members,

At a regularly scheduled membership meeting of the **Cape Cod Charter Boat Association**, membership voted to support the following Addendum VI proposals:

Sub option 2A, option 2-A2: slot limit 28-35 inches, 1 trophy fish

Rationale: Charterboat captains, in Cape Cod Bay and in Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds, have observed a dramatic decline in the number of striped bass 28 inches or greater. Numerous times we fail to reach our allotted daily bag limit for our anglers, and on occasion we return from trips with no legal bass. In addition, the striped bass commercial sector will fill barely over half their annual quota this year. It is abundantly clear that status quo is not acceptable, and that some action is required. Slot limits have been proven an effective tool in assisting species recovery, and are used frequently in eastern seaboard states. The CCCBA view it as paramount to protect our larger egg-bearing fish, and support this endeavor.

Circle Hooks Option B-

The CCCBA has voted consistently to endorse the mandatory use of circle hooks for live and cut bait, and has attended public meetings advocating as such. Research shows clearly circle hooks reduce fish mortality, some at even greater levels than the 9% reduction benchmark demonstrates. We support further public education regarding the use of circle hooks, but not at the expense of eliminating mandatory use. Other states have done this, and their tackle stores and anglers have all adapted. This regulation is long overdue.

Finally, given the occurrences of gaffing undersized fish because we "believe" they are legal, the CCCVA recommends the complete banning of gaffing striped bass regardless of size.

For the Cape Cod Charter Boat Association,

Capitan Don Cianciolo- President

Comments

From: stan simmerman <stan_simmerman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 10:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Appelman,

The Peninsula Saltwater Sports Fisherman's Association board of directors met and discussed the Striped Bass situation and feel that the entire striped bass fishery, recreational and commercial, should be shut down completely until the stock recovers.

On behalf of our 182 members I would like to ask that you consider this action on October 30th at the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board as you make your decision.

Respectfully,

Stan Simmerman
President Peninsula Saltwater Sports Fisherman's Association

Comments

From: Derri Williams <derriw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 8:14 PM
To: rob lucia
Cc: Comments; Austin Rutcofsky
Subject: Re: Atlantic Surfcasters Club position comments on addendum to Amendment VI

Got it.

On Tue, Sep 24, 2019, 6:40 PM rob lucia <rml811@aol.com> wrote:

Max Appelman
FMP Coordinator
comments@asmfc.org
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good Evening,

Atlantic Surfcasters Club (ASC) is a New York State based recreational surfcasting club. ASC supports and works with NYCRF and LIBBA on a multitude of issues that affect our mutual recreational interests and pursuits. ASC supports the following Options and Sub Options as presented by ASMFC.

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

Sub-Option 2-A1: Ocean Recreational Fishery 35' Minimum with a bag limit of one fish.

Sub-Option 2-B1: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery 18" minimum with bag limit of one fish.

Circle Hook Provision

Option C. States/jurisdictions would be required to promote the use of circle hooks by developing public education and outreach campaigns on their benefits when fishing with bait. States/jurisdictions must provide updates on public education and outreach efforts in annual state compliance reports.

Thank you considering the recommendations of Atlantic Surfcasters Club.

Rob Lucia
President
Atlantic Surfcasters Club
RML811@aol.com

Comments

From: rob lucia <rml811@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 6:41 PM
To: Comments
Cc: austinrutcofsky@gmail.com; derriw@gmail.com
Subject: Atlantic Surfcasters Club position comments on addendum to Amendment VI

Max Appelman
FMP Coordinator
comments@asmfc.org
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good Evening,

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Sub-Option 2-A1: Ocean Recreational Fishery 35' Minimum with a bag limit of one fish.

Sub-Option 2-B1: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery 18" minimum with bag limit of one fish.

Circle Hook Provision

Option C. States/jurisdictions would be required to promote the use of circle hooks by developing public education and outreach campaigns on their benefits when fishing with bait. States/jurisdictions must provide updates on public education and outreach efforts in annual state compliance reports.

Thank you considering the recommendations of Atlantic Surfcasters Club.

Rob Lucia
President
Atlantic Surfcasters Club
RML811@aol.com

Comments

From: Theodore H Carski <thcarski@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 9:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

I am a member of CCA MD, and support CCA's positions. In addition, in an effort to meet or exceed the 18% reduction, and reduce mortality of the breeding females, I would support an action that eliminates the take of all fish greater than 'X' inches. Uncertain if X is 34, but the action would use the data-supported number. All 'trophy' fishing would then become catch and release, and the breeding females would be protected in all waters at all times.

Sincerely,
T.H. Carski

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Joe Coppola <joecopp10@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 6:41 PM
To: Max Appelman
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mr. Appelman,

This is to express my wholehearted support for the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) recommendations to salvage the striped bass population on the U.S. east coast. I've heard several options offered by numerous individuals/groups and the RISAA recommendations, in my opinion, strike the best balance for all interested parties and will produce the result we are seeking.

Those of us who are passionate about the fun of hunting for and landing these wonderful fish are even more passionate about enacting solutions that ensure this treasure of the Atlantic Coastal waterways remains healthy and abundant. It is very important to us that our children, grandchildren and the generations that follow them are presented with the opportunity to admire and enjoy striped bass. Please take appropriate action(s) before it's too late.

Unfortunately, a previous commitment (our local fishing club is hosting a fishing event for disabled veterans) will prevent me from attending the Sept. 24 hearing. I hope this email (instead of personal testimony at the hearing) has the same effect on Board Members as personal testimony.

Thank you for "listening".

Best regards,

Joe Coppola
Wakefield RI

From: [Michael Toole](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 7:08:39 PM

Plum Island Surfcaster

Founded 1957

Michael Toole
Plum Island Surfcasters Executive Board
16 Raeder Drive
Stratham, NH 03885
603-765-6299

ASMFC

Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street
Suite A-N
Arlington, Va. 22201

Dear Sir:

I am responding as the Executive Board Representative of the Plum Island Surfcasters, a 388 member fishing club located in Newburyport Massachusetts established in 1957. While our members fish for many different species of fish, striped bass is the primary focus of our membership. We have been very concerned over the past 5 years as we've seen a steady decline in the striped bass abundance. Based on membership input the following would be our input on Draft Addendum VI. In short we support option 2 with sub-option 2-A1 but would like to see a 36" minimum, for circle hooks option C, see below for details on why:

We are totally against option 1: Status Quo. Since this option does not meet the projected reductions needed from 2017 levels to achieve target in 2020 we do not see anyway this option would be acceptable. Counting on good young of the year classes alone to bring the fishery back would be nothing short of reckless.

We are also totally against option 3: While we understand that recreational fisherman account for a much larger percentage of the kill than commercial fisherman we still think they should also be subject to the 18% reduction. This belief is based on several factors. While the recreational fisherman are responsible for a larger percentage of the kill we must also note the number of recreational fisherman is many time greater than commercial fisherman and put much more money into the economy. While the recreational kill is spread across all sizes of fish most all of the ocean caught fish by commercial fisherman are bigger breeder fish. The last item is based on the ASMFC tables the commercial fisherman missed the 2017 quota by over 27%, so even with the 18% reduction that is still 260,000 above what was actually caught in 2017. This alone should be a very good indication of the decrease in the breeder stock. It should be noted that we do have members that commercial fish for stripers but none of them supported option 3.

While we support option 2: Equal percentage reduction, we have reservation about this only having a 50% chance of achieving F target means in 2020. Of the sub-options we support 2-A1 but would prefer to see it at 36" rather than 35". Our reasoning for this is since many of our members practice catch and release only keeping fish that can not be revived. We have found that much of the time the few fish that can not be revived are bigger fish. For the bay fishery we did not select a sub-option that we prefer but we would like to see the trophy season

changed some to give the larger breeders a chance to enter and exit the spawning grounds. With so many large fish congregated in a small area they need better protection.

The reason we selected Option C for circle hooks is first we do not see them as effective at protecting fish in many circumstances. They definitely have their place but there are methods where J hooks are better. I've used hi/lo rigs tied with short loops and J hooks and have never deep hooked a fish with this rig. Our club has spent time educating our member on better technique for protecting the fish when releasing them. Number one would be using crushing the barbs on hooks, especially when targeting small fish. We think education on the many aspects of protecting fish when releasing them is the best approach. The other aspect is during the spring meeting it was noted that while Maryland said they were moving to circle hooks they actually only did it on a very limited manner.

While I know there is little ASMFC can do about it but putting pressure on the states for more enforcement of the regulations would be an important step. I have fished saltwater for over 60 years and I have never been approached by a marine patrol officer. If states would up the fines and get more officers out there it would be self supporting in my opinion.

Thank you for your effort and time.
Michael Toole

Comments

From: Kevin Watson <wattsup42@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 12:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

I'm a striper fisherman mostly jersey shore from Brick to Barnegat inlet, I was wondering if you could send me a explanation of how you determine your statistics Re:you determined fishermen were overfishing for the last 13 to 15 years,3 million stripers died after their release (peer reviewed research?) are these all call ins because I been fishing for awhile and know a lot of fishermen I don't know anybody that calls their catch in.As far as surveys I never seen one. I realize all surveys are flawed. That 35 inch min is flawed especially for beach fishermen.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: lobsterdiver@juno.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 4:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello Max,

I live in Delaware and I was not able to attend the hearing in Dover. It would have been nice to have one in Lewes, DE close to where a lot of the striped bass fishing takes place.

For the proposed management scenarios of 3.1, I am voting for Option 1: Status Quo, because I partake in the Summer Striped Bass Slot Season where I may keep two striped bass between 20 and 25 inches in the Delaware Bay and its tributaries.

Under the circle hook provision 3.2, I am voting for Option C where the use of circle hooks would be promoted through education and outreach. I already own a bunch of non-circle hooks that I would like to be able to use.

If you decide to reduce the catch by 18%, I would like to see option 2-A2 28-35". However I would still like to see a 2 fish bag limit. I live far from my fishing grounds and it takes time and gas to get there. And there are only so many days that I go.

How about reducing bag limits for out of state fishermen like they do for clamming in DE. Or disallowing charter and head boat captains and mates to fish on paid trips. This would reduce fishing effort and fish taken. Let them fish recreationally on their off days like everyone else. (The same would go for flounder, sea bass, etc.) You could also count fish caught on charters and head boats under the commercial quota. When money is exchanged for fish, that is commercial activity. How about reducing the number of rods a charter boat can troll to a reasonable number? Have you ever seen their trolling spreads? You wonder why the sea is being emptied out. Lastly, reduce the commercial catch by more than 18%. Use fishing money to buy back commercial licenses and educate commercial fishermen at Del Tech at no charge so that they are prepared make a living another way. I hate to walk into a supermarket and see these tiny wild caught striped bass (that would be illegal if I caught them) that are going to be thrown away because the stores sell them for too much and they refuse to mark them down very much if at all. Punish stores and restaurants for throwing away fish with fines so that they sell them at a better price so that a valuable public resource is purchased and eaten, not wasted.

How do you plan to reduce catch-and-release fishing effort?

Thanks for your time. Have a good day.

Brian Klint
20604 Mulberry Knoll Road
Lewes, DE 19958

1 Simple Trick Removes Eye Bags & Lip Lines in Seconds Fit Mom Daily
<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3131/5d8293c19197d13c12f23st02duc>

Comments

From: Jim <jlphoto@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 9:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum for public Comment

I was present at the NYS public hearing at Bethpage State Park this past Sept. 4th. I brought with me and showed the below photo to all attending. I have been photographing striped bass at Montauk for the past twenty years. I mentioned I had not shot a new blitz photo since 2012 because I had not seen a blitz WORTHY of a photo. That drew an interesting response from the audience. Yes there have been blitzing fish at Montauk since 2012 but they have been small (20"-26") and not as intense as the years from 1999-2012. Those year class of fish that are 28"-33 or 34" have been missing for the past six years. They have left or they do not exist in any measurable numbers. As the saying goes something is rotten in Denmark. I support the position that the American saltwater Guides Association led by John McMurray has taken.

Jim Levison



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Brad Buzzi <buz@buzfly.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 12:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI - Questions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Max Appelman, FMPCoordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
Email:comments@asmfc.org
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max,

I had the pleasure of attending the Thursday, September 12 Bay Avenue Community Center Manahawkin, NJ Draft Addendum for Public Comment presented by Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

It was a very informative and well attended meeting. The presenters do a very good an through job or presenting the information in a way that most people could understand and explaining the available options for NJ.

I have read the 29 page document and was have narrowed down my position to 2-1A 35" minimum and 2-A2 28"-35" Slot.

A majority of the people and groups I am associated with are leaning towards 2-A1 where I am leaning towards 2-A2. With both options I would like to see the use of Inline Circle Hooks for all bait fishing for Stripped Bass along with the banning of Snag-And-Drop.

My concerns with 2-A1 is that the majority of Surf/Land based anglers do not have the access to 35" or larger fish because it appears that most of the larger fish have been staying outside the surf-line and are more available to boat fishermen. With that said their success rate would decrease and their catch rate would increase resulting in more fish being landed resulting in more fish dying when released. This option would also result in a decline in money spent in the local economies.

The 2-A2 option would satisfy my concerns of 2-A1. It would allow more people to have a successful fishing experience and would not have drastic effect on the economy. It would allow the Party and 6-Pack boats still land fish and allow their customers the option of keeping a fish.

With that said, I have a few questions:

Do your projections for 2-A1 and 2-A2 reach its goal in roughly the same time frame?

Will both of these options result in that same number of viable spawning fish?

The debate is between 2-A1 and 2-A2 that most people are having. They feel that the 2-A1 will produce a better chance for more fish the successfully spawn and produce viable fry. One of the presenters said that even though bigger females produce more eggs but once they are over 35" the fertility of the eggs can decrease and some will not spawn every year.

Will more fish be left in the water alive under the 2-A2?

Can you explain the actual difference between a -43% vs -46% Harvest rate and the difference in Total Removals of -18% and -19%. 2-A2 -19% Total Removals is the combined fish taken home and dead fish because of mortality in release.

Thank you for the time and consideration in reviewing what I have asked and your reply.

I will be looking forward to your reply so I can make a very well informed decision before the October 7, 2019 deadline.

Thank you
Brad

Brad W. Buzzi
BuzFly Products
35 Newman Street
Metuchen, NJ 08840
(732) 406-0463
www.buzfly.com
buz@buzfly.com

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South Jersey Coastal Fly Anglers - www.SouthJerseyCoastalFlyAnglers.com

Comments

From: Capt. Ron/Fishermen <captainrononly@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 5:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To: Max Appelman

Mr. Appelman,

Capt. Ron Santee of the Party Boat Fishermen, Atlantic Highlands, NJ, here.

Myself and several other Captains were at the Meeting last night in Mantaloken to discuss the Draft Addendum VI. All of us are in agreement that there seems to be no consideration for the Party Boats and our business. It seemed most if not all from the private sector, fishing clubs and even some Charter boats were on board with a 35 inch fish.

After listening to many of the comments, one in particular that mentioned making Raritan & Sandy Hook Bay a Sanctuary or even a moratorium on Striped Bass, I couldn't think straight to address anyone!! So I decided it best to send you a letter and express my concerns.

Back in early 2000, can't recall the year, we had 3 fish, One at 28-34, one at 34+ and a slot fish at 24 to just under 28 inches. At that time the 34 and overs were all big egg carrying females. Everyday I would educate my customers on how it was the right thing to do to toss the breeders back. I actually had a Kodak Printable camera where I would take the customers picture, release the Big females and encourage them to keep the smaller, better eating fish. Believe it or not I only had ONE customer that entire season ask if it was OK to keep a 36 inch fish only because it was the first Bass he ever caught. Of course I said yes but the point is, I spent everyday trying to protect these fish while encouraging people to think about the future.

How do you think it makes me feel or how does it make me look now, if we are forced to kill 35 inch breeding females? Not to mention the fact that we rarely see these fish on the Head boats anymore. Most of the bigger bass are caught trolling. The mortality rate has to be unreal just from the stress alone.

I'm assuming there is no consideration for economic impact when it comes to the Party boat fleet. A 35 inch fish in the Spring with nothing else to target would decimate an already struggling industry. We certainly don't have the numbers compared to the private sector to change anything so we will basically be thrown into another Oh well situation. A situation I'm afraid we will not recover from.

I have had nothing but respect for the Fishery and have educated my customers the same my entire career. I am on the board of the Save the Summer Flounder Fishery, my vessel was involved in both sexing studies on Summer Flounder the past several years.

Another very important fact that was brought up at the meeting was the Migration of Striped bass through the EEZ.....There currently is Zero Data on this even though countless Captains have mentioned the acres of fish that migrate this area Nov-December. How can you make a decision that will affect the lives of Hard working people with out all the data? Once again we are told "It's the best Science" available.

So for my personal impute I'd like to see one 24-32 inch fish for the Party Boats. If we have to change the bonus program to do so, then so be it but we at least need something that will give our customers hope of going home with a meal for the effort and it just might keep us in business for another year.

Thank you,
Capt. Ron Santee/Fishermen

Comments

From: david woodhead <dwoodtdm14@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 2:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: stripped bass

what if you allowed a smaller bass say 16 to 24 as your first or slot then anything over 40 in and allow out to 5 miles for sport this way young anglers and fishermen that actually want to eat fish can enjoy a bay catch and the 24 to 40 inch fish can breed in thier best years as young mature heathy fish you get the best of both worlds for the anglers as table far and sport fish have the best chance of breeding. Thank you
Dave Woodhead, jersey fisherman.

Comments

From: info@ctislandoutfitters.com
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 12:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it may concern:

I have been a fishing guide on Long Island Sound for 30 years, and fishing in Connecticut for over 40 years. I have seen the Striped bass Population go through several cycles of decline and rebound. However, the current trend of decline is the most alarming I can remember for several reasons;

1. Despite more efficient means of gathering and analyzing data, particularly of recreational anglers via the internet (not available 30 years ago) we have learned, or done, very little how to properly manage the Striped Bass population.
2. The popularity of recreational fishing for Bass continues to increase adding more fishing pressure from shore, private and charter boats than ever before. Yet our regulations prompt anglers to remove the largest breeding females from the breeding stock. Keep in mind we are able to stock our rivers and lakes with fresh water fish, e.g. trout. But we cannot do this in the marine environment.
3. In addition to legal overfishing and inappropriate regulations, lack of resources and law enforcement has led to a large poaching problem with poachers ignoring both size and creel limits.

We have overwhelming evidence of the current decline and we are out of time. It is already too late to allow the status quo. We must reduce the removal, mortality, and poaching of Striped Bass today.

Thank you,

Roger Gendron

Capt. Roger Gendron
Connecticut Island Outfitters
(203) 216-0991 <{}{}{}{}* >

www.ctislandoutfitters.com

To secure a reservation click here: [PayPal.me/captainroger/100](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/captainroger/100)

*(Note: Before you reserve a date to fish, you should know that all Striped Bass must be released.
See our conservation policy here: <https://www.ctislandoutfitters.com/fishingchartersandrates>)*

Comments

From: Allan Sternberg <ace2fish@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 12:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI: I support Sub Option 2-A . A. STERNBERG HRFA member.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Comments

From: Zeb Brundage <zebbrundage@va.metrocast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 8:59 AM
To: Comments; zebbbrundage
Subject: Comments on Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max,

I have noticed in all the reports about the decline in Striped Bass numbers, there is no mention of the Mycobacteriosis. I see a lot of fish with lesions on them. Some are so sickly they are bleeding and so weak you can tell the way they strike, what it's going to look like. Seems to me a lot of those fish are in the keeper range also, not so much in 19" and under. Mostly from keeper size on up. Haven't caught any over 28" but certainly tossed back 25" and 26" with sores. I can't take a fish to market with a spot on it.

I also can't figure how in the world a 9% mortality, is determined, and owned by recreational anglers. I heard you explaining that and seems like little credibility to producing that number. I know that has to be guess. Ospreys need to own a little of that percentage.

I have a Hook and Line License for the Potomac and report catches for each day fished and I have never been asked about mortality or diseased fish. Seems that might be a vehicle for some statistics.

I know too, every year we see plenty of all sizes of striped bass in the river and plenty of bait but something happens.

I also feel strongly that something needs to be done and I'm in favor of doing what you folks think is right. Some cut backs need doing right away and avoid another five year moratorium. I've seen a decline over the last couple years. Tough job you have and I'm confident you all will take the appropriate action.

Thanks,

Zeb Brundage

Comments

From: Holmes, Kenneth <kholmes@southcountry.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 1:50 PM
To: Comments
Cc: brooklyngirl10@optonline.net
Subject: 2020 NY Striped Bass Regulation Options

Hi,

Of the available options, I would like to throw my support for the 28"-35" slot size (1 fish per angler) option.

Reasoning:

1. After reviewing the data, it is clear that discard mortality is a big issue. As a charter boat captain, my goal is to harvest what we need to satisfy our anglers as quickly as possible and get off the fish, thus reducing fishing effort on the stock. We can then finish our trips harvesting healthy stocks such as scup or bluefish. Raising the size limit would force us to fish for striped bass longer, releasing fish to catch bigger fish, thus increasing fishing effort and increasing discard mortality. Makes no sense for the bass stock or our user group. Currently, the majority of striped bass in our area are in the 24"-30" size range. Even a rise to a 30" minimum would result in much more effort striped bass fishing from the charter fleet with increased release mortality numbers guaranteed.
2. The proposed slot cap at 35" protects the largest percentage of successful breeders within the stock of which the majority are females. The cap at 35" will deter the direct targeting of these larger bass by many anglers, reducing effort and discard mortality. The targeting of large striped bass often involves the use a live baits which decreases the chance for a successful release of the fish. Often this occurs in the summer months when water temperatures are warmest which also increases discard mortality.

Other thoughts:

The conservation equivalent proposal of 1 fish@ 30" would increase discard mortality in the abundant 28-30" size range while doing nothing to protect the larger most productive breeders.

Large striped bass generally do not make for the best table fare. There is no reason to harvest them. Take a photo and release properly. I would be in support of catch and release training as part of renewing your fishing license. A simple video tutorial with quiz could suffice.

I would be in support of mandatory use of circle hooks for all bait fishing for striped bass.

I would be in support of shortening the season a little on each end if deemed necessary.

Would there be any support for returning to a separate party/charter category for striped bass as was once in place?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Capt. Ken Holmes
Vessel "Brooklyn Girl," Orient Pt, NY

Comments

From: John Olsen <jro13071@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 9:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Appelman Sir, Thank you for the opportunity to add my "two cents worth" to the comments for the proposed new striped bass regulations. Just a bit of history to begin with. I am currently in my 70's. I have seen both good and bad times regarding stripers. I lived thru the "No Possession" period in Rhode Island several years back. I have seen their minimum size increase from 16" to the current 28" in Rhode Island. I started going to public hearings and meetings concerning this fishery in the early 80's. I have listened to biologists, regulators, commercial and recreational fishing interests thru the years. Believe me I am no expert, but what I will propose is based from what I learned at all those meetings and public hearings. It is my understanding that stripers do not breed until somewhere around 28-30" inches in length (around 7-8 yrs old). All of proposed new regs that are listed in my Sept issue of "On The Water" (Tales and Scales section) by my fellow recreational fisherman are involving fish in the 28-40 inch slots. Most of these fish are the size of the propagators of the species, AKA The Breeders. I do consume stripers, they are one of my favorite eating fish, but I would rather consume a smaller one than a larger one. With that said may I propose a slot of 18" to 24" with a one fish per day bag limit. I will concur that some will say I am killing a fish that will never have a chance to breed, but I am not killing a fish that is an active breeder at a time when we need them most. Thank you Sir. John Olsen, South Kingstown Rhode Island

Comments

From: Tess <camo12122@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper comment

Just my observation but it seems like the striped bass take by honest sport fisherman is only half of the non-commercial take.

The other half is the illegal short fish by licensee holders, the over the limit takers, the non-licence holders etc. That second group will continue to operate even if you close the season.

Seems so unfair but how do you stop it ?

By the way I've caught 2 stripers in the last 3 years. Albany - Cocksackie area.

Comments

From: Reed T. Hamel <rth102030@cs.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 12:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: STRIPED BASS AMENDMENT 6

Hello:

I am a recreational fisherman in Western Long Island Sound and fish in both NY and CT waters. I read the Amendment 6 addendum and can see that the Striped Bass stocks are diminishing.

Why doesn't the Commission recommend/fund Striped Bass hatcheries in its geographical area.

Advise

Reed T. Hamel
White Plains, NY

Comments

From: Ray Morgan <wagon190@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 1, 2019 3:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Save stripped bass :Rock fish:

No catch and release, catch season don't open till May 15th, only keep fish that measure in the 20 inch range, two fish to a boat not person no matter how many people on boat.

Comments

From: Richard Casilli <r.casilli@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Comments for Public hearings below:

I heard about the circle hook regulations being considered for next year. I have fished the top-bottom stationary 2 float rig (picture attached below) with seaworms for over 25 years, catching over a thousand Striped Bass. I have not had even one fish hooked deep. All fish are hooked in lips or mouth. The fish never even put the ball float in their mouth. I believe this rig 100% safe for the fish and better than even circle hooks which sometimes do still end up with gut hooks. I would request someone review this and make a modification allowing rigs like this to be used. The key is that the float can't be movable down the leader. It must be a stationary float butted right up against the hook. My extensive experience using this set up makes me believe it is by far the safest rig for helping fish be released safely. My name is Richard Casilli, 41 Ocean Street Unit 2, Lynn Ma. 01902. Email is r.casilli@comcast.net Phone 978-314-9843



Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Richard Casilli <r.casilli@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 3:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: 2020 striped bass / circle hook regulations

Comments for Public hearings below:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Richard Casilli <r.casilli@comcast.net>
Date: August 28, 2019 at 2:22:17 PM EDT
To: marine.fish@mass.gov
Subject: Fwd: 2020 striped bass / circle hook regulations

I sent this earlier today. There were some typos which I corrected in my letter below. Thank you for considering.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Richard Casilli <r.casilli@comcast.net>
Date: August 28, 2019 at 12:13:48 PM EDT
To: marine.fish@mass.gov
Subject: 2020 striped bass / circle hook regulations

I heard about the circle hook regulations for next year. I have fished the top-bottom stationary 2 float rig (picture attached below) with seaworms for over 25 years, catching over a thousand Striped Bass. I have not had even one fish hooked deep. All fish are hooked in lips or mouth. The fish never even put the ball float in their mouth. I believe this rig 100% safe for the fish and better than even circle hooks which sometimes do still end up with gut hooks. I would request someone review this and make a modification allowing rigs like this to be used. The key is that the float can't be movable down the leader. It must be a stationary float butted right up against the hook. My extensive experience using this set up makes me believe it is by far the safest rig for helping fish be released safely. My name is Richard Casilli, 41 Ocean Street Unit 2, Lynn Ma. 01902. Email is r.casilli@comcast.net Phone 978-314-9843



Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Fish, Marine (FWE) <marine.fish@state.ma.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 12:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: FW: 2020 striped bass / circle hook regulations

From: Richard Casilli <r.casilli@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Fish, Marine (FWE) <marine.fish@mass.gov>
Subject: Fwd: 2020 striped bass / circle hook regulations

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Date: August 28, 2019 at 12:13:48 PM EDT
To: marine.fish@mass.gov
Subject: 2020 striped bass / circle hook regulations

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Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: JR Russell <russejo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 3:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI Comments

Dear ASMFC,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Addendum VI.

I have been fishing for stripers for over 50 years. Personally, I prefer to stop all Striped Bass fishing until the fishery is sustainable, just like it was done in the 80s. However, As much as this fishery needs to be shut down, I don't see the powers to be willing to do it. None of the proposed options eliminate the spring trophy season. Again, the powers to be don't want to disappoint anyone so that is staying. Just protecting the spawning grounds is not enough. The one and only time I went spring trophy fishing was the last week the trophy season was open. We caught 5 fish. All were females full of row. For that reason alone, I refuse to fish the spring seasons or if I do I fish for the smaller fish, because they are usually males. The trophy season is taking out the females that need to spawn. Maybe, if the only thing that was changed is to remove all the spring trophy seasons, there would be more eggs laid to have better sustainable fishery. My choices for what options are listed in Addendum VI are Fisheries Management Option 3 and Circle Hook Option C affective for year 2020. This would hopefully reduce the total harvest and release mortality.

Since NOAA has and requires National Saltwater Angler Registry and since most eastern states require a similar number for each licensed angler, there should be a system setup whereby each fisherman can register his/her catch so that the estimates of catch/release and harvested fish are more legit than using estimates. NOAA does this for Highly Migratory Species, so why couldn't it be done for our famed Stripers?

Thank you for your time!

Regards,

Jon Russell

411 East Bank Road

Bethany Beach, DE 19930

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: JAMES GILLEY <JSJ1217@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 10:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Rockfish

Hello,

Was wondering when the state is going to put into place a tangible measuring system for stripped bass in the recreational area. Commercial already has it. (not using probability charts and educated guess work to come up with harvest data) The system already exists in the hunting system..IE harvest records. We as commercial license holders cannot keep paying all of this license fees for so little pounds of quota. It is taking the industry and heritage away from future generations. I am struggling to educate my kids on the blessed childhood I had growing up on the bay.

I suggest when a person goes to purchase a recreation fishing license:

option a: they are asked for a harvest record ? How many stripped bass you catch last year? How many times you go fishing? What area you fish? ect.....

option b: Give out tags to attach to fish, similar to the current hunting program. 10 free tags use them up get more. (that way we have data/ real data)

Best regards Jay Gilley

Comments

From: Rui Goncalves <rcfan80@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 11:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

I am an avid striped bass fisherman who travels the North East fishing for striped bass. My family, friends and I spend tens of thousands of dollars every year fishing for striped bass. The money we spend on gas, food, hotels, and fishing tackle all to target the striped bass helps fuel the local economy. Nearly all the fish we catch is release and we do our best to practice catch-and-release to help protect the striped bass fishery. Over the recent fishing seasons, I have seen a drastic decline in the striped bass population. The amount of effort it takes to catch a striped bass is now more than double what it was just a few years ago. The time I have spent on the water fishing, speaking with fellow anglers and reading reports gives this testimonial legitimacy. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) 2018 Striped Bass Stock Assessment[1] states that striped bass are being over-fished at an exponential rate. Action must be taken now to reduce fishing mortality below the threshold and closer to the target by 2020. The ASMFC needs to honor the commitment they made when they adopted Amendment 6 to rebuild the striped bass stock within ten years. The abundance of striped bass is critical to local communities, the tackle trade, and recreational fishermen. The striped bass should be regulated so the stock can be enjoyed by all—commercial, for-hire, and recreational communities. The recreational community needs an abundance of striped bass population so that there's a reasonable expectation that you can catch a fish or we will continue losing anglers that support the fishing community. The majority of striped bass in the migratory population spawn in the southernmost portion of its range in the Chesapeake Bay. That is where they are experiencing water quality issues, which destroys their spawning areas, depleting its food sources. This makes stringent regulations more important to bring them above the threshold and closer to the target. We all understand the importance of an abundant striped bass fishery, and what it means to the recreational and commercial fishing industry and local communities. We must act today to rebuild the stocks for tomorrow and eliminate the downward trend of the population.

Thanks,
Rui Goncalves

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: William Johnson <bjohnson090@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 3:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator,
Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission

I would like to comment and offer suggestions regarding proposed regulations to reduce striped bass fishery removals, specifically regarding CHESAPEAKE BAY.

I would support any or some of the following as needed:

- Eliminate the "Trophy" striped bass season in Maryland as Virginia just did. This would protect the largest breeders and reduce the high mortality of released fish attendant to this specific season. If you want to increase biomass, this is a start.
- Restore the 20" minimum size minimum limit that was just inexplicably changed to 19" in Maryland last year.
- Limit the recreational bag limit to one fish per person.
- Impose a slot limit for both commercial and sport fishing. (This would virtually restrict commercial fishing to hook-and-line.)
- Restrict the catch-and-keep season for both commercial and sport fishing, perhaps from May 15 to December 15.
- Require that all bait fishing (chumming, chunking, live lining) employ large circle hooks.

Here are some comments.

1. How did we get to this stage? For years many have raised concerns about the health of the striped bass fishery, especially when we commented on reducing the menhaden catch. The AMFC repeatedly dismissed these concerns and stated that the striped bass population was just fine, thank you. Now I see you reveal the fishery has been overfished in 13 of 15 years. I don't understand?

2. I keep seeing "statistics" on the mortality of released fish. Much of this is either anecdotal or based on a decades old study done by Maryland DNR. It would serve us all well if there were a new, comprehensive study to examine release mortality that specifically compared different fishing and release techniques

(chumming, live lining, trolling-especially using planer boards, light tackle jigging and casting, etc.). It takes good data to make sensible regulations. I think that it would be best if a grant to do this study were awarded to a respected academic institution. Government agencies are often biased based on their own past positions, influences of various stakeholders, or politics. Let the data be unbiased and go from there.

3. I am not sure that the Virginia or Maryland DNR can be trusted to design the approach to reduce fishery removal regulations that insure that the health of the fishery takes precedent over special interests. I hope that the ASMFC will do more than just set removal targets and then let the states decide how to implement the reductions.

4. Perhaps the ASMFC will re-examine menhaden quotas in light of the revised status of the stripped bass. I further suggest that you designate the Chesapeake as a separate menhaden management area.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to comment further at your request.
Bill Johnson
Parkton, MD

Note: I am a retired marine ecologist and a sport fisherman.

Comments

From: John Pinkman <john@pinkman.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 1:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Rockfish

I have been fishing Bay for over 12 years. In that time I've always wondered why the law does not require circle hooks for Striped Bass. There is absolutely no reason to my knowledge why a J Hook should be used. As I'm sure you're aware Striped Bass swallow bait whole. Removing the J Hook destroys the fish's ability to breathe. With the specific length regulations, which I also agree with, returning the fish to the water to die is absolutely foolish and sustainably shortsighted as well.

As an avid fisherman with a large boat, I am in complete agreement with stronger regulations regarding recreational fishing. I'm sure that you will consider the commercial businesses that are generally small business operators and have a minimal impact on the fishery. Restricting their the ability to earn a living would not be prudent.

Recently we were cruising off of our home port in Herrington Harbour. We witnessed hundreds of floating striped Bass. I'm very curious as to why such a large fish kill happened. Is there anyone in your organization that could answer that question?

Thank you. I appreciate your time and effort. Look forward to my support going forward.

I also think you would get more comments's if the website path to comment was more user-friendly - and obvious.

John

John Pinkman
703-725-3873 (C)

Safety 1st, LLC.
www.BaseballExpertWitness.com
www.BaseballSafetyExpert.com

Comments

From: Jon Zuccolo <jonzuccolo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 12:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI)

Hello, I am glad to hear there is an opportunity for public input on the management of the striped bass fishery in Atlantic Canada.

As an avid sports fisher, I think there is a really big opportunity for sport fishing. In particular, we could turn the striper fishing into a big tourist draw by changing the retention from 50-65CM for PEI to over 100cm (maybe 1 fish per year or something like that). I think once the Americans learn that there is good bass fishing in Canada, they will likely start to bring their rods up to Canada, and we should try to ensure that there are trophy fish available here.

Anyhow, that is my only comment.

Best regards,

Jon Zuccolo
902-940-0071

From: [Russell Cleary](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: comments regarding STRIPED BASS ADDENDUM VI --
Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:53:38 AM

COMMERCIAL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

14 Park Street

Pepperell, Massachusetts 01463

978-758-2731

Re: Striped Bass Addendum VI – written public comments

Attention: Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

Fishery management plans are about providing for a healthy resource and allocation. There is no reason for the leadership of these deliberations to neglect to provide some measure of both values via this Addendum. Indeed, fairness warrants that it is high-time that the equity issue be dealt with.

The commercial Striped Bass fishery accesses this public resource for the non-fishing public. It delivers to all who seek it a food product held in especial esteem by the seafood consumer; and he is willing to pay a considerable price for it. This delivery process operates regardless of one's proximity or access to a seacoast; age; physical ability or inclination to pursue fishing on one's own.

This has been so for nearly 400 years of this nation's history. And it is well-worth continuing, for a variety of benefits, and as a robust Atlantic coastwide industry and not merely as a quaint afterthought.

Striped Bass is food; it is delicious; and the public wants to eat it.

As for the Southwick Study: Advocacy pieces have a place in this debate, but citing it in your ADDENDUM VI Public Comment Document we believe accords the study's tendentious output an undue prestige, your footnoted caveat notwithstanding.

The premise of these Studies continues to be flawed, given that there are commercial Striped Bass fisheries that are regulated to be hook and line-only. Not only do such hand-gear commercial fisheries generate economic benefits that derive from the product being traded from fisherman, to dealer to seafood retailer and restaurateur, but they also generate all of the economic multipliers that accrue to the hook and line recreational fisheries, i. e., boats; groceries; tackle; boat and auto fuel; dockage; bait; insurance; and electronics purchases.

Indeed, the existence of an open-access commercial Striped Bass fishery begets positive reverberations throughout the marine industry that are akin to those of the Giant Bluefin Tuna fishery. The possibility of personal economic gain creates a frisson that stimulates economic activity that would not otherwise be engendered.

Now we have a huge disparity in the allocation of the resource, which has become about 90% recreational and 10% commercial, coastwide. Option # 3 takes a very modest but eminently justified step in the direction of acknowledging this inequity, as well as in redressing the imbalance.

Commercial and recreational interests have long been urged to support and participate in marine

resource recoveries, necessitating cut-backs on both sides. Garnering the vitally-needed cooperation and earning the confidence of both groups is more likely if a restoration is not suspected to be but another accretive reallocation of the resource. All too often this is what a recovery initiative has become, with commercial groups suffering disproportionately.

Thus, our association advocates the adoption by the ASMFC leadership of Option 3 – “The Commercial Fishery Takes a Smaller Percent Reduction”, as it is the only offering that addresses both conservation and equity.

Sincerely,

Russell E. Cleary, Acting Executive Director

From: [Jon Brideau](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum VI
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:56:15 PM

Hello,

I am writing to submit my comments about the over fishing of striped bass. I have lived/worked/fished in the waters of Cape Ann, Massachusetts for most of my life (35 years old). From hauling traps on commercial lobster boats as a teenager, to striped bass fishing every summer since I was about 10, I have seen my fair share of recreational and commercial fishing in our waters. With social media and internet groups, my passion has grown with the access to knowledge, trends, and insights to this fishery.

With this said, I think the problems of over fishing is happening with BOTH recreational and commercial striped bass fishing.

We see countless social media posts of commercial fisherman gaffing bass for their clients of any size. Captains boast proudly that they have landed clients large sized breeding females, and take to social media to advertise photos and videos of their business to gain client share. They have little regard for sustainability as they are driven by dollars to afford their, understandably, marginal business.

As much as I support our local commercial lobster men (after working for 5 different boats in my younger years), I am appalled to see the large sized females that they are allowed to catch and sell commercially. During one of the best weeks of the summer for stripers (July 22-26th) this year I caught several large stripers in the 40"-50" range, mostly due to the amount of pogy schools on Cape Ann, releasing them all. That week alone, a few people I know in the seafood and lobstering industry posted photos of trucks full of the same sized fish being sold back on land. I can't understand why we don't put a ceiling on the fish length for the commercial permits, or limit the quota for the season. The amount taken that week alone put a dent into the biomass.

On the other side, I have come across countless recreational fisherman in my life that not only break our keeper regulations, fail to purchase licensing, but also leave a disgusting mess behind them on the water, on the docks, piers, and parking lots where they access local fishing hot spots. Most of them are not trained to properly catch and release, so they lean on imminent mortality to keep any and all fish coming off their lines. With the amazing technology and bait advances, any recreational fisherman can find and land stripers without any real knowledge. This leads to reckless decisions and many poorly handled fish. The recreational fishery is understandably hard to manage with limited resources of local authorities and I often find myself wondering how we can help, outside of calling in suspicious activity.

I personally support a slot of 28"-34" (one keeper per fisherman), but more importantly a ceiling of 34" to keep the female breeders from being kept. I have already converted all my tackle to inline circle hooks before our change in Massachusetts for 2020. I would support further efforts to streamline tackle to be less harmful, like limited treble hooks on all baits and the size of hooks/line required.

I hope to see this fishery come back and more importantly stay healthy for lifetimes to come

so my own kids can enjoy what we have with striped bass.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter and please feel free to reach out,

--

Jon Brideau
978-853-1129

Comments

From: Tilas, Kim (ENV) <kim.tilas@state.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 7:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI
Attachments: APPLICATION for STRIPER CONSERVATION Plate RMV.docx

The new Striper license plate will help!

Kim Tilas
Massachusetts Environmental Trust
617.626.1037
www.mass.gov/eea/met www.whaleplate.org



"Join the Drive for a Better Environment!"

Comments

From: David Dow <ddow420@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 6:38 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Max Appelman
Subject: Re: Striped Bass Addendum 6

The Lenfest Ocean Program is hosting a workshop on fish migration research issues in Washington, DC from October 21-23, 2019. Hopefully somebody from the ASMFC or state fisheries agencies will participate to include management concerns in the dialog.

On Sep 17, 2019, at 2:55 PM, Comments <comments@asmfc.org> wrote:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your input on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board in October when it will review submitted public comment and consider final action on the addendum.

Max Appelman
Atlantic Striped Bass FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740
mappelman@asmfc.org
www.asmfc.org

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

From: David Dow [<mailto:ddow420@comcast.net>]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>
Cc: David Dow <ddow420@comcast.net>
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum 6

I am submitting comments on the Striped Bass Addendum 6 as a retired marine scientist/grassroots environmental activist living on Cape Cod. In perusing the supporting material for the NEFSC/ASMFC stock assessment utilized to support this striped bass amendment, it doesn't appear that they included "natural mortality" in their analysis that determined that striped bass populations were both overfished and subject to overfishing. In Nantucket Sound, we have Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass plus forage fish species moving in from the Mid-Atlantic states, while in Cape Cod Bay increased "natural mortality" has diminished the catch quotas for both Gulf of Maine cod and sea herring populations. Winter flounder and lobster fisheries have migrated either northwards into the Gulf of Maine or further offshore in US jurisdictional waters. Here on Cape Cod the Coonamesset River watershed wetlands are being restored to increase river herring populations.

It doesn't appear to me that these shifting fish populations meet the steady state, equilibrium conditions of the

Northeast Continental Shelf ecosystem conceptual model utilized by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center SAW/SARC

process or the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office. As a retired biological oceanographer, I view this ocean ecosystem and marine food chain as being nonlinear, dynamic systems which are not at equilibrium.

Thus the approach used in the North Sea by Brander et al. (Environmental Impacts- Marine Ecosystems; pp.241-273 (2016) in North Sea Region Climate Change Assessment, Regional Climate Studies) is a more appropriate modeling framework. Both bottom up (changes in plankton and forage fish) and top down (competition and predation)

changes in the marine food chain should be incorporated in models to estimate the "natural mortality" in striped bass as it

changing over time. This would obviously influence the recovery plans for reducing the fishing mortality and recovering

the standing stock biomass.

As Halpern et al. pointed out in a recent paper in Nature Scientific Reports ("Recent pace of change in human impact on

the world's oceans"; doi:10.1038/s41598-019-47201-9) there are other human stressors that have changed the ocean ecosystem baseline that is responsible for the migration of fish prey and predators in space and time. The Lenfest Ocean

Program is having a workshop in Washington, DC between October 21-23, 2019 to consider the effects of fish migration

on the required science to support management. They will have a webinar on September 20 to solicit input for this workshop. I suggested that they consider using a case study of the effects on the North Atlantic Oscillation and cod recruitment at the October workshop, since the NAO phases are linked to the jet stream/melting of ice and warming waters

in the Arctic.

One of the consequences of a nonlinear dynamic system which is not at equilibrium are surprises. A good example would be

Pershing et al, recent paper ("Challenges to natural and human communities from surprising ocean temperatures" in PNAS

in 2019). The authors suggested that natural communities would shift towards generalist species which would decrease

productivity or yield and biodiversity. I participated in the EMaX (Energy Modeling and Analysis Exercise) carbon modeling

study on the Northeast Continental Shelf Ecosystem and we had to add the microbial food loop to the base of the food chain in

order to balance primary production estimated from ocean color satellites with the observed yield of Living Marine/Protected/

Natural Trust Resources. The increased community respiration from a longer food chain balanced the primary production with

the secondary production on LMRs/PRs/NTRS. As the ocean waters warm the community respiration of the plankton and

microbes will increase, further reducing the yield at the top of the food chain

Numerous scientists have proposed implementing ecosystems approaches for fisheries management which would include warming

ocean water; hypoxia; ocean acidity; eutrophication in coastal waters; competing human uses of the ocean; etc. The paper by

Gaichas et al. ("Implementing ecosystem approaches to fishery management: Risk assessment in the US Mid-Atlantic" Frontiers in

Marine Science; <http://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2018.00442>) suggests an approach where fishery management councils could employ

ecosystems indicator-based risk management to implement EAFM (ecosystems approach to fisheries management). The Gulf of

Maine Council for the Marine Environment developed ecosystem-based fisheries indicators in 2002-2003 which might serve as a

starting point for a dialog with diverse constituent groups involved in the striped bass fishery. One of the interesting socioeconomic

indicators was the economic multiplier effect (eme) for commercial and recreational fishing on the economies in coastal communities (compared investments with direct/indirect/induced economic benefits at the county level). We face loosing our working waterfront here on Cape Cod.

Given the above observations, I feel that the ASMFC may want to revisit their estimates of an 18% reduction in the catch quota split between commercial and recreational fisheries. I feel that saltwater anglers are more important to the blue economy on Cape Cod and favor the use of circle hooks to reduce catch & release mortalities. The recreational "eme" is likely larger for striped bass than that for the commercial fishery which targets other species. Given the uncertainties in the "natural mortality" component of the stock assessment models used by the ASMFC/NEFSC, I don't know if a fisheries moratorium for striped bass should be implemented. I will leave that up to state fishery management agencies to decide.

Thanks for your consideration of these comments

Dr. David D. Dow
East Falmouth, Ma.

Comments

From: abernst513@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 11:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper management

you guys are in charge, so act like it and get this done already

Comments

From: Katie Drew
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2019 1:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: FW: Striped bass management

From: Christian Peters [mailto:christianskypeters@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 01, 2019 11:54 AM
To: Katie Drew <kdrew@asmfc.org>
Subject: Striped bass management

Hello I am writing you in regards to the upcoming ASMFC's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board meeting. Striped bass populations have been plummeting and I fear that no one is doing anything to remedy the situations. I hope an change is coming from the AMFC end of things before the species is in more trouble. It seems history is repeating itself at the moment. I urge a movement toward abundance minded future, rather than simply sustaining what we have left in the current stocks. Thank you for your consideration , this matter effects me greatly and many other coastal residents. These fish are disappearing fast! Thank you so much for your time.

Christian Peters

Comments

From: Oleh Sharanevych <oleh11@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 1:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: SSB management

I strongly support the reduction of SSB caught in state waters

154 Village Rd.Green Village Nj 07935

Oleh Sharanevych
oleh11@me.com
917-716-5611 cell

Comments

From: William Love <williamlove19@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 8:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: William love sr certificate 00363574 nj

Hello yes you must try and save sea life fish is a must next crabs if we don't do anything there will be no fish no crabs ;; so we will cry, shore line bays they have to be clean up thank you William love

Comments

From: graaron <graaron@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 7:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Please,

Consider the underprivileged Surf Fisherman who can't afford top of the line equipment and boats. I've Ben surf fishing for at least 40 years and only once did I see a fellow surf guy catch a nice Striper.

I still have not caught one and suggest no changes be made to the minimum size of the first Striper caught.

Thank You for the opportunity comment.

George Aaron
909 Lakeshore Dr
Haddon Township, NJ 08108
graaron@verizon.net

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Comments

From: John Junker <johnjunker@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Please do not hesitate to implement what measures are needed

8/31/19

Lets save this iconic sport fish for all in the future. Growing up I heard that indian point was affecting the spawning grounds of this fish. As that is closing in a few years will that help? I have not yet caught my first fish off the banks of the Hudson in Tarrytown. Reading of the mortality rate Im not sure I should be fishing as the size whole for keepers means releasing fish which you point out often die which was an important news to me. I was planing on eating what I caught and a small fish is better than a big fish in my opinion being a single person fishing for food. Do whats needed to preserve this great resources. John Junker

Comments

From: Josh LaCroix <jlacroix128@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass draft addendum

Jlacroix128@gmail.com

Stop the money influencing fishery decisions. The Striped bass will suffer.

Comments

From: Philip Paladino <ppaladino@eaglescaff.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 12:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: stripe bass

Hello,

I am an avid party boat fisherman. Through the years this has been a part of our family togetherness. We have enjoyed many fun days as a family fishing here. The size limit of stripe bass going to 35 inches, Will limit our time together. The excitement of the catch will diminish, and the dinner after will disappear.

Please take note of the fact that fishing on open charter boats in the N Y waters brings a certain openness to our Congested Lives....

Thank you for taking the time to hear me
Phil Paladino



Eagle Scaffolding Services, Inc.

*Philip Paladino
67 Mill St. Amityville NY 11701
Main Office: 631-842-1700*

scaffolding-shoring-hoisting

www.eaglescaffolding.com

Comments

From: Donald Ives <dpives248@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 6:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass overfishing

I have been fishing for striped bass since 1964 , I went through last moratorium in late 80s and saw population explode , I have been fishing Delaware Bay and river all my life along with coastal waters from Lbi to Cape May in my opinion. all spring fishing in De. Bay and river should be shut down completely until June 1 the spawning stock in the river has dropped to almost 10% of what we use to catch 5 yrs ago.

I live their 2 miles from elsinboro point fishing area , I and my friends spend a great deal of time from March 1 till end of April all my life. There is nice little run of small fish early spring I would say only probably about 30 keepers caught on that 2 mile stretch of beach the whole spring ,5 years ago their were 30 keepers a day during the big run somewhere usually from 10-20 of April ,10 yrs ago 50-60 a day it would be in common to get your 3 fish limit every day.My opinion is shut down spring fishery in De bay and river and have 1 fish slot from 24-30 in. rest of state Yours truly Don Ives treasurer of Southern Region of New Jersey State Federation Of Sportsmen Clubs

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Woody Guthrie <economy1985@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 8:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum VI

Please consider this addendum.

Regards,
Ryan Guthrie
28 Cold Hill Road
Mendham, NJ 07954

Comments

From: Del Sordo, John <JDelSordo@aaamidatlantic.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Something needs to be done to save the stripers

As an avid fisherman who spends a lot of money in New Jersey during fishing season I have noticed a downward trend in striped bass populations and it worries me and many other fisherman I respect greatly.

Please do something to save the local striped bass. I have seen enough fish kept needlessly. There is no reason anyone needs to keep more than 1 bass per day.

Save the Stripers. They help the local economy. If they disappear many people like myself will no longer make the trip to NJ.

John Del Sordo
504 Crystal Lane
Norristown, Pa 19403

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Comments

From: hussam gouda <hussam9397@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass populations

Dear max,

My name is Hussam Gouda and I am an avid striped bass fisherman. A healthy striped bass fishery is vital to the recreation and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors. I feel that option 2-A1 oh 1 fish at 35" is the best option at rebuilding our fishery by giving the smaller fish the opportunity to spawn multiple times before they are at the legal size. I feel that it is very important that the large number of small fish that we are seeing are protected and are able to to spawn as many years as possible before they are targeted by recreational and commercial anglers.

Thank you,

Hussam Gouda

Comments

From: Jonathan Lewie <puravidacharters@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am a recreational, commercial, and charter captain in Rhode Island. I highly support any conservation efforts that are currently on the table. I think it would be most beneficial to establish a rec and commercial size limit of 35" coastwide. I would support a 36" or 38" limit but that is not currently on the table. I would support either option 2 or 3 but feel that 3 is most likely the best option decreasing commercial catch slightly but decreasing recreational by 20%. It is my opinion that mortality rates are much higher in the recreational sector based on my experience. I've seen plenty of dead stripers during recreational season and almost never see them during commercial season. Either way something proactive should be done and I believe an increased minimum size limit would work. I would support 36" or 38" but feel that rec and commercial should be aligned in the size limit—across each fish species for that matter.

Capt Jonathan Lewie

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Robert Griffin <rgriffi2@bates.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

It is with great concern and sincerity that I write this email today. I would like to take the chance to express my support for decreasing the harvest of Striped Bass. As you know, the population of this once amazing fishery is rapidly declining. As the data has shown overfishing is occurring, and the amount of fishing pressure on dwindling Striped Bass stocks should make this fish a priority in protecting. Improvements in fishing gear and technology, particularly sonar, have allowed anglers to pinpoint schools of striped bass and allow fleets to essentially sit atop these schools until their near depletion. Such is the case with hundreds of boats pressuring the schools in well known hot spots such as Block Island, Race Point, and Boston Harbor on a daily basis from June-September. In addition, as has been well documented this year, widespread poaching has taken place at the Cape Cod Canal, where one can expect hundreds of anglers lining the banks each morning, picking off any migrating schools of Stripers. It is with these observations and the worried comments of thousands of other anglers along the coast, that I express my concern for the fishery. I strongly believe that this amendment should be passed in order to reduce striped bass harvest as soon as possible. In addition, I think the ultimate goal should be managing this as a catch and release fishery. The economic value of Striped Bass, including its importance for small businesses from Maine to North Carolina, far exceeds its value as a source of meat. This is particularly the case for the commercial industry. It is clear that no one is making a living solely off commercial fishing for striped bass. Instead, the industry is made of mostly wealthy anglers that see an opportunity to exploit this resource simply to make a few extra bucks during the summer. These larger breeding fish that are harvested commercially are in fact the ones that could save this fishery from total collapse. Finally, if stripers were to become a catch and release only fishery, it would eliminate most if not all poaching that is occurring. With the lack of enforcement of striped bass regulations, it simply remains too easy for poachers to continue with their illicit acts. Yet, if Stripers were indeed catch and release, it would be blatantly clear when people are poaching given that it would not be allowed to harvest any fish. In the meantime, I genuinely hope that decisions can be made to protect this fishery under ever increasing pressure. I greatly appreciate you taking the time to read this email.

Best,
Robby

Comments

From: Lawrence DiDonato <lawdid76@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments re Striped Bass Mgt Plan Addendum VI

I attended the public hearing run by NYS DEC and featured its results in my outdoor column. I am a retired NYS Environmental Conservation Officer and avid fisherman. I fish the Hudson River Striper run in addition to the Marine District. My comments for changes in striped bass regulations concerning these areas pursuant to population issues of stocks of striped bass are as follows:

1. Regulations for size and creel limits in the Hudson River should mirror those in the Marine District.

Whatever the final decision regarding changes in size and creel limits going forward to achieve the targeted 18 percent mortality reduction, be sure they are the same in both areas.

2. Do not require circles hooks when using bait or otherwise.

Instead focus education campaign on how to properly catch and release striped bass.

3. Shorten back end of the Hudson River Season from November 30th to June 30th and consider shortening the season in the Marine District in a larger conservation equivalency regulatory scheme.

4. Increase enforcement of striped bass regulations so they achieve their desired deterrent effect. At the public hearing, the lack of visible, focused ECO enforcement on the Hudson River was the most prevalent theme echoed by those registering comments. Make this an enforcement priority that is sufficiently supported regarding manpower and resources.

Comments

From: Capt. TJ Karbowski <tedkاربowski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Striped Bass Comments.

TJ Karbowski- Rock and Roll Charters, Clinton CT.

The ASMFC I'm sure has some very nice well intended people working there, so please do not take my statements below as personal attacks, these are just my comments on the ASMFC's inefficiency as a whole and on how they have yet to express an actual vision for ecosystem balance. They continually manage our fisheries by department and not as the whole in which the fishery actually is. They manage as if each species were landlocked into their own pond not affected by one another and if this is not true I beg you to prove me wrong.

I have still not heard or read anything anywhere even recognizing the drastic negative transformation that the Long Island Sound fishery has evolved into since 2014 and how during 2019 Long Island Sound is finally rebounding and life is thriving once again You will put the for-hire fleet out of business with regulation changes. CUSTOMERS WANT STRIPERS! There are numerous factors at play affecting the striped bass other than recreational fishermen.

Potential Causes - Perfect Storm

- I have heard nothing about how the BP oil spill of 2010 may or may not have affected any sportfish, baitfish, plankton or algae that has either a direct or indirect affect on our fishery. (Please see attachment)

- Nothing on any affect Hurricane Irene in 2011 or Hurricane Sandy in 2012 which has totally changed everything every Captain out of New Jersey has ever know about fluke fishing due to the way the storms have altered the bottom. Also, now they are seeing striped bass hold up in places in Great South Bay Long Island where they have never had Striped Bass before.

- Nothing on any affect the record breaking cold winters of 2014 & 2015 may have had on the fisheries. I know what was different in the Sound the years following those winters, but does the ASMFC? Long Island Sound was void of ALL life during the early 2014 fishing season, not just striped bass. There were massive striped bass fish kills in the Connecticut River during these winters. Did MRIP account for those???

- Nothing on any affect the literally HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TONS of calcium chloride and magnesium chloride that are put onto every street and parking lot in New England all winter long. What affect does that have on Long Island Sound? I find it no small coincidence that last winter we had very little snow events in which the state treated the roads only a few times. Now this year the fishing has been fantastic since trip number 1. Remember, all of these road chemicals from every single state North of us, the final destination for that product empties right here in Long Island Sound.

- Now we also have to factor in the amount of fish the seals eat off the Cape on the way North during the spring migration, and South during the fall migration. This percentage MUST be factored in. 40,000 seals eating 40lbs of finfish a day is 1.6 million lbs of finfish A DAY! Still nothing by the ASMFC.

- Sea Bass – how has this gigantic population affected everything else. It all fits the timeline of poor striper fishing as well as poor fishing for ALL SPECIES starting in 2014 except for Black Sea Bass. They were EVERYWHERE and the fishing for them was OFF THE CHARTS! We didn't even know what a sea bass was until 2011.

-Long Island Sound has had almost ZERO small baitfish since around 2013. This season, massive schools of stripers and bluefish. Billions and billions of juvenile squid, butterfish and silversides of various species. 2019 is the first year that there has been Lions Mane jellyfish in Long Island Sound since 2013.

- No mention of the excessively strong tides (Perigee moon phases that coincide with Full and New Moons) that we have had since around that time. We typically used to have these moon phases in the winter. During the “Lean Years” of the sound, we had these tides during the summer. I’m certain these extreme currents did change migration patterns to some degree.

- What about Mycobacteriosis? We used see the red soars on every fish we caught prior to the 2014 crash. Now you don't even hear about it. Where did all those fish go???? (Please see attached photo and note red soars.)

-Omega Protein admits they took most of their menhaden last winter out of the Chesapeake, not the Ocean. What do you think these large breeding stripers eat!!!! (Please see attachment.) Omega Protein should be BANNED from even operating from Mach - June when the stripers are spawning.

-Why are there no big bluefish in the Sound also? Did we overfish those too! No, they don't eat baby silversides. They want meat! They want bunker and we have none.

Follow the bunker and find the big fish, both stripers and blues. It's just the way it works.

Our fishery is not a math equation, not an algebra problem or an exercise in statistics but a unique balancing act that has to be constantly and accurately counter balanced from year to year. As a whole, the ASMFC overcomplicates fisheries management so much that their "machine" operates in a way that is counterproductive. Is the massive 2015 year class of striped bass even in your equations??

Next year they will be considered Spawning Stock Biomass. Is the ASMFC going to then pat themselves on the back on what a great job they did with the regulatory process? IT WAS NATURE THAT MADE THE 2015 YEAR CLASS GREAT, NOT THE ASMFC.

Please keep our regs at 1@28".

WE ARE NOT THE PROBLEM!



Omega Protein S Bay Cap

Thursday, September 12, 2019 5:05 P
REEDVILLE, VA / ACCESSWIRE / Septe
law, and strives to abide by all recomr
(ASMFC). However, the abundance of
adverse fishing conditions outside Ba
will exceed the ASMFC's arbitrarily lov
for the 2019 season. The Company w

The ASMFC's Bay cap was initially imp
political compromise, not as a scienti
"precautionary and not based on a sci
fishery population level study."

While Omega Protein opposed - and c
it agreed to the 2006 Bay cap to satisf
dollars were spent to determine the in
money spent and research conducted

With the help of Norwegian technology, they can now test how oil affects eggs in the ocean.

Scientists exposed eggs to low concentrations of oil during their early developmental phase. This short exposure mimicked a spill. The eggs collected droplets of oil on their bodies.

“Not surprisingly, the crude oil had immediate effects on the physical deformities as eggs developed. We saw irregular and slow heart rates,” said John Incardona, a scientist at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center. “We collected eggs from the William Sound after the Exxon Valdez oil spill and tested them with our Norwegian partners.”

According to Incardona, more startling were the effects when eggs became larvae and juveniles.

Scientists found that even when larvae and juveniles were reared under normal conditions,

many of the test larvae and juveniles were still abnormal. In general, test larvae and juveniles were reared under normal conditions.

But the most important finding was that even when larvae and juveniles were reared under normal conditions, many of them were not able to effectively

Thank you,
Capt. TJ Karbowski
Rock & Roll Charters
Clinton, CT
203.314.3765
<https://rockandrollcharters.com/>

Comments

From: Travis Long <travis.long@pgcps.org>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Rockfish option 2

I suggest in order to decrease mortality that the Chesapeake Bay Maryland region go to one fish per person 19-35" and close the summer season. Catch and release should be allowed all year with the exception of the summer closure. Commercial should also face reductions. The Chesapeake bay region (VA,MD and PRFC) take 70% of the costal take. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: bryan.koesler@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I would prefer catch and release only for this species of fish, but one could say that you wouldn't even need a slot or bag limit if everywhere or some selected pieces of water were fly fishing only. There are many places in the world where there is fly fishing only and also no-kill for certain species and I'm not sure why one is more protected than the other. Striped bass are just as special as tarpon. With stricter regulations comes stricter policing, which I imagine, raises costs. In fact, by the time everyone learns how to fly cast and catch a striped bass the fish would be back in full-swing. Given it's unlikely we would be smart enough to make striped bass a protected species and do anything like others in the world do when it comes to fish like permit, tarpon, and bonefish, regulations must become more stringent, obviously. In this case, if the aforementioned is not going to happen, then I would be for a slot limit of 32-40 to allow the bigger fish to spawn in safety. That said, with killing fish in that window, I don't think it's really going to help increase fish populations to a significant degree, but who knows.

Thanks,

Bryan Koesler

Comments

From: derek houde <dfunkhoude@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Greetings,

First and foremost I am all for sustainable fishing and protecting the species. However since I started striper fishing it went from being able to keep two fish to one which was a 50% reduction for the recreational fishermen like myself. Clearly if there is still an issue then recreational fishing is not the problem. Drag nets and other types of commercial fishing deplete species at a ridiculous rate and that's where the reduction you're seeking should come from.

If I want to keep a fish to feed my family it should not have to be what many would consider a massive striper at 35 inches! The 35 inch minimum idea proposed is ridiculous. Although I myself always abide by the rules set forth if you bump it to 35 I truly believe many will simply not follow the rule making it ineffective. After any long day at the canal now I see it happening all the time with people keeping shorts and or multiples. Having to catch a 35 inch fish to put a meal on my table for my family is a bit ridiculous.

Regards,
Derek Houde

Comments

From: szymon antos <szymon.antos@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 6:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good morning,

Comments:

- use circle hooks when baitfishing
- when using lures such as poppers, jerk baits (sp minnow, colt sniper, etc), darters replace rear treble hooks with a single hook. This prevents fish getting accidentally hooked in the belly.
- crush barbs, makes releasing fish much easier.
- allow to take 2 fish a day 20"-24". People release badly many small fish before they get 28" one, so on top of harvesting one bigger fish, they likely kill most of the smaller ones in the process due to bad hook up, bad release, not knowing how to unhook the fish, keeping the fish out of water for too long.
- increase penalties for poaching, take tackle away and donate to charities, kids. Take license away and ban the person for the rest of the year.

Thank you,

Szymon Antos

Comments

From: Bigfischerlures@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 9:32 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com

Hello, my name is Bill Fischer and I've been fishing for striped for close to 30 years. The state of the striped bass fishery is pathetic. I've seen catch rates halven year after year. The party boats in the Captree fleet have been reduced to night time ling (red hake) trips and snapper blues (yet they'll still fight to kill more fish)

Id like to say its extremely disappointing seeing the half assed measures the asmfc council has taken to rebuild the east coasts most important fishery. Its really a joke seeing measures taken that have a 50% probability of success. Its just continually asking for failure. I wish there were more restrictive options available but ill say I support options:

Option 2: equal percent reductions

Option 2a1: 1@35" and NO slot or conservation equivalence for party/charter boats.! These guys kill everything that hits their decks and will keep everything till a "full boat limit" is achieved nomatter who caught them and keep additional fish counted as the captain's and mates so please dont make it easier for them. Besides the fact that any slot limit will negate the conservation effects of 1@35"

Option 2b1: 1 at 18" for the Chesapeake which is rediculous after the gross overfishing that's been taking place there.

I also support option B on the circle hook provision.

Thanks for your consideration. Please do the right thing and bring this fishery back to where it should be.

Regards, Billy

Comments

From: Gary Shramek <garycj8@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 9:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am not in favor of changing the current regulations for commercial and recreational salt water striped bass. We need to address why the stocks are being depleted...

*** I would propose that your division and the Governor petition the Federal US Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972 for an exemption protecting seals in and around Cape Cod and the Islands. When you look at the explosion of seal population in these waters over the past decade as well as there recent migration of great white sharks(because of the seals and fish) that has more of an impact on our Striped Bass population. We need to cull the seal population as part of the plan to improve our fish stock.

Consider the following:

*An adult seal eats about 35-50 lbs of fish daily. Their numbers have been estimated up to or exceeding 50,000 (conservative estimate) in and around Cape cod and the Islands

*Great white shark can eat about 500lbs in a day and only eats 2 to 3 times a day... an estimated total 11 tons /yr

Other facts impacting our area:

1. Large numbers of gray seals are spoiling recreational fishing because of seal theft of hooked fish
 2. Commercial fishermen are suffering from depleted fish stocks and fish infected with "seal worms".
 3. Seals (animals larger than humans) intimidate & if approached too closely, pose a potential danger to beachgoers, anglers, swimmers & surfers.
 4. Seal excrement along the shorelines poses potential sanitation and health problems.
 5. Seal encroachment is threatening fragile ecosystems, including, in particular, endangered flora and fauna on Muskeget Island.
- More recently two additional concerns have arisen:
 1. The rapidly growing gray seal population is attracting sharks that pose a danger to swimmers and surfers
 2. Harbor seals (a smaller relative of gray seals) have been dying of the Avian flu virus which could possibly mutate and become transmittable to gray seals and on to humans.

Gary Shramek
134 Lothrop's La, West Barnstable, Ma 02668

Comments

From: Walter Zadan <walterzadan@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Poosed rules cange

I support a minimum reduction of a least 18% of striped bass catch and the use of circle hooks.

Walter Zadan
221 Wingate Dr.
Williamsburg, VA. 23185

Comments

From: Ed Zakrzewski <edzak415@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum vi

Dear Mr. Appleman,

I've been fishing NJ waters for more than 45 years and I've seen many changes in Striped Bass fishing, from the Delaware river to the jersey shore, there were many years a keeper bass had to be 36 inches both surf and on the Delaware river. I attended the Manahawkin forum one thing I didnt understand was all the data was referencing Chesapeake stocks nothing was mentioned about all the strpers that migrate up the Delaware, Raritan, and the hudson, which should be included. I've enjoyed the bonus tag program and have tagged one each fall in the last three years anice size to share with my granddaughter, who soon will be old enough to reel in her own. Im in favor of a slot fish program and to educate the public on circle hooks

Best
Ed Zakrzewski

Comments

From: scott bennett <scottjack541@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 8:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: proposed striped bass draft amendment IV

Dear Mr. Appelman,

My name is Scott Bennett and I have made a living since 1983 in the retail fishing tackle industry. I have been the store manager of The Compleat Angler in Darien Ct. for the past 24 years, so I have watched with great interest the recent decline of the striped bass fishery. I would like to weigh in with some thoughts on the proposed amendments on behalf of myself and my clientele.

The overwhelming majority of my customers are catch and release fly and light tackle anglers. Their interest for the most part is not about keeping fish for the table. They devote a lot of time and money on tackle, boats, guides, and with the state of the current situation I have watched as participation has dropped markedly of the last several seasons.

I think most of my customers would not oppose an outright moratorium to rebuild the stock as quickly as possible. In lieu of that, I'm in favor of the higher minimum length option. Initially I was in favor of a slot limit, but upon reflection think the 35" minimum would protect the upcoming bass as long as possible and reduce mortality by people "culling" smaller fish.

I would also be in favor of the mandatory circle hook regulation. I saw a 9% mortality figure calculated for released fish in your management plan. I would think the majority of the released fish that die are the result of people bait fishing. From my experience fishing with barbless single hook flies I would think my mortality rate for released fish is much lower.

Just a few thoughts for future changes. How about some sort of a tag option. It's been used in Canada with Atlantic Salmon and in Florida with Tarpon. I'm not sure what the current regs are with salmon, but when I fished in New Brunswick you were issued a set number of tags when you purchased a license. If you decided to keep a fish you tagged it. In Florida with Tarpon you can purchase a kill tag if you are inclined to keep a big fish for record purposes. This would give you much better control of numbers of fish being removed.

I would also be in favor of a closed season. The large population of fish winter in the Housatonic River, face a tremendous amount of fishing pressure from a very limited amount of fisherman. Seems if the mortality rate is as high as you suggest, it would not hurt to protect them.

Regards, Scott Bennett

Compleat Angler
541 Post rd.
Darien, CT 06820
203-655-9400

Comments

From: cnirome@optonline.net
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 12:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Seriously 18% isn't enough cut it further - fish are under pressure from temperature changes/ocean flows - u are making decisions/harvesting quotas based on stock assessments not the biome. You can't manage fish as u historically have done - the playing field is shifting.

Comments

From: Jamie Balliett <jamie.balliett@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 8:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

I strongly support measures to reduce both recreational and commercial striped bass fishing.

Commercial and recreational minimum fish length should both be set at 33 inches.

The current 28 inch minimum should be removed.

Recreational limits of 1 fish per person up to a maximum of 6 fish per boat should be implemented.

The maximum number of fish per commercial boat should be changed to 14 fish per day.

Enforcement needs to be increased. Town police officers should be asked to help check boats returning to local landings. This would make a huge difference.

Thanks very much,

Jamie Balliett

84 Great Oak Road, Orleans, MA 02653

Comments

From: Gary Steinmiller <steinmillergary@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 3:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

I am writing this comment in regards to the Striped Bass fishery. I am a resident of CT that used to drive to Massachusetts, Rhode Island and to the CT shore to fly fish for striped bass when the fishery was strong. I no longer waste my time. I witnessed the comeback due to the moratorium set many years ago. This regulation worked wonders and the fish rebounded better than anyone thought would happen. The regulations that followed this recovery undid all progress in short time. Therefore I would like the governing bodies to keep this simple. Go back to what worked the last time and see if the results are comparable. If they are, then every effort must be made to avoid the decisions and mistakes that were made after the last recovery that led to the decline in the striped bass fishery we have today.

Gary Steinmiller
26 Penwood Lane
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Brian Carvalho <brian54@snet.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

I'll be brief. NO to the status quo. The striped bass fishery needs to be aggressively managed. All states need to comply. I endorse all the proposed options, although i don't think they go far enough. Anything less risks a crash similar to the one decades ago when it was futile to even recreationally fish for bass. Lastly, conservation, to be effective needs education and aggressive enforcement.

Thank you,
Brian Carvalho
Member:
The Connecticut Fly Fishermans Association

Comments

From: crispies@optonline.net
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I apologize,

I had to make a few edits. Please accept this as my official comment on the draft:

Dear Commission,

My comments on the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI are as follows:

I believe that striped bass regulations should remain status quo. This is based on the fact the ASMFC has just changed the models they've used to estimate abundance, and in doing so has manipulated the "science" to manufacture a problem.

In 1995, when the stock was declared to be rebuilt, SSB was estimated to about 14,000 mt. This was the threshold level that was set, with a target of 17,500 mt. The fisheries management models used these numbers to continue to grow the entire stock to an all time high of more than 100,000 mt, and the fishery remained strong, and healthy for the next 15 years. Until you decided to start changing your models.

Now, 24 years later, you preposterously propose that you now know that the SSB level in 1995 was actually 6.5x higher than it was estimated by the scientists at the time, ~91,000 mt, and that's what it should be now. You should all be embarrassed and ashamed at yourselves for proposing that you and your fellow "scientists" were ever so incompetent that their estimates were so far off. However, I don't believe that the science at the time was so wrong. Management under that model was successful at rebuilding and maintaining a healthy stock and fishery for more than 15 years. It's only since you started manipulating the models, in 2010, 2014 and now again, in 2018, that a "problem" has developed. Each time you "played" with your "science" you increased the SSB thresholds and targets, exasperating a declining trend in the stock, until finally, in 2018, you achieved your apparent goal of demonstrating overfishing is occurring and the stock is over fished.

There is no way that any management decisions should be based on this new model, which has only just been implemented, and so wildly differs in number from the successful management model used from 1995 to 2010. You all decided to create this model, and in doing so, created this problem. Just as you chose to use the current model, you could go back and use the prior model from 1995. Don't tell us this is the "best available science" and use that as a poor excuse for why you are proposing cuts. You just created the science yourselves. Fix it. Only in Govt, would this level of incompetence ever be tolerated. It's shameful.

What is even more shameful, is that your "science model" shows that 48% of striped bass are killed due to recreational dead discards. To fix that problem, you suggest further restricting regulations to the size and season of the fishery, which will only serve to increase the number of fish that have to be released, therefore, further increasing the dead discard mortality. Only a "scientist" with his/her face planted squarely into a Bunsen burner could see that as an effective or ethical solution to a such a problem. If a reduction is needed, and about half of the fish being killed, are simply being wasted because they are being caught and thrown back to die, that is where the reduction needs to come from.

No reductions to harvest should be made at this time. Any changes to seasons or size limits, will only serve to further increase discard mortality. Instead, studies should be done on how to reduce discard mortality, and measures should only be implemented there. The use of circle hooks have been proposed. However, the ASMFC doesn't recognize any reduction in mortality from using them because there aren't any studies to demonstrate the efficacy of their use. So do those studies. Study the use of circle hooks and other release mechanisms. Stop wasting your time, and ours, manipulating management models, and do some actual science that will be beneficial to all stakeholders and the fish themselves (so that half of the fish being killed are not just being thrown back into the ocean to rot).

Study the use of circle hooks
Study the use of various dehooking devices
Study the efficacy of outreach to anglers on how to better fight, handle and release fish

Additionally, further study release mortality and apply it to different size fish, different methods of fishing (surf, boat, bait, lure, fly fishing) and across all the various conditions found in the areas these fish migrate through. The cool, rushing waters found around Cape Cod and the east end of Long Island are vastly different than the warm embayments found in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay areas and release mortality is likely very different too.

Bigger fish fight harder, and are fought longer and therefore, experience more stress, increasing the likelihood of dying after being released. A slot limit, prohibiting keeping larger fish, is just going to kill more big fish through release mortality. Raising the minimum size limit is just going to increase discard mortality while people fish to catch a fish to keep. Reducing the season length will just increase the number of fish that are caught out of season, and have to be released, increasing release mortality. Reductions in harvest is not the answer. Reductions in release mortality is the only logical and ethical answer to the current problem with the fishery.

Chris Spies
Holbrook, NY
MAFMC Black Seabass, Scup and Summer Flounder AP member

From: crispies@optonline.net <crispies@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:07 AM
To: 'comments@asmfc.org' <comments@asmfc.org>
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

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Study the use of circle hooks

Study the use of various dehooking devices

Study the efficacy of outreach to anglers on how to better fight, handle and release fish

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Chris Spies

Holbrook, NY

MAFMC Black Seabass, Scup and Summer Flounder AP member

Comments

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To: Comments
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I believe that striped bass regulations should remain status quo. This is based on the fact the ASMFC has just changed the models they've used to estimate abundance, and in doing so has manufactured and manipulated the "science" to manufacture a problem.

In 1995, when the stock was declared to be rebuilt, SSB was estimated to about 14,000 mt. This was the threshold level that was set, with a target of 17,500 mt. The fisheries management models used these numbers to continue to grow the entire stock to an all time high of more than 100,000 mt, and the fishery remained strong, and healthy for the next 15 years. Until you decided to start changing your models.

Now, 24 years later, you preposterously propose that you now know that the SSB level in 1995 was actually 6.5x higher than it was estimated by the scientists then at the time, ~91,000 mt, and that's what it should be now. You should all be embarrassed and ashamed at yourselves, for proposing that you and your fellow "scientists" were ever so incompetent that their estimates were so far off. However, I don't believe that the science at the time was wrong. Management under that model was successful at rebuilding and maintaining a healthy stock for more than 15 years. It's only since you started manipulating the models, in 2010, 2014 and now again, in 2018, that a "problem" has developed. Each time you "played" with your "science" you increased the SSB thresholds and targets, exasperating a declining trend in the stock, until finally, in 2018, you achieved your apparent goal of demonstrating overfishing is occurring and the stock is over fished.

There is no way that any management decisions should be based on this new model, which has only just been used now, and so wildly differs in number from the successful management model used from 1995 to 2010. You all decided to create this model, and in doing so, created this problem. Just as you chose to use the current model, you could go back and use the prior model from 1995. Don't tell us this is the "best available science" and use that a poor excuse for why you are proposing cuts. You just created the science yourselves. Fix it. Only in Govt, would this level of incompetence ever be tolerated. It's shameful.

What is even more shameful, is that your "science model" shows that 48% of striped bass are killed due to recreational dead discards. To fix that problem, you suggest further restricting regulations to the size and season of the fishery, which will only serve to increase the number of fish that have to be released, therefore, further increasing the dead discard mortality. Only a "scientist" with his/her face planted squarely into a Bunsen burner could see that as an effective or ethical solution to a such a problem. If a reduction is needed, and about half of the fish being killed, are simply being wasted because they are being caught and thrown back to die, that is where the reduction needs to come from.

No reductions to harvest should be made at this time. Any changes to seasons or size limits, will only serve to further increase discard mortality. Instead, studies should be done on how to reduce discard mortality, and measures should only be implemented there. The use of circle hooks have been proposed. However, the ASMFC doesn't recognize any reduction in mortality from using them because there aren't any studies to demonstrate the efficacy of their use. So do those studies. Study the use of circle hooks and other release mechanisms. Stop wasting your time, and ours,

manipulating management models, and do some actual science that will be beneficial to all stakeholders and the fish themselves (so that half of the fish being killed are not just being thrown back into the ocean to rot).

Study the use of circle hooks

Study the use of various dehooking devices

Study the efficacy of outreach to anglers on how to better fight, handle and release fish

Additionally, further study release mortality and apply it to different size fish, different methods of fishing (surf, boat, bait, lure, fly fishing) and across all the various conditions found in the areas these fish migrate through. The cool, rushing waters found around Cape Cod and the east end of Long Island are vastly different then the warm embayments found in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay areas and release mortality is likely very different too.

Bigger fish fight harder, and are fought longer and therefore, experience more stress, increasing the likelihood of dying after being released. A slot limit, prohibiting keeping larger fish, is just going to kill more big fish through release mortality. Reducing the season length will just increase the number of fish that are caught out of season, and have to be released, increasing release mortality. Reductions in harvest is not the answer. Reductions in release mortality is the only logical and ethical answer to the current problem with the fishery.

Chris Spies

Holbrook, NY

MAFMC Black Seabass, Scup and Summer Flounder AP member

Comments

From: Mark flanagan <usmarkmc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 7:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripe Bass

Shut down the Fishery! After fishing from Marshfield too Sandwich and Ptown both rec and commercial for over 40 years...I have seen the decline in the Stripers again like the 1980's...

Stop being greedy and restore the legacy of the great Stripe Bass.

Comments

From: Everett Bramhall <everettbramhall@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripped Bass Minimums

I believe the alarming decline in large striped bass is due to over fishing and a large commercial harvest. The larger bass are the breeding bass and these are the fish that are very scarce. I would be in favor of a complete moratorium on keeping any fish over 28" and only allow a bag limit of 1 per day in a 24=28" slot. -Everett Bramhall

Comments

From: Roger Neset <roger@rogersdrivingschool.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft AddendumVI

To Whom it may concern,

As a long time striped bass fisherman in the Raritan Bay and Hudson River area I would like to voice my opinion on management options for this fishery.

- 1- I support a slot limit, 28-35 inches at one fish per day.
- 2- Remove the bonus fish option. No one really needs to keep more than one fish per day.
- 3- REDUCE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES HARVEST SHARPLY! This will have the largest and most immediate effect on the rebound of stocks.
- 4- I support the use of circle hooks OR barbless hooks at this time.
- 5- Lower the commercial harvest of Menhaden, a prime source of food for Striped bass and a critical link in the health of the ecosystem.

Thank you for your time.

Roger Neset
Tomkins Cove, NY

Comments

From: Ppeach3288 <ppeach3288@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 7:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: your killing off the charter boat business

I grew up going on party boats along the Jersey shore for my entire life. I am now in my mid 40's and have seen the fish stocks change drastically. Please use some common sense when drafting legislation that will affect peoples livelihood. I have worked in the fisheries industry for most of my professional life in the federal government and have seen how science can be applied to fishery law. In many cases the statistics do not accurately reflect the larger picture of fish populations. I agree that natural recourses must be properly managed, but they can be properly managed without destroying an industry in the process. So please, as you move forward to rightfully protect a loved by many species like striped bass, consider who you may hurt in the process and avoid doing so.

V/R,

Paul Peach

Comments

From: Dan Beetz <dbeetz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 5:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I have been sport fishing for stripers out of York Harbor for nearly fifty years and have seen lots of ups and downs. Lots of bait and bass this season fishing from a harbor with hundreds of expensive fishing boats, my partners and I are alone most nights on the sea. We have a world class fishery, but I blame anglers for poor catches. You can take and release two to three hundred POUNDS of bass one night and get blanked the next, but not from your couch where you wait to hear exactly where they're hitting. We took a few fish this season, mostly damaged from circle hooks I'm afraid. I've caught thousands of stripers and to mandate a technology for me because I liveline a menhaden while people next to us fish with lures with six J-hooks, tube and worms or guides without circle hooks makes little sense. We feel penalized for obeying the rules. I know for a fact most people don't and the wardens I meet are not interested in our gear or catch. Just sayin'. Circle hooks are no silver bullet. We release fish because it's the right thing to do not grocery shopping with a spinning rod. You should concentrate more on angler attitude than technique. And if someone wants to keep a fish he should stop fishing when he kills it just like trout and salmon. Killing a big female bass is plainly stupid. I fished with a guide on Martha's Vineyard several times because my hosts liked him. As he guided us he would be selling the tuna he'd caught in the canyons the night before on the phone. Killing bass for profit was his job, and if you didn't take a bass on one of his trips live lining porgies you didn't have to pay. He would moan about how many big bass he had killed in these same rips earlier in the year. He said killing those cows had nothing to do with our bad luck...the fish had simply moved. Thanks for your time.

Comments

From: TONY CHECKOWSKI <tchecko@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 5:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I have fished in New Jersey for 50 years. Striped Bass fishing is the worst since the 1980s. Shut all Bass fishing for 5 years.
T. Checkowski. 19446

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: David Wright <davidwright12@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 2:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I am an occasional angler, 78 years old, who travels to Northern New Jersey to fish only twice a year: striped bass in the Spring and Fall. I eat what I catch. Yes, I can go to the fish market here in Newtown Square, PA and buy all the bass I want but...there is nothing better than fresh-caught striped bass. The proposed change in the regulations, especially raising the size to 35 pounds, will certainly curtail me in catching any strippers; perhaps to the extent that I may just give up fishing for them. Strippers are not that easy to catch, not like blue fish (which I don't go out for) and with the proposed regulations in place, I can foresee many fishing trips with no caught fish.

Thank you,

David Wright

Newtown Square, PA



Sender notified by
[Mailtrack](#)



Comments

From: Robert Pierro <av8rbob@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 2:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

In regard to the Striper Draft Addendum VI, I strongly urge you to consider the negative effects that any proposed changes could cause to the for-hire fishing industry here in New Jersey and all along the east coast.

It was difficult enough to bring home a striper for the table this past season with the regulations that were in effect and making them more restrictive would discourage many fishermen from even trying.

The cost and effort that it takes to fish for stripers on a for-hire boat is substantial and if there isn't a reasonable chance of bringing home some dinner, many won't bother.

Most of these fishermen also frequent other shore businesses such as restaurants, tackle shops, food and convenience stores, etc. Those would also be impacted by reduced fishing traffic.

From what I understand, the bonus program was extremely under utilized in the past, so I don't see how eliminating it would make much sense. I think a one fish 28" to 35" daily limit makes the most sense along with one bonus slot fish of 22" to 28".

There should be an exception on the circle hook requirement while fishing with bait that would allow snag-and-drop with traditional j-hooks.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert Pierro
130 Princeton Ave.
Lavallette, NJ 08735

Comments

From: Robert Pierro <av8rbob@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 2:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

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Thank you for your consideration,

Robert Pierro
130 Princeton Ave.
Lavallette, NJ 08735

Comments

From: Bruce corrine <brewlugger@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 2:28 PM
To: Comments

As a longtime New Jersey recreational angler I'm asking for a slot limit to be implemented for Stiped Bass.

Comments

From: Chris Lido <leedz49@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 1:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Appelman, please acknowledge my public comment on this very sensitive issue. I want to reiterate the comment of Capt. Bob Bogan of the Gambler. In studying Young-of the Year Indexes for Hudson River, Delaware river and Chesapeake Bay striper stocks there appears to be wild fluctuations.

The truth is that we are not seeing great numbers of striped bass near shore --due to beach replenishment, not poor recruitment. Beach replenishment has done a lot of damage, not just to the animals that live near the surf, but has devastated fish habitat where the sand was dredged from -what were once hills are now holes! If this practice was done in a forest, there would be public outcry.

Striper stocks are not in trouble. Striped bass have been seen, in numbers, outside of our Exclusive Economic Zone, along with great pods of menhaden -where surveys for striped bass are not being considered.

The points about the beach replenishment and the large schools offshore are not anecdotal. Both can be substantiated.

At the Manahawkin meeting I heard a comment by one gentleman who submitted that redfish and snook in Florida have a slot limit size and the biomass of both these fish have been doing well. It's something that NJ should look into.

Our for-hire industry cannot lose its bonus program. From what I understand, our industry has only utilized 9% of that quota.

We also do not agree with the mandatory circle hook option due to the fact that we often snag bunkers and let that bait immediately back into the drift. And I do not believe that most of our patrons would know how to set the hook with a circle hook.

I would opt for the 28 - 35 inch fish and maintain our bonus slot fish in both the spring and fall seasons, thusly utilizing the commercial quota more effectively.

Chris Lido
Former Editor -The Fisherman Magazine
NJDFW

Comments

From: Steve Tacca <tac089@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 1:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass

I think the options aren't in the best interest for the recreational fisherman . What ever happened to protecting the large females so they can keep on spawning ? I think the slot should be brought back , like it was years ago . Say 1 fish 24"-28" , then a 2nd fish 35"-under 40" . We need to keep the recreational fisherman happy along with the charter boat and party boat captains being able to survive .

Thank You

Steve Tacca

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Ryan Brule <brubru2452@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 7:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

It is my opinion that something drastic needs to be done as soon as possible to save the striped bass. So many other species have been overfished to the brink of extinction. We have the opportunity to save them by the limits we set, so let's do the right thing.

My first choice would be a moratorium on keeping any striped bass for the next few years, recreational and commercial. I want my kids and grandkids to enjoy the excitement of catching a big striper. We need to do something drastic and soon.

My second choice would be a slot limit, 32-42 inches. 1 fish per day.

My third choice would be 1 fish at 36".

Please do the right thing and help save this species.

Thank you

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Comments

From: Tyler McPherson <tylerjmcpherson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 11:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support striped bass conservation and would like to see the recreational and commercial bag limit reduced to zero to allow for a proper population rebound. It is clear we have hit the same dangerous territory that led to the 80's moratorium. If that is not feasible I would support a one fish per day bag limit with minimum fish length increased to 38". Please protect the Atlantic seaboard's most valuable saltwater recreational game fish.

Thank you,
Tyler McPherson
Cohasset MA

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Joseph Geisler <jgeisler@vt.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:58 PM
To: Joseph Geisler; Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Management

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Joseph Geisler, a long time Striped Bass fisherman residing in New Hampshire.

I would like to express my concoren that we need to better manage the rate at which large striped bass are targeted and successfully harvested from localized ecosystems.

While there is dispute regarding the size of fish allowed to be caught, there is undisputed proof that while technology, social media and science afford more efficient harvest of Striped Bass, the Striped Bass themselves possess no way of counter balancing our modern advancements in the fishery.

I would urge you to consider the following:

1- Increased Oversight of the Commercial Fishery

It is well know that in many of the states, tags can be bought and sold buy many, while a skilled few target and harvest the fish. For example; on a recent trip I heard the first mate discuss how he and his girlfriend both held commercial tags, but he was the only one harvesting the fish, knowing there was no oversight at night. In this case, the harvest was locally targeted on a very predictable bite in the Cape Cod Canal.

2- Designated Reduced Harvest Zones

Here in NH we have fewer keeper bass than in our adjacent States. An increase to the keeper size would make it challenging for us to keep a 35” fish as we rarely catch over 28” from shore. On the contrary places like Montauk, the Cape Cod Canal and Block Island regularly see fish over 40”. These places are and perfect mix of habitat and accessibility, making the harvest of bass especially easy when combined with social media and technology such as modern chartplotters and sonar. Please consider regional restrictions based on localized State census and harvest data.

3- Keeper Tags

Please consider the possibility of requiring recreational fisherman to register and purchase keeper tags. Tags can be sold per state, same price for out of State and in State with proceeds going to State and Federal restocking and research programs as well as access and habitat protection. Although some would disagree, I see no reason why anyone would need to catch more than 1 large Striped Bass per week. The tags could be sold individually or 4 per month for a discount. The tags would expire at the end of each month. Those less fortunate could apply for subsidies if social exclusion became an issue. I take fish for the table and feed my family as well. 10 bucks per tag is not too much to ask, considering what “white fish” is selling for per pound these days.

Thank you for allowing me the chance to comment. Hopefully this letter will help inform those open to discovering new ideas.

My family and I, of which we have two children 6 and 3, have been fishing for over 15 years. I hope we can protect the Striped Bass while preserving the sporting chance to catch and harvest the revered fish for years to come.

Respectfully,
Joesph Geisler
Weare, NH

Comments

From: Tim Petracca <tim.petracca@ppcpackage.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

Yes - Slot, slot, slot! 28-34" is good.

Why keep a bigger fish that could be a breeder?

Eliminate or reduce commercial boat limits. Apply same slots to them as well.

Let breeders of 34" plus, go free for commercial and recreational.

Yes to circle hooks.

Then: Enforce, enforce, enforce with huge and hurting penalties and fines.

Simple, easy, helpful.

Sustain our striper fishery.

Thank you,

Tim (MA)

Timothy J. Petracca, Sr.
435-901-0831
Tim.Petracca@ppcpackage.com

Comments

From: Dix Leeson <d.leeson@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 5:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Fisheries Managers -

I have been fishing for striped bass for 60 years and am very alarmed by their decline. I would support either the proposed 35" minimum length or the 28-35" slot limit, because I have stopped keeping my fish.

Because my 7 and 10 year old grandsons would like to take their first keepers and because the bigger fish are so scarce I have a slight preference for the slot limit. Please take some action to help rebuild the population.

Thanks for the chance to comment.

Dix Leeson Jr

Sent from my cell phone

Comments

From: captbogan@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass addendum

Dear Mr Appelman

In regards to Striper draft addendum VI

I am representing not only my interests but the interest of our for-hire industry and the passengers that fish with us in the hopes of bringing home fish to eat. What the for-hire industry has traditionally carried is anglers that do not own a boat. Over the last twenty or thirty years, the fishing regulations have gotten so lop-sided that it is no longer feasible for many to justify spending money on –not just the fare—but the expense of travel, tolls , tackle, ice and food –and not have an opportunity to bring home dinner for family and friends.

Speaking for my business, we do not need to bring home big female striped bass. We need to allow a reasonable opportunity to bring home a couple of smaller stripers for the table.

The truth is that we are not seeing great numbers of striped bass near shore --due to beach replenishment. Beach replenishment has done a lot of damage, not just to the animals that live near the surf, but has devastated fish habitat where the sand was dredged from –what were once hills are now holes! If this practice was done in a forest, there would be public outcry.

Striper stocks are not in trouble. Striped bass have been seen, in numbers, outside of our eez, along with great pods of menhaden –where surveys for striped bass are not being considered.

The points about the beach replenishment and the large schools offshore are not anecdotal. Both can be substantiated.

At the Manahawkin meeting I heard a comment by one gentleman who submitted that redfish and snook in Florida have a slot limit size and the biomass of both these fish have been doing well. It's something that NJ should look into.

Our for-hire industry cannot lose its bonus program. From what I understand, our industry has only utilized 9% of that quota. We also do not agree with the mandatory circle hook due to the fact that we often snag bunkers and let that bait immediately back into the drift. And I do not believe that most of our patrons would know how to set the hook with a circle hooks. In the past, we have referred to non-offset circle hooks as “rubber hooks”.

If we must pick our poison, I would opt for the 28 – 35 inch fish and maintain our bonus slot.

Thank you for your consideration

Robert Bogan
Owner/operator Gambler, Point Pleasant Bch, NJ
Member: Untied Boatmen, RFA, and Nafco

Comments

From: James Higham <bluefishing@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 12:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum IV

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing today in regards to the management of striped bass. I have been fishing for striped bass my whole adult life. I'm 37. I've seen bass from scarce when I was a child, to great numbers of fish 2003 and the decline to what we have today.

We all benefit from a healthy striped bass stock. I would like to see the greatest conservation measures adopted and dominant year classes protected.

James Higham
bluefishing@gmail.com
757-633-2853

23 Jonathan Rd
West Greenwich, RI 02817

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: April Mckay <aprilandjames13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 6:31 AM
To: Comments

This email is on regards to striped bass fishing regulations...I have been fiahing for striped bass now for 3 years...it is such a wonderful way to be out doors. I have NEVER caught a fish bigger then 19 inches. I do not fish off a boat which is the only way to really catch a bigger fish in the "keeper" catagory. So I really hope the size limit gets lowered so I can catch a fish and keep it. Maybe lower on shore fishing size and up the boating size...since there is a big difference on what you catch on shore compared to boating. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME...April Mckay 12 Walkers Ridge Drive Sanford Maine 04073

Comments

From: Chris Wechsler <wexla31@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum vl

I feel strongly about saving the striped bass fishery as an avid land based fisherman. My comments on the the suggested options for the increased size limit of 18% or a slot limit.

Sent from myMail for iOS

Comments

From: Amy Fredrikson <mainewayoutfitters@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 7:42 PM
To: Comments
Cc: James Geaumont
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to comment on the subject addendum. I am a recreational fisherman as well as a charter Captain for my business Maine Way Outfitters in Scarborough, ME. I have experienced Striped Bass fishing from VA to ME, and everywhere in between. This resource is invaluable to so many that it's important that we move towards true sustainability, FAST!

First off, I would like to say that I am pleased with the proposed changes falling on both the recreational and commercial sides. It is only fair that both sides take part in rebuilding AND maintaining a sustainable fishery.

As far as the recreational side goes.... all fishing with bait IN ALL STATES should require the use of circle hooks..... PERIOD! This is the easiest and a proven conservation tool that we can all use to benefit the fishery!!!! Also- gaffing should have been illegal a long time ago and it's crazy to think with this much proposed change that it wouldn't be one of the first things to change! I realize the difficulty that larger charter/ party boats have with boarding fish in general, but they should be required to do so in a way that allows for the safe releases of sub legal fish, such as a pole net.

I firmly believe that all states could benefit from a universal size limit/ daily retention. In all fairness, it is the same biomass of fish we are talking about..... they are a migratory species, so to say that certain states should have differences here is like setting different regulations for a certain end of a lake or pond! That simply can't work!

To support all of these measures, I believe states and federal support should be added to help ASMFC and other state/ parent organizations make better assessments of this particular fishery and alike. Specifically, fish tagging/ reporting and mandatory catch reporting for commercial/ charter fishing.

On the commercial side, there needs to be constant catch quota adjustments based on better and more frequent landings data, required reporting from all fishing commercially. If the fishery has trouble managing an appropriate population/quota assessment, then we should cut back the commercial quota for the following year. This is GUARANTEED fish kill where as recreational fishing is moving towards C&R every day!

PS- I'm not usually one to single any particular state out, but Massachusetts is way to far north to consider allowing a commercial fishery on this species.

Also, certain places need to be limited to a particular season, no targeting of Striped Bass, C&R only, etc some specific places are Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and Cape Cod Canal.

Thank you for your time and I hope for everyone's sake that good change can be made in the present, so that all of us don't have to deal with a fishery past the point of return, or even a moratorium!

Respectfully,
Captain James G. Geaumont

Maine Way Outfitters LLC
(207)286-6658

Comments

From: Robert Clement <rjclement44@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 4:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: StripedBassDraftAddendumVI

Do whatever it takes to rebuild the striped bass species and enact future regs to maintain the stock Leave out the politics and support the true science to solve all aspects of our man made problem Even a total ban if needed I love fishing, I've been fishing for 61 of my 69 yrs There is only one truth here. You need to have fish to fish You'll never be wrong doing the right thing

Robert Clement

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Chris Duryea <cmd176@optonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hi. I'm writing to support implementation of a slot limit for striped bass management. More importantly, I'm writing to support the banning of gillnets on our ocean beaches. As a resident of the Town of Southampton, ocean life guard and surf fisherman, I see the results of gill netting. This summer I witnessed numerous dead juvenile thresher, sand bar, brown and dusky sharks washing up on our beaches after the gill nets were emptied. In addition, we had a whale get tangled in a gill net in Sagaponack. The reckless disregard for our environment is witnessed by observing gillnetters working our ocean beaches. Thank you for your consideration for input.

Regards,

Christian Duryea
21 South Drive
Sag Harbor, NY 11963
631-725-1044

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Corinne Green <75cgreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

My husband and I have been fishing in the Chesapeake Bay on a regular basis since 2006. We fish from the Eastern Shore side of Virginia. We are very concerned about what is happening in the bay with all the fisheries. Striped Bass in Virginia for recreational fisherman only takes place for a limited time in the fall. Virginia recreational fisherman are not the real problem. The commercial fisherman in Virginia are affecting the mortality and numbers of fish to a much larger degree. I personally have seen the commercial catches of huge rockfish rolling down Route 13 in the backs of trucks in plastic trash cans. Also, the nets cause many more fish to be sacrificed and not kept.

Each year we see fewer recreational fisherman fishing for Stripers. The number of boats has decreased. I think it's the general lack of fish in the bay now. The number of boats we see in the summer has been greatly reduced as well. The Chesapeake Bay has a huge problem due to the depletion of forage fish. Gone are the flounder, croakers, bluefish, and stripers. Even the red drum in the middle bay are not there as in previous years. The only fish in any quantity this year were Spanish mackerel, Cobia, and Speckled Sea Trout. All of which do not depend on menhaden for food.

Virginia is negligent in addressing the fisheries issues. For some reason things have progressed to an unbelievable level and there was no for thought or care about what has happened. My take on it is that the corporation with a huge plant in Reedville, Va has paid all the people needed to continue their destruction of the bay. Why are they allowed to use purse seine nets in the bay? Why don't they have to fish 3 mile out like all the other states on the east coast. The Chesapeake Bay cannot sustain the harvesting of every menhaden that enters our bay. We watch the ships, seven to eight a day, with almost as many spotter planes. Even when weather is fine they fish in the bay. They capture any fish as they enter the bay to the south near the bay bridges tunnel and to the north around Tangier Island. They have even been doing his recently after they met the quota you set for the bay. We are in the bay all the time and very rarely do we ever see menhaden schools anymore. Recently, we aren't seeing any at all. I am sure this contributes to the lack of food for Striped Bass.

My hope is that the ASMFC can somehow wake those in charge of fisheries in Virginia as I am sure this will eventually affect the menhaden on the entire east coast. Right now, the future of the fish and other wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay looks bleak. Please help.

Thank you for your consideration,
Corinne Green

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Corinne Green <75cgreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 11:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Changed Subject line. See below.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Corinne Green <75cgreen@gmail.com>
Date: October 2, 2019 at 11:46:01 AM EDT
To: comments@asmfc.org
Subject: Striped Bass

My husband and I have been fishing in the Chesapeake Bay on a regular basis since 2006. We fish from the Eastern Shore side of Virginia. We are very concerned about what is happening in the bay with all the fisheries. Striped Bass in Virginia for recreational fisherman only takes place for a limited time in the fall. Virginia recreational fisherman are not the real problem. The commercial fisherman in Virginia are affecting the mortality and numbers of fish to a much larger degree. I personally have seen the commercial catches of huge rockfish rolling down Route 13 in the backs of trucks in plastic trash cans. Also, the nets cause many more fish to be sacrificed and not kept.

Each year we see fewer recreational fisherman fishing for Stripers. The number of boats has decreased. I think it's the general lack of fish in the bay now. The number of boats we see in the summer has been greatly reduced as well. The Chesapeake Bay has a huge problem due to the depletion of forage fish. Gone are the flounder, croakers, bluefish, and stripers. Even the red drum in the middle bay are not there as in previous years. The only fish in any quantity this year were Spanish mackerel, Cobia, and Speckled Sea Trout. All of which do not depend on menhaden for food.

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My hope is that the ASMFC can somehow wake those in charge of fisheries in Virginia as I am sure this will eventually affect the menhaden on the entire east coast. Right now, the future of the fish and other wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay looks bleak. Please help.

Thank you for your consideration,
Corinne Green

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Ken Yearwood <kypkg@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it May Concern:

The current proposals for recreational Striped Bass Reduction are not acceptable. Most options target larger breeding female Striped Bass. This has been proven over time to not be the solution. New Jersey listened to the public when the last reduction was created. New Jersey complied with the required reduction percentage using a different limit strategy. This gave the public the ability to keep 2 fish per day but in different size classes. This gives the perception of more. The reality is Striped Bass are schooling fish and rarely are we able to catch fish in the different size classes during the same trip. I would like to see additional proposals created. Maybe consider slot limits up to starting lower 24" to a max of 36", maybe creation of seasonal periods. Why allow fish to be caught and released during the warmest water months when mortality rates skyrocket? Ive seen mortality rates as high as 50% when the water is over 75 degrees.

In conclusion, the current proposals are UNACCEPTABLE and need to be revised.

Thanks

Ken Yearwood
email: kypkg@aol.com

Comments

From: mike C <Mikecliny@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Loss of Striped Bass

To Whom it may Concern,

In truth it concerns us all. The loss of the Striped bass would a economic disaster for the Country. It is time to stop leaving the fate of the fish to nature. With some states willing to catch and sell the last bass swimming just out of pure greed. We can see trying to get the ASMFC to protect the fish is like having the Fox protect the hen house. So it's time to mandate that each state with a bass fishery have a hatchery. Each hatchery must put into the waters of their state one hundred thousand year old fingerlings a year. We use hatcheries on the west coast for salmon, time to do it to save the bass. Hatchery's can be paid for by a bass stamps similar to Duck stamps used today. Your slots this and that, and continued bowing to commercials interest with changing numbers to hide what is happening, will not stop the decline.

Thank you.

M. Campanelli
Levittown , NY

Comments

From: Huy Newwen <huynguyen0320@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 2:30 AM
To: Comments; savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Hello. I wanted to post on my behalf of the current striped bass situation. I currently reside in Maryland so I am speaking for the Upper to Middle portion of the Chesapeake Bay. There are a couple issues I believe are conflicting with the Striped Bass population

1. Poaching, many people are keeping under size and over limit fish. This really hurts the other anglers at a chance to catch their one in a lifetime fish! (I have yet to catch a 30 inch fish in my life)
2. Maryland regulations allow 2 fish per person per day between 19-28 inches OR 1 fish between 19-28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches . Recently Virginia has stepped up to the plate to only allow 1 Fish from 20 to 36 inches, this is headed into the right direction. This leaves the bigger females to be able to breed.
3. The harvesting season is is too long in Maryland! The current harvesting seasons are April 20 - May 15; 1 Fish Minimum 35 inches, May 16 - May 31; 2 Fish 19-28 inches or 1 Fish Between 19-28 inches and 1 Fish over 28 inches, Finally June 1 - Dec 15; 2 fish per person per day between 19-28 inches OR 1 fish between 19-28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches...During the spring breeding fish come into the bay to lay their eggs. During the season a lot of people are catching undersized fish without proper handling which inevitably leads to a lower mortality rate.

If you have any other questions I will gladly give more feedback

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and I hope we can continue to preserve the Striped Bass fishery for our kin to be able to do the same!

Kenny Nguyen
Kombi_Rs
Member of Stripersonline

Comments

From: thomas lampman <poone692004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 12:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper Fishing. Only 1Fish per person per day!! And cut back on the Commercial Fishing for Stripers Way back for 3yrs and you'll see the Fish Stocks come right Back!! Your Fisher0 Thomas Lampman.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Comments

From: roeckinusa@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 9:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: New striped bass regulations

What makes sense to me is to introduce a slot limit for striped bass similar to the slot for snook in Florida, which has been very successful! This will stop the targeting of large striped bass and allow the resource to recover. Mark Roecklein, Long Island surf fisherman for 50 years. Thank you

Comments

From: Dave Goyette <davegoyette16@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 8:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripers

The poaching that is going on at the Cape Cod canal is out of control. Commercial fishermen are catching numerous bass sneaking them or a friend is going and bringing two fish to truck/car coming back for another two and this goes on as long as the fish are there. This is going on 7 days a week. They are keeping them on ice for three plus days and then selling them. Stop all commercial fishing in the canal. Another problem is recreational fishermen are also hiding fish, sneaking them to their cars/trucks and taking shorts. Stop all taking of fish in the canal for awhile, more game warden presence and higher fines are needed to stop the flagrant disrespect for laws.
Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Richard Heffernon <rheffernon@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 1:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI /Stripper Regs

No strippers should be taken until after spawning. We keep making exceptions and what happens populations continue to decrease. It's time to put the "brakes on" before it's too late.

Richard Heffernon

CT Resident

Long time stripper fisherman.

Comments

From: Richard Heffernon <rheffernon@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 1:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI /Stripper Regs

No strippers should be taken until after spawning. We keep making exceptions and what happens populations continue to decrease. It's time to put the "brakes on" before it's too late.

Richard Heffernon

CT Resident

Long time stripper fisherman.

Comments

From: Patrice Ringoot <pringoot@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 11:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripped Bass

I don't know what is quota fishing industry/ recreational for stripped bass.
In my mind a good start is to limit the industry fishing quota. Witch seems to be the bigger number.
At fish market fishes are always under the already existing limit for recreational fishing.
How their limit works?
Fish over 35 are in limited number for recreational fisherman mostly fishing from shore.
More fish release might increase their death or tempt the poaching. How many fishes released from 28 to 35 before catching the keeper?
Does a different rule should apply when fishing from boat?
One fish/ 28 or more is very straightforward.
For the poacher a strict and more severe penalty need to be set.
No license for a period of time/ bigger fine and ceases of fishing equipment or boat....
Do we need to made responsible fisherman part of the watchdog?
Is there enough staff and officers to in force the law?

PRingoot

Comments

From: Frank Lecrichia <franklecrichia@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019 5:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC,

My name is Frank Lecrichia, a recreational angler of striped bass on the south shore of Long Island via Fire Island inlet. I would like to do what's necessary to help protect the fishery and increase the bass population. I believe we should have a slot limit between 28-35 inches with a 1 fish limit per angler. I also believe the use of circle hooks on all live/cut bait techniques should be mandatory.

I would also like to see a strict enforcement from the DEC on any poachers who do not follow the regulations as well as substantial fines.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

Sincerely,
Frank Lecrichia

Comments

From: NANCY ROPER <nroper@snet.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 4:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Committee,

Please just close commercial landings.

Do any of you know that in New Bedford when the Scallopers come in they wait until after 11 when the inspectors leave before unloading the trucks roll in with big blue totes for the stripe bass, then go to Canada and turn around with Canadian paperwork And come back in. If they have stoped this, great, otherwise have inspectors around the clock.

Cull the seals

Thank you

Comments

From: KEITH SALISBURY <captkeith@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 8:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: StripedBass Draft Addendum VI.

I feel that one fish at 28 inches per person per day is acceptable. Unless Your findings show the stock is way below historical averages. If that is the case then I am in favor of shutting it down completely. I personally do not like slot limits because most times You are killing a fish to catch a fish. I do know a solution to this problem. I remember the first collapse in the early 80"s when the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation put out their award winning video Striper Restoring Coastal Striped Bass. I am sure that video is available to you anyways My suggestion would be to copy what worked then. Also I firmly believe that a donation of at least 20 dollars per person [and I know every fisherman on the east coast would contribute, plus commercial fisherman would also be contributing. It shouldn't cost the government anything. We restored it once, We overfished it again, time to do the right thing and bring the mighty Striped Bass back again!.....OH YEA, When are You going to do something about the over population of cormorants they have depleted the flounder stocks the American EEL stocks and any and every small fish available to them. Now I see them trying to eat whole bunker. Thanks for allowing the public to comment. Good luck!

Comments

From: Jordan Berns <jcberns@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 7:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern

Please consider a slot limit on bass. Incentivizing fishermen to take fish over 28" is absurd as fish in the 36"+ range are typically breeding fish. I believe that keeping these large trophy fish greatly reduces the population.

Perhaps keeping a 24-28" fish is better for the fishery? Perhaps we can have limits where we can catch one at 24-28 and one 28-36 and then return the mommas to keep this great thing going.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jordan C. Berns
(617) 543-1230 (C)

Comments

From: Richard Rowe <drowe5352@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 7:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Fishing in New Hampshire this year for Stripers was tough caught a lot of schoolies but never caught one at 28 inches! I think Delaware's daily limit should be only one fish like the rest of us. The commercial fishery should be cut all together like the cod fishery.

Thanks for listening, Richard Rowe

Comments

From: Jay Althoff <jay.althoff@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 5:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

ASMFC -

I'm not sure I'm wasting my time writing this comment, because I know you will ignore it.

I'm 54 - I grew up fishing from NY to Cape Cod. I remember when Stripers were almost mythical creatures. Stocks were so low the limit was raised to 36" at least in Massachusetts.

The Stripers came back. I remember days on the Monomoy flats seeing literally 100s of stripers. Those days are long gone.

I fly fish and practice catch and release. I've kept one striper in the last 30 years.

I've watched the striper fishing decline dramatically. We all know where it's going - down the tubes. The biomass data shows it, our experience on the water only confirms it.

You can't do anything about spawning habitat issues, but you can impact number of bass killed.

Honestly, short of a ban on killing stripers, which would probably result in a rebound in about 5 years, the only option is to go back to much, much stricter limits. It worked before, why not do it now?

Raise the limit to 36" now, up and down the coast.

But instead of doing that you'll probably just move the goalposts and say the stock is actually healthy. That would be unconscionable.

Respectfully,

Jay Althoff

Comments

From: Fred ONeal <fredmd3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 4:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass regulations recreational takes the hit

Why is it that the recreational fisherman must take a 20 to 27 percent reduction of striped bass and the commercial person takes a 1.8 percent. That's not fair whatever the reduction is it should be split equally. 40 percent each group takes a hit of 20 percent each after all the recreational person spends a lot of money and supports a lot of business then does the commercial fisherman.

You should have been much more involved in regulating striped bass ever since are last moratorium took place. By making striped bass a recreational species which we would not have this problem now. There should be no netting of striped bass in any of the tributaries, there should be no spring time trophy season, no catch and release during that time. The striped bass season should start June1 and end Dec 15. This would allow the fish to come in and lay there eggs without any worries.

Again we are in this situation because government never learns from the pass.

Thanks for your time

Fred ONeal

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Andrew Werkema <saekazir@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 1:46 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Jessica Best
Subject: Striped Bass Comments

Hello my name is Aj Werkema and I am a recreational fisherman. I live in Newburgh NY, fish the Hudson River for striped bass, participate in the Cooperative Angler Study, and attended the meeting in New Paltz on Sept. 12th. Here are my comments regarding the Hudson River regulations to preserve striped bass.

1. Most recreational fisherman in the Hudson Valley do not fish for striped bass after June 31st. The season could end on that date. If the season ends on that date enforcement may become easier due to lack of legal activity on the river. While shortening the season may not drastically improve the number of striped bass it may discourage poaching since poachers could not use legal fisherman as "cover".

2. Remove the 38in + legal keep size. The only legal keep size would be 18 to 28 and still only be one fish per day. Leaving the big breeding females in the water will hopefully increase the number. I do not support keeping big males either. I do not think the difference in the sexes is easy enough to identify and enforcement would be difficult.

3. For circle hooks verses J hooks allow me to offer this observation. My fishing partner and I have only ever fished for striped bass with J hooks. We do not have a high percentage of fish kill. We usually go the entire season without killing any striped bass or other non-target species (catfish, white perch). I believe we maintain this ideal kill percentage by fishing with a different technique that many other anglers. We only fish with the fishing rod in our hand. We do not stick the fishing pole in a rod holder or brace. Once the fish takes the bait we set the hook. This shortens the amount of time the hook is inside the fish and not set into the lip. The fish does not have the time to swallow the hook. We also feel it results in more catches than the technique of waiting. If the rod-in-hand technique were suggested to anglers it may result in less fish kill regardless of circle or J hook.

Those are my comments on the proposed fishing regulations. Listed below are additional comments that affect striped bass:

Please address poaching, not that you don't combat it whenever possible but it was not listed as a contributing factor in the presentation in New Paltz on Sept. 12th. The fish, the fisherman, and the river as a whole all suffer from poaching. Here are a few suggestions.

-Please charge an amount of money to fish for striped bass, ideally \$20 or less. This will cut down on the overall number of people fishing and may dissuade poachers since proof of a license must be shown. Ideally use this money to fund efforts that preserve striped bass such as paying for more ECO officers, funding additional research or fisheries, etc.

-If possible increase the amount of foot patrol for enforcement along the Hudson. I have no seen an ECO officer at anytime while striped bass fishing. I exclusively fish from shore and have seen individuals not in compliance with the regulations. It is my opinion that most poaching occurs from shore and having an ECO office stop by just twice in the season may yield a significant drop in poaching.

-Please post numbers of the amounts of estimated fish lost due to poaching. Total volume of fish capture in tons by recreational anglers is available. Do you have estimates for how many fish are illegally caught and kept? If so, post these numbers were legal anglers can see it. Show how much of a problem it is and you may convince more anglers to report poaching.

Please address the amount of pollution that is allowed to be dumped into our waterways specifically the raw sewage amounts from municipalities. A cleaner river will likely promote the health of the spawn stock and may result in a overall increase in fish numbers. Municipalities or business found to be heavy polluters should be fined until they are in compliance. Weather related disasters should not allow sewage plants or water treatment plants to dump into the Hudson, better emergency procedures should exist.

Consider banning the use of any gill nets on the Hudson River. I am not certain how frequent this practice is used. The by-catch from nets would include striped bass and sturgeon. In the interest of preserving these vital species consider banning nets.

Consider implementing less options for conservative easements to unify the conservation efforts across state lines. New Jersey should not be allowed to fish the same size fish NY is trying to protect, and vice versa.

In closing I would like to extend my gratitude to the DEC and to ASMFC for the hard work you all do. I was present in the New Paltz meeting and bore witness to the treatment you all have to deal with sometimes. We anglers have these fish to try for because of your efforts and dedication. Thank you.

Feel free to contact me if desired.

Aj Werkema
saekazir@yahoo.com
845-913-5912

Comments

From: Steve Hornick, Jr <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 12:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: I Support Ending Overfishing by the COMMERCIAL SECTOR and Rebuilding Striped Bass

Dear FMP Coordinator Appelman,

As an angler that loves sportfishing, I understand the responsibility of making tough management decisions to ensure the striped bass resource returns to a healthy status. Therefore, I would support ending overfishing from the commercial sector.

I support NO scenario that takes any fish away from the Recreational Angler! Recreational fishermen do not fish 24/7 - weather effects the majority of us but that is not the case with the commercial fishermen. Reduce their catch lbs and you will see the stocks rebound.

I am for raising the minimum size limit for the Recreational to maybe 35" or 36", raise the upper limit to 45" or greater and DO AWAY WITH THE SLOT BONUS TAGS. Not taking fish to 35" will produce more eggs than keeping 1 large 50lb female, just do the math.

Reducing overfishing by the Commercial sector will bring back the striped bass resource to a healthy stock status.

Sincerely,

Steve Hornick
15 High Park Pl
Clifton, NJ 07011
shornickjr@aol.com

Comments

From: Chris Martin <chris@endeavorseafood.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 9:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good morning,

I am writing in support of new regulations surrounding striped bass and the state of the fishery.

I'd like to start out by saying I am strictly a catch and release recreational fisherman from both boat and shore. I primarily fish artificial lures and plugs. If I do fish with bait I currently use only circle hooks.

In my opinion, catching striped bass over the past 10 years has become more of a challenge with more small fish than large fish available. I live in Portsmouth, RI and fish primarily Narragansett Bay and Sakonnet River.

In the past 5 years I think I have caught 4 keepers. I put in decent time on the water and by shore at night, and in very productive spots.

I would be in favor of a slot limit in say the 28"-36" range. I feel it is extremely important to keep the large breeders in the stock that may be genetically superior to support a healthy fishery for the future.

I can tell you that I do spend a substantial amount of money on an annual basis on gas, bait, lures, gear, and tackle that helps support local businesses. If there are limited fish to catch, the effort will decrease, and so will the amount of money that goes into the local economy.

If you have any questions for me please feel free to reach out.

Chris Martin

Endeavor Seafood, Inc
110 William St
Newport, RI 02840
401 841 0059 Office
401 338 6090 Cell
401 841 8639 Fax
www.endeavorseafood.com
Chris@Endeavorseafood.com



NATIONAL
FISHERIES
INSTITUTE

Comments

From: Michael Shepherd <sheponfishing@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 4:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass addendum VI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Shepherd <sheponfishing@yahoo.com>
Date: September 26, 2019 at 4:53:40 AM EDT
To: Michael Shepherd <sheponfishing@yahoo.com>
Subject: Striped bass addendum VI

I write fishing column Shep on Fishing in the Press of Atlantic City and I have a live radio program Shep Talking Fishing on Air on News-Radio WOND 1400 plus update reports on air here in South Jersey, which enables to hear a lot about fishing issues. Striped bass and summer flounder regulations are top concerns.

I have attended public meetings and heard the public comments.

My own comment on the striped bass options is that we should adopt recreational regulations to allow for one or two striped bass daily possession measuring between 18 and 30 inches in length. The striped bass game fish designation we have here in New Jersey should be applied elsewhere. The option for a circle hook when using live bait is a no-brainer. Just about everyone applauds that one. Ongoing education on how best to release fish is important.

Michael Shepherd

609-350-0388

[Sheponfishing@yahoo.com](mailto:sheponfishing@yahoo.com)

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: John Feeley <jjfeeley68@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 7:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Absolutely love the Striped Bass and support the need for new management regulations. I would prefer to see a straight increase in size limit rather than slot limits. Also support circle hooks for bait fishing.

Tight lines!

John Feeley

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Jon Brideau <jonbrideau1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I am writing to submit my comments about the over fishing of striped bass. I have lived/worked/fished in the waters of Cape Ann, Massachusetts for most of my life (35 years old). From hauling traps on commercial lobster boats as a teenager, to striped bass fishing every summer since I was about 10, I have seen my fair share of recreational and commercial fishing in our waters. With social media and internet groups, my passion has grown with the access to knowledge, trends, and insights to this fishery.

With this said, I think the problems of over fishing is happening with BOTH recreational and commercial striped bass fishing.

We see countless social media posts of commercial fisherman gaffing bass for their clients of any size. Captains boast proudly that they have landed clients large sized breeding females, and take to social media to advertise photos and videos of their business to gain client share. They have little regard for sustainability as they are driven by dollars to afford their, understandably, marginal business.

As much as I support our local commercial lobster men (after working for 5 different boats in my younger years), I am appalled to see the large sized females that they are allowed to catch and sell commercially. During one of the best weeks of the summer for stripers (July 22-26th) this year I caught several large stripers in the 40"-50" range, mostly due to the amount of pogy schools on Cape Ann, releasing them all. That week alone, a few people I know in the seafood and lobstering industry posted photos of trucks full of the same sized fish being sold back on land. I can't understand why we don't put a ceiling on the fish length for the commercial permits, or limit the quota for the season. The amount taken that week alone put a dent into the biomass.

On the other side, I have come across countless recreational fisherman in my life that not only break our keeper regulations, fail to purchase licensing, but also leave a disgusting mess behind them on the water, on the docks, piers, and parking lots where they access local fishing hot spots. Most of them are not trained to properly catch and release, so they lean on imminent mortality to keep any and all fish coming off their lines. With the amazing technology and bait advances, any recreational fisherman can find and land stripers without any real knowledge. This leads to reckless decisions and many poorly handled fish. The recreational fishery is understandably hard to manage with limited resources of local authorities and I often find myself wondering how we can help, outside of calling in suspicious activity.

I personally support a slot of 28"-34" (one keeper per fisherman), but more importantly a ceiling of 34" to keep the female breeders from being kept. I have already converted all my tackle to inline circle hooks before our change in Massachusetts for 2020. I would support further efforts to streamline tackle to be less harmful, like limited treble hooks on all baits and the size of hooks/line required.

I hope to see this fishery come back and more importantly stay healthy for lifetimes to come so my own kids can enjoy what we have with striped bass.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter and please feel free to reach out,

--

Jon Brideau
978-853-1129

Comments

From: Bernie & Margie Dove <MargieD01@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: rockfish allocation

Make sure that whatever allocation is chosen that it is fair to recreational and commercial anglers alike.

On the recreational side

Cancel trophy season altogether

No preseason catch and release on the Susquehanna flats. No fishing there at all

No rockfish tournaments again ever!

Circle hooks for live lining but enforcement is needed.

Stop Catch n Release in the summer months when the water is hot and mortality is high.

On the commercial side

No fish over 28" allowed to be sold.

Pound netters cannot hold hook n line licenses.

Enforcement at the check in stations

No culling to get a larger size fish for your quota

Realistically the STRIPED BASS should become a game fish.

Buy out the watermen. The money made in the charter business and recreational fishing puts huge amounts of money into the economy.

I know that will not happen in my life time but I can wish for it. Margaret D. Dove



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Comments

From: Joe Coppola <joecopp10@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 8:21 AM
To: Max Appelman
Cc: Capt. Dave Monti
Subject: Re: Automatic reply: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mr. Appelman,

This is a follow up to my earlier letter after attending the meeting last night at URI. I was able to arrive during the presentation (which was very well prepared and delivered) but in plenty of time to hear the questions/discussions. Although I did not express any comments at the meeting, after reflecting on the meeting I would like to make the following recommendation:

- On the record of last night's meeting are a couple of comments about treble hooks, barbs, etc. and the damage they do to fish. Coincidentally, yesterday morning I'm sure I killed at least 4 bluefish and 1 or 2 schoolie striped bass due to the treble hooks/barbs on my topwater plugs. Honestly, it took the fun out of fishing on a day when I was on fish actively feeding (not a regular occurrence for surfcasters). I got to thinking about how to deal with this issue, as I know several fishermen have the same challenge, and I thought about Dave Monti's "pitch" for a strong education program about circle hooks. I really like Dave's ideas and I thought why not expand them to include changing out trebles to single hooks and "best practice" techniques to eliminate the barbs on all hooks for lures, plugs, etc. I believe making completion of programs like these mandatory for obtaining a fishing license would significantly improve the mortality loss of released fish and, equally important, would make fishermen feel much better about the condition of the fish they catch and release. It also has the potential to eventually create a demand for products already equipped with "modified" hooks causing leading companies to include them in their product offerings.

Thanks very much for the opportunity to provide input into the decision-making process. We are looking forward to beginning to restore the striped bass population as soon as possible. In 2017 my wife and I relocated to South County, RI and, at age 69, I caught my first striped bass. I envy those who have had the good fortune to grow up in this area (or similar) and were able to enjoy a lifetime of fishing for these fabulous fish, and now I'm willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that my grandchildren will have the same opportunity. The time to act is NOW.

Joe Coppola
Wakefield, RI

On Mon, Sep 16, 2019 at 6:41 PM Max Appelman <mappelman@asmfc.org> wrote:

Hello. Thank you for your email. I am on out of the office September 17-19, returning September 20. I will be checking email intermittently during that time and will respond to your email as soon as possible. Thanks for your patience.

For immediate assistance regarding Atlantic striped bass, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org. Feel free to contact the ASMFC help desk at 703.842.0740 with all other questions.

Best,

Max

Comments

From: Lee Chenette <leechenette@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 4:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I feel in-line circle hooks and a one fish keeper slot limit would help with mortality.
This should be adapted in the states that border the Atlantic from Virginia to Maine.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Richard Buckley <buckofly@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

I support aggressive measures in support of Striped Bass conservation.

Minimum keeper length of 36 inches. One fish per customer per day on Sport fishing charters. Minimize by catch. Clean up the Chesapeake spawning area dead zones. Continue to cut commercial fishing. Sponsor farm raised Bass for public consumption.

Richard Buckley
24 June Lane
East Sandwich MA

Comments

From: Peter Willett <willpeters728@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 10:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman and the Atlantic State Marine Fishery Commission Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board,

I am submitting my comments on Draft Addendum VI with a few observations on the striped bass stock.

Regarding minimum size limits, I am a proponent of slot sizes, with a general slot on the lower end of the scale. For example, **1 fish at 24"-28"**. I also believe that an **additional "trophy" slot**, where an **angler could keep 1 fish over 45"**, is worthy of consideration.

All cut/chunk/dead bait (clams, mackerel, herring, menhaden, squid, etc.) and live baits like mackerel, scup, eels and seaworms must be fished using non-offset in-line circle hooks, with an exception for using live menhaden on weighted treble hooks.

I caught and released about a dozen fish in the 36" to 46" range this year fishing "snagged and dropped" live menhaden using weighted treble hooks. In no cases were these fish gut hooked. Most often one point of the treble ended up several inches down inside the mouth where it could be easily removed with pliers. I lost one of these fish when it bled out after release. I circled back and netted it to keep for the table. This fish did not bleed because of the use of a treble hook; it was removed from its mouth with ease and without injury. I thought that because it had been gorging on menhaden, perhaps during our fight the fin points of the previously consumed menhaden had penetrated vital organs. I'm not a fisheries biologist. My point is that in my experience, treble hooks fished in this manner are very safe to the larger fish that feed on large menhaden.

Abolition of all commercial fisheries for striped bass. Phase out current commercial license holders over a reasonably short period of time. What does it say that in my state the current striped bass commercial quota stands at just 59%? Could it be that there aren't as many big fish to catch? Yet the state still allows the big breeders to be harvested in the desire to hit the quota. Do recreational anglers contribute to striper mortality? Of course, and steps need to be taken to minimize this to create a robust sustained fishery. But to ignore the effects of the commercial sector (the recreational charter industry also needs to be examined) while shining a light on the negative effects of recreational anglers seems to me to significantly miss a large point.

More enforcement of laws. Everyone needs to admit that both recreational and commercial poaching is a big problem and for many reasons laws are not being enforced strongly enough. When lawbreakers are caught, the penalties applied are insufficiently light.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments. You have an important job to do and I wish you good luck moving forward.

Concerned Angler, North Shore of Massachusetts

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Concerned Angler, North Shore of Massachusetts

Comments

From: Walter Brown <wmbrowniii@md.metrocast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 7:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass addendum VI

I cannot argue with your data but would like to add these anecdotal personal observations. I live on the lower Potomac river and spend a lot of time observing what is happening on the river. On the river there are numerous pound nets with 2 very near to where I live. I have noticed that at sometimes of the year after the nets are worked there are many dead rockfish floating in the river and on the shore. I have been told and believe that sometimes fish are held in the nets waiting for the best market, this stresses the fish and results in a higher mortality, also many of these fish are not of a good marketable size. I am also near a live lining hot spot. Usually the most activity by recreational and commercial charter fishermen occurs on weekends but some goes on daily. My primary method of catching rock is to troll. While working around and near the live liners I notice many dead and near dead rockfish (I assume that all of these boats are using circle hooks). So it appears to me that all sectors of the fishery are contributing to the mortality of Striped Bass. If there is a problem I think all sectors share in the responsibility therefore; I support option 2. I also support 3.2 the use of circle hooks.

There are however other thing that could be done that are not mentioned:

- *Eliminate live lining*
- *Limit live lining to one or two days during the week*
- *Circle hooks restricted to size 7 or greater*
- *Close the fall and winter ocean fishery as many of the larger breeders are removed or injured during this season*
- *Eliminate pound netting*
- *limit the size of the net area*
- *Prohibit the holding of fish in pound nets to one day nets should be harvested daily*
- *Fishing with barbless hooks only including circle hooks (I have fished with barbless hooks and had good success)*

Thank you

Walter Brown

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: eeg@graybooks.net
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 1:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

I support a shift to slot sizes for striped bass, specifically a recreational daily limit of one fish at 28" – 34".

The slot size should also apply to commercial limits, whatever that number of kept fish may be, as long as the kept fish are within the slot.

This will protect the larger breeding cows. The current regs clearly are allowing an excessive kill of these valuable fish.

Ed Gray
PO Box 231
Lyme, NH 03768
ed@graybooks.net

Comments

From: rapdiver <rapdiver@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 11:31 AM
To: rapdiver; Comments
Subject: Fwd: RE: [EXTERNAL] : STRIPED BASS

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Lengyel, Nicole (DEM)" <nicole.lengyel@dem.ri.gov>
Date: 9/23/19 11:12 (GMT-05:00)
To: rapdiver <rapdiver@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] : STRIPED BASS

Mr. Rapoza,

Thank you very much for your comments. If you would like these comments to officially be on the record as public comment, please send them to Max Appelman by 5 PM (EST) on October 7, 2019 at comments@asmfc.org with the subject line Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

Thank you.

Regards,

Nicole

Nicole Lengyel Costa

Principal Biologist

RIDEM Marine Fisheries

3 Ft. Wetherill Rd.

Jamestown, RI 02835

Office: (401) 423-1940

nicole.lengyel@dem.ri.gov

From: rapdiver <rapdiver@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 1:11 PM
To: Lengyel, Nicole (DEM) <nicole.lengyel@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : STRIPED BASS

Nicole,

Please make an effort to pass Draft Addendum VI .I am 61 years old and have seen the striper population fluctuate greatly .In my opinion there is no reason to have a commercial striper season. I understand that is only a small part of the problem . Allowing fisherman to take our biggest stripers is a big part of the problem .We need to stop .There shouldn't be fishing off of Block Island at any time.There also needs to be other management by both state and federal agencies to ensure we don't lose our striped bass fishery.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mike Rapoza

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Comments

From: Bill Walls <wm_walls@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 10:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Manhaden overfishing MUST be addressed with Striped Bass addendum.

Striped Bass restrictions are part of the solution, but their vital food source Menhaden are overfished at the mouth of the Bay and those metric tons need to be reduced drastically and limited. Omega lobbyist have VA paid. Wake up folks and start make better choices. There is never a wrong time to make the right decision. Menhaden restrictions need to become a part of this discussion, PERIOD..

Sincerely, Capt. Bill Walls, Mayo, MD

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Comments

From: Henry Lingenfelder <hlingenfelder@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 9:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it may concern,

I live in Baltimore, and have been fishing for striped bass (rockfish) since I was ten years old.

During the moratorium of the nineties, I, like others, suffered through, and the outcome of the moratorium was as expected- growth, not only in numbers, but in the sizes of fish.

I have used both spin and fly gear, which is to say artificial lures, primarily.

Using fly gear, I can count on one hand the number of fish that didn't survive.

Using spin gear, and bait on the very rare occasion, the mortality rate was higher.

The idea of using circle hooks is the best since the ban.

The fish is hooked in the lip, and not in the gills, causing death.

I would ask that there be a standard minimum of 32 inches for both the Bay and all Maryland coastal waters and tributaries, and to eliminate the Spring fishing, where the fish come up the Susquehanna to spawn.

Let them.

Also, daily limits **MUST BE ENFORCED!!!**

I hear boaters all the time saying, "Well we limited out in an hour and a half, then we went back out after lunch!"

This has to stop.

Lastly, Omega Protein must be taken to task.

The fish have been skinny because of the lack of menhaden- "harvested" by OP.

No food, no fish.

If the menhaden population is allowed to grow, so shall that of the rockfish.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Henry G. Lingenfelder

Baltimore, Maryland

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Terry Fitzsimmons <Terry@fitzsimmonsdesign.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 11:26 AM
To: Comments
Subject: addendum VI

I have fished in the Chesapeake bay and enjoyed it's bounty for 48 years. I have seen the rockfish population severely threatened many times – this latest crisis appears worse than any before. We cannot continue this way, I urge severe restrictions on Rockfish harvesting and of peripheral species (alewives for instance). I see the only truly meaningful answer as a complete moratorium for several seasons (there was one over a span of ? years several years ago that appeared to work but look were we are now – back in the same boat!) following that, severe restrictions on harvesting and catch and release. Commercial fishermen will, of course, not like this but let's find a way to use their expertise and equipment to monitor the program for which they will be compensated. I urge strong, unpopular, policies to help recover the rockfish population all over the east coast.

Sincerely, Terry Fitzsimmons.

Comments

From: cnirome@optonline.net
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 3:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please reduce the striped bass harvest as much as you can - your grandchildren's children will thank you.

Comments

From: Steve <steveditt@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 1:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments Hudson River Stripers

Fishing the river for 20 years Newburgh to Poughkeepsie from a boat ,last few years take part in DEC log book ,each year declining numbers with more fishermen with more sophisticated equipment . Schools of fish have definitely declined ,some fishermen are helpful locating schools and communicating that information so people are traveling more fishing these schools . This past year so many days I never marked anything which is very unusual .

I believe releasing the fish using a dehooking tool on the side of the boat is by far the best method without handling the fish ,definitely more needs to be done with education its so sad to see fish being weighted measured dropped on the floor pictures taken and this every fish which is ridiculous . Fighting a large female fish for twenty minutes and releasing that fish what happens to the eggs can she still spawn or does this fish die a week later.Im not sure what is correct but fishing in the river when fish are actively in the spawn just doesn't seem correct with as many people not having a clue how to handle fish . I will not be happy to see it happen put could certainly understand. Steve Dittenhoefer

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Peter Farrell <captainpetefarrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 10:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass sticks

Dear ASMFC,

It's prudent and exciting to see the vigorous energy by ASMFC to look further into depleted striped bass stocks. My opinion is based on 10 years as a full time flyfishing and light tackle guide at ground zero, Block Island, RI. In addition, I've spent an additional 20 years obsessively chasing stripers.

There were many months of Junes past when I'd fish all night and catch nice bass to 20 lbs. all released. I'm certainly far from the only one. None the less these encounters just don't exist anymore.

There's just less bass around. From a shore fisherman perspective, it's just not the same as the early to late nineties. The changes in stocks, at least I noticed, started to decrease by the mid late 2000's.

At least the way myself and hundreds of fisherman pursue bass.

I primarily fish in Rhode Island.

I understand the many factors that contribute to a unbalanced population.

It's challenging to manage the stocks. I think charter and party boat fishing encourages harvesting large egg laying females. Big fish mentality. There's nothing better than letting those fish swim away. Commercial rod and reel fishing does it's damage as well, particularly in states such as Massachusetts where there are many open fishing days where once fish become legal sized they are hammered to death basically. Too many commercial licenses and too much greed. Where are striped bass sold. I never see it in the seafood market case.

My greed lies in having the opportunity to chase this wonderful gamefish on the shores and grounds that it has historically inhabited.

The financial ripple effect infused into the economy by charter fishing trips, hotel bookings, tackle shop purchases, fuel for vehicles, food, etc must run into millions and millions of dollars.

The idea is conservation for the greater good and not to create effective policies that can return the stocks only to satisfy commercial and charter fleets who want to go back to what the regs were when the stocks became replenished in the early 90's after the moratorium in 1985. We can't go backwards. The stocks became depleted in less than 20 years. These forces need to kill less fish and learn to encourage catch and release. They don't want to be told what to do but it's beyond that now.

Really, all myself and lots of people want to do is go down to the beach and catch a few bass. It's such a blast and something I'm always excited about every season. If we all make sacrifices, and I think conservation minded anglers have been making sacrifices for years, we can turn this around. Enough with the greed. Let's turn it around.

Anything I can do to help more please let me know, Captain Pete Farrell Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Norman Albanese <outlook_CE31C69C10B99C81@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 7:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripe Bass Limits

Hi,

By allowing only certain days of the week for striped bass fishing could help replenish the stock. A schedule that included both weekend day(s) and work week days would ensure that everyone would have equal opportunities to fish. Thanks for your time.

Norm Albanese

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Fred Michaud <michaud.fg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 8:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass issues

I fish in the bay using only single, de-barbed hooks. De-barbed hooks make release simpler and can allow release without handling the fish. There is no reason to use barbed hooks when fishing in the bay where almost all fish are released. If I had my way, it would be illegal to use a barbed hook in the bay.

Fred Michaud

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: DOUGLAS SHEELEY <dsheeley@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 2:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am a resident of West Dennis, MA, (Cape Cod) and have seen the results of the public meeting on the proposed regulations in Bourne, MA. My friends and I are concerned fishermen in the Sound, Cape Cod Bay, and on the canal. We have been frustrated on often seeing commercial fishermen gaffing undersized striper and the number of dead fish floating by on commercial striper days. I have been next to commercial boats and observed them gaffing undersized fish. I assume they sell these illegally. We often see people at the canal taking more than their limit of fish.

We believe there needs to be more consistent enforcement and fines. These law breakers usually get a slap on the wrist, because the MA DEP leaves it to the discretion of individual officers as to what penalties to apply. The striped Bass population has suffered. These fines should be specified like the fines for traffic tickets. Leaving it up to the individual officers puts undue pressure on those officers and is demotivating for them to issue fines.

Here are my suggestions for the proposed regulations and for enforcement:

1. Have enforcement officers target the locations that have the largest catches of fish during that time period. They only have to ask at a bait/tackle shop and find out where the commercial fisherman are catching fish. There are seasonal movements of fish, and it is more effective for officers to focus on those areas.
2. Gaffing should be banned for all sizes of fish.
3. Overfishing is done in Maryland where they catch small fish in gill nets. Ninety percent of the bass come from MS waters, and they destroy the population.
4. This summer due to the low population of fish, many charter boats fish in Federal waters that are deeper and cooler. The Rose and Crown shoal has been written about in the On the Water magazine. Again, enforcement resources can be effectively targeted in certain areas seasonally.

Thank you for considering my input,

Douglas Sheeley

Cape Cod, MA

Comments

From: Derek Bielitz <captderek1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 1:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

To whom this concerns:

My name is Capt Derek Bielitz. I am writing this letter to you due to the fact that i was unable to attend the meetings regarding changes to the striped bass fishery, as I was in the process of planning a wedding and getting married. I am the Captain and owner of a 6 pack charter boat Fisher Price IV sailing out of Highlands, NJ. We have been in business for 14 years as I am currently 37 years old. I have been working on boats in the Sandy Hook area of NJ since I was 15 years old and can remember fishing for striped bass since I was pretty much old enough to walk.

I am truly concerned about the striped bass fishery, as i do agree that some changes may need to be made to increase the stocks, however I feel that it has to be fair to everyone. A size limit of 35" minimum makes no sense to me. With an increased size limit, all that is being done is putting more and ore pressure on the bigger spawning fish and making it more of a trophy fishery. I remember years ago when the stock were supposedly in trouble and the size was a slot of 24-28" and i believe one over 34". This rebuilt the stocks in short time and everyone was very happy. I feel that we truly need a slot limit to save the fishery just like it was done with the redfish in the south and the striped bass in the past.

With a size limit of 35" we will be releasing many many fish as people will be constantly throwing back smaller fish looking for a "keeper sized" fish and it could realistically due more harm than good. Another problem I see with a 35" minimum is that it will drastically cut participation in the the striped bass fishery and will have a big economic impact in the fishing industry. Many charter and party boats will go out of business as we depend on the striped bass for business. Tackle shops will be selling less bait and tackle, delis, gas stations, and hotels will also see a decline as less people will be traveling to the shore areas to fish. Also with putting a bigger size limit on the striped bass, people will be more inclined to fish for other species putting more pressure on them.

I feel that migratory patterns have also effected the numbers of striped bass in out local waters. For several years now, the army corps of engineers has been doing beach replenishment up and down the Jeresy Shore covering up jetties and natural bottom that once held bait and provided structure for the striped bass to feed and stage on. Now with less and less structure, the bait seems to transit offshore and in deeper waters, causing the bass to stage offshore more. For the past few years while we have been running offshore for bluefins, we come across miles and miles of large migratory stripers chasing acres and acres of bunkers. Thi24-28"s is not freak thing as these fish are there for days if not weeks and months. The reality is that people dont realize it, because we

are all targeting striped bass inshore of three miles, when there are massive schools 5-15 miles offshore.

I could go on and on about this for days, however I will wrap this up with my view. I personally feel that the striped bass could be saved see an increase in stock, as well as have the general public, charter/party boats, tackle stores and the majority of fisherman happy if we were to see a slot fish. The current regulations in NJ right now for striped bass is 2 fish per person 28"-43", 43"or greater and a slot fish of 24"<28" for those holding a bonus tag. As a full time professional charter Captain I feel that the best alternative would be to have a slot fish. I know several Captains I talk to as well as myself have discusses this, and we feel that 1 fish per person 26"-36" would be the best alternative and do away with the 3 fish per person at the current regulations. This would give everyone fishing for striped bass a fair chance of catching a fish and also taking one home for dinner to feed their families if they choose. It will take the pressure off the big breeding fish that come through later in the year, and in the early spring and fall when smaller fish are around give everyone a shot. For hire vessels will still be able to keep their customers happy, and the recreational fisherman will be able to have their fish as well. In the overall, the for hire boats are the ones who have the most to lose here as well make up a small fraction of the fishing community. I am truly scared as that if the size limit goes to 35", one the stock will see even more of a collapse as the breeding fish will be targeted, and also that a business that I have put my heart and soul into for 14 years could be taken away from me and I will not be able to support my family.

Thank you for your time,

Capt. Derek Bielitz
Fisher Price IV
Highlands, NJ
732-861-3394

Comments

From: Derek Bielitz <captderek1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 1:49 PM
To: Comments
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I feel that migratory patterns have also effected the numbers of striped bass in out local waters. For several years now, the army corps of engineers has been doing beach replenishment up and down the Jeresy Shore covering up jetties and natural bottom that once held bait and provided structure for the striped bass to feed and stage on. Now with less and less structure, the bait seems to transit offshore and in deeper waters, causing the bass to stage offshore more. For the past few years while we have been running offshore for bluefins, we come across miles and miles of large migratory stripers chasing acres and acres of bunkers. Thi24-28"s is not freak thing as these fish are there for days if not weeks and months. The reality is that people dont realize it, because we

are all targeting striped bass inshore of three miles, when there are massive schools 5-15 miles offshore.

I could go on and on about this for days, however I will wrap this up with my view. I personally feel that the striped bass could be saved see an increase in stock, as well as have the general public, charter/party boats, tackle stores and the majority of fisherman happy if we were to see a slot fish. The current regulations in NJ right now for striped bass is 2 fish per person 28"-43", 43" or greater and a slot fish of 24"<28" for those holding a bonus tag. As a full time professional charter Captain I feel that the best alternative would be to have a slot fish. I know several Captains I talk to as well as myself have discusses this, and we feel that 1 fish per person 26"-36" would be the best alternative and do away with the 3 fish per person at the current regulations. This would give everyone fishing for striped bass a fair chance of catching a fish and also taking one home for dinner to feed their families if they choose. It will take the pressure off the big breeding fish that come through later in the year, and in the early spring and fall when smaller fish are around give everyone a shot. For hire vessels will still be able to keep their customers happy, and the recreational fisherman will be able to have their fish as well. In the overall, the for hire boats are the ones who have the most to lose here as well make up a small fraction of the fishing community. I am truly scared as that if the size limit goes to 35", one the stock will see even more of a collapse as the breeding fish will be targeted, and also that a business that I have put my heart and soul into for 14 years could be taken away from me and I will not be able to support my family.

Thank you for your time,

Capt. Derek Bielitz
Fisher Price IV
Highlands, NJ
732-861-3394

Comments

From: Eric Berlin <emb12760@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Overfishing of striped bass - Upcoming hearing

18% - that is not nearly enough reduction in fishing to make a real difference and would doubt any data to support.

Years ago - there was a multi-year ban on fishing for striped bass which was effective

The Ches Bay is dying - like the rest of the planet - fishing is now a farming business and makes little sense to keep depleting the species for the few who fish . Same story with oysters, crabs etc - fisherman need to be compensated to preserve marine species - very simple solution to the problem!

Status quo does not work - this should be no brainer issue to resolve absent having to listen to those with positions based on the mindset that the earth is flat who now control our country.

People/mankind - we are source of every existing problem - so try to be a little of the cure

--

Eric M. Berlin
69 Nutwell Court
Lothian, Md
emb12760@gmail.com

Comments

From: Judith Schneller <jschneller75@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 9:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good morning-

I attended your meeting at DEC in NewPaltz.
These are my recommendations:

Harvest males only
Harvest 18-28 inches only
Shorten season to June 30th
More enforcement on the river
Regulate towns' waste and dumping in the river Clean up the river to provide healthy stable habitat.

Thank you for including the fishing community in your decision making process.
J Jones

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: fishermatt <fishermatt@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 12:42 PM
To: Comments
Cc: 'Chris & Margret Arfsten'; 'Dennis Zulkofske'; 'Robert Demarco'
Subject: RE: Input Atlantic States Stripped Bass Fishing Regulations

[Recreational Fishing](#)-to correct my proposal: That would be one fish per angler per boat. So if you had three anglers they get to keep one fish in that 18"-28" Slot for a total of three fish for that boat...for that day...

From: fishermatt [mailto:fishermatt@optonline.net]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 12:38 PM
To: 'comments@asmfc.org'
Cc: 'Chris & Margret Arfsten'; 'Dennis Zulkofske'; 'Robert Demarco'
Subject: Input Atlantic States Stripped Bass Fishing Regulations

Dear Max Appelman,

Wow, what an extraordinary responsibility this is: To establish fair and equitable set of regulations protecting the health of one of our precious resources-both recreational and commercial Stripped Bass fishing!

My late dad-an inveterate marine biologist, teacher & conservationist taught me to keep it simple, when dealing (and attempting to gain support) with folks who have diverse needs-and backgrounds.

Although the stripped-bass moratorium in the late '70's and early '80's worked and was extremely effective, I'm not sure our *diverse perspective* today will allow for a complete and total shut-down.

So my proposal is as follows:

- **Recreational Fishing**
- For all Nine (9) participating states in your study
 - **One set of rules apply:**
 - There will be an 18"-28" Slot
 - One fish per day-beach or boat
 - No culling or gaffing
 - Treble-hooks to have barbs-flattened
 - April 15th- December 15th is the season
- **Commercial Fishing**
 - **Apply Massachusetts Commercial Regulations**
 - **With the same slot as recreational fishing**
 - **Allow Two fish/angler/deck-hand/Captain from that 18"-28" slot, i.e. keep one fish caught at 19" and another at 23"**
 - **No culling or gaffing-must use circle-hook**
 - **April 15th-December 15th**

We must protect the Female Spawning Stock Biomass, the slot recommended above does just this. These slot-fish taste better. They have less fatty tissue, less contaminants like residual heavy-metals & less possible parasites. This slot opens up experiences for many more (and younger) anglers-both from shore and boat. Commercial folks will see

the stocks increase. Perhaps with increasing Biomass, another five to ten years down the road-or seas, these regulations may be up for review again...

Thanks for the considerations & Good luck!

Matt Ernst
Miller Place, NY
fishermatt@optonline.net

Comments

From: fishermatt <fishermatt@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 12:38 PM
To: Comments
Cc: 'Chris & Margret Arfsten'; 'Dennis Zulkofske'; 'Robert Demarco'
Subject: Input Atlantic States Stripped Bass Fishing Regulations

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Thanks for the considerations & Good luck!

Matt Ernst
Miller Place, NY
fishermatt@optonline.net

Comments

From: Steven Kennie <skennie56@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 11:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Input to proposed striper regulations

Here are my thoughts about things that the currently proposed 2020 regulations do not address.

1. Gaffing should be banned for all ~~sizes of~~ fish under 36 inches (two inches over the commercial minimum). There is no justification for gaffs when nets can be used instead.
2. Recreational anglers fish all day - long after they have caught their limit. This is a contributing factor to the injury and deaths of many under-sized fish. Some thought should be given to how this can be addressed. Recreational fishermen should be proactively educated (via signs and emails) to target (hook) minimal striper during any given trip. The canal is notorious, especially during a blitz, for massive fish injury due to this behavior.
3. The over-fishing that is done in Maryland (small fish caught in gill nets) should also be addressed. Ninety percent of the fish come from MD waters, and MD takes half the fish. This seems unfair.
4. While the proposed regulations call for the use of circle hooks, they do not ban the use of treble hooks, which combine three barbed hooks with up to three-treble hooks per lure (these have been called "arsenic for striped bass"). Additionally, smaller bass (schoolies) should only be targeted with barbless circle hooks.
5. The proposal significantly reduces the number of days of fishing – a good thing - but likely not enough. In the process of finalizing the regulations, MA should be encouraging the closure of all recreational striper fishing at the end of August or at least the reduction of recreational fishing to one day per week after that, because this is the time during which large, females that will later spawn, are migrating through. Additionally, if the commercial quota has not been met by mid July, it should be a sign to close the fishery. It should be made illegal to catch and release or target striper after the end of August or on any closed days after that date.
6. MA should stop selling more commercial permit striper endorsements, and limit the total number of commercial Striper endorsements. Failure to renew an endorsement on time should cause forfeiture of that endorsement and put the fisherman on a waiting list.
7. MA should adopt controls that will prevent recreational fishermen from obtaining commercial permits with striper endorsements. Many recreational anglers do this just so they can keep a few more fish for themselves, but their livelihoods do not depend on this. Proof that those with commercial licenses are selling a certain number of pounds of fish over a certain number of seasons should be required for commercial striper endorsements.

Steven Kennie
West Dennis, MA

skennie@comcast.net

Comments

From: ROBERT NARDONE <nardone52@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 1:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Striper fish has declined and I don't see striper being a big seller at the market so Way not make this a sport fish only the money fishermen spend on fishing gear license fees would make everyone a profit Just not at the market. Doing it that way you would see an increase in stripers and more fishermen spending money trying to catch one But don't just wipe them out or sell them for money there's a lot more to it then that.
Bobby Nardone

Comments

From: Jay Weinberg <jay@atlanticpension.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 10:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: NJ Striped Bass Regulations

I am 42 years old and have been fishing the bays and near coastal waters off Margate NJ for my entire life. When I was 12 years old (1989) I first started fishing for stripers in the Great Egg Inlet and the back bays of Margate and Longport NJ. There was something special about catching Striped Bass as they were very hard to come by.

Over the years fishing got better and better and in the mid to late 1990's and early 2000's fishing was great. The problem with great fishing is that everybody is doing it and everybody is killing way too many fish than they need (myself included back then). Excess in one direction breeds excess in the other direction.

Personally, I have virtually stopped fishing for stripers over the past 5 years because I find there to be absolutely no fun or skill involved in trolling Mojo's and Stretch 25's in the ocean and catching 30 lb female striped bass. Furthermore, the it is extremely apparent that the striped bass stock is in dire straits due to the lack of smaller fish.

It makes me sick to my stomach when people have pictures of 6 striped bass that are 30+ lbs that they caught trolling. They are killing the population one fish at a time. Furthermore, the larger fish don't even taste good. All these people care about is social media recognition with their catch and promoting their charter businesses.

I have 2 young boys, 7 and 4 years old. At this rate there will not be any striped bass for them to catch in just a few years. That breaks me because I want my boys to have the same experience growing up that I was so privileged to have. Proper management (or measures) taken to protect and rebuild the stock in the 1980's is the reason why we have any (although declining) striped bass now.

Yes, I feel that people should be able to catch and harvest striped bass. However, the way things stand with current regulations does not bode well for anybody in the future.

My suggestion would be a slot fish in the 24-28 inch range. Maybe 1 fish per person with a boat maximum of 2 or 3 fish for the recreational fisherman..... Possibly give the charter boats a rule of 1 per paying passenger to ensure that they can maintain their charter customers.

If we can have a few years of modified regulations it will help rebuild the stock and ensure that there are fish to catch for the future generations of fisherman.

Should you have any questions or if you would like to further discuss, please do not hesitate to call me at 609-432-8862 or Jay@atlanticpension.com.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Jay Weinberg

Jay M. Weinberg, CLU, ChFC
Atlantic Pension Planning Corp.
27 E. Black Horse Pike
Pleasantville, NJ 08232
609.432.8862 – Mobile
609.645.3900 – Office
215.475.4593 – Fax (Electronic)
609.646.4642 – Fax (Hard Copy)
www.atlanticpension.com
jay@atlanticpension.com

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Comments

From: Capt. Skip Jastremski <stalkerfishingcharters@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 6:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern (and that may be many)

I've been in the charter fishing business full time for over 20 yrs..first being a mate and then being a Captain and the owner of Stalker Fishing Charters in Cape May NJ

A few things I'd like to touch base on concerning the up coming changes in the N.J. striper bass regs for the 2020 season.

Do I think we are in need of a change in regulations? Yes! As a matter of fact I've been saying it for more than 5yrs. (I don't know what took so long honestly)!!! I think 1 per man(for now) is obviously what needs to be done. I'd like to see either the 28-35" or the 30-38" be in place. Also if there is any chance of still doing that bonus tag why not make it two tags a year (all year) and make them \$25 per tag. (22-26" fish). Use that money towards some reseach that is very desperately needed!!!

All that being said, migration patterns have changed plain and simple! Since hurricane sandy and the many beach replenishments along our coastline the fish just opt to take an offshore route anymore...it's a fact and anyone that is on the water as much as I am will tell you the same!

I hope that with all this is being pursued that we not only do the right thing for the Striped bass but for also the many Charter fishing operations (myself included) tackle shops, marinas, food stores and everyone that will be effected by some sort of decision that will be coming! This is a huge part of many folks livelihood and could be catastrophic if the right rules are not Implemented!!!

Please think about how you would be feeling if this was a huge part of your work and livelyhood before making your final decision.. many people are nervous and rightfully so! We all hope it works out for the best and that's why if we have been in the business for as long as myself or longer we turn in our VTR's so we can provide the right info to make things right for the future! Please consider all of that!!!

Thank you for reading and hope to have the right decision made for us here in the state of N.J.!!

Sincerely,

Captain Skip Jastremski
Stalker Fishing Charters

609-972-4345

Comments

From: Michael D'Annunzio <mikednunz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 1:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To decision makers,

I am 26 years old and fishing for, planning to fish for, and thinking about fishing for striped bass consumes 90% of my time.

I truly believe that ignorance and greed are to blame for a depleting population of such a sensitive species. If you argue the population is not depleting, just changing patterns, then okay, maybe you're right. But, why would you not want an even strong population where you will catch even more large fish?

Slot limits have proven to work for multiple fisheries (of course they work). One fish at 25-35 inches would save generations to come the ability to enjoy the sport. Killing a breeder fish should not even be in the conversation. Commercial fishing for striped bass in general should be banned. They should be strictly a sport fish.

It time people wake up. This is an obvious problem and an easy fix. Party boat and charter boat captains will have to get over the fact that they will not be posting pictures of 15 dead 40+ inch fish everyday. If they are in it for the money, then they must not understand the idea of sustainability.

Hopefully changes are made. If not, sayonara striped bass and hello to sea robin as something people actually enjoy catching. I hope for my children, their children, and so on that they are able to share the same passion and love for the sport.

Good luck and make it right!

-Mike D'Annunzio

Comments

From: Andrew Connors <dogbittenshoes@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 10:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Fisheries Manager,

It's becoming quite clear striped bass are and have been in decline for the better part of the last decade. If we don't act now to fully restore stocks we risk repeating history and endangering the future of a nationally iconic species. It's no one's god given right to pillage other species for profit, and so I am writing to you to please consider the future of the fish and to vote to limit the take of both commercial and recreational fisheries to the fullest extent, even consider a moratorium for a few years.

Thank you,

Andrew Connors

Comments

From: Tom Lynch <tomlynch500@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Regulations

To whom it may concern-

I urge you to protect the large female striped bass. These big fish are the most prolific breeders, and should not be stacked like cord wood on boat decks.

I implore you to enact a SLOT regulation. ANY slot that tops out below 40" is a victory for the fishery.

Sincerely,
Tom Lynch

Tom Lynch
Angry Fish Gallery LLC
photographer/owner
PO Box 147
Seaside Park, NJ 08752
(t) 848.241.2744
AngryFishGallery.com

Comments

From: Ed Skorupski <eskorups@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 7:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Here are my comments regarding Striper Bass Draft Addendum VI – more specific to the Hudson River Fishery in New York

1. Mandate circle hooks
 - a. Investigate “barbless” circle hook
2. Eliminate “Trophy” fish (>40”)
3. Adjust season to April 1 – June 30
4. Implement Fee (\$15-20) for Striper Stamp, Recreational marine Fishery Tag,... Resulting funds MUST BE earmarked for ECO’s on Hudson River and/or Angler Education
5. Increase ECO presence/inspections at launches during peak season
6. Develop Angler Education materials for proper “Catch & Release”

Ed Skorupski
1329 Hudson Ave.
Stillwater, NY 12170

Cell – 518 867-9382

Comments

From: gene Makitra <genes43@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 6:50 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I fish out of Barnegat Inlet. I do fish for Striped Bass. This past spring, like many guys fishing this area, I didn't even see a striped bass. Compared to the Sandy Hook area where they had their limit on every trip.

The dragger's are out now taking all the Bunker they can fit in their boats.

Which means no food for striped bass, whales, dolphins. They can't find food in that 3 mile limit so they go off shore to look for food.

The stock may be OK, they are not here due to no food here.

Before you start reducing our catch in this area do something about the draggers that drag for Bunker.

Gene Makitra
105 Clifton Rd.
Barnegat,NJ

Comments

From: Joseph Tripp <maritime920@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 9:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Do Something PLEASE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Slot limit PLEASE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Comments

From: Russ Falardeau <russfalardeau@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 7:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI July 2019, comments on Striped Bass

September 12, 2019

Here are my comments on Striped Bass Addendum VI.

I am not a commercial fishermen, strictly recreational, and have been fishing striped bass for 60 plus years.

My recommendations are:

A maximum size limit 20 to 22 inches.

Limiting the number hooks on a lure to 1 treble hook or a 1 single hook.

Require hooks to be barb less.

I have written to you once about my opinions on amendment 6. This letter was inspired by yet another Facebook photo of a hooked striped bass. The photo was of a bass hooked on a lure with 2 treble hooks, as usual one hook is in the mouth and the other hook is in the gill plate. The poster claims the fish was released. That fish is going to die because of being hooked in the gill.

At least in Massachusetts striped bass are in decline because high mortality of catch and released bass. People are using 2 and 3 treble hooks on a lure and claiming to be catch and release fishing people, at least 50% of the fish hooked with 2 and 3 treble hook lures will die on release. As far as I know, there is no limit on the number of treble hooks on a lure. I could have a dozen treble hooks on a lure and still be legal and claim catch and release even though it took a half hour to get all 12 hooks out of the fish.

To increase the number of fish that live after catching we must restrict the number of hooks on a lure. Lures should be restricted to a single treble on a lure or single J hook on a lure. All hooks used to catch bass must be barb-less hooks.

If minimum size limits worked, then the bass population of under 28 inches would be large which is not the case. The under 28 inch bass are being killed by catch and release mortality, predation and starvation. Year after year I can guarantee to catch a bass under 24 inches on a any given day. But if you asked me to catch a fish greater than 24 inches then I can't even guaranteed that will happen in a season. Why are under 24 inch fish so abundant while fish over 24 inches are so rare. This indicates that a large percentage of bass are dying because of natural causes. So taking a bass 22 inches or less for the table has a minimal impact on the breeding population.

If minimum size limits were working then the breeding number of female bass would be increasing and we know that is not the case. Your thinking is raise the minimum size limit and that will fix the problem but it won't because real problem is catch and release mortality.

Change from a minimum size limit to a maximum size limit and restrict lures to a single barb-less hook. This will fix the problem increasing the number of breeding females.

Thanks for listening.

Russ Falardeau

6 Holly Tree lane

West Wareham MA. 02576

508 904 4306

Comments

From: Barry Kaiser <barry.g.kaiser@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum VI

Good afternoon,

As an avid Striped bass fisherman in the Hudson River I wanted to add some input after reading the supplied material. While I cannot speak to fishing the species in the ocean and other states it does seem that we need new regulation limiting commercial fishing, by-catch losses, and the killing of large breeder fish in the ocean.

Speaking strictly of the Hudson I have noticed many dead fish floating down current of live bait fishermen due to poor hooking, killing the fish. I would like to see inline circle hooks become mandatory.

Personally, I elect to troll for striped bass with artificial lures only. I will catch numerous fish myself each year, releasing 99%+ of them. I also elect to never keep a 40"+ fish due their importance in the spawn. In regards to trolling I feel we may be best served implementing a maximum number of lines able to be run at any given time on a boat. Some boats will troll 8-9+ lines at a time. A limit of 4-6 would help reduce the number of fish caught, and with less lines to check, small fish that fail to trip the release will not remain hooked and dragged behind the boat as long. Trollers should also be urged to run slow speeds as to not snag fish, run downrigger weights ABOVE the school (to not damage them with cables and weights). I also feel that we should be limited to less treble hooks per lure or perhaps even be forced to move to single barbed hooks in order to do less damage.

Finally, I'd like to address slot limits and fish limits. I feel that the trophy slot limit should either be closed for a few seasons or increased from 40" to 45" or 48". 40" fish are not that rare to catch and too many anglers elect to keep them. Being a 15+ year old specimen, I feel it is critical to protect them in the Hudson AND elsewhere much more vigilantly. With each breeding female we are taking far too many possible fish out of the stock, and I feel the mature males are just as important despite popular belief of many. One fish per angler per day should stay in place in my opinion, with one addition. It is of my belief that we need to implement a tagging and reporting system no different than whitetail deer. I would recommend 4-6 tags issued to each angler per season and will give better data on actual take from the stock.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Barry Kaiser

Comments

From: Ben Ellis <benellis960@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 1:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom It May Concern,

I've been unable to attend any of the meetings but I wanted to make my thoughts heard about the dire situation our great fishery is in. There need to be drastic changes made to the regulations pertaining to our striped bass fishery. Our stocks have been depleted and in order for this precious resource and game fish to survive we need to take action now before it's too late. Please vote to get rid of the bonus tag program and at a very minimum change to a slot size limit with one fish. Personally I wouldn't mind a moratorium until the stocks are at a healthy level again but I know this is very unlikely given the sway the charter fishing community has.

Please vote with the best interests of our amazing fishery in mind.

NJ Salt Water Registration # 00581796

Best Regards,
Robert B Ellis

Comments

From: Jay Martin <captainjaymartin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 9:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass

Dear Sir:

If the ASMFC is truly concerned about the welfare of the striped bass population and is truly representative of the Atlantic coastal states then the striped bass must have Game Fish designation to stop the commercial netting of the fish.

I suggest the following measures to restore the striped bass population:

- * game fish status
- *coast wide bag limit of one fish—no special or bonus tags for additional fish for anyone
- *coast wide slot limit of 18” to 28”— no trophy season anywhere
- *no use of treble hooks for any live or chunk (cut) bait
- *commit to this plan for a minimum of 5 years to adequately assess the effectiveness of these regulations

These suggestions will be hated by many, but to be able to continue fishing for bass and yet to help restore the population sometimes strong measures must be applied.

Sincerely,

Captain John Martin

Comments

From: Matt Mulhern <matt@webbcoinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 8:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

Hello ,

I feel that any fish 36" or larger should be released , commercial fishery should be terminated ,if not Gill nets should certainly be banned , circle hooks only for bait fishermen ,a 22-28" slot limit(1 fish per day).

GAME FISH STATUS would be best

I have been fishing for Stripers from the surf since I was 6 ,I am now 54 ! We have been having this discussion for quite a while time to act

Thanks,
Matt Mulhern
Webbco Of Haywood
matt@webbcoinc.com
www.webbcoinc.com
828/506/4602
Webbco of Haywood
PO Box 997
Lake Junaluska , NC 28745

Comments

From: Glenn Ferenschak <sciencegf@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass comments

Maine has an upper limit and a lower limit on size of lobsters for sustaining their lobster population. We should do the same for rock fish. Take your prize picture and do catch and release of the large fish that help sustain the coastal population. Glenn Ferenschak Baltimore Maryland

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: bobzaneroanesr@myactv.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 3:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Attention; M. Appelman, Thanks to your organization for recognizing this problem via statistics, that has been clearly evident by most fishermen for at least 4-5 years. This based on my experience fishing the Virginia Creeks and the Potomac River, where the harvest of legal size fish has been almost non-existent. Undersized fish have been the mainstay of most activity and that has been very spotty. I think another moratorium is needed if a quick recovery is the target of the organization, otherwise here are my suggestions to help the recovery effort.

1. Restrict the Charter Boat chumming, where repeated fishing/catch after limiting out takes it's toll, by creating an unnecessary and high mortality rate. When you limit out your done.
2. Apply the same legal size restrictions to all harvesters. Having different legal sizes for different fisheries never did/will make sense.
3. Stop altering the regulations during seasons to accommodate special interest. Set the rules for the year, that are promulgated based on the best scientific information that you are bound by and live with it. You're in charge, not special interest or politicians, it's your mandate. Exceptions would have to be on the order of an eminent collapse of the Striped Bass fisheries.
4. Eliminate the harvesting of brood fish. The spawning seasons have varied so much over the years, that it overlaps into the harvest periods, which is detrimental to the species in the spring and certainly doesn't bode well for them by also having a fall harvest period.

As a recreational fisherman for 70+ years I have seen lots of miss-steps in management of many fisheries including the blue crab in 2007, when collapse was eminent. The commercial harvesters had pulled their gear by mid-July, my inquiry to the Maryland DNR head of the program, as to why they hadn't shut the system down, was met with her following response. "THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE DATA AT THE END OF THE SEASON BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION", i.e. the science was getting in the way of COMMON SENSE. The rest is well know history.
Thank You, Bob Roane

Comments

From: Shawn Cooney <escooney71@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Regs

I think the option for a shorter season and 2 inch size increase would help the Striped Bass population stabilize. More so the shorter season than the size change. Easier to manage the poachers with a shorter season.

Thanks,
Shawn Cooney

Comments

From: Doc Z <docandmrsz@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 7:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I would like to add my opinion on the subject of the Striped Bass biomass decline. I have absolutely not seen this at all. I have been fishing the Hudson River since 2000 and the Ocean since 2012. These past 5 years I have seen more and more Striper as well as thicker schools. This year everyone at my marina in West Shore had their best year which I do not believe would be possible if the biomass was on the decline. I boated almost 1300 Striper with only 4 kept and also caught the largest ones since 2003. In addition to the Hudson I spend every weekend at Block Island fishing for the 50+ pounders. This year we also had a record year out there with over 500 boated and all released safely. I also noted many more fish in the 15-30 inch range out there this year which I have never seen before. This tells me that these fish are moving around and settling into new areas which in my opinion makes it hard to get an accurate determination of the true biomass.

I am all for protecting the larger spawning fish. I would recommend not allowing trolling which clearly kills more fish and possibly only allowing anglers to keep fish under 28 inches. Those fish are plentiful and better eating anyway.

I am in the process of submitting all 1278 fish I logged this year for the NYS DEC records.

I am trying to make it to your meeting this Thursday but I doubt I can make it.

Russell M Zivkovich MD

Comments

From: Michael Catalano <MCATALAN@mjhs.org>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 4:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum

I am asking for a moratorium to save the Striped Bass.

The fishery was at its best in the late 1990's and early 2000's after the Moratorium was imposed in 1986.

Let's save the Striped Bass together!

Michael Catalano
Assistant Director Of Telecommunications
MJHS
6323 7th ave
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220
Office: 718 491-7254
Mobile: 347 672-6087
Fax: 718 759-5045

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Comments

From: Clorite, Benjamin F. <Benjamin.Clorite@quinnipiac.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 4:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum

Praying that you will do the right thing. Please do not cater to the wants (not needs) of those who have chosen to make their living off the exploitation of a finite resource.

The only solution is a slot or moratorium.

Sincerely,

Ben Clorite

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Bob Mathers <rcm@sjbcom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 4:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass draft Addendum VI.

Circle hooks for live bait is a good start. How about single barbless hooks for artificial lures. I use them and lose fish often, but I'm not going to starve if I don't keep and kill a fish. Catch and release is great when the public is educated in the proper technique. Never lift the fish by the jaw. It's not a handle. Keep your hands and the fish wet. Keep the fish in the water so the pressure supports it's internal organs. It's supposed to be catch and release not torture and release. How many photos of a trophy do you need? One.

I enjoyed a 28 year career in fish and wildlife enforcement. If you intend to protect a resource you need strong laws and the courage to enforce them at all levels. I won't waste your time or mine addressing the abuses on the commercial/charter boat side.

Thank you for allowing comments. You don't have an easy task.

Robert Mathers
Lancaster, Va

Comments

From: Paul Olinski <pauloski1@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: draft addendum VI

Please change the rules so that the large female breeders must be released. A 43 incher is a breeder and the current rules require keeping one if you want to get a bonus striper. I do not know who is/are making these regulations, but these regs will surely destroy the striper fishery just as making anglers keep the large female breeder summer flounder has killed the biomass and spawning of that species. Are you all intentionally trying to kill off all the spawning stock of Atlantic fish?!? Sincerely, Paul O

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Comments

From: Paul Olinski <pauloski1@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: draft addendum VI

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Sent from [Outlook](#)

Comments

From: mcata11@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum

I support a moratorium on the striped bass fishery or make striped bass a gamefish.

Action must be taken NOW!!

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Domenic Natale <domenic.natale@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 1:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum

To whom it may concern:

I am an avid recreational and commercial angler in the waters of NY and NJ (beaches and oceans of these respective states). We need you, to step up and please regulate and save this fishery. The brackish estuaries of which these fish breed are super highways where they are way too outgunned by ignorant anglers who catch and kill or irresponsibly release breeder fish.

Please do not let this continue. We need a moratorium to save this fish. Not a seasonal one, but time for the damage we've done to recover.

Please take responsibility and uphold your fiduciary duty to the fishery!

Domenic Natale

Comments

From: Marcin Romanczyk <maromanczyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 1:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft Addendum

Good afternoon,

I am a relatively novice angler out of queens NY. October 12th 2017 was the first time I caught a striped bass from shore. I will remember that moment as vividly as my medical school graduation, or meeting my fiancé. It was an absolutely life changing experience. I have been chasing these fish ever since. I can not compare the current fishery to the past as I have no experience however I am told it is very poor. I can't attest to this. But I have seen countless photos of charter boat fisherman killing giant striped bass I know are capable of laying hundreds of thousands if not millions of eggs. On a regular night of catching fish I harvest 0% of them. I have likely killed 0 bass since the first day I caught one (I rarely use trebles, my barbs are crushed, I do not play with fish or let them run, my drag is slammed shut). It seems as though commercial and charter fisherman do not operate similarly. I have seen many photographs of blood soaked decks with dozens of bass (half of which were thrown out as per the comments) too many times on the internet. The last moratorium revitalized the fishery significantly. This is what needs to be done. Coast wide moratorium for a decade. You cannot ignore the charts, the data or the biologists. These fish are a staple in the northeast and i plan on teaching my children this craft. Please help me show them a fishery with a healthy stock of breeding bass. I'll teach them the art of catch and release.

Marcin Romanczyk

Comments

From: Jim Johnson <jimj24@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 4:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Regulations

Over the past 5 years it has been obvious to me and my other fishing friends that the striped bass populations are way down. I have always thought the spring trophy class fishery was extremely detrimental to the bass population by taking out some of the spawning females before they can spawn. I would like to see that season go away. If you change the quota to one fish per day for recreational fishing few will want to spend the money to either go out in your own boat or pay \$100 to catch one fish with a charter boat. That will leave most of the catch to the commercial industry. As much as I hate to say I believe a total moratorium for 3 years with catch and release only for recreational fisherman the only answer to replenish the stocks. The reason I say this is I don't trust the commercial fishery and I've seen too many videos of illegal gill nets. Also I see too much fish kill of short fish with the charter boats using baited hooks. Recreational fisherman use lures which rarely cause fish mortality. I don't mean that striped bass would be targeted. They are caught while black bass fishing. If a total moratorium is not an option then I believe a 20% reduction for the commercial industry and a two fish at 18 inches with only one over 28 inches for the recreational fishery.

James Johnson

Comments

From: John Reikowsky <john.reikowsky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass draft addendum VI
Attachments: aef7d4416fde513d4b8b1a3744088ef3.jpg; menhaden-fish-reedville-fish-plant-e1402425961362.jpg; omega_protein_plant_reedville_va.jpg

Once again the people that can save recreational fishing here in the Chesapeake bay willfully ignore the root cause that diminishes striped bass populations, first problem is omega protein, they have annihilated the menhaden stocks in the bay, and the by catch in their nets includes striped bass, blue fish, spanish mackerel everything that swims in the bay gets taken to the reduction plant in Reedville! the second killer of rockfish are gill nets, just get tangled up in one, pull it up and see what gets trapped in them, we have sailed through the bodies of hundreds of rockfish wasted in gill nets floating and rotten. Once upon a time some 40 and more years ago we would catch "slammer blues" here off point lookout, they came here to eat menhaden, they disappeared with those menhaden, now you might catch a couple baby blues, omega took them all, it is heresy down here to say anything against omega, they are seen as saviors to the economy of the northern neck, the reality is they are killing the recreational fishing industry in the bay, marina owners will tell you how off their business is compared to 40-50 years ago, the only people unable to SEE the problems are the people "managing" the situation, how come no study EVER says the menhaden fishery is under pressure from over fishing? but they somehow can tell the striped bass are being overfished? how many fish you see swimming up and down the bay ? i can tell you that the bait balls, thick concentrations of menhaden we used to see on our sonar that attracted game fish are GONE and guess where they went ? Oh i know it was those greedy weekend fisherman in their tiny little boats sweeping the bay clean of gamefish ? yeah thanks John Reikowsky in Lottsburg Va

Comments

From: Joe Albanese <joealbanese2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 10:21 AM
To: Sergio Radossi
Cc: Comments; Dan Harrison; Aram Setian
Subject: Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Thanks Serge for your emails. We missed NJ's local open hearing in Roselle Park due to EBoard previously scheduled.

I hope we can attend the one coming up in Sept 12 in Manahawkin or the one in New Paltz: [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission \(ASMFC\)](#) has approved and released [Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI \(PDF\)](#) for public comment. [On Thursday, September 12th](#), there will be a public hearing in New Paltz to announce the details of the addendum and gather public input. Please read below for more information

Joe Albanese

On Sep 8, 2019, at 8:54 AM, Sergio Radossi <sradossi@verizon.net> wrote:

Regarding the proposed Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI, I support option 2A-2.

Note, It is important to include the Hudson River in MRIP analysis as the Hudson is a significant contributor to the Striped Bass biomass.

Further, While I understand that comments outside the proposed addendum will not be considered, I would still take this opportunity to request a moratorium during spawning seasons as they occur in the Chesapeake, Delaware, Hudson and other spawning areas. Protecting the spawning process would be the best and fast way to increase the biomass... as least in my opinion.

Thank
You
Sergio Radossi

Comments

From: Eric Johnson <jeric423@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft addendumVI

To protect striped bass any fish over 34" must be released to breed. The smaller fish are better to eat anyway. This would totally change the fishing mindset. One trophy fish a year could be harvested with a unique prepaid 50\$ trophy tag, the fee directed to bass enforcement.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Eric Johnson <jeric423@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft addendum VI

If you want to protect STRIPED BASS make the Cape Cod canal catch and release only!!!- no commercial or recreational retention. Currently there is no effective enforcement, major violations occur 24/7 and the quality of the experience suffers as violators leave litter, steal bikes and literally rape the striped bass resource

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Eric Johnson <jeric423@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft addendum VI

If you want to protect STRIPED BASS make the Cape Cod canal catch and release only!!!- no commercial or recreational retention. Currently there is no effective enforcement, major violations occur 24/7 and the quality of the experience suffers as violators leave litter, steal bikes and literally rape the striped bass resource

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Samuel Caltagirone <samjc1216@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper regs.

I believe not only I but other fellow fisherman propose the following.

Anglers

- 1.) October until June . fisherman
1 fish per angler 25"-32"
- 2.) June until September
2 fish per angler 20" - 28"

Commercial fisherman

Not to start commercial fishing until after the fish have done spawning .

Please let me know you response on this.

Comments

From: Nick Verducci <nverducci@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 3:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass regulations

My name is Nick Verducci and I'm a teacher at the Ocean City Intermediate School and advisor to a fishing club for 7th and 8th graders. I'm also a part time employee at FinAtics in Ocean City NJ. I attended the meeting this past week at the OC Library and appreciate the time you gave us to hear the state of the fishery.

The options that have been provided I feel is a band aid to a big problem, which is how it was described by one of your members. That being said I feel the most bearable option is the 28-35" @ 1 fish. I also am for the use of circle hooks. I do ask that you do more. The fishery is in trouble. I would like to see all breeding areas be shut down for fish while bass are spawning. I also feel that there should be uniformity across all the states. These fish migrate and to have one state be able to take larger or more bass is ridiculous. I also would hope that the targeting of striped bass for commercial selling would end.

I'd like my kids and the students who are a part of my club have the opportunity to enjoy this fishery in the future.

Thank you
Nick Verducci
4 Ocean Ave
Marmora, NJ 08223

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Brad Ries <captbrad@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: STB Draft Addendum VI

Hello, my name is Capt. Brad Ries and I own and operate Someday Came Fishing Charters based in Hampton Bays NY. I was unable to attend the meeting held in Bethpage on September 4th but I felt the need to comment on the current situation.

I've been in business for 20years now running a small 6pack charter boat fishing shinnecock Bay, Shinnecock Inlet, Peconic Bays and Ocean for Fluke, Striped Bass, Black Seabass, porgies, Bluefish and occasionally Shark and Tuna.

We have seen our share of good days and not so good days but I can tell you being in the for hire industry it is imperative to keep the Striped Bass regulations at 28" and above, 1 per person per day. That being said the proposed 1 fish 28" to 35" is certainly in the ball park.

I would be willing to give up the retention for Captain and Crew per day as well and shorten the season to May 1st to Nov 30th.

My thought is to keep the charter/party boat for hire sector at 28" and above. 1 per person, no retention for Captain/crew, season May 1st to Nov 30th and keep this sector separate from the recreational sector. We pay for a permit now that basically gets us more Porgies in the fall but mirrors the recreational regulations on other species. Make the permit worth something.... we have to fill out accurate VTR's for every trip so our numbers aren't for bragging rights they are for accurate data collection.

The Party/Charter sector isn't the problem as seen in the retention numbers as they are way lower than the surf/shore bound angler and the recreational boat angler.

By increasing the minimum size to 35" or greater it instantly increases the mortality rate. 9% of fish returned to the water die due to stress and mishandling. That number would triple if minimum size retention is increased to the proposed 35".

Thank you for your time

Capt. Brad Ries
Someday Came Fishing Charters
(631) 603-9910
www.somedaycamefishing.com
captbrad@optonline.net

Comments

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Thank you for your time

Capt. Brad Ries
Someday Came Fishing Charters
(631) 603-9910
www.somedaycamefishing.com
captbrad@optonline.net

Comments

From: thwilkison <thwilkison@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass

I would prefer limiting the number of days we can fish vs limiting our catch limit to 1 vs 2. I would prefer limiting the days we can fish for stripper in August.

Tom Wilkison
5538 Whitehall Road
Cambridge, MD 21613
Phone 410 404 3426

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Comments

From: Floyd Parks <floydiparks@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: New striped bass regards.

The minimum size should be the same as the limit on the coast.

No trophy season!

The commercial guys should take the same percent catch reduction as we recreational fishermen.

Possession limit = two per day, four in aggregate for recreational.

Thanks for all you do!

Floyd Parks

Comments

From: Dorothy & Ron Sullivan <flysully@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 3:32 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Mike Oliver; 'Ron & Dorothy Sullivan'
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I hope to see a resurgence of the numbers of striped bass during the last 10 or so years of my life. I and my husband are 78 years old, soon to be 79. We used to fish over 150 days a year from shore; nowadays, we are fishing less both due to aging and, majorly, due to the fact that on so many days, we go home fishless. When we began flyfishing 20 years ago, the striper moratorium was done with and we had great numbers of striped bass, all released, every day. On some mornings, we'd release 35-50 stripers each and if we fished the evening tide, we'd do the same. We use only small j hooks with crimped barbs on our flies to insure safe release. These past five years have been a struggle. We and fellow members of our club, personal fishing friends both here in the US and from the UK and fishing forums have taken note of the recent proposals, etc. and all of us share the same disappointment in the lack of stripers. Here is our input:

“Single hook only, crimped barbs. One hook per line/lure. Circle hooks only for bait. One fish slot limit. NOTHING over 33” to be kept for any reason. Triple fines for offenders. Triple again for multiple or repeat offenses. Apply the law to all. “

Dorothy & Ron Sullivan

Comments

From: John Mlodynia <johnmlodynia@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 8:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

After attending the NY meeting in Farmingdale, Long Island, NY I would like to voice my support for the most strict conservation measures possible. I do not think any options are enough to rebuild the fishery in a reasonable amount of time and provide a resource for my children and their children. It is sad that mgmt can allow a depleted resource and historic restoration repeat itself in not so many years. Most people would lose there jobs and careers for such a blunder. Common sense values Striped Bass in the water and not dead in the cooler.

My choices:

1@35" coast

1@18" chesapeake bay (is that a joke?)

No conservation equivalency! These are the same fish up and down the coast, no state deserves unique regulations. No state is special.

MANDATORY circle hooks using bait.

Would prefer no commercial fishing but must settle for equal reductions rec/commercial.

Best,
John Mlodynia

Comments

From: Jean E Gilmore <gilmoreje15@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 4:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom It May Concern,

This is an addendum to the previous email sent by Donald Gilmore.

Additional solutions:

7. Eliminate all commercial and recreational Striped Bass fishing during the Spring spawning run.

Donald Gilmore

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Jean E Gilmore <gilmoreje15@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 4:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass DA VI

Sent from my iPad
To Whom It May Concern,

In accordance with instructions in the document DA VI, this writer supports:
Option 2: Equal Percent Reduction

1. This writer has reviewed the entire DA VI document.
2. This writer agrees that the Striped Bass population is stressed.
3. This writer rejects the dead discards percentages as presented in the DA VI document.
4. This writer asserts that even though harvest limits will reduce stress on the Striped Bass population, it should not be the only measure considered.

Comments:

The DA VI document shows many tables and graphs that, at first glance, appear complete, accurate and impressive. This writer is an 81 year old recreational fisher person who has spent many hours on the Chesapeake Bay. It is agreed that, like the Weakfish, the Striped Bass population is again in peril. Prior to the crash of the Weakfish, this writer predicted the coming challenge to the Striped Bass population. This writer has always examined stomach contents on harvested fish. Some 15 years ago (+ or -) nearly every Striped Bass harvested by this writer was full of juvenile weakfish. The next year the Weakfish population crashed. Now the recreational bag limit is but 1 Weakfish. Like the Sturgeon, the Weakfish fishery should be closed.

The opinion of this writer is that the only accurate statistic in the DA VI document is the commercial harvest. The recreational harvest is only a statistical estimate. Both the recreational and commercial dead discards are only statically estimates. This writer contends that dead discards, especially commercial discards, are much greater. This writer has observed many commercial gill netters over the years who have discarded hundreds of dead or dying Striped Bass per net fished. This writer has been known to net a bag limit of legal size commercial discards and head home without wetting a fishing line.

Words of criticism are futile without the writer offering possible solutions. It is a given that predator fish such as the Striped Bass need a viable food source to flourish. This leads to the ongoing discussion of the recreational fisher person in the Chesapeake Bay community about the availability of the food fish, the menhaden or bunker. In addition, Florida has experienced a resurgence of the Redfish after outlawing gill netting.

Additional possible solutions for consideration:

1. Prohibit commercial and recreational gill nets. According to the charts included in the DA VI document, some states already prohibit gill nets.
2. Prohibit barbed hooks for recreational fisher persons.
3. Prohibit double and triple gang hooks.
4. Permit only 1 hooked lure pre rig. (Such as umbrella rigs) Maryland already does this.

5. Require circle hooks for bait rigs.

6. Take control of the Menhaden fishery in the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay away from the Virginia Legislature. The Virginia Legislature has traditionally supported the interests of commercial Menhaden industry in Reedville, VA. Maryland has prohibited the Medhaden fishing boats from the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay for many years.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Gilmore
132Lancaster Drive. #706
Irvington, VA 22480

Comments

From: richk@notjustmime.com
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 1:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass numbers

Dear Sir:

I am a recreational fly fisherman and have been fishing for striped bass since the late 90's early 2000's. I started fishing Montauk harbor and Gin Beach in the late 90's and found the numbers of schoolie bass in huge numbers along with 25 to 30 in fish in large numbers.

I began fishing from the shore and then moved to fall fishing from a boat for false albacore and always saw and caught multitudes of striped bass along with the albies. Since then the fishing has gone down hill seeing less and less bass until the last 4 years no striped bass at all. We also go to Rhode Island and fish the cinder worm hatch in the Spring and have experienced the numbers of bass drop as well.

We used to see acres of striped bass at Montauk in early October. No More. Not one in the last 3 years. Please stop the commercial boats from taking the spawners. It just doesn't make sense to take the fish that replenish the population. There should be a slot limit like they do in Florida or no take at all for a few years until the population can recover. You would think that the past mistakes would not be repeated but I give too much credit to those in charge for doing the correct thing. Please pass new regs that allow the bass to recover or I will not be spending my time and money to pursue fish that are not there. I never keep any fish and just enjoy catch and release with small flies that do not injure the fish and always handle them with care.

Than you,

Riichard Kuperberg
7 View ave
West Sand Lake, N.Y. 12196
518 6748715

Comments

From: bucktail8 <bucktail8@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:38 PM
To: pmartinlaw36@comcast.net; Comments
Cc: 'Thomas Cavanaugh'; 'George'; Mike Sheperd; 'Bob Abate'; 'David Cowhey'
Subject: Re: ASMFC options on Striped Bass

We need more letters like this.while I agree it is a, long shot BUT will tell you in my 11 years as advisor I have seen numerous proposal on several species objecting to the proposed regulations AND have seen 2 changed as a, result of public input, slim chance but it can be done IF enough get involved Doesn't take long to send a note

Sent via my Samsung Galaxy, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: pmartinlaw36@comcast.net
Date: 9/5/19 12:26 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Comments@ASMFC.org
Cc: 'bucktail8' <bucktail8@aol.com>, 'Thomas Cavanaugh' <cheftjcav@aol.com>, 'George' <bayman035@comcast.net>, sheponfishing@yahoo.com, 'Bob Abate' <rsabate@verizon.net>, 'David Cowhey' <cowheyd@comcast.net>
Subject: ASMFC options on Striped Bass

To Sam Appleman or to whom it may concern:

I am an avid Striped Bass fisherman and primarily catch, tag and release bass. I keep no more than about 3-4 bass a season, and catch, tag and release 50 to 100 bass a season on my boat or by beach. I am rather upset over the options presented, and frankly, downright angry that the proposed options, with the exception of one bass at 28" to 35", continue to allow the harvest of breeding females. The science is well established that striped bass larger than 34-35" are female breeders and to allow the continued harvest of breeding females will only contribute to the decline of the striped bass population, just like the same negative impact to the 18" limit on summer flounder.

I remain completely amazed and shocked that the regulators still believe in raising the size limit in an attempt to increase stock, but ignore the science that the larger fish are female breeders and to allow the harvest of females has the exact opposite effect of TAKING BREEDING FISH OUT OF THE WATER. Furthermore, it is erroneous for the regulators to assume that by raising the size limit, that more fish will have to be released until a fish at the size limit is caught. This completely ignores the mortality rate of the released fish. It also assumes that all fishermen practice appropriate techniques when releasing an undersized fish, whether it be a bass, weakfish or flounder or any other species.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO REALIZE THAT RAISING SIZE LIMITS DOES NOT WORK?

A complete collapse of the fishery??

Case in point. Look at the redfish situation in the southern states and gulf region. All states have implemented a slot size of 18" to 27" limit, one fish bag limit. The redfish population has made such a comeback that it is no longer considered threatened or endangered. In fact, the redfish is so plentiful that the regulations on their size retention has not changed nor has any legitimate reason been presented to change them. Why is that? Perhaps the answer is the fisherman are quite happy with the slot limit and acknowledge the need to sustain the redfish fishery as is. Why has this been so successful? The answer is simple. The regs prevent the harvest of breeding females. With more breeding females left in the water to lay eggs, the more redfish are hatched and swim. The science and philosophy is so simple, that to use a cache, even a caveman could understand it.

WHY DO THE REGULATORS IGNORE THE SUCCESS OF THE REDFISH SLOT SIZE LIMIT?

I believe the answer is the environmental lobby. They don't want fisherman to be able to harvest fish at all. In fact, they want to eliminate fishing altogether. So what the regulator's do in response? Make size limits of fish impossible or next to impossible to keep based on a political agenda rather than basing decisions on science. This is pure stupidity and ignores both the science and the facts behind the success in the redfish population.

The size limits for striped bass need to be based on science, not on an agenda. To allow the continued harvest of large bass will only have a negative impact on the fishery, just as it has had on the summer flounder population.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

The answer is to create another option, a slot bass 18" to 27", one fish per angler per day. For those fisherman who desire to keep a "trophy" bass, a tag program should be implemented to allow one trophy bass.

I implore the ASMFC to consider the science and to reject the environmental lobby wishes. Political agendas have no place in fish management. And for the record, I question just how many "fisherman" actually sit and decide these issues.

Thank you for your consideration. Pat Martin, Esquire



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Comments

From: pmartinlaw36@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:26 PM
To: Comments
Cc: BILL SHILLINGFORD; 'Thomas Cavanaugh'; 'George'; Mike Sheperd; 'Bob Abate'; 'David Cowhey'
Subject: ASMFC options on Striped Bass

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Thank you for your consideration. Pat Martin, Esquire



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Comments

From: James Lauria <jlauria11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 8:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to express my concerns regarding the declining numbers of striped bass in our fisheries.

I frequently surf fish in the Montauk/Montauk point area for striped bass and have noted over the past twenty years that the striped bass populations have drastically reduced. Averaged days fish exceed 50-days. The catches have gone from over 100 fish caught in a single afternoon to one keeper size fish slightly larger than 28-inches in the 2018 season. This season to date, no fish larger than 28-inches have been caught.

In my many years of strictly adhering to the fishing regulations, I have observed a lack of enforcement by local and state agencies. Infractions have been:

- taking of numerous fish above one fish limit,
- taking of undersized fish, and
- sharing fish with non fisherman.

I have also observed the horrific destruction of entire schools of fish by commercial trawlers where the by-catch of striped bass are tossed over board to wash up on the beaches by the hundreds or left floating with the tide for miles.

I have also observed the over fishing by commercial fisherman that are "grandfathered in" and allowed to haul seine or provided commercial tags.

More regulations and limitations are desperately needed for the survival of the striped bass along the Atlantic Coast.

The pacific northwest has done a wonderful job of protecting its salmon fishery and the east coast states must follow suit.

Some suggestions solutions are:

1. A moratorium similar to that in the 1980s on commercial and recreational fishing of striped bass.
2. A prohibition of commercial and recreational fishing in the freshwater tributaries during the spawning seasons.
3. A prohibition of commercial haul seining and commercial tagging
4. Restrictions on commercial trawlers during the spring and fall migration to limit by-catch slaughter.
5. Regulations to commercial charter boats whereby customers (not captain and crew) count toward the limit of fish taken.
6. Daily reporting of number of fish caught to regulate overall number of fish harvested and closing the season when a quota is met.
7. Allow only taking of fish within a specific "slot" e.g. 24-28 inches.
8. Limit fishing season dates to lesson impact on migrating fish.
9. Increase enforcement efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Sincerely,

Jim Lauria

Comments

From: Tom Kling <tkfins@optimum.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 12:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to comment on the present state of Striped Bass fishing in NJ. I am primarily a surf fisherman, mostly fishing in Monmouth County. I caught my first Striped Bass in 1967, am retired now and fish almost every morning from the beginning of April through the end of the year, even into January if it doesn't get too cold. I have to say that fishing has been getting less and less productive the last couple of years to the point I might just throw in the towel after this year.

Causes as I see it are there are just many fewer fish around, we used to have what we called resident fish which were around all summer, there are far fewer of these fish now and very few larger fish. One of the causes for this is the beach replenishment program which buries habitat for the smaller fish and crabs that are the food source for Striped Bass. The last beach replenishment after Sandy wiped out much of the structure and habitat that was previously present, it's just been the last 2 years that I have been seeing Lady Crabs, locally called Calicos, returning and not in the numbers that used to be there. These are a prime source of food for Striped Bass all summer.

The spring run, which I will define as the fish that have completed spawning in the Chesapeake and are on the way North to spend the summer has just about disappeared. These fish follow the Menhaden and stay well offshore because the Menhaden never seem to come close to the beach any more either. Perhaps due to how shallow the water is due to previously mentioned beach replenishments.

The fall run is highly dependent on the amount of baitfish we have traveling South along the beach and if the sandeels decide to show up or not. But the last 5 or 6 years I have seen a pattern where the bigger fish migrate by in a very small time span, 3-5 days at the most. These fish will be caught 1 day at Sandy Hook and Shrewsbury Rocks, the next day Asbury to Manasquan, then Ocean County the 3rd day and then they are gone, LBI and South don't seem to get a shot at these fish. If there is a large amount of forage fish present they might hang out for a day or two, but otherwise that seems to be the only shot we get for bigger bass in the surf. After that it is mostly small fish under 24 inches. Sometimes the fishing for the small bass is quite good but I suspect the mortality is greater than people think. Some days you will hook fish have their mouths really torn up from being hooked so many times.

My last subject of concern is the early season bass fishery that occurs March through May in the Sandy Hook and Raritan Bays. These are fish that are staging to go up the Hudson and spawn and should be left alone. I do not participate in this but I constantly see people catching and keeping the breeder fish that are full of eggs. Catch and release is not the answer either because many of these probably do not survive the battle and just die on the bottom after being released. Keeping the season closed until mid-May is the only way that I see to stop this.

Thanks for listening, I hope the fishery get better and some things can be done to reduce the mortality of these great fish and bring them back to abundance once again. If not it will be a hell of a garage sale next year.

Sincerely,
Thomas Kling,
Neptune City, NJ

Comments

From: Richard Ward <wardofthestates@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 4:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum

Dear Mr. Appelman:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer a reasoned opinion. I'll try to keep it brief and to the point.

1. Generally, your striper population targets are too low. You're seeking to ameliorate damage, not grow the stock. IMHO, this is bad planning.

2. Specifically, data shows that the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery is the core problem. ***"A large proportion of recreational harvest comes from Chesapeake Bay." [up to 45%]. "Recreational dead releases make up a large portion [up to 48%] of total removals because most of the catch is released."*** p.5. But your efforts to address the core problem are minimal, sort of 'in line with everywhere else'.

3. The key paragraph is in page 7.: **The striped bass ocean fishery is defined as all fisheries operating in coastal and estuarine areas of the U.S. Atlantic coast from Maine through North Carolina, *excluding the Chesapeake Bay and Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River (A-R) management areas. The Chesapeake Bay fishery is defined as all fisheries operating within Chesapeake Bay. This document does not propose changes to the A-R management program.***

WHAT?

4. What are we talking about? You pile on this mountain of complex interrelated data, and for what? So you can make some marginal changes to the regs to ameliorate the damage to a damaged fishery to sort of 'keep it off the ropes'? And you propose some wishy-washy milquetoast approach to the use of circle hooks? And the larger fishery has no say in the A-R area? Are you kidding? That's it?

Moreover, your concern about *"the economic significance of striped bass to local economies,"* p.6 needs a reality check. The Russians cleaned

out the cod a few years ago, using factory ships that sat out on the Grand Banks and Browns-Lahave for months at a time. The Atlantic cod fishery is gone forever, and so is a whole way of life. The Chinese are cleaning out the lobsters as we speak. Tons of illegally poached lobsters are being shipped to China. [Lobsters](#). That issue is about to reach the Supreme Court of Canada. And your answer to saving the striped bass is circle hooks? Have you no guts, or have you no mandate?

TRY THIS: Impose: 1) *across-the-board* 2) *mandatory use of* 3) *barbless* 4) *circle hooks* 5) *in the Chesapeake Bay and Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River (A-R) management areas*, and everywhere else. Please, don't bury us in bullsh!t so deep we need a PhD and a pitchfork to keep from suffocating. Just **do something that actually means something**, okay?
Thanks for listening.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard M. Ward, ALJ (ret.)
68 Harvard Avenue
Lynbrook, NY 11563

516-551-8613
wardofthestates@gmail.com

Comments

From: Thomas Cronin <tomyc41@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 11:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

PLEASE !!!! Anyone familiar with Striped Bass are fully aware that virtually every fish over 34" is an egg bearing female!!! I cannot fathom the concept of restricting regulations to the largest of bass. THEY ARE THE MOTHERS OF THE FUTURE POPULATION OF STRIPED BASS !! Current regs are completely backwards. The size limits should be slotted between 24" and 34" give or take a few inches. And no fish over 34" should EVER be harvested.

The regulators with their "only keep the females" approach are directly responsible for a large portion of the obvious decline in the current bass population on the east coast.

I would very much appreciate your response. Thanking you in advance.

Thomas Cronin
189 Woodstock Dr. Brewster Ma. 02631
1 774 216 2014 cell
email; tomyc41@yahoo.com

Comments

From: John & Cate Dolen <johnandcatedolen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 5:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

TO: ASMFC:

Dear Commission members:

Last year my fishing partner and I (both recreational fishermen) caught approximately 126 striped bass, 6 of which were of legal size, a ratio of about 20 : 1. We are very "legal" fishermen and abide by the limits established. We use a 19 foot boat, and our fishing area is on Cape Cod, mainly near shore in the Waquait Channel and nearby shoals and also Middle Ground, seas permitting. We use primarily 3 oz. jigs. Assuming a release mortality rate of 10%, that would be 12 fish, at minimum, that didn't survive. We both use best practices with regards to netting, de-hooking and releasing undersized fish.

This year, so far, we have caught less than a dozen, with 1 legal sized fish. This year's class was wholly undersized in the areas we fish, and in talking to other recreational fishermen their catch was similar. Under Addendum VI, as currently proposed, even the slot size minimum of 28 - 34", would produce very few legal fish for us. And shifting the size limits upwards, as proposed, would virtually eliminate us from catching any legal fish at all. For example, in the past 4 years fishing in our "target" areas off Waquait and into Vineyard Sound, we have caught one 35" Striper! Given the range limits of a 19 foot boat, going farther and farther out is not possible, so the spring and fall migration periods are our best near shore opportunities. Raising the size limit will surely reduce any chance of getting legal sized fish for us.

If we could take 26 - 27" fish for example, last year we would have reached our limit much sooner on the days we fished, thereby reducing release mortality. If we have a prolific year next year similar to 2018, under the draft regulations we would be releasing most fish - and 10% at minimum would not survive.

If the legal size limit is increased, I fear that other recreational fishermen, some of whom we have observed in the past, will not abide by this and will keep even more 26 - 27" "almost legal" Stripers. For this reason I urge you to reconsider proposed "upward limit" regulations, or come up with a more reasonable alternative which will not encourage poaching of Stripers. Given your proposed scenario, smaller boats under 25 ft. and larger boats will not be able to get to target Striper areas. This could eventually eliminate Striper fishing for many of us altogether.

Thankyou for considering my position on Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

John P Dolen
Falmouth, MA

Comments

From: Mike Wright <mikewright@pressnewsgroup.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 4:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass

To whom it may concern,

Please impose a slot limit for striped bass with the largest size range possible....34-40" or larger if possible...for at least the next 3-5 years. I see this as giving the up-coming year-class fish the most opportunity to spawn before they are caught and also protects the large body of much larger female fish in the population now. In the future a flat minimum size may be the best approach, but I would hope that size limit will never be dropped below at least 30 inches again regardless of the health of the stock.

No state should be allowed to ever set a bag limit of more than 1 fish per person per day again.

Also, please make the use of circle hooks mandatory for all live or dead bait fishing. It may be difficult to enforce but it will have an educational effect regardless of the extent of enforcement.

I also think that a limitation that allows no more than one treble hook to be used on any artificial lure is a reasonable and enforceable rule.

The economic impacts of a dwindling striper stock are far greater than whatever the impacts opponents of reductions claim they will see if deep cuts are made. On Long Island alone there are tens of thousands of fishermen who spend thousands of dollars a year each in pursuit of catching a very large striped bass from the surf. One of those fish is worth tens of thousands of dollars to a fisherman like myself, whereas they are lost on customers aboard charter and party boats that kill several of them in a single day and would have their purposes served just as well with a smaller fish.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael R. Wright
East Hampton

Comments

From: Richard Rubin <docrubin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 1, 2019 10:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Good morning. Shore fishing catching in RI is way down from 2017 Here are my comments and recommendations Slot for keeping 1 fish 20 to 30 for the table thus keeping the large breeder population supported and avoiding the larger possibility contaminated fish. Keep this in place for unspecified time catch and release for all tournament Make Stripers sport fish only or close down commercial for a period of time Increase fines substantially for illegal fish Work on increasing the bunker and herring biomass Eliminate the dredgers Thank you, Rich Rubin

Good health is true wealth

Comments

From: rapryor1@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 3:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

My comment is about the recent closure of the Trophy Striped Bass Season in Virginia. I did not mind the closure until I was in Virginia during the time of the closure. I saw commercial netters in Chincoteague load pickup truck beds full of large striped bass. This was during the same time period the recreational fishery was closed. I feel if you were really concerned about the population of large striped bass these commercial netters would not have been allowed to kill all these large stiped bass. This commercial overfishing on depleted stocks has been happening for years in many fisheries, i.e. New England cod fishery. Until these commercial fisheries are better regulated I do not think any endangered fish species has a chance. Sincerely , Richard Pryor

Comments

From: Thomas Goodwine <thomas.goodwine@rotech.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 9:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass addendum VI

In a comment concerning the plight of the striped bass. I have a very strong belief that there should be a slot limit in place of no less than 20 inches and not more than 28 inches. There should be a 1 fish a day limit for take. In addition I do believe there should be a 1 tag per year per fisherman per state for a trophy fish over 40 inches. Charges for tag and salt license to be set by state. I also believe that there should be no netting of striped bass commercially, and serious thought given to size and/or weight limits per day for the commercial fisherman. Striped bass seems to me to be far more valuable as a game fish and any markets for them could be sustained by farming.

Just the opinion of a very concerned fisherman.

Thanks

Thomas Goodwine CRT

Area manager NCR2A3

845-741-1695

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Comments

From: Atkinson, Herb <herb.atkinson@bofa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

There needs to be more corrective action on the commercial side than the recreational side. The vast majority of fish are taken by commercial fishermen as they have an incentive to catch the fish beyond the pleasure of fishing by a bunch of amateurs. While more vocal, the commercial fishermen have a much smaller impact economically than the recreational fishing industry.

Thanks

HT

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Comments

From: Xavier Denis <kaseykahne123@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 7:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass regulations

I am an 18 year old recreational fisherman from Rhode Island loves to fish along the cape cod canal in Massachusetts and I have been fishing for striped bass since I could walk and love the experience of reeling in any sized striped bass. This is the reason I am going to college to be a game warden to help preserve and keep these and many other fish and animals around for other generations. I am concerned about the new regulations I am seeing because they are encouraging people to keep smaller fish closer to the age of breeding (during these smaller slot limit proposals) rather than pushing anglers to catch the really big ones that do not breed anymore. These things include just raising the minimum size along the entire east coast as high as realistically possible like a range from 32-35 inches or even raise it to 38 if needed/possible. This will have people keeping the older fish rather than the fish that reproduce. You could also make striper fishing like hunting and have a certain amount of tags when you buy your fishing license and you have to register your fish. Then you could limit people to maybe one fish every 3 days depending on distribution of the tags. Another thing that should be done regardless of what happens is poachers should be fined much more and jail time including loss of fishing licenses ranging from 5 years - life for repeat offenders. You can also make it a certain season you can fish for them in all states to protect spawning times so smaller breeding fish don't accidentally get caught and this would lessen the possibility of them swallowing the hook and dying. You can also make a swallowed hook law making them tag a fish at a local station no matter what the size and that will count as their fish for the day so people aren't throwing back dead fish and then catching a bigger fish. You can also make a mandatory hook type like circle hooks. I myself have used circle hooks in recent years because I have found it less likely the fish swallows the hook and that was my original reason to use them because I'd rather lose the fish than have it swallow the hook but the more I fished the more I realized I caught more fish because they stayed on the line more often. More people enforcing the the laws as well and maybe a reward system for people that correctly report wrong doing either in cash or a free 5 year fishing license or if you go the tag route then give them extra tags. If you have any other questions please feel free to email me back or call me and leave a message at (401)-533-6571 for me to defend my argument and hopefully convince you to not do a slot limit.

Xavier Denis
Woonsocket, R.I.

Comments

From: stephenschad@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI comments

Please give consideration to shutting down striped bass fishing in the summer when water temperatures are high and fish die after they have been released. I see way too many floaters in the summer time. There are other species in the bay that can be pursued in the summer including Spanish mackerel, bluefish, perch not to mentioned crabs.

Thank you.

Stephen M Schad
410 353 0300

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: marsey@ptd.net
Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2019 3:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

To Whom It May Concern,

As we have not been formally introduced, I am a 52 year-old Pennsylvania fisherman who tries to fish recreationally as often as possible. I also fish charters of odd varieties several time a year in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Maryland. I also own a 20' boat which is trailered in a marina in Keansburg New Jersey. Myself and friends are extremely consciences fisherman and strive to release all of our bass in such a fashion to ensure their survivability. We mostly troll or utilize other forms of artificial bait. We do harvest a few bass.

Based on my years of experience, I believe most of the mortality occurs on large charter or "head" boats. Especially when baits such as bunker or clams are utilized. The fish are lifted many feet from the sea and hook removal is not always performed with the health of the fish in mind. The fish are summarily tossed back the same distance into the sea. I will with my hand, revive the fish which need the extra time in the water. Commercial boats cannot accomplish this.

I fully support the use of Circle Hooks. I would also support a slot limit of allowable fish between 26-34" in length. But, I very strongly believe a creel limit of one fish would have a severe negative impact of the fishing community. The local business community would also suffer. I say this because I think we have reached the point where it is too expensive to pay all the fees (ice, bait, equipment, fuel etc.) just to keep one fish. New Jersey regulations for sea bass and flounder have all been reduced. Paying monies for a trip when one can only harvest one fish is counterproductive.

I understand the importance of keeping the spawning stock at an acceptable level, I really do. However, I feel the minor adjustment should be tried and evaluated before drastic measures are taken.

I felt it important enough to write this letter with my honest comments. I would be available to provide answers to any additional questions or concerns

Gregory Gruber
Palmerton, PA 18071
6140.297.2931
digdog23@ptd.net

Comments

From: mr.stasiuk@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, August 24, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper regulations

Sent from my iPad. It is painfully obvious that saltwater fisheries management in NJ is a total disaster. From blackfish to weakfish and every species in between the issues are never ending. It seems the root cause of the problem is never discovered and "too little too late" regulations are implemented. When that fails and stocks collapse, erroneous claims of "49% dead release" mortality are thrown into the mix as an excuse. Where do these crazy numbers come from? One of my favorites is "Quota re-allocation".... seriously ? Here's a novel idea. If the quota is not met by a group, LEAVE IT ALONE , don't transfer it to another group! It's called conservation of collapsing fishery, that's YOUR job! Here is my advice on striper conservation. We know what striper eat, conserve those species(blue back/river herring etc). We know where stripers breed, conserve those areas. We know when striper breed, close the season during those times or at least protect the females (fish over 31"). Its that simple. I don't want to have to go to another meeting and demand shutting down the commercial and recreational fishery to save a natural resource because you can't do your job. I am a fisherman and a hunter and conservation means everything to me. I am willing to give up these pursuits to help the species recover as we did in the 90's and early 2000's. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion. Hope you do what's best for the proliferation of the species.

Comments

From: Neil Donnenfeld <ndonnenfeld@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 7:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Hello:

I suggest that charter boats that are fishing for stripers when they are preparing to spawn be regulated. I am a recreational fisherman who went on a charter this year out of Keyport, NJ (bottom of the Hudson) in April, 2019. We harvested large cows and when the mate filleted them we were able to see the eggs that were getting ready to be released when the fish headed upstream into the Hudson. Why not put a restriction on harvesting fish in these ;locations? Seems like any easy way to protect large numbers of eggs.

Thank you,

Neil Donnenfeld

Comments

From: Bloch, Bryan <bblloch@chpk.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 4:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good afternoon Max,

First off, thanks for taking the time to read my comments. I do have a couple comments to speak in regards to proposed striped bass regulations for 2020. We all know that the striped bass are being pressured recreationally, commercially, and environmentally.

As previously being a member of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Program team for Delaware prior to my job now, I want to say the joint states seems to be getting their handle of the environmental part. This is good since the Chesapeake Bay is the nursery for striped bass.

The problem is commercial and recreational fishermen. More so recreational fishermen during the latter part of the summer.

Comments on Commercial Fishing:

1. The first problem I have with commercial fishermen is that the pound net season in MD should be eliminated. There is no enforcement to determine if nets are being checked or not. If they are not, then fish are wastefully dying. If commercial fishermen cant be there that day to check their nets, then that is laziness. And it is appalling that pound nets cannot be checked on a Sunday in Maryland. That gives one day for fish to die in these nets in the heat of summer.
2. Enforcement needs to be done to make sure commercial charters use circle hooks vs j-hooks. I have heard of numerous charters still using j hooks.

Comments on Recreational Fishing:

1. From 7/15 to 9/1 during the summer where water is the warmest. Catch and release should be illegal. Why stress fish for fun? Deer hunters are not going out to hunt shooting at deer for pleasure, they are going for the meat. So I would be okay with that. Education outreach needs to be spread to discourage catch and release fishing during the hot of summer.
2. During these same times, recreational and commercial fisherman can only fish from dawn until 11 AM. And then from 5PM until midnight if need be. Enforcement has to be done to make sure fishermen do not have lines in the water targeting this species during the no catch times. Any time I think spared for no fishing will save some of these fish.

I do believe people who fish for striped bass for food and not fun have no effect on the summer population of striped bass. The problem is the catch and release fishermen who are:

1. Culling fish
2. Just catching fish to see how many they can catch for social media

That is all,

Bryan

Comments

From: paul silva <paulsilva16@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 12:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: striper reg

As a avid fishermen in New Jersey I am in support of a slot fishery . No Stripe Bass taken over 38 inches , that being one fish under 28 and one not over 36 inches these are the best eating size and most abundant . I would support this , Way too many trophy size Bass are taken for photos and these fish should never be taken out of the water , we should have regulations on this like Florida has with Goliath fish .

Paul Silva
973 713 0253

Comments

From: Fad Jabb <ilovenythismuch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 12:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Thank you for your time please help the fishery I do love them so much that my self I've stopped fishing for them as often as I used to just to try to help them out and I keep preaching to others to do the same

On Fri, Aug 23, 2019, 12:20 PM Comments <comments@asmfc.org> wrote:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your input on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board in October when it will reviewed submitted public comment and consider final action on the addendum.

Max Appelman

Atlantic Striped Bass FMP Coordinator

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0740

mappelman@asmfc.org

www.asmfc.org

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

From: Fad Jabb [mailto:ilovenythismuch@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 1:37 AM
To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Save our stripers !!!!! And I also think the rivers where the striped bass spawn should be one of the biggest things to talk about this time around. It's where they spawn and ppl are allowed to target them ? This needs to be stopped . Many ppl target them during the spawn and bait chunk and gut hook and kill the carrying striper females. What can we do to change this? We need to take action and figure out a way to let the bass come in the rivers unharmed and let them spawn so they can produce and help the stripers population bloom like it always should. And also boat fisherman should have very strict fishing rules they're out there w fish finders getting on the bass w ease . And doing heavy damage to please their paying customers and 90% of the time no one is there to check these boats to make sure ppl respect the limit amount. Its just way out of hand from every angle they need to hire more officers to patrol jettys and docks and beaches show pressure so maybe ppl will respect the rules and laws... please let me know what I can do to help..

Comments

From: Blair Branin <bbranin@smithsolomon.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 11:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Rec. fisherman

As a recreational fisherman It's hard to see profit fishing get preferred rules and recreational fisherman get hit hardest on catches. I spend money to fish, and would like to take a fish home for dinner. but with the way it is now I spend aprox. \$250.00 per. pound. for a dinner. I don't have answers, on slot limits or size limits. I as a recreational fisherman I would just like to take a fish home for dinner. Suggestion one fish 22 inches to 28 inches. and one over 30 inches. per day. per. person. Dinner for a family.

Thank you for the chance to add a comment. I don't think anyone will read it, but it helped me get a little off my chest. Common sense is gone in decision making only money or pride that wins. Thank you again.

Comments

From: Rich Cusati <rcusati@Blackwoodassoc.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 10:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper comment

Good morning,

If you're going to prevent overfishing of Stripers, stop issuing so many red tags in Rhode Island for commercial fisherman to be able to take them at 26". I saw a boat with about 50 of them at 26" last week in Rhode Island.

A rod and reel guy can only take 1 and it has to be 28". Commercial fisherman are decimating the species.

Also the states need to get together and regulate accordingly. Not sure if it's true but I heard that 2 stripers can be taken at 18" in some of the mid Atlantic states.

It's not the shore guys that are depleting the resource.

Rich Cusati

Comments

From: dibbsfaulkner25@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 10:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass

I think what need to be shortened or cut out are the charter boats raking in at least 25 bass a night on there boats and they go out 3 4 times a week thats crazy to me thats where the over fishing comes in and if there to short they are still hooked and potentaly die after release cause hook damage. I think charters need to be stopped

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android device

Comments

From: Rick Dupont <rick@thedupontgroup.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 9:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass draft addendum

I have fished striped bass 4 days a week for the last 15 years in the Cape Cod area during the summer months. New limits MUST BE CHANGES ASAP. Change commercial season to 1 day a week ,reduce total amount allowed to keep to 8 fish, reduce total tonnage overall, with a slot of no greater than 38 inches for both recreational and commercial for 3 years. Need to let big fish that have large egg capacity to breed. The big fish are the future of the system. Present quotas and slot limit are part of the problem that can be fixed, thxs Rick

Rick DuPont
DuPont Group
512.610.4488
Cell:512.422.0866



Comments

From: Fad Jabb <ilovenythismuch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 1:37 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Save our stripers !!!!! And I also think the rivers where the striped bass spawn should be one of the biggest things to talk about this time around. It's where they spawn and ppl are allowed to target them ? This needs to be stopped . Many ppl target them during the spawn and bait chunk and gut hook and kill the carrying striper females. What can we do to change this? We need to take action and figure out a way to let the bass come in the rivers unharmed and let them spawn so they can produce and help the stripers population bloom like it always should. And also boat fisherman should have very strict fishing rules they're out there w fish finders getting on the bass w ease . And doing heavy damage to please their paying customers and 90% of the time no one is there to check these boats to make sure ppl respect the limit amount. Its just way out of hand from every angle they need to hire more officers to patrol jettys and docks and beaches show pressure so maybe ppl will respect the rules and laws... please let me know what I can do to help..

Comments

From: Joe Hopkins <hopkins.joseph@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 7:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass regulations

Greetings,

I live in Saint Michaels and I like to fish for Striped Bass from the shore in St Michaels and in the Choptank using artificial lures. I am fine with the 19" size limit, but I would like to see an end to the Trophy Season as I have heard it negatively impacts the population. I would also like to see stronger enforcement of circle hooks and possibly even banning on chumming as it causes so many fatal catches to sub-legal fish.

Thanks,
Joe

--
- Joe Hopkins -

Comments

From: Robin C Ricca <robinsnestatsea@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 6:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: A NJ Bass fisherman's comments !

Hello,

Yes just some honest input from a Jersey fisherman. Based on my personal experience only of course. I am just one person but I fish a lot all my 71 years mostly in NJ. I have fished ALL 50 states over my great life to date. Much more to go also. And I enjoy my home of NJ every day. TU for offering to hear my thoughts. I am also a member of the SWFBCnty and Recreational Fishing Alliance. All decent NJ fishermen trying to find middle ground and help all parties effected.

**Ciao, Ciao TU for asking,
Robin C. Ricca**

On Wed, Aug 21, 2019 at 5:59 PM Comments <comments@asmfc.org> wrote:

Mr. Ricca – Are your comments related to the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI that is currently out for public comment (http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassDraftAddVI_PublicComment_Aug2019.pdf)? – Tina

Tina Berger

Director of Communications

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0740

tberger@asmfc.org

www.asmfc.org

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

From: Robin C Ricca [mailto:robinsnestatsea@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 6:18 PM

To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>

Subject: A NJ Bass fisherman's comments !

To whom it may concern,

My name is Robin C. Ricca and I have fished extensively in the NJ both fresh and salt water fisheries for now 71 years. So here is some food for thought from a NJ guy who Loves NJ fishing:

1 - Bass fishing over my many years has always been an up or down season. For example last fall Striped Bass fishing was pretty good over all. And mind you I fish half the time during the week without the big crowds of boats to negatively impact the water column with volumes of engine noise to put the Bass down. But this spring it again seems like the Bass were not inshore although I was told by my friend's who are professional guides out of Manasquan, often the bass are well beyond the 3 mile fishing state waters limit. Bottom line they may pass up the Jersey Shore district fishing area. That I was told also by NY state pilot boat off of City Island, NY. I keep my power boat May 1st to October 1st at my City Island YC. in the Bronx, NY. For spring and fall I fish a lot off the Manasquan and Barnaget Inlets as my Robin's Nest is in a slip near Barnaget Inlet, NJ.

So I also Bass fish in Long Island Sound. According to the numerous Bass fishermen I know personally, LIS had a great Bass fishing year in particular the months of June through end of July. The waters of LIS warm up big time by August and the Bass go North to cooler temps.

I just returned from both RI and Maine this past weekend of August 15 through 18. Again hanging out with numerous fishermen in both states they reported great Bass fishing the last month or two. Inclusive of Block Island and Martha's Vineyard too. I have long friendships on both Islands who report to me.

So bass fishing off the coast of NJ's IBSP or LBI and all the way up to the Shrewsbury Rocks can be in fact a crap shoot for sure. Raritan Bay is a whole different story and had great Bass fishing this spring and into early summer months too. There are several concerns for me personally and they are as follows;

A - I do not believe permitting Bass fishermen to take females with eggs in the spring run should be permitted. This is just wrong on so many obvious counts and it should be at the minimum catch and release ALL females during the spawning run. Let them take the males home only. This I see each year on the spawning rivers of the Hudson River, Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. Female bass should be mandatory released to *increase sustainability* for this wonderful game fish.

B - Commercial Menhaden Bunker boats are an issue for all Bass fishermen inshore of the state mandated 3 NMile limit from the beach. For the past couple of years, on my departure to Long Island Sound for the 5 summer months, I leave the Barnaget Inlet, NJ in early May each year, I see two very large Bunker ships, like 80' or 90' ships, on the beach cleaning out all the Bunker which bring the Bass in shore for the recreational fishermen. If the recreational fishermen are not permitted to catch and take their 28" and over limited Bass beyond the state waters of 3 NMiles, I ask why are the commercial fishermen permitted to come into the beach literally and completely clean out the bait the Bass need to feed on and let the recreational fishermen, who pay fees, fuel, food and much more added to the NJ economy, work against them inside their restricted area of 3 NMiles ?. How about the commercial fishermen with their large nets stay outside the 3 NMile limit imposed

on the recreational fishermen. There are plenty of Bunker and Bass for them to capture whether they are NJ, NY or MD. commercial fishermen. This idea would create a much friendlier atmosphere between the recreational and commercial fishermen to have two different areas to fish. There are always reports of huge Bunker pods outside the 3 NMile limit and also Bass to be caught by the Commercial fishermen in Federal waters. Maybe I am missing something here with the laws for Commercial fishermen.

C - There needs to be more enforcement by DEC or other state agencies. I will not and do not poach and I do follow the laws. But I have seen more than my share of this poaching going on. If a boater is in a marina, does not matter what location, they more than likely do not want to become the Benedict Arnold of that marina. You can provide anonymous phone numbers, as you have done in the past, but they will not call. This is a problem in all marina's with a lot of Bass or other types of fishing boats. People need education and when caught poaching need to be fined. You all know you do not change human beings unless you hit them in the pocket or wallet. This is no different than when a person gets a speeding ticket on a highway. They do slow down after the check has been written.

Ciao, Ciao and that is it for now. Thank You for hearing me out. I Love NJ fishing and hope to see it become "**Sustainable**" in particular for my species I chase for the table and sport. That being Blue Fin Tuna, Striped Bass, Tautog, Black Sea Bass and Ling. So yummy for the tummy and healthy for the mind and body. BTW, I ONLY take what I consume. ALL others go back in the sea.

Robin C. Ricca

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All living are connected to the ocean. After all it is 75% of the earth's surface. And when we return to the sea, to sail away, to fish and feed ourselves or to just enjoy her many moods, I am certain we are returning from where we came ! NMile limit

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Comments

From: Callan Noone <callanfn14@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 2:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Regulations

Hello,

My name is Callan Noone. I am a resident of New York and fish from Maryland all the way up to Maine for Striped Bass (I frequent the Jersey coast in the spring and fall).

For the past 15 years, bass populations have been steadily declining (especially in the last 8 years). Female spawning stocks are currently at roughly 150mm pounds per year, while the target number is 300mm and the lower threshold is 250mm. The stock in 2012 was roughly 280mm pounds and now it is RAPIDLY declining. There are a number of factors contributing to this including botched releases of bass, poaching, overfishing of an overfished population (no, I am not being redundant, its a thing), insufficient enforcement and incorrect size limits on fish (in my opinion). However, it is blatantly clear that the largest factor contributing to the decline of the population is the 10 year long inactivity from our legislators across the Mid Atlantic and New England.

Something needs to be done and it needs to be done now. In my opinion, I think that we need to figure out how to keep the spawning stock (large females) alive and in the water for as long as possible throughout their lifecycle. I do now know the best possible direction to go with this, but I know that the science behind populations numbers are very clear and populations will continue to decline if we don't do something about it.

I am 24 years old and taking time out of my busy work day to write this email and send it to literally every legislator that has any stake in this process from the Mid Atlantic all the way up through New England. We as anglers care about our fish and do not want to see another situation like the 1980s moratorium. I want my kids and my kid's kids to be able to enjoy one of nature's great migrations first hand as I have been able to over the years. The lack of care to this issue over the past few years has been alarming. One would think that we would learn from our mistakes made back in the 70s, but the current political climate is not too encouraging.

I am not sure who will actually read this or if it will even be read at all, but people care about this fish and want to see it thrive in our waters for years to come. I ask that you all act as proponents for sustainable regulation for a species that is currently at risk and offers millions, if not billions, of dollars a year in value to towns, counties and states from North Carolina to Maine.

Our waters will never be the same without this magnificent fish dwelling below, please don't wait any longer.

Best,

Callan Noone

Comments

From: Keith <mfsekk@optimum.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum VI

I responded to your survey that was sent approx. three months ago by nj div of fish and game. My thought was that why should we harvest the best breeders by allowing one over 28 in and a second over 43? It seems a simple solution is to allow a harvest of one under 28 inch, and a second possibly 28 to under 32?. They are even better tasting. May take several years to increase the biomass , but should naturally occur with the breeders allowed to live. Circle hooks are definitely recommended. As far as season dates, the stripers migrate at different times each year, sometimes with only a week or two in the fall within our boundaries .Please don't limit this as we may well miss the whole season to fish. Stripers being a game fish status should be removed from any commercial fishing . My option Afro what it's worth Keith kesheneff

2 springbrook ter.
Lake hopatcong,NJ-3 07849

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: KEN MC DERMOTT <kmcder465@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Comment Striper regs

I ask the counsel members to hold strong and do not fold to political pressure . The complete collapse of numerous fisheries can be linked directly to indecision . Weakfish come to mind . In 2005 the weakfish board was warned by scientist that without a moratorium the weakfish would be extinct by 2010.. The management council in complete disregard of the science choose status-quo(unlimited commercial take). Sure enough, the endangered species act was being considered in 2010 as a management option. At this point my recommendation is,

1 striped bass at 36" coast -wide
closed commercial with a 100 pound by catch

Ken McDermott III
www.kensdock.com
609.846.5749

President/Cape May County Chapter
New Jersey Federation of Sportsmens Clubs
<http://www.njsfsc.org/>

Vice President
Cape May/Cumberland County Saltwater Sportsmen's Allianc

Comments

From: george o <georgeowens4@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 7:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft addendum VI

My name is George Edward Owens 4th I'm a life long New Jersey resident and a avid fisherman. My suggestion is that Striped bass should be closed for harvest during the spring run and only open for harvest during the fall and winter. I think it would help more fish get to spawn unharmed and really start to build the population back up after a few years.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: richmon <richmon@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass

Circle hooks only.
Large female bass be released due to the eggs they carry.
Size limits remain same
No commercial fishing for striped bass

Richie Fredericks
609 335 9353

Comments

From: Piperata <pip777@ptd.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 8:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass New admendmentsl

I can't attend those hearings, But I want to list my opinions for the changes that may occur of Striped Bass, As always, I do not care to see any laws or amendments that favor the rights and responsibilities for the commercial fishing industry whereby those laws/changes in them have more regulations placed on the backs of the recreational fisherman, or his family. The money gained in NJ economics for commercial dinner-plates is not fair or reasonable when they places more hardships on the resident tax payers of our state. If any of the amendments may increase the Bass populations, you will likely see more progress to that, if you increase regs' to commercial fisheries, only. They are the ones that overlook and abuse the regs that are presently in existence. And they are the ones that will cost yore more tax dollars to monitor and enforce those reg's and laws. Not individual Nj citizens. Thx for listening....Anthony Piperata, 908-454-4618, Stewartsville, NJ 08886

Comments

From: Robin C Ricca <robinsnestatsea@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 6:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: A NJ Bass fisherman's comments !

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can provide anonymous phone numbers, as you have done in the past, but they will not call. This is a problem in all marina's with a lot of Bass or other types of fishing boats. People need education and when caught poaching need to be fined. You all know you do not change human beings unless you hit them in the pocket or wallet. This is no different then when a person gets a speeding ticket on a highway. They do slow down after the check has been written.

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Robin C. Ricca

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Comments

From: westwindfish@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 6:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: ADDENDUM VI

1. Release all striped bass over 40 inches
 2. One fish per angler on a charter
 3. Captain and mate are not allowed to keep any bass on a charter
 4. Fishing from any boat...
 - A. Artificial lures only
 - B. No bait of any kind....this includes but is not limited to...
 - B1. No bunker
 - B2. No eels
 - B3. No clams
 - B4. No live bate.
 5. Fishing from the surf... All baits allowed
 6. No bonus tags
- All of the above until the species is revived... this has to be coast wide.. N.J. compliance only is meaningless...

Comments

From: gilbert epstein <gmemse@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 5:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass

to whom it may concern. please stop killing the breeders. look at the current regulations regarding snook and redfish. both have slot fish regulations which allow the harvest of smaller fish without affecting the larger breeding stock. it has worked and will work with striped bass if it's implemented coast wide. the little ones taste better anyway. finally please stop the use of treble and j hooks when using live bait. anecdotally, i was fishing the surf with sand worms and circle hooks. the fish were biting . i caught 20 bass all bellow 28 inches. all were lip hooked and released unharmed . it convinced me . thank you, gilbert epstein

Comments

From: Stephen Bennett <stephenbenne7929@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 4:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI - Striper Regulations

Importance: High

Hi,

This is in reference to the public comment on the Striped Bass Management. As a NJ resident and avid angler, the recreational Striper regulations need to be changed for the better to protect and ensure future reproduction levels.

Regulations need to allow anglers to keep a smaller fish (most likely a male) instead of the minimum size limit continuing to go up making anglers kill breeding females with the most eggs!! Killing the larger females is destroying our Striper fishery and future recruitment levels. The largest stripers contain the most eggs!

The amount of fish taken needs to be spread more, allow some smaller males to be kept. This will allow anglers to enjoy a meal and prevent them from targeting the larger breeders and killing smaller fish in the process via catch and release or handling methods, gut hooking etc...

Anglers preferred when regulations were 1 fish 24" to 28" and 1 fish over 28". I would choose that again but CAP the size to be kept. CAP the length at 38" Don't allow fish over 38" to be kept to ensure they continue to lay eggs each year.

Most other southern states enforce slot limit regulations and have successful fisheries.

Thank you.

Comments

From: Vincent garbarino <menantico@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 2:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

As a former Cape May fisherman and retiree from NJDEP enforcement, it is frustrating to see all of the fisherman, both private and charter boats, fishing well beyond the 3-mile limit, keeping stripers and posting their catch on their websites. For the most part striper fishing around Cape May sucks anymore and the only way to bring home a decent catch is to run up towards AC or go out beyond the 3-mile limit. There is virtually no enforcement. These captains should lose their license for a year, maybe that will help.

Also, we are tired of seeing the 7 large Virginia bunker reduction boats year after year down here scooping up all the bunker using spotter planes. Any stripers caught in their nets are kept. We used to pull up next to them and watch. Very frustrating down here between watching the reduction boats keeping bass and the charter boats boasting about their illegal catch. The honest Joe most always goes home empty handed.

Beyond the 3-mile limit should be open to all fisherman with the same catch restriction. Keep bunker reduction boats out of NJ waters, bunker is too valuable of a resource.

Keep stripers as a game fish and off limits to the netters. If you want to open up the federal waters for commercial fishing, have them catch using the same methods and restrictions as we do. (hook and line, two per person) No bycatch of stripers should be allowed as we know that commercial fisherman exploit and target their bycatch allotment.

Comments

From: CHRIS GUAY <cjguay1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2019 11:56 PM
To: Comments; gavindowley@gmail.com; danieldrabkin5@gmail.com; Avon Void
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

ASMFC representatives,

I value and massively appreciate the input you are willing to receive from anglers and participants in the east coast striped bass fishery. What follow are my recommendations on what should be included in Amendment VI, which aims to rebuild the striped bass fishery and restore it to healthy levels again.

A slot limit is a great idea. It would maximize the number of fish that can be caught, but protect the larger breeding fish, of which the vast majority are females, so that the stocks can be rebuilt and brought back to their formerly healthy levels. For the time being, a slot limit of 36"-40" must be implemented IMMEDIATELY, coast wide, for all parties, commercial and recreational. Female striped bass must be around 30-32" before they are able to spawn, and must be allowed at least a couple years to rebuild and contribute to future generations before they are legally allowed to be kept and killed. Above 40", they will be legally protected and allowed to continue to spawn and fuel the growing classes of fish for years to come. After the stocks have been rebuilt, say 10 years in the future and have shown to sustain themselves at healthy levels, this slot could be modified to perhaps 36-44", but should stay that way indefinitely, to prevent problems like the one we are facing in the future.

Commercial fishing should be legislated in a more restrictive manner, and properly enforced. My contacts in the more northerly states (MA, ME, NH, CT, and RI) have informed me that most commercial striped bass fishing is done humanely, on rod and line, and is done responsibly; minimizing by-catch and mortality to fish short of the current 28" minimum size. In the mid-Atlantic states, this is not the case. Commercial anglers in MD, DE, and NJ are using gillnets, venturing into the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) where commercial fishing is ILLEGAL and are massacring everything they touch. Short stripers, fish of all species, as well as the legal fish are being killed and caught. This is a HUGE problem, and must be addressed immediately. This sort of fishing cannot be allowed to continue if any sort of progress is to happen. There must be patrolling officers around the EEZ line, and people trespassing must be arrested and have their gear (including their boats and licenses) confiscated permanently. If this does not happen, little progress is to happen as far as the rebuilding of the striped bass stocks.

Additionally, there must be stronger and more thorough enforcement of the current laws. Myself and others have witnessed anglers killing everything they catch, especially short striped bass. I have not once witnessed a fish and wildlife officer in the places I have fished, or the places that others have either. This happens excessively in MD and DE, especially by commercial anglers invading the illegal EEZ. There are far too few fish and wildlife officers patrolling, and the penalties are too low to effectively discourage these poachers from breaking the law and destroying our fishery. Penalties for poaching must be massively increased, and there need to be a lot more officers out patrolling, because poaching is happening everywhere. Gillnets should be banned, and it should be enforced that the only commercial fishing for striped bass that should be allowed is on rod and line. The statistics showing current mortality are massively skewed from what they really are, by poachers and commercial anglers venturing into illegal waters and not reporting the criminal amount of by-catch they generate from gillnetting.

I would like to add that there should be a total ban on fishing for striped bass in the Chesapeake bay while the fish are spawning. To allow anglers to fish for spawning bass, while the fishery focus is to rebuild the stocks, is completely contradictory and unproductive, especially given the massive number of poaching anglers that reside in the states surrounding the Chesapeake bay.

To summarize, a slot limit of 36-40" for commercial and recreational anglers must be implemented immediately, coast wide and within the Chesapeake bay, until the stocks have been properly rebuilt. There must be increased efforts by patrolling officers to stop poaching by recreational anglers and law breaking by commercial anglers fishing outside the EEZ, as well as more serious consequences for people performing these hideous acts. Boats and gear must be confiscated, and licenses revoked. Finally, there should be a total ban on fishing for striped bass in the Chesapeake bay while the fish are spawning, and it should stay that way indefinitely.

Again, I thank you for standing up to the greed and shortsightedness of the mid-atlantic states MA and DE, as well as the commercial anglers pushing for longer fishing seasons, when all they care about is filling their pockets with income from exploiting a natural resource. I thank you as well for welcoming public comment on Addendum VI, and appreciate all the work that you do.

Regards,

Christopher Guay,

Northeast Striped Bass angler,

Member of Stripers Forever

Comments

From: Gavin Dowley <gavindowley@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2019 12:41 PM
To: Sen. Craig A. Miner; Melissa Ziobron; WILLIAM HYATT; Justin Davis; David Saveikis; Roy Miller; Craig D Pugh; JOHN CLARK; Rep. William J Carson; Bryan King; Daniel Ryan; Patrick Keliher; Rep. JAY MCCREIGHT; Sen. Dave Miramant; Stephen Train; Megan Ware; Russell Dize; Del. Dana Stein; LOREN W.LUSTIG; Derek Orner; PHIL LANGLEY; MICHAEL LUISI; Michael Armstrong; Rep. Sarah K. Peake; Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us; Raymond Kane; Sen. David Watters; Sherry White; G. RITCHIE WHITE; Douglas Grout; Dennis Abbott; HEATHER CORBETT; C. LOUIS BASSANO; TOM FOTE; Adam S. Nowalsky; Sen. ROBERT ANDRZEJCZAK; Maureen Davidson; James Gilmore; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY; Chris Batsavage; Rep. Bob Steinburg; Michael Blanton; Jerry Mannen Jr.; Andrew Shiels; TIM SCHAEFFER; KURT BLANCHARD; Jason E. Mcnamee; Sen. Susan Sosnowski; Eric Reid; DAVID BORDEN; Bryan Plumlee; STEVEN G. BOWMAN; Nicole Lengyel; Max Appelman; Rob O'Reilly; MARTIN GARY; Monty Mason; CHAD E. WHITAKER; bbarner@pa.gov; kelly_harshbarger@fws.gov
Subject: Striped Bass fishery is in DANGER!!!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ASMFC Representatives,

There is a serious issue with the striped bass stocks on the east coast. Immediate action must be taken to set this fishery on a track, to the health and prosperity which it used to know.

In the early 80's there was a massive crash in the striped bass stocks. A multi-year moratorium along with the absence of some other problems we have today helped bring back the population to healthy levels like what we saw in the mid 90's to the mid 2000's. But now it is 2019 and a decline is happening again. It has been happening for years. It continues to get worse and will continue to the point of the fishery's extermination if no action is taken.

I suggest the implication of a slot limit to recreational anglers which I believe will help the fishery. Seeing that the largest striped bass are females and through there off spring the species is able to continue, I would recommend placing the slot between 28" and 35" inches. This would allow the larger fish many successful years to spawn in turn growing the fishery.

Although I do not have any scientific evidence to back this up, I have seen the fishery in my hometown decrease drastically since 2010. As angler and a person who cares about his home waters, I implore you to investigate the fishery. I am sure upon investigation you will find all evidence of an unhealthy fishery, which is on the brink of collapse in the next 5 to 10 years. The time to act is now if you want to still have the most prominent fishery on the east coast, above an endangered level.

As for the commercial fishery I believe a temporary hold should be placed on it until the striped bass stocks can recover to stable level. After this I believe it may commence but with more effective management strategies implicated. Although the commercial fishery for striped bass represents a smaller percentage of the take it is a system more easily controlled by the ASMFC and can easily be controlled which will help the striped bass until the fishery can return to a stable level.

As recreational angler who continually practices catch and release, I suggest the higher level of monitoring by fish game and wildlife officers. For the number one problem besides size limit on the fishery, is the poaching that goes on. I often see anglers along the Cape Cod Canal, and other locations commonly fished for striped bass taking more than their limit of fish. This along with fish that are kept well under 28" or "keeper size" are the two biggest problems with the fishery.

All and all the more effective management strategies must be implemented if we want to save these fish. For without new regulations the population of striped bass on the east coast will crash far beyond recovery.

Sincerely,

Gavin Dowley a North of Boston Striped Bass Angler.

Comments

From: Jim Bullard <jbullard45@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 9:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Sir,

I have lived on and fished the lower Potomac River for many years. I've witnessed the collapse of the striped bass fishery in the waters of the Potomac and the middle Bay.

The solution that makes sense to me is to simply ban striper fishing (recreational and commercial) in the spring. Removing egg-laden females from any waters is simply criminal.

The number of dead stripers, mostly undersized, that I see pulled from gill nets every February is simply sickening. I'd love to see gill and pound nets banned, but that's probably too much to ask for.

I wish you well in your efforts. I just ask that you personally push for action, as kicking the can down the road is actually deepening the problem.

Best,

James V. Bullard
[917 Chambers Ln](#)
[Lottsburg, VA 22511](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Omrod, Jeremy <Jeremy.Omrod@Chubb.com>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 12:21 PM
To: Comments; Joe Cimino; heater.corbett@dep.nj.gov; TOM FOTE; Russ Allen; senadrzejczak@njleg.org; captadam@karenannii.com
Cc: James Gilmore; Maureen Davidson; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY; Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us; ray@capecodfisherman.org; sarah.peake@mahouse.gov; Sarah Ferrara
Subject: Striped Bass Conservation RE: Public Comment Addendum VI

To Whom this may concern,

I'll start by saying that I appreciate the opportunity that you have given to the public to voice their concerns. I appreciate the committee taking the necessary actions to see the bigger picture rather than a one sided story from Comm, Recs, or Data.

Furthermore, a little about me and my credentials; I am an avid, obsessed, and proud fisherman from NJ. Conservatively speaking, I spend over **32 hours/week chasing Striped Bass** in NJ alone for 6 months out of the year. Including 2 trips to Cape Cod, 3 trips to Montauk, and numerous sporadic trips along the Striper Coast, **I average 18,000 miles each year!** That means I am spending, on average, **\$3,250 per year in gas alone** (yikes, ignorance is bliss...). **I buy around \$2000 worth of tackle every year from local tackle shops** (Grumpys Tackle, Seaside, NJ; Giglios B&T, Sea Brigh, NJ; Paulie's Tackle, Montauk, NY) in preparation for these fish or after I seemingly cast off or snag every lure in my bag. Due to my busy schedule I tend to eat on the road when I'm fishing, and I average \$15/trip between coffee, food, and snacks. This means I spend **\$1,560 per year on food.**

As you are well aware of, the Striped Bass is vital to our economy in the Northeast. I am one angler, and **I am spending roughly \$6,800 per year on STRIPED BASS.** I have many friends and family members that spend a similar amount of time or more on the water so it is safe to say that recreational anglers own a large portion of this economic input. I have been fishing this hard for 6 years now, not to mention the other 19 years of leisurely angling. **I have allocated \$42,000 to the Striped Bass economy, and I am just one angler!**

From my personal experiences, Striped Bass are becoming more difficult to catch and this is a major deterrent to new, intermediate, and skilled anglers. Money will dwindle from the industry and local economy if action is not taken immediately to help the Striped Bass stocks rebound to status quo.

My personal experiences over the last 10 years while targeting Striped Bass tell the story of a diminishing fishery. Almost every year the majority of the fish are smaller and fewer. The last two years have been filled with fish that are X<28" and the occasional large "cow" X>40" 60:1. There is a huge missing link in the fishery, the 30"-40" fish that help drive the spawning.

Based upon these personal experiences I am strongly suggesting that we protect the abundance of smaller, sub-32" fish. As far as big fish go, it is imperative that we keep the large fish DNA strains in the biomass by protecting our "cows" >40" fish. In perspective, the NBA thrives on players being over 6'7". Those players are the strongest and arguably the best in the league. If we eliminated all persons over 6'7" before they could reproduce, the NBA would eventually look much different, and much less appealing to its audience.

I speak for the majority of anglers out there when I say that we are all chasing 'the big one'. We all want to catch the fish of our dreams and some may want to take that fish home and get a mount to hang above the fireplace. Personally, I would choose to release any fish of great size, because there is nothing more rewarding than seeing the big ones swim away to leave you guessing who they'll test next. It is easy to understand the "trophy mentality". For that reason alone, I

suggest that we should have a trophy tag that allow 1 trophy per person per year to be kept. These trophy fish have endured a life-time of spawning and have had an exuberant amount of time to release their DNA strains into the biomass. I highly suggest **1 fish per year @ X>48" with the appropriate tag**. This tag will satisfy many charter captains and trophy chasing fisherman alike.

In summary, I propose a **slot limit of 1 fish per day @ 32"-40" and a trophy tag system of 1 tag/person per year for a fish >48"**

There are many other key factors in producing a healthy fishery, but my schooling and profession have taught me to analyze the economic impact of certain instances. These fish are a pivotal part of the Northeast economy, but they also bring so much joy and excitement to thousands of anglers along the coast. We need these fish to prosper and they need our help!

Thank you for taking the time to hear my personal experiences and suggestions. At the end of the day, the science speaks for itself and the Striped Bass need protection ASAP. I hope the right precautions are taken to reduce mortality and increase stocks.

Thank you,
Jeremy Omrod

CHUBB

Jeremy Omrod
Financial Analyst, Chubb Global Casualty

436 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106, USA
O: 215-640-4289
E: Jeremy.omrod@chubb.com

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Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6, Striped Bass Mgt. Plan

9/3/19

Dear Mr. Appelman:

I am writing to comment on the proposals to further limit the take of Striped Bass here in New Jersey.

Although I cannot comment on the specific option to be followed to achieve this reduction, I wanted to write to you in order to express my support for doing *something to reduce the mortality of Striped Bass in N.J.*

If you were ever to observe the Striped Bass spring fishery in this State you would be shocked at the sheer recreational effort expended in this fishery. In just one area, Raritan Bay, you can count **thousands** of "recreational" vessels actively targeting this species. I use quotations because many of these so called "sport" fishermen are actually charter and party boats carrying passengers for hire, which, in my opinion, are veiled commercial fishermen because of the monetary incentive. If I ever attended a public meeting and expressed this opinion, I'd need multiple bodyguards to exit the meeting safely. Even in spite of the number of party and charter boats, there's rarely a sport boat with less than 3 fishermen on board. The amount of effort is staggering, especially when you consider that most if not all of these boats will continue to fish even after a limit is reached, for sport, thus resulting in additional mortality of fish killed upon release. Realistically, when the fishing is good, many charter and party boats do reach a limit and certainly do not return to the dock just because possession limits have been reached. Instead, to satisfy their customers, they will continue to fish and continue to kill some of the fish released, no matter how careful they may be. This issue of overharvesting Striped Bass is one issue that the recreational fishermen in the State of New Jersey own, not being able to lay the blame as always preferred upon the commercial fisherman.

In short, I have said for many years that this fishery could not possibly sustain the amount of pressure placed upon it by such huge numbers of recreational anglers. I applaud any effort and any "option" taken to limit the take of Striped Bass here in New Jersey and to increase their numbers.

Sincerely,



Chief Mark Chicketano (Retired)
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Law Enforcement

(732) 737-1188 (Cell)

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SEP 10 2019

ASMFC

Christfried Arfsten
44 Clubhouse Drive
Rocky Point, NY 11778-9585

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Max Appleman, FMP Coordinaton

9/5/2019

Dear Commission Members:

Upon careful review of Draft Amendment VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, I have made the following choices from the management choices presented in the draft.

Option 2, an equal reduction in the percentage of striped bass harvested by both the recreational and commercial sectors.

Ocean Recreational Fishery:

Sub Option 2-A1: This option provides an opportunity for the fish under 35 inches to contribute to the spawning process before legal harvesting. It also takes some pressure off of the largest fish which would be targeted under a slot scenario.

Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery:

Option 2-B1: This option provides the greatest reduction of all the options. Based on the data provided this fishery not only failed to abide by the 20.5% reduction in last addendum but increase their catch by 50%. I strongly encourage the ASMFC to consider imposing penalties for states that fail to abide by the parameters of managment plan.

Option 3.2 Circle Hook Provision

Option B: Required use of circle hooks when fishing with bait.

Sincerely



Christfried Arfsten
44 Clubhouse Drive

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AUG 23 2019

August 22, 2019

Via fax to: 703-842-0741

ASMFC

Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman:

I write to suggest Option 1, Status Quo. Over the last two years I have not taken as many stripers as I did in years before. For instance, this year I have harvested just one striper as of the writing of this letter. Starting about the middle of May I fish probably 4-5 days per week through the first week of October, conditions permitting for my 17' Boston Whaler. I know this is true for one of my most frequent fishing buddies too.

The status of the striper fishery is well known to any fisherman who subscribes to any saltwater fishing magazine. The articles remind fishermen of the overfished/overfishing status, and recommend the use of circle hooks to reduce mortality, as well as gear that is designed to reel in a fish quickly so as to allow for reduced mortality, as well as proper handling, and reviving of stripers too.

Give the recreational fisherman/private sector's efforts a chance to take hold.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Eugene S. O'Brien
11 Fuller Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907

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SEP 11 2019

ASMFC

Subject: Comments on Draft Addendum VI

Martin Adamkiewicz

5523 Bel-Vista Court

Lodi, NJ 07644

Marty of Lodi @ AOL.com

Dear Max Appelman,

09/09/2019

Striped Bass are overfished. I support
a shift to slot sizes like one fish at
28"-34" or 30"-36".

Thank you,

Martin Adamkiewicz

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SEP 10 2019

ASMFC

Dear Mr. Appleman,

I'm a recreational fisherman. I fish from the surf.

I live in Nassau County NY and I'd like to fish the Jones Beach Robert Moses area.

At my age (55) traveling to Montauk and fishing from midnight till 6am is basically done.

The BIG difference between 1990 and 2019 is it seems ALL the game fish have disappeared.

WHY?

There are No Bluefish around at all NO Weakfish around at all.....WHY WHY???????

Is it climate change Is It the Seal population is it fertilizer in our water (run off?)

When there was a moratorium on Striped Bass we (surf fisherman) caught bluefish now NOTHING!

I caught two keeper bass last year 5 days apart.....I had a couple of innings of schoolies (small bass)

My vote is one at 35 inches....not sure how the fishery will do I expect the results will be much different this time around

Too think that what was successful thirty years ago will be work now is irresponsible.

Also I NEVER see NYSDEC police officers..Need more enforcement. need more fish....

Dennis Bravo
56 Martin Road North
Bethpage NY 11714

516-509-3477 cell
516-796-8226 home

Dennis E Bravo



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SEP 13 2019

ASMFC

924 Sill Avenue

Erie, PA 16505

Sept. 10, 2019

Max Appelman

Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Dear Max Appelman:

I have worked professionally as a Water Pollution Control Specialist, Fishery Biologist, and an Aquatic Biologist in Pennsylvania. Much of my time was devoted to Lake Erie and its watershed. I am currently retired, and enjoy an occasional trip to Cape Cod for striped bass fishing.

I am suggesting your plan's managers consider the following observations/ suggestions:

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission eliminated commercial gill netting in our waters of Lake Erie. The Commission bought out the commercial fishermen, and basically paid them to stop gill netting. We now have one of the best walleye fisheries that can be remembered.

I am not advocating a total revocation of commercial fishing for striped bass, but perhaps a moratorium or reduction in season length or reduced quotas would be a possibility.

I worked collecting fish from Lake Erie for PCB, mercury etc. In general, large old fish have more contaminants in them than smaller younger fish. I think from a human health point of view, agencies should advise the public against eating large striped bass (if indeed testing verifies what I have observed in our freshwater fish). This might be a prudent and acceptable approach to better protecting the public health as well as protecting the larger fish size spawning fish population.

I suggest encouraging the public (or mandating?) to use lures with single hooks rather than treble hooks. This would cause a concern, because there are millions of dollars of lures in public hands with multiple treble hooks. Many could be voluntarily retrofitted with a single hook.

I personally ended up keeping the two largest bass that I ever caught over the years (between 40" and 50"). I wanted to release them as I figured they likely had more contaminants, and would have been good spawning stock. Unfortunately, both had inhaled large plugs with treble hooks, and only my leader was visible outside their mouth. By the time I got the plugs out of their mouths, releasing them was not an ethical option, as in my opinion they would not have survived. In both cases, I voluntarily quit fishing those days because the limit was one fish per day and I did not want to chance hurting another bass. If I had perhaps been using a single hook rather than multiple treble hooks, things might have worked out better for me as well as the fish.

Some lures could be modified so there was only one hook (treble or single) per lure. More than once I have been aware of one of the plugs hooks in a fish's mouth, and a second hook imbedded in the side of

the fish along its body or head. It might be good to encourage sportsmen to voluntarily use one hook per lure. Fly fishermen sometimes decide to use barbless hooks.

I might suggest a slot size limit. Perhaps make the minimum size just over the size that a fish would need to be to successfully spawn once. (I don't have that information, nor do I have specifics on pollution burdens of different size fish.) I think the overall goal should be to protect both public health as well as the fishery. The current minimum size limit for striped bass in Massachusetts is 28". If that size does allow a female to spawn at least once, perhaps a 28" to 32" inch slot limit would be appropriate. Assuming the fishery recovers, more generous size or catch limits could be implemented in future years.

Thank you.

Sincerely Robert Wellington

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Wellington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

RECEIVED

SEP 23 2019

ASMFC

**MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY**

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

Mr. Max Appleman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

September 12, 2019

Dear Mr. Appleman,

I have reviewed Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass and respectfully submit the following comments for your consideration.

Of the management options offered for consideration and public comment at this time, I support Option 2 and would like to comment on Sub-Option 2-A. I encourage you to consider adoption of Sub-Option 2-A3 for the Ocean Recreational Fishery.

I believe that a slot size limit approach to recreational striped bass harvest is a prudent choice at this time. I offer the following rationale for a slot, and in particular, the option of the 30 – 38 inch slot contained in Sub-Option 2-A3.

Female striped bass typically mature at 4 to 6 years of age {size estimates for a 4 year old female range from approximately 21-23 inches and a 6 year old female may be approximately 26 – 28 inches}. Therefore, at 30 inches a fairly substantial percentage of female striped bass would have matured and spawned 1 to 2 times. Allowing fish to be recruited into the spawning stock before harvest by setting 30 inches as the lower limit of the slot would, I believe, yield positive results.

Capping the slot at 38 inches would then ensure protection of older, more fecund females. It is well established in the scientific literature that striped bass are extremely fecund and that older females have exponentially greater fecundity than younger fish (see the attached Table 1 and Figure 1).

Older female striped bass also exhibit greater fitness than younger individuals. They tend to be more experienced successful spawners; spread reproductive outputs across many years; provide

the population with an earlier and longer spawning season; and produce eggs and larvae that are more fit.

The higher fitness of eggs and larvae produced by larger, older females stems from having more metabolic energy reserves that allow them to invest more energy in each offspring. As a result, these older females produce larger eggs that produce faster growing larvae and provision larvae with larger oil globules that provide more nourishment aiding larval growth and survival by making them more resistant to starvation. Furthermore, these fitter eggs and larvae are more likely to survive during periods of unfavorable environmental conditions.

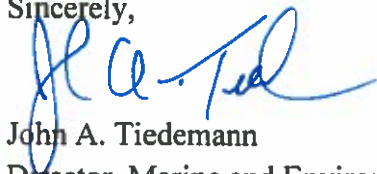
Harvest of older, larger females from the stock removes them from the reproductive population and eliminates their value to the overall success of the stock leading to:

- ✓ Age truncation within the spawning stock
- ✓ An overall reduction in the number of larvae produced
- ✓ Shortening of the reproductive season
- ✓ Decreased chances that larvae will encounter favorable environmental conditions
- ✓ Lowered average survival potential of larvae produced
- ✓ Potential lowering of genetic diversity

It is important to note that high genetic diversity is more likely to produce offspring with high fitness especially in a variable environment such as that of the striped bass.

By not simply setting a minimum allowable harvest size, as outlined in other options contained in the Draft Addendum, and protecting older larger female breeders within the population, you will provide an opportunity for recreational anglers to contribute to the conservation of striped bass and ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery.

Sincerely,



John A. Tiedemann

Director, Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Program

Assistant Dean, School of Science

jtiedema@monmouth.edu

.....
400 Cedar Ave. West Long Branch, NJ 07764

Table 1. Striped Bass Fecundity Estimates Found in the Scientific Literature

Estimated Size {inches}	Approximate Weight {pounds}	Estimated Age	Fecundity Estimate	Location	Source
21 - 23	4 - 7	4	298,000 - 490,000	Roanoke River, NC	Lewis & Bonner (1966)
		4	364,532 - 416,920	Roanoke - Albemarle, NC	Olsen & Rulifson (1992)
26 - 28	7 - 12	6	577,000 - 960,000	Roanoke River, NC	Lewis & Bonner (1966)
28	13	6	856,267	Chesapeake Bay	Jackson & Tiller (1952)
		6	612,693 - 702,422	Roanoke - Albemarle, NC	Olsen & Rulifson (1992)
	12		1,280,000	Susquehanna River	Pearson (1938)
	13		1,337,000	Havre De Grace, MD	Pearson (1938)
31	15 - 16	8	1,029,000	Roanoke River, NC	Lewis & Bonner (1966)
32	16	8	1,683,292	Chesapeake Bay	Jackson & Tiller (1952)
		8	1,018,675 - 1,164,059	Roanoke - Albemarle, NC	Olsen & Rulifson (1992)
36	21	10	2,510,349	Chesapeake Bay	Jackson & Tiller (1952)
		10	1,378,200 - 2,158,868	Roanoke - Albemarle, NC	Olsen & Rulifson (1992)
38	29	12	2,940,938	Chesapeake Bay	Jackson & Tiller (1952)
		13 - 14	4,500,000		Hardy (1978)

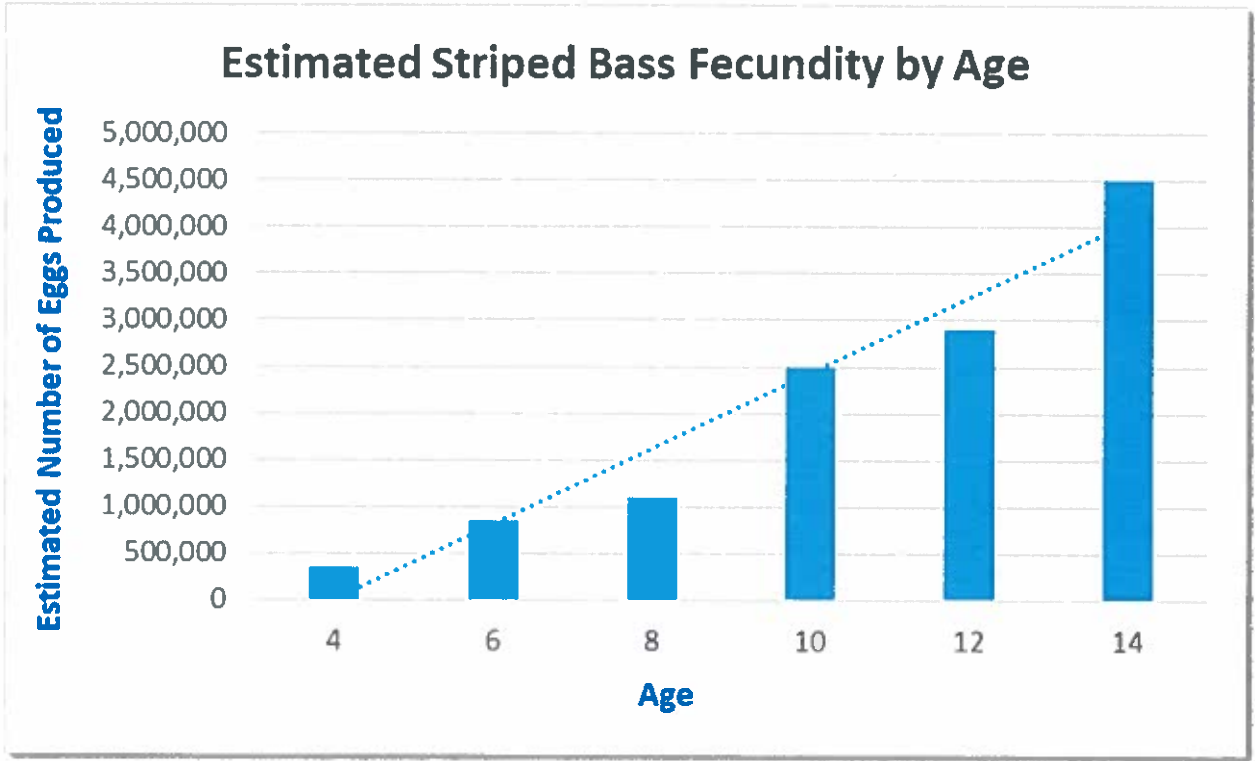


Figure 1. Estimated Striped Bass Fecundity by Age
{Estimates Based On Literature Cited In Table 1}

Literature Cited

Hardy, J.D. Jr. 1978. Development of Fishes of the Mid-Atlantic Bight – An Atlas of Egg, Larval and Juvenile Stages – Volume III Aphredoderidae through Rachycentridae. U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Services Program. Publication No. FWS/OBS-78/12.

Jackson, H.W. and R.E. Tiller. 1952. Preliminary Observations of Spawning Potential in the Striped Bass. State of Maryland Board of Natural Resources, Department of Research and Education. Publication No. 93 of the Chesapeake Biological Lab. Solomons Island, MD.

Lewis, R.M. and R.R. Bonner, Jr. 1966. Fecundity of the Striped Bass, *Roccus saxatilis* (Walbaum). Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. Vol. 95, Issue 3, pp. 328-331.

Olsen, E.J. and R.A. Rulifson. 1992. Maturation and Fecundity of Roanoke River-Albemarle Sound Striped Bass. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 121: 524-537, 1992.

Pearson, J.C. 1938. The Life History of the Striped Bass, or Rockfish, *Roccus saxatilis* (Walbaum). U.S. Dept. of Commerce Bureau of Fisheries. Bureau of Fisheries Bulletin No. 28. Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED

SEP 23 2019

ASMFC

Kenneth F. Warchal

17 Bay Point Harbour
Point Pleasant, NJ
08742-5502
908-715-0791
Kmwarchal@aol.com

September 19, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

Of the choices available, below are the options I feel that would best help this fishery recover:

Option 2 - Commercial and recreational sectors should reduce their catches equally

Sub-option 2-A1- 1 @ 35" minimum

Sub-option 2-B1 1@18" minimum

Circle hook option 3.2B

I also feel strongly that the practice of retaining so called "boat limits" on charter boats no longer be ignored. The fish "caught" by the captains and mates are almost exclusively given to the anglers which puts the angler over the daily possession limit.

Best regards,



Ken Warchal

RECEIVED

SEP 26 2019

ASMFC

September 25, 2019

Regarding Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI - in Massachusetts

The state DMF has inadequate staff to manage and enforce existing rules and regulations regarding recreational and commercial Striped Bass harvest at the Cape Cod Canal.

Therefore, this fishing should be made totally catch and release.

This would allow the greatest number of people to enjoy the resource and would eliminate all the illegal take that currently occurs (which is high).

It is a travesty and hypocrisy to allow unregulated, uncontrollable fishing pressure on a relatively over-fished species like Striped Bass.

Eric E. Johnson

EEJ:pm



Cc: Mass DMF
Directors office

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2019

ASMFC

10 Gounod Road

Westerly, RI 02891

September 22, 2019

Max Appelman
Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Coordinator 1050 N. Highland St., Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Draft Addendum VI

Sirs:

I have been a Rhode Island saltwater recreational fisherman for many years and believe that Rhode Islanders are truly blessed with the natural resources we share and enjoy. The Fishery Management Commission is entrusted with managing these resources and I encourage them to consider the following positions that I support.

I support the following options:

3.1 Proposed Management Scenarios

OPTION 2: Equal Percent Reductions for Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

SUB OPTION 2-A3: 1 fish @ 32" - 40" slot

SUB OPTION 2-B1: 1 fish @ 18" minimum

3.2 Circle Hook Provision – I support Option C -- developing public education and outreach campaigns because hook regulations are unenforceable at the recreational level.

Submitted


Richard Ferris

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2019

ASMFC

09/23/2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: (703) 842-0740
Fax: (703) 842-0741

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I am writing to share my comments regarding the proposed draft addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass.

I fully support Option 2 which would result in an 18% equitable reduction in the recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass.

My only regret is that this proposal does not go far enough. It is hard to watch the striped bass population shrink year-after-year due to the damaging impact of commercial and recreational over harvest. **Please help the striped bass, our coastal economies and the New England fishing communities and make striped bass a gamefish!**

Thank you for your consideration,



Eric Granat
538 Washington Street
Duxbury, MA. 02332
EricGranat@gmail.com

RECEIVED

Max Appelman FMP Coordinator

A.S.M.F.C.

SEP 30 2019

ASMFC

Chesapeake Bay States are punished and have a much more conservative quota than northern states just because our area is a big producer of striped bass. In other words we spawn them, raise them and protect them. They feed heavily on small crabs and they grow up and migrate to the northern state to be caught. ASMFC acts more like a dictatorship by not allocating a fair share to us.

In 2012 recreational landing were as follows: New York-28%; Mass. 24%; Maryland 17%; New Jersey 10% and Virginia 8.7%. Recreational fishermen harvested 90% of the stripers on the Atlantic coast. Commercial fishermen only harvested 10%. Of that 10% you have taken half away by quota cuts.

In your charter Social & Economic impacts must be taken into account. You have violated your charter! Virginia watermen have lost \$11,892,000.00 in revenue. States have a right to make allocations to the user groups, but they must be fair equitable and shall not discriminate one against another in their fishery management plan. Virginia has failed in their plan and so has ASMFC.

Virginia has never put a limit on the number of recreational fishermen and licenses sales. They have no idea how many fish they catch each year. By my last count was there are 257,000 recreational fishermen here in Virginia.

Commercial fishermen work on a tagging plan so they have a good idea of how many fish are caught.

I have been concerned over the years about the damage the rockfish are doing to our blue crab fishery. They are eating millions of small crabs every year. I called VIMS fish biologist and explained to her how many rockfish there are in the bay as compared to years ago. Because of the ASMFC restriction on size limit we now have many more rockfish that are eating crabs. Her response was, rockfish have always eaten crabs. Evidentially she doesn't understand math. The more predators you have, the less Crabs you will have.

I wrote a letter to the Secretary of Natural Resources asking for a round table discussion about our crab fishery and strip bass policy which they have failed to address. *I requested that both VMRC and VIMS representative to be included so we could discuss facts. I received a letter thanking me for my many years of service on different advisory boards, but VMRC and Vims didn't think a meeting was necessary.*

The bottom line is VMRC and VIMS have failed to represent the Virginia watermen fairly and equitably. The ASMFC has not abided by its charter regarding the social and economic benefits to Virginia Watermen under their E.M. P.

The last time you cut our quota you promised we would get it back within three years. We never got it back. Now you are asking for another cut. I was In Maine in July of this summer and fished with a recreational guide for striped bass using live bait. We caught fish all day long. Their season is from May to October, Much longer than in Virginia. Is that fair!

Twin River Waterman's Association
% Douglas Jenkins
2964 Antioch Road, Warsaw, VA 22572

Sept 21, 2019

RECEIVED

OCT 03 2019

ASMFC

1127 Morris Avenue
Point Pleasant, New Jersey 08742
September 27, 2019

Mr. Max Applebaum
FMP Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200 A - N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Applebaum:

I am writing in response to an article I recently read in the Asbury Park Press, in New Jersey, regarding possible changes to the striped bass fishery that are being considered.

Being a boat owner for the past 50 years and having actively fished out of the Manasquan Inlet for the past 11 years, I have seen a dramatic decline in the number of bass found in our near shore waters. We also winter in the Florida Keys and have witnessed a staggering downturn in the number of fish landed in that fishery as well.

I realize that this is a multi-faceted problem with numerous causes and an equal number of possible scenarios for rectifying said problem.

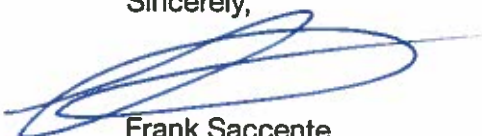
However, one option that was mentioned in the article that can be easily implemented that would partially alleviate the strain on not only the striped bass fishery but all other fisheries as well, would be making circle hooks mandatory.

I have been using them for years, regardless of the species I am targeting, and know that they have dramatically reduced the fish mortality rate on the throwbacks. During the fluke season alone, with minimum size in New Jersey being 18 inches, we could fish for days and catch countless fish before getting one of legal size. I shudder to think about how many of those throwbacks would wind up dead if I were not using circle hooks.

I am always amazed at the slaughter I witness on surrounding boats when I see so called **sportsmen**, de-hooking a fish by holding it by its mouth (which usually results in breaking the fish's isthmus - resulting in certain death) then ripping the hook from its gut and throwing it back into the water. The use of circle hooks would eliminate the majority of this carnage.

If we are supposed to be protecting the fishery for generations to come, we need to make some changes that will undoubtedly not please everyone. However, the implementation of a circle hook policy is one small step in the right direction that will help not only the striped bass fishery but all other species as well.

Sincerely,



Frank Saccente

STRIPED BASS

Fishing Survey

RECEIVED

OCT 03 2019

ASMFC



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has released the [Draft Addendum VI](#) to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass for public comment. **ASMFC is accepting public comment through October 7, 2019 at 5pm.**

Review the Draft Addendum and submit comments to the following contact information:

Mail: Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201

E-mail: comments@asmfc.org (subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

Phone: (703) 842-0740 **Fax:** (703) 842-0741

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking additional public input from New York stakeholders. Use this survey to select your preferred options for the 2020 striped bass season. **This survey will be accessible through October 28, 2019.** Please include as much information as possible and any additional suggestions you think should be considered.

Please note: All fields are required. Incomplete surveys will not be submitted or accepted.

Please submit this survey by email to: FW.Marine@dec.ny.gov.

1. WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE?

New York Other

If **New York**, please identify your county of residence: NASSAU

If **other state**, please identify your state/place of primary residence: _____

2. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR NEW YORK TO HAVE FISHING REGULATIONS CONSISTENT WITH NEIGHBORING STATES?

Very Important Important Neutral
 Unimportant Very Unimportant

3. IN GENERAL, ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR EXPERIENCES FISHING FOR STRIPED BASS OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS?

Very Satisfied Somewhat Satisfied Neutral
 Somewhat Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Haven't Fished

4. WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY METHOD OF FISHING?

Recreational/For-Hire Commercial Both Recreational & Commercial

If you selected Commercial only, skip to question 15

5. HOW DO YOU PRIMARILY PARTICIPATE IN RECREATIONAL FISHING?

Private Angler Party/Head Boat Charter Boat (up to 6 passengers)

6. HOW MANY FISHING TRIPS HAVE YOU MADE TARGETING STRIPED BASS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

0 trips 1-5 trips 5-10 trips 10+ trips

7. WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR FISHING PRACTICE?

I never harvest legal-size striped bass.

I mostly release legal-size striped bass, but occasionally keep one.

I usually take an opportunity to harvest a legal-size striped bass, but I mostly release.

I take every opportunity to harvest a legal-size striped bass.

I never catch a legal-size striped bass.

I don't fish for striped bass.

8. WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY METHOD OF RECREATIONAL FISHING?

Select all that apply



Surfcasting/Shore-fishing



Pier-fishing



Party/Charter Boats



Private Vessel



Other, please describe: _____

9. WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED SEASON FOR STRIPED BASS FISHING?

Spring

Summer

Fall

All-year

10. WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED ADDENDUM OPTION?

- Option 1: Status Quo
- Option 2: 18% Reduction for both recreational and commercial sectors.
- Option 3: 20% Reduction for recreational sector, 1.8% reduction for commercial sector

11. WHERE DO YOU PRIMARILY FISH FOR STRIPED BASS?

Marine & Coastal District
(south of George Washington Bridge)

Hudson River
(north of George Washington Bridge)

If you selected 'Hudson River', skip to question 14.

12. IF YOU SELECTED OPTION 2, WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED SUB-OPTION?

- Option 2-A1: 1 fish, minimum size 35"
- Option 2-A2: 1 fish, slot size 28"-35"
- Option 2-A3: 1 fish, slot size 30"-38"
- Option 2-A4: 1 fish, slot size 32"-40"
- Conservation Equivalency:

Please describe your preferred size/slot limit or modification to season dates below:

Please skip to question 19.

13. IF YOU SELECTED OPTION 3, WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED SUB-OPTION?

Option 3-A1: 1 fish, minimum size 36"

Option 3-A2: 1 fish, slot size 28"-34"

Option 3-A3: 1 fish, slot size 30"-37"

Option 3-A4: 1 fish, slot size 32"-40"

Conservation Equivalency:

Please describe your preferred size/slot limit or modification to season dates below:

36" FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS

Please skip to question 19.

14. HUDSON RIVER: SELECT THE OPTIONS YOU WOULD MOST PREFER?

Please select all that apply.

Require the use of circle hooks for striped bass fishing.

Delay the opening of the Hudson River season (ex. Sometime in May).

Delay the opening of the Hudson River but allow catch and release.

Close the Hudson River season early (ex. Sometime in October/November)

Change the Hudson River slot limit

Eliminate the >40" fish. (This is small fishing mortality reduction, so it would need to be paired with other options)

Please skip to question 19.

15. COMMERCIAL FISHING: WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY METHOD OF FISHING?

Select all that apply

Gill-net Hook and line Trawl

Other, please describe: _____

16. DO YOU HAVE A STRIPED BASS COMMERCIAL HARVESTERS PERMIT?

Yes No

If you selected 'No', skip to question 19.

17. DO YOU HAVE FULL-SHARE OR PART-SHARE OF STRIPED BASS TAGS?

Full-share Part-share

18. WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED SEASON FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING?

Spring Summer Fall All-year

19. WHICH OF THE CIRCLE HOOK REGULATIONS DO YOU SUPPORT?

- No change to fishing hook regulations
- Requiring by law/regulation that circle hooks are used when fishing for striped bass with bait.
- Requiring states to educate the public in use of circle hooks when fishing using bait.

Please provide additional suggestions:

20. PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL:

DEC will send a summary of survey results to all participants. Your email address will not be affiliated with your survey responses. Your opinion is important to us and your answers will be kept strictly confidential.

lov2fish@a.VERIZON.NET

Please submit this survey by email to FW.Marine@dec.ny.gov or by mail to NYSDEC Marine Resources, 205 N. Belle Mead Rd, East Setauket, NY 11733

RECEIVED

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

OCT 03 2019

ASMFC

Dear Mr. Appelman,

Please consider this communication a comment on the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass in the 2020 fishing season on the Hudson River. As a Charter Captain on the Hudson for twenty years I have seen a steady decline of larger fish. I would like to see the plan be more aggressive regarding the slot limit and not target the larger breeders. I feel that these breeders are of immense importance to the entire population and should be protected by whatever means available. The eggs these fish are carrying are the future of the fishery and need to be preserved until the breeding cycle is completed!

I would also suggest that the use of treble hooks for bait fishing be eliminated, and that circle hooks be required for bait fishing.

In addition, it is important to provide appropriate release strategies to all recreational anglers as well as hook removal methods. This was suggested by many at the New Paltz, New York hearing in reference to improving the release mortality numbers that were presented in the Draft Addendum.

In summary: My preferred management scenario is as follows:

GEAR RESTRICTRIONS

- 1) No treble hooks for bait fishing
- 2) The use of circle hooks only when fishing natural bait in the Hudson River

BAG LIMIT / SIZE LIMIT. I feel the 2019 slot limit of 18-28 is appropriate for the fishery but in lieu of that limit:

Sub Option 2-A2 bag limit 1 28" - 35" but NO TROPHY FISH

OPEN SEASON

Hudson River 4/15 - 6/5

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important facet of our fishery.



Captain Richard E. Booth
Reel Happy Fishing Charters
P.O. Box 932
Cairo, New York 12413
reelhapy1@gmail.com
September 27, 2019

RECEIVED
OCT 03 2019
ASMFC

Craig A. McIlrath
New Jersey Recreational Surf Fisherman
38 Mill Park Lane
Marlton, NJ 08053
blandmail@comcast.net
856-905-1711

Max Appelman
FMP Coordinator Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Comments on the DRAFT ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DRAFT ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS.

Paragraph 2.2.1 Status of the Stock. Please do not accept the 2018 benchmark stock assessment for use. Describing it as the latest and best and therefore worthy of use is disingenuous and gives up in the pursuit of accurate data. The assessment is based on MRIP data that is wrong. The Striped Bass Management Board and NOAA need a test—a way to check MRIP recreational catch estimates. Currently there is no amount of recreational catch that isn't possible in MRIP statistician's eyes ...while fisherman see the estimates for what they are - a fraud. This is an easily identified example in a plethora of unbelievable Marine Recreational Information that is causing mismanagement of our recreational fish:

- It is not true the "Average Size" of shore-caught stripers in CT were 19.6 lbs. - MA 33.4 lbs. - RI 33.8 lbs. And the grand prize for "Average" Shore caught stripers is RI in 2018 at 45.1 lbs.!

Paragraph 2.2.3 Status of the Fishery Recreational Fishery Status In my experience the 9% fish that is estimated to die is extremely high. Over the past 25 years I have spent extensive time in New Jersey's littoral zone. Never once have I ever seen a dead striped bass washing around in the surf or washed up on the beach. If your estimate was accurate surely, on a day when surf casters are lined up shoulder to shoulder hauling in stripers I would have seen at least one dead fish release floating in the wash or being eaten by sea gulls. Further thinking this through, if there are that many dead stripers, they are contributing to the food chain of something if not a striped bass then something a striped bass probably eats. I don't see anywhere that you have taken into account the adverse impact decreasing release mortality has on the food chain of striped bass.

3.1 Proposed Management Scenarios I prefer Option 2: Equal Percent Reduction with sub-options 2-A1 and 2-B4.

3.2 Circle Hook Provision For 25 years I have conducted my own extensive study surf fishing with bait using j-hooks. I use a high/low rig tied with 5/0 j-hooks attached to two inch dropper loops. Fishing with j-hooks in this manner I have always had lip hooked fish and NEVER had a gut hooked fish regardless of species and size. The problem is not with j-hooks but rather with attaching them to a long line that can be gulped directly into a fishes internal organs. On the other hand I have lost countless fish using circle

hooks on pulley rigs with a long line. Please allow for the appropriate use of j-hooks. Additionally, you should consider regulating the use of plugs with 3 treble hooks. I prefer Option A.

6.0 Tables and Figures Table 1 and 2 Total removals is described as "harvest and discard/release mortality". Based on this I thought Total Removals = commercial harvest + commercial dead discards + recreational harvest + recreational release mortality, but it does not in either Table 1 or 2. For example in Table 1 row 2018 the numbers add up to 55,825,499 not 40,991,978. Please explicitly state in the Table Column header Total Removals the equation that is used to calculate Total Removals. An example column header would be Total Removals (commercial harvest + commercial dead discards + recreational harvest + recreational release mortality).

Tight Lines,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. McIlrath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Craig A. McIlrath

RECEIVED

10/4/19

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St. Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA. 22001

OCT 07 2019

ASMFC

Max and ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

I am an avid fisherman who has been fishing for stripers for about 45 years. In my prime I used to fish for them 75–100 nights a year from various jetties in New Jersey. I still fish from the jetties and surf more than most people. However, since I've grown older and developed back problems, I fish for them from my boat more often. I target large stripers and enjoy fishing in an occasional tournament. I've caught documented 40 pound plus stripers from shore in NJ for each of the last five decades. I hope to be allowed to make it a sixth in 2020. Still, I have always viewed myself as a conservationist. Even back in the days when we were allowed to keep 10 stripers at 18", I released the vast majority of the stripers I caught, including a couple over 40 lbs. Striper fishing has deteriorated in recent years up and down the east coast so something has to be done to restore our striper stocks.

I believe that **option 2 is the best option** as it will require an 18% decrease in mortality for both the commercial and recreational sectors. I am adamantly opposed to option 3 that would result in an 20 % reduction for recreational fishermen and only a 1.8% reduction for the commercial fishermen. To go a step further I believe striped bass should be made a no-sale or gamefish along the entire east coast and I have been advocating for that for many years. While the commercial catch may seem relatively insignificant, the illegal sales of striped bass are a big problem in the states that allow stripers to be sold and these illegal fish are not added to the commercial harvest numbers.

As I stated, **I prefer option 2 and more specifically option 2A1 that would result in a 35" minimum size** for the following reasons:

1. **The fastest way to restore the fishery is to protect the 2014 and 2015 year classes. The 2015 year class resulted in the largest recruitment of 1 year old fish (in 2016) since 2004! Some of these fish will be reaching spawning size in 2020. There was above average spawning in these two years so we should be protecting them rather than forcing people to target them.**
2. In the early 1990's the fishery was rebuilt by establishing higher size limits. That allowed the many smaller fish to spawn for several years before they could be harvested. It worked then and it will work again now.
3. Larger fish have a higher mortality rate when released than smaller ones. Should you decide to set one of the slot limit options as the coastwide standard, you are going to increase the C&R mortality rate on the larger fish. Fishermen will be throwing back larger fish that are more likely to die and then keeping a smaller fish that would be more likely to survive if it was released.
4. While larger fish do lay more eggs, we know that the large ones do not spawn every year. The medium sized ones may be the best breeders and by letting them go, they may be able to grow and reproduce for many years.

5. Option 2A1 would result in an 18 % reduction which would be the same as required for the commercial sector. I am opposed any of the slot limit options but particularly options 2A2 and 2A3. I understand that some of the conservationists will favor the maximum cut of 21% in 2A4 but that would not be fair unless the commercial sector has to reduce by that same percentage.
6. Having slot limits would unfairly punish those who like to fish for trophy sized fish and those who like to participate in tournaments. **When a reduction is necessary, all sectors of the recreational community including the C&R fishermen, those who fish for food and those who target large fish should all have to cut back equally if possible.**
7. The 35" minimum size limit is the easiest to understand and enforce.
8. Slot limits would hurt small businesses like Tony Maja Products. Most people do not troll with wire line outfits and bunker spoons to catch slot fish.

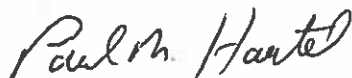
Additional comments

I believe that there are better ways to restore this fishery than those listed in the addendum. **The sub-options in the addendum will all result in higher C&R mortality.** I support conservation equivalency and am hopeful that New Jersey will develop options to allow the harvest of one fish at 28" or greater by establishing seasons. This would allow fishermen to continue to take home fish of various sizes rather than being forced to target specific year classes. I suggest that seasons be established where fishing for stripers would be closed during the spawning period or during the summer when the water is warm and the C&R mortality rate is much higher.

Another option that would work if further developed by the technical committee or by individual states through conservation equivalency would be to allow fisherman to take home a fish from perhaps 28"-32" **OR** one at 43" or greater. That might pacify those who want to take home a smaller fish to eat as well as those who prefer to harvest a large fish. An option like this would also protect the medium and medium/large fish which are probably our best breeders.

We need to take action to reduce the C&R mortality rate. I support option C which would require states/jurisdictions to promote the use of circle hooks by developing public education and outreach campaigns. However, regulations requiring the mandatory use of circle hooks would be difficult to enforce and would not be fair to certain fishermen. For instance, surfcasters such as myself have \$1000 plus long-distance surfcasting rods and reels. It is difficult to find bunker within casting range. Then when you are lucky enough to snag one, what are you supposed to do, reel it in put a circle hook on it and then somehow hope that it swims out a hundred yards or so through the breakers and back to where the bass are? Still, there are many other ways to reduce C&R mortality such as properly handling and quickly releasing the fish, using larger hooks, setting the hook quicker, using heavier tackle so as to not stress the fish, etc. All the various ways to reduce C&R mortality along with the benefits of circle hooks should be included in any educational programs.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Haertel

RECEIVED

10/01/2019

MR MAX APPELMAN
FMP COORDINATOR
ASMFC

OCT 03 2019

ASMFC

RE STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM VI

DEAR MR APPELMAN

I AM A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN AND HOLD A NEW YORK STATE FOOD FISH LICENSE WHICH INCLUDES A STRIPED BASS ENDORSEMENT.

I REQUEST THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT OPTION 3

MY RECOMMENDATION IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 - PAGE 13 PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE DRAFT ADDENDUM (COPY ATTACHED). THIS ALONE SHOULD CONVINCE ANY FAIR MINDS REASON THAT OPTION 3 IS THE ONLY FAIR AND EQUITABLE OPTION.
- 2 - IN ADDITION THE FOLLOWING TWO E-MAILS (#1 + #2) FROM CAROL HOFFMAN OF THE NYS DEC LEAD GREATLY SUPPORT TO THE ADOPTION OF OPTION 3.

E MAIL #1 - THIS EMAIL SHOWS THAT OVER THE LAST 16 YEARS (2003-2018) NEW YORK HAS UNDERHARVESTED ITS COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS QUOTA IN ALL BUT ONE YEAR.

10/01/2019

THE FOLLOWING YEAR WE HAD TO REPAY THE SMALL OVERAGE
OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND ACTUALLY UNDERHARVESTED
OUR REDUCED QUOTA BY 118,103 POUNDS.

IF THE COMMISSION LOOKS AT NEW YORKS LANDINGS FOR
THE LAST 5 YEARS (2014-2018) - THE WILL SEE THAT
OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS NEW YORK HAS HARVESTED LESS
THAN 73% OF ITS QUOTA. THE CUMULATIVE UNDERHARVEST
FOR THIS 5 YEAR PERIOD WAS 1,096,186 POUNDS.

IN ADDITION

E MAIL # 2 - THIS E MAIL INDICATES THAT NEW YORKS
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS QUOTA FOR THE PERIOD 2003-2014
COULD HAVE BEEN 1,061,060* IF WE HAD SIMPLY
IMPLEMENTED A 28" MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT AND NO UPPER
SIZE LIMIT. IN EFFECT NEW YORKS COMMERCIAL STRIPED
BASS FISHERMEN HAD THEIR STRIPED BASS QUOTA REDUCED
FROM 1,061,060* TO 828,293*. THUS NEW YORKS COMMERCIAL
STRIPED BASS FISHERMEN LOST THE OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST
AN ADDITIONAL 2,793,204* OVER 12 YEARS.

THE FACTS ARE VERY CLEAR - OPTION 3 IS THE
ONLY FAIR CHOICE

RESPECTFULLY



John G. Mihale
153 California Place North
Island Park, NY 11558

Draft Addendum for Public Comment

Option 3: The Commercial Sector Takes a Smaller Percent Reduction

An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the commercial sector takes a smaller percent reduction than the recreational sector. In this option, the commercial sector will take a 1.8% reduction in quota [the product of the percent total reductions needed (18%) and the proportion of 2017 removals from the commercial sector (10%)]. The commercial percent reduction in numbers of fish is subtracted from the total reductions needed to achieve F target in 2020 to calculate the reduction the recreational sector must take. This reduction is subtracted from the 2017 recreational removals estimate to calculate the new target percent reduction for recreational removals (20%). Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.

The rationale for this suite of options is the commercial fishery is managed via a static quota system which keeps effort and removals relatively constant from year to year, while the recreational management program does not have a harvest limit. This has allowed recreational effort and, therefore, removals to increase with resource availability and other social and economic factors.

Recreational Fishery Management:

The tables below provide a suite of options for both the ocean and Chesapeake Bay recreational fisheries. Size limits are in total length. Bag limits are per person per day. The Board will choose one option from each table, and all states would be required to implement the selected sub-option for striped bass fisheries in their respective state waters.

Sub-Option 3-A: Ocean Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement).

Under all sub-options, New York would be required to submit a proposal that achieves an 18% reduction in removals relative to 2017 levels for the Hudson River management area, and Pennsylvania would be required to submit a proposal that achieves an 18% reduction in its state waters (catch from Pennsylvania and the Hudson River is not covered by MRIP).

Sub-Option	Bag Limit	Size Limit	Season and Trophy fish/season	% change from 2017		
				Harvest	Release Mortality	Total Removals
3-A1	1	36" min	Same seasons and trophy season as 2017 (see Appendix 1)	-48%	+4%	-20%
3-A2	1	28"-34" slot		-52%	+4%	-22%
3-A3	1	30"-37" slot		-51%	+4%	-21%
3-A4 [^]	1	32"-40" slot		-49%	+4%	-21%

[^]Under sub-option 3-A3 and 3-A4, ocean trophy fish fisheries would be capped with a 37" and 40" maximum size limit, respectively.

Striped bass tag history

EMAIL # 1

Hoffman, Carol (DEC) <carol.hoffman@dec.ny.gov>
To hugapuck@optonline.net Copy Maniscalco, John D (DEC)

1:40 pm

3 attachments View Download

Hi John,

Attached is the info you recently requested.

NY Striped Bass Tags:

Year	#tags issued	#Tags USED	% TagsUsed	Pounds landed	Quota	% of Quota
2003	75,810	68,354	90.2%	753,261	828,293	90.9%
2004	76,799	70,367	91.6%	741,668	828,293	89.5%
2005	79,727	70,560	88.5%	689,821	828,293	83.3%
2006	84,326	73,613	87.3%	688,446	828,293	83.1%
2007	88,048	78,518	89.2%	731,461	828,293	88.3%
2008	88,653	73,263	82.6%	653,100	828,293	78.8%
2009	93,350	82,574	88.5%	789,891	828,293	95.4%
2010	90,101	82,356	91.4%	786,797	828,293	95.0%
2011	93,546	87,405	93.4%	855,271	828,293	103.3%
2012	82,508	67,128	81.4%	683,752	801,855	85.3%
2013	87,128	76,206	87.5%	823,801	828,293	99.5%
2014	80,978	52,902	65.3%	531,535	828,293	64.2%
2015	72,428	45,569	62.9%	516,251	795,795	64.9%
2016	70,396	50,958	72.4%	575,012	795,795	72.3%
2017	74,759	61,569	82.4%	701,313	795,795	88.1%
2018	76,605	52,218	68.2%	591,176	795,795	74.3%

Options for Addendum VI:

Option 1: Status Quo

Option 2: Commercial – 18% reduction; Recreational -18% reduction

Option 3: Commercial 1.8 % reduction; Recreational – 20% reduction.

The whole document may be too big to send, but here's a link to the ASMFC website:

Copies of Draft Addendum:

http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassDraftAddVI_PublicComment_Aug2019.pdf
http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassDraftAddVI_PublicComment_Aug2019.pdf

or via the Commission's website at

<http://www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input> (<http://www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>)

Public comment:

More striped bass info

E MAIL # 2

Hoffman, Carol (DEC) <carol.hoffman@dec.ny.gov>
To hugapuck@optonline.net Copy Maniscalco, John D (DEC)

11:09 am

▶ 2 attachments View Download

Hi John,

Got your phone message.

- Prior to Addendum IV (from 2003-2014) NY's Commercial Striped bass quota would have been 1,061,060 lbs. (if we fished on 28" fish).
- But since NY fished on 24-36" fish, our quota was reduced to 828,293 lbs., by conservation equivalency.
- Our (1,061,060 lb.) quota was reduced by 25%, to the current 795,795 lbs. in 2015, as per Addendum IV. Because we are fishing on 28" minimum sized fish, we did not have to take a further reduction due to conservation equivalency.
- Unfortunately, the TC and management Board did not give us any "credit" for fishing on our current 28-38" slot size, and not taking the larger fish. (They also didn't give MA any "credit" for only fishing on 34" and larger fish, and not taking the smaller fish).
- We would most likely have to show conservation equivalency if we were to change our regulations to only have a 28" minimum, and no maximum, commercial size., and I'm not sure that either the TC or the Board would approve this.
- If they were to approve this, you might have to take an additional quota pound reduction, and, regardless, you would definitely get fewer tags than if we keep the current slot size.

Carol Hoffman

Biologist 2 (Marine), Division of Marine Resources

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

205 N Belle Mead Road, East Setauket, NY 11733

P: 631-444-0476 | F: 631-444-0449 | carol.hoffman@dec.ny.gov (<mailto:carol.hoffman@dec.ny.gov>)

www.dec.ny.gov (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/>) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/NYSDEC) (<https://www.facebook.com/NYSDEC>) | [t](https://twitter.com/NYSDEC)

(<https://twitter.com/NYSDEC>)

10/4/19

Mr. Max Appleman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200a-n
Arlington, VA 22201

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Appleman:

OCT 07 2019

ASMFC

I have read the Draft Addendum V1 To
Amendment 6 To The Interstate Fishery
Management Plan For Atlantic Striped Bass and am
offering my comments below.

This draft plan addendum V1 reports that Striped Bass have been over fished, allowing more fish to be taken than targeted in the plan. Your mismanagement of our public resource will continue unless it is changed. Consequently management of the fishery needs to mandate regulations that allow an escapement of enough spawners to provide future target populations including catch and release. Such regulations specify method of take, size limits, seasons, and creel limits or pounds of commercial take. The fact that over fishing has occurred proves that the coinciding existing regulations have not worked to limit take against coinciding target populations.

The use of inline circle hooks has been known to diminish the kill of released bait caught Striped Bass for almost 20 years as noted in the references cited in the draft addendum. Data are available to estimate an additional survival of bait fished Striped Bass caught on inline circle hooks after release against those caught on j hooks, at least for recent years of data for the Hudson Estuary. Why does the draft plan not mandate inline circle hooks for bait fished Striped Bass in the Estuary? Enforcement of such a regulation would be no more onerous than enforcement of any other regulation now being used to manage the Striped Bass fishery, no matter what the regulations are? Additionally, states have the authority to mandate inline circle hooks just as they have the authority to impose seasons, size and creel limits including slot limits, or gill net mesh size.

Straight line circle hooks should also be mandated for all other bait fishing where the bait angler has a chance to catch fishes. Those other fishes also managed with size limits, creel limits and seasons, helping to insure the survival of those released fishes caught coincidentally with Striped Bass.

Page 16 of the Draft, 3.2 Circle Hook Provision should be re-written to read :

limits including slot limits, or gill net mesh size.

Straight line circle hooks should also be mandated for all other bait fishing where the bait angler has a chance to catch other fishes than target species. Those other non-target fishes also managed with size limits, creel limits and seasons, helping to insure the survival of those released fishes caught coincidentally with Striped Bass.

Page 16 of the Draft, 3.2 Circle Hook Provision should be re-written to read :

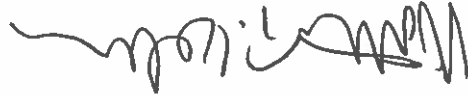
This section proposes that inline circle hooks are mandated for use when fishing with bait to reduce mortality of released Striped Bass and all other fishes in recreational and commercial fisheries.

Education of fishers relating to the use and value of inline circle hooks for attaining management goals is notable but should in no circumstances be mandatory coincidental to or in advance of establishing inline circle hook regulations! And the final amendment if clearly written and in understandable lay terms could serve as a basis for and education should any state wish to provide its citizens with such materials.

In summary, mandate inline circle hooks for

commercial and recreational bait fishing for Striped Bass in all waters managed by parties of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter T. Keller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Walter T. Keller

OCT 7 2019

Dear Mary:

Let's get real & save the Striper.

- ① Moratorium on all Striper Fishing Contests. - Target huge females - We are losing Millions of eggs. = New Fish.
- ② Charter & Headboat should be considered Commercial: Customers pay to catch fish - They are buying their catch.
 - ②a. Captain and Mate should be limited to 2 fish each per week, Not 2 a day, $\times 2 \times 7 = 28 \text{ fish/wk.} - 2 \text{ guys.}$ They give their daily catch to customers who skunked or to others to reach their limits.
- ③ We need Stringent State by State Catch Regulations - N.Y., New England States all the way up to Nova Scotia Summer Time - Size & Limits when Stripers are up North. Va., Carolinas and South Winter Time Size & Limits. Hudson River, Del. River & Bay, Chesapeake Bay = Spawning Grounds = More Size & Limits.
- ④ No more Commercial Net Fishing - I was in Safeway 10/1/15 3 Fish on Ice - 12", 14", 15" - That is Criminal - Crack down on Commercial Fishing Rules.
- ⑤ Stop the Protection of Sharks - They are Taking a huge Toll.
- ⑥ Seagulls are eating the baby fish all over the shore - Stop their protection.
- ⑦ More Stringent Size & Slot Regulations of larger fish. Let the over

RECEIVED
Recreational fisherman catch 2 smaller Stripers
so that he can provide dinner for his family.
These fish are not easy to catch in the Mid-Atlantic
because of weather, 3 mile limit, and lousy conditions.
"SmarTly Figure iT Out,"

Sincerely,
B. Clint

Lewes, De.

302-644-7305

Oct 02, 2019
1016 N.Y. Ave.
Manassquan NJ
08736

FMP
1050 N Highland St
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Max Appelman,

This my .02^e on the Striped
Bass Draft Addendum #1

MAKE / GIVE STRIPED BASS
GAMEFISH STATUS

the ENTIRE EAST COAST

NO COMMERCIAL HARVEST

ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

Thanks

DONALD CORDTS

Donald Cordts

Priority Fishing Charters, LLC

140 Jerry Lane
North Kingstown, RI 02852
401-741-5648
www.priorityfishingcharters.com



September 27, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appleman,

Please consider the following comments relative to Draft Addendum VI to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. I am the owner and operator of Priority Fishing Charters located in Point Judith Rhode Island. Most of my clients chose to fish for Striped Bass on their fishing charter. The decisions made by the ASMFC's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board regarding Addendum VI have the potential to negatively impact my business.

My preferred alternative in Draft Addendum VI is **Option 1: Status Quo** with the following rationale.

The document's goal is to reduce total removals by 18% compared to 2017 levels in order to achieve F target in 2020. The document goes on to further state that decreased effort in the ocean fishery in 2018 resulted in an 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 under the same management measures. With this information, it can be expected that status quo measures can meet the purpose of the Draft Addendum.

The PDT's harvest projections were developed using 2018 landings and dead discard estimates and an average of removals from 2016 – 2018 as a proxy for 2019. While I can respect the PDT's attempt at that time to account for interannual variability in recreational catch estimates as they developed 2019 projections, updated information is now available. Considering the Commission Strategic Plan's guiding value of "timely response to new information through adaptive management" I would recommend the PDT consider preliminary 2019 estimates for Waves 1-4 (Assuming wave 4 is available as scheduled) and an average of 2017 and 2018 Wave 5 and 6 estimates to project harvest for the full 2019 season and have that information available to the Management Board for the October Meeting. The 2016 recreational catch estimates across many species were considered problematic and artificially inflated and I would argue that Striped Bass fit that category. Using the most currently available data to inform the Management Board and getting away from the 2016 estimates seems appropriate.

Priority Fishing Charters, LLC

140 Jerry Lane

North Kingstown, RI 02852

401-741-5648

www.priorityfishingcharters.com



I am troubled by the fact that **all** the alternatives listed for Option 2 and 3 will increase discard mortality by 3 to 6 percent from current levels under Status Quo. These management alternatives will only add to the 49% of total mortality of Striped Bass resulting from fish that are released by recreational fisherman to die and I cannot see how this would be a desirable outcome in the eyes of the management board. An objective of many other FMP's is to turn dead discards into landings. In fact, according to Article 1 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact that created the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, "the purpose of the compact is to promote better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell, and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries, and by the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause. Options 2 and 3 in this document are going the opposite direction.

I am opposed to the fact that **all** the sub-alternatives listed for Option 2 and 3 will only impact recreational fisher's that would like to take one fish home to eat. Someone who fishes strictly as a catch and release recreational fisher will not experience any change in opportunity under Option 2 or 3 even though their activity is responsible for mortality just like a recreational fisher who wishes to take a fish home to eat. Option 1 Status Quo has been shown to meet the addendum's stated purpose and it does not increase impacts to some recreational fishers more than others.

Anecdotally, I have fished for Striped Bass for almost 40 years and I have witnessed low abundance and high abundance. During the 2019 season in Rhode Island, I have seen and caught very good numbers of all sized Striped Bass on for hire recreational fishing trips. Fishing reports up and down the coast are in-line with my observations. The stock appears healthy with a promising future and I believe the pro-active actions taken by the board in Addendum IV are more than enough to maintain the Striped Bass resource for sustainable use. Selecting Option 2 or 3 and any of the sub-alternatives in the document will result in economic hardships to businesses like mine that bring the non-boat owning public out to catch a Striped Bass to eat. Under Options 2 and 3, my mortality will increase as I will need to fish longer and release more fish to die as I work to catch my clients a fish to take home to eat. I cannot support that as a viable management option. Status Quo is the best option in the document for the Striped Bass resource and for the recreational fishing community as a whole.

In addition to maintaining Status Quo for 2020, I would recommend that the Striped Bass Board initiate a future action that would explore ways to reduce recreational discard mortality in ways that are fair to all recreational fishers, recognize non-compliance and intentional poaching within the commercial and recreational fisheries as a source of significant mortality in this fishery, develop incentives for states to step up enforcement, and thoroughly review the biological reference points for determining stock status and management of this important species.

Priority Fishing Charters, LLC

140 Jerry Lane
North Kingstown, RI 02852
401-741-5648
www.priorityfishingcharters.com



Lastly, the document references the Block Island Transit Zone (BITZ) which is up for review by NOAA Fisheries in consultation with the Commission. The overwhelming majority of my fishing trips for Striped Bass occur in the area of the BITZ and I can say enforcement of the Striped Bass prohibition continues to be a nightmare in 2019. I have seen an increased enforcement presence in the area, but fishing for Striped Bass inside the BITZ continues. The unfortunate results of the latest Striped Bass assessment may preclude opening the BITZ for Striped Bass fishing at this time, but the possibility should be considered again in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Addendum. I rely on the Striped Bass resource to earn a living and certainly would not benefit from a wasted resource in the short or long term. My recommendations are based on a day to day presence in this fishery for many years and I hope the Management Board finds them helpful.

Respectfully Submitted,
Capt. Rick Bellavance

Priority Fishing Charters
140 Jerry Lane
North Kingstown, RI 02852
401-741-5648
rickbellavance@gmail.com

October 4, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Phone: (703) 842-0740 Arlington, VA 22201

Re: ASMFC Draft Addendum 6 Recommendations

Dear Max,

As a recreational striped bass fisherman, please consider my comments below on the upcoming Addendum which seeks to rebuild the striped bass fishery.

I recommend a general selection of Option 2, which stipulates that 18% reductions area applied equally between recreational and commercial sector. The purpose of this effort is not to place "blame" on any sector of the fishery. The pain of having to reduce mortality on bass needs to be felt equally.

I recommend Option 2-A1: 1@35"; anticipated total removal reduction of 18%. This size limit is close to the 36" size limit which was shown to work in the past. And I don't think ASMFC should feel confident enough in trying a slot limit with how much pressure is put on this fish up and down the coast throughout its life.

I recommend Option 2-B1: 1@18"; anticipated total removal reduction of 20%. Common sense dictates that, to allow the fish to propagate, we need to protect the young ones. This option puts our best foot forward in that regard.

I recommend nothing be done with regard to circle hooks at this time. It will be too difficult to enforce and in many states, there isn't enough ECOs as it is.

Lastly, I recommend the ASMFC to no longer allow for conservation equivalency proposals. They leave too much "wobble room" for states to game the system. All states need to simply accept the fact that the fish has been beaten up badly. Now is not the time to allow states the freedom to tweak their regs. Honestly, I don't trust the ASMFC's ability to truly weight these things out. It gets too political and takes away from the idea of "whats best for the fish".

Sincerely,



Albert S. Albano
601 Chester Rd.
Sayville, NY 11782

Capt. Dave Monti, 399 Greenwood Ave., Warwick, RI... charter captain

I am an active member of the RI Party & Charter Boat Association, secretary of the American Saltwater Guides Association board of directors and 2nd vice president of the RI Salt Water Anglers Association.

However, today I am speaking on my own behalf with much of my personal opinion recommendations developed with input from these three fine organizations that all want to grow fish to abundance so there are more fish in the water for all to catch, eat and/or release.

I believe both recreational and commercial fisheries should be **treated equally** as they both share in this fishery. And should share in the reductions.

I am an advocate this year of **one fish at 35" which is option 2 A1**. The larger fish are not here in abundance, but smaller fish are, so we would be killing fewer fish in this way. And most importantly, we would be protecting the fish in the water now, the smaller ones, and can focus on large egg bearing fish with possible slot limits as we move towards the Amendment process in the next year or two.

All of the groups mentioned above, including me, believe that catch and release mortality has to be lowered. The fact that the striped bass fishery is now 90 percent catch and release is a good thing, can you imagine the number of fish killed if this was 50 percent. And, as we heard earlier this month bluefish are now overfished and overfishing occurring. Bluefish catch and release has risen too, from 20% in 1981 to 1985, to 65% from 2010 to 2014 and is likely higher today.

So catch & release is growing as an angler practice and it is a good thing. We just have to lower mortality.

I believe that the use of circle hooks will lower catch and release mortality. Several studies cited in Addendum VI relate that circle hooks work. In one study j-hooks were 3.7 times more likely to result in deep hooking than circle hooks, and deep-hooked fish were 17 times more likely to die when released, **so I support option 3.2 B mandatory use of circle hooks.**

However, I believe this is not enough. We need to consider an aggressive catch & release education program for multiple species that may include circle hooks, the mandatory no gaffing regulation that Massachusetts passed last year, as well as in depth training for anglers on how to handle fish properly for release, taking of photos, etc.

Mandatory online catch & release training could be viewed as a condition to get a recreational license, permit or to be put on a registry. Conditional in much the way shark education and a quiz via an online module is a necessary condition for obtaining a highly migratory species permit.

I am sure these and other suggestions could be developed as part of a comprehensive catch and release program.

Lastly, under conservation equivalency, the State of Maryland has overfished striped bass by 218 percent. On paper their conservation equivalency proposal met the criteria, however, as is often the case with conservation equivalency programs it does not work out in practice, in this case it was disastrous. If states are granted conservation equivalency there should be consequences if they do not meet proposals, just as commercial fisheries have to pay it back the next year if they overfish.

So I am **in favor of option 2 B1, one fish @ 18"** for the Chesapeake Bay Fishery as they just continue to overfish and kill the fish that travel out of the Bay and into the ocean, they decimated the 2011 year class of fish we were all depending on.

Thank you for the consideration.

L'IL TOOT CHARTERS INC.



Capt. John Rainone

35 Ocean View Dr.
Narragansett, RI 02882
401-783-0883
401-497-6683 cell

E-mail LilTootCharter@Gmail.com
www.LilTootCharter.Com

Comments on Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am a charter boat captain and have been running my business since 1980. I have lived through the striped bass moratorium right to the present time. I believe the moratorium was a good tool at the time to help bring back the stocks. As a business at the time it was not too much of a hardship due to the many other fish stocks available at the time. Blues, Pollock, Mackerel, Cod, Squeteage, Fluke, Scup, Tautog, Tuna, Bonito, Sharks, Mahi-mahi, and Marlin. At the present time we have lost some of those species, and the new regulations on some species do not excite anglers to go fishing, so we can not lose or be regulated out of another fishery.

I would like to see a status quo on the striped bass for 2020. The addendum calls for an 18% decrease, and the 2018 season was 18% less then the 2017 season so it has been proven that 1 fish at 28 inches can restrain harvest as required. 1 striper over 28 " gives us a chance to continue our businesses, and the mortality rate does not change from the previous years. Our Industry over the years has pretty much maintained the same level of effort, and one important issue is once we catch the limit of 1 striper per person, or if the stripers do not bite that good, we switch over to bottom fishing or some other species. We do not keep catching stripers and stressing them out or killing them from the fight. Most charter boats use wire line and the effort is not a lengthy battle. Many recreational anglers like to use the lightest braid or mono line possible to give them a better fight for sport, but this is a 2 way sword. The longer you battle a striper, the longer its chances on survival after release go down significantly. On paper it looks like this is a great way to fish. Catch 20-40 stripers in a day and release all of them or maybe take 1 home for dinner, but in reality how many of those stripers caught and fought till exhaustion really do survive, or just swim to the bottom and die. When there are striper tournaments or the commercial season is open you will find many stripers floating on top of the water either dead or exhausted hoping to be able to swim back down.

One of the reasons I do not like the slot limits is because now you are encouraging more catch and release to get a fish that fits the limit to take home. This means more pressure, effort and mortality on the striper stocks. Even when fishing with circle hooks and an eel with proper line test, once you fight a striper and you catch a fish in the 30-40"+ range, it sometimes takes a very long time to be able to revive that fish to send it on its way. Many anglers do not try to revive a fish during the peak fish bite. They want to get that fish off their line and get down to try to catch another fish as quickly as possible. This is the mentality of many sport fish anglers, and they feel that they are not hurting the species because they are releasing all the fish they catch and maybe might take 1 home or not for dinner. I believe this sport fishing idea or catch and release fishing should be changed to "Playing with the fish, which results in more chance of mortality than they think" All of the options in the document except status quo only affect

recreational anglers that want to bring 1 fish home to eat. Catch and release anglers will not be affected by this action and that is not fair. Status quo is the only option fair to all anglers.

The fishing mortality rate calculated in the last assessment is based on new MRIP numbers that are very high and probably not accurate. Our industry has a mandatory reporting requirement which is more credible data and time sensitive, but you do not use it but rather take the MRIP surveys as gospel truth. I have heard customers talking to the MRIP people and most of the time it is not accurate reporting with what we caught. Some people say only what they did, as others say what the boat did etc. Some people never caught anything but didn't want to feel embarrassed and they made up catch effort. There has to be a better way, or it is time that our industry is allowed its own part of the quota. We have the data to prove what we catch and release and our industry is pretty much on a level keel... We are not growing as the recreational community is. Every year there are more and more recreational fishers out there and on shore, but the For Hire Fleet stays pretty much at the same level, but we will be out of business if there are no fish for our customers to catch... People will not go on the For Hire boats if they lose 1 bass at status quo, and Sea Bass gets cut more than it is already. The Fluke size is getting larger and larger, and the same thing is happening to that stock... more effort to catch a keeper is producing more and more discards and higher mortality rates. The largest amount of dead fish comes from releasing recreationally caught fish. As charter boats we tend to catch our fish and go do something else. We also mostly use techniques that target larger fish so our release fish numbers are lower than private and shore based anglers. More fishermen need to stop playing with the fish and catch their 1 fish and go do something else. Go catch fluke, sea bass, scup, and blues.

Thank you for allowing my comments.

Capt. John Rainone

Captain Sloan Gurney
Charter Boat Black Rock
P.O. Box 158
Orient, NY 11957
Captainsloan@gmail.com
(516) 819-5731

Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Sept 26, 2019

I am a life long career charter fishing business owner, operator and captain in Orient, NY spanning back over three decades. If the current striped bass proposed regulations do not consider the points I state below, great hardship will be caused to me and others in similar businesses, especially on the North Fork of Long Island and likely put many out of business. I appreciate the consideration of my comments and others but fear the consideration for a minimum size limit greater than 28" will not only cause such great hardship to me and others but will initiate a government created monopoly for Montauk charter businesses who will have a size limit only they alone can achieve. This will cause many or most customers of ours to flock to the one port that will have an obtainable minimum size limit.

A minimum of 28" will be sustainable, be fair and equitable to all businesses, and satisfy the proposed reductions as outlined below. It is the same proposal supported by the North Fork Captains Association and most all of the many like businesses on the North Fork and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Captain Sloan Gurney

Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

After reviewing all the data, it is very clear the For Hire fleet has had minimal effect on striped bass stocks.

- 1) We are asking to consider giving us back a For Hire striped bass category and let us maintain a 28" minimum at 1 per person.
- 2) We would be willing to give up April & December.
- 3) We would also consider giving up fish for crew.
- 4) We are in favor of circle hooks for bait fishing and no treble hooks for lures.

Keeping the size limit down will keep mortality down. It is very important for us to offer a fish for our customers to take home to eat. This is what our customers expect when they fish with us, not to catch and release.

If this is not possible then we would support 28"-35" slot. The conservation equivalent 30" fish would Not be good for us at all as most of the fish we have in The Long Island Sound are 26"-29", again creating more unnecessary mortality.

C.J. Victoria

Fishing Charters



October 7, 2019

TO: Michael Armstrong

Dear Michael,

I wanted to follow up with you about Amendment VI.

- Fishery is changing:

As a charter captain in Boston I do see a change in the striped bass fishery. I am not sure if I see a reduction in Striped Bass or more than a shift of the striped bass fishery.

History has shown that Striped Bass are moving more north than they have before. This can be due to many factors climate being the main influencer as I know you are aware of.

Massachusetts is the leader among the Atlantic States for Striped Bass conversation. We already have regulations that would result in an 18% reduction in catch. Commercial and Charter party boat landings are down for the past two years 2018/19.

- ASMFC option:

Therefore I support Status Quo option. Adding a slot would inevitably increase catch and release mortality.

- Catch and release mortality:

Catch and release as you know is creating the most mortality than any other striped bass fishery. Changing size regulations will not reduce the catch and release mortality. Having any type of slot will only increase the mortality due to the increase in catch and release from fishermen who would otherwise keep a 28" fish.

- Charter/Party and Recreational fishing: concern that has come to light at the recent meetings is having the recreational fishery lumped together with the charter/party boat fishery. Regulations to lower recreational mortality doesn't completely apply to the charter/party industry. I would urge Massachusetts to be the leader in the ASMFC to separate the recreational fishery from the charter/party boat industry.

- Circle hook option:

I choose option C for the circle hook amendment. This would force states to have educational public service under ASMFC while Massachusetts keeps the circle hook regulations just passed this spring.

Thank you,

Robert Savino

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200-A
Arlington, VA 22201

My purpose in writing is to both provide comment on the Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI and to question the fairness and biological validity of this process.

First, and not surprisingly, the proposed management scenarios disproportionately penalize the recreational component of the fishery. The Addendum states: “Roughly 90% of annual Atlantic striped bass recreational catch is released alive, of which 9% are estimated to die as a result of being caught (referred to as “release mortality” or “dead releases”).” These seem like reasonable estimates, though there are no real hard data to support these contentions. However, the Addendum goes on to state: “...a large component of annual striped bass mortality is attributed to release mortality – accounting for roughly 48% of total removals in 2017 (49% in 2018).”

I have a difficult time reconciling how a 9 percent C&R mortality rate accounts for nearly half of all removals from the stock. This contention becomes more contentious when one considers that, according to the ASMFC representative at the public hearing, “data” for recreational effort and harvest come largely from voluntary angler surveys.

Regardless, it would be fair and reasonable to assume a similar level of release mortality in the commercial harvest, possibly even greater as they typically have higher minimum lengths and primarily use natural bait (and there are empirical data demonstrating higher C&R mortality rates using natural bait, particularly when not using circle hooks, which are not required for commercial fishermen).

I found it interesting that the Addendum uses the term “Commercial Discards” rather than “Release Mortality” to describe the commercial impact. In questioning this I learned from the ASMFC representative that figures for commercial harvest, and release, come from mandatory reporting requirements, the results of which she described as 100 percent accurate. No data set is 100 percent accurate. Even the Addendum acknowledges this is based on “Limited data on commercial discarding of striped bass ...” from only two states, supplemented with loose “literature values and values from the previous assessment,” to determine the discard mortality rates for commercial fishing.

Meanwhile, we’re comparing this to harvest estimates provided by the Marine Recreational Information Program for the recreational fishery. It is, if you’ll forgive the cliché, like comparing apples and oranges, but does conveniently make a more favorable argument for commercial fishing.

The stated purpose of the Addendum is to address overfishing. Proposed measures involve changes in bag and size limits, yet the Addendum acknowledges that using bag limits and size limits does not reduce fishing effort and subsequent release mortality. The Addendum solution to “address dead releases” is to consider “controls that are better designed to reduce the number of fishing trips that encounter striped bass...” in other words, closures. And I’m guessing those closures would only be applied to the recreational fishery.

The Amendment further notes that an extensively modified statistical catch-at-age model

(SCA) currently used for management was considered to allow the modeling of two biologically distinct stocks. However, the SARC Panel instead recommended the single-stock SCA model. Again, was this to better achieve the desired result of demonstrating greater impact from recreational fishing and reduce the impact of further regulation on the commercial fishery?

Most of the thresholds indicating the stock is overfished are based on female SSB. The latter is essentially a measure of breeding age females - fish 28 inches or greater and 8 years or older. It fails to take into account the glut of sub-28-inch fish that have invaded our waters for the last several years. Over the last three years we have witnessed an absolute surfeit of small "schoolie" stripers in Maine that should enter the SSB category in the next two to three years. I questioned the ASMFC representative as to whether these fish were considered in the model and received a somewhat vague "yes." If that is in fact the case, the proposed measures may not even be necessary.

The ultimate goal of these scenarios is an 18 percent reduction from 2017 levels. Yet according to data provided in the Addendum, we've already achieved that in 2018. That should make this whole exercise moot. Yet the ASMFC representative acknowledged the 2018 data are not included in the model.

My primary objection to proposed measures is that they unfairly penalize recreational anglers in the State of Maine, and blanket, coast-wide management scenarios are inadvisable and biologically unsound when there are fisheries so disparate as Maine and Virginia. With its 3,478 miles of coastline, Maine accounts for a disproportionately low 0.0035 percent of the Atlantic coast recreational striped bass harvest, and 0.0024 percent of the total harvest, according to 2015 figures. Previous measures implemented to achieve a 25 percent reduction in harvest in Maine has had a negligible effect on harvest mortality and recruitment coastwide, but has had a substantial negative effect on recreational opportunity as well as a significant financial impact on the communities and ancillary infrastructure of guides, outfitters, tackle shops and others in a state where outdoor recreation represents one of the chief economic resources.

Proposed scenarios, or even temporary closures might be acceptable in states where the fishery is open year round, but would have further significant impacts in a state like Maine, where the striped bass resource is only available for approximately three months.

Maine formerly had a very progressive and biologically sound slot limit, allowing anglers to keep one fish a day between 20 and 26 inches. This recognized the greater abundance and higher level of compensatory mortality from removing younger (non breeding age) fish. Fishing related mortality becomes less compensatory and more additive as anglers target larger fish. Furthermore, fish that survive to a larger size have a much greater probability of reaching breeding age and status and thus replenishing the population. So removing larger fish has a greater long-term negative impact on the resource.

The slot limit also provided more opportunity, in some cases the only opportunity for more northern and eastern regions of the State where larger fish are scarce or absent. It was a better option for consumers as well because smaller fish experience lower levels of bioaccumulation of PCBs and heavy metals like mercury. Several states - particularly those with larger minimum length limits - have issued health advisories recommending anglers not eat striped bass more than once a month.

In order to comply with the ASMFC 2015 recommendations to achieve a 25 percent reduction in removals by fishing, the Maine Department of Marine Resources explored several options, including trimming the slot limit. Rather than modifying the slot limit to achieve a conservation equivalency, they ultimately chose to go with a 28-inch minimum, largely to be consistent with other states in the region.

For the reasons stated above, Maine should have sought a CE through their slot limit; shame on us. We have also implemented a mandatory circle hook requirement, which should afford further credit toward a CE. However, the ASMFC representative stated that likely would not be the case because there are insufficient data to support the contention that using circle hooks reduces fishing mortality. Meanwhile, there seems to be enough data supporting the claim that not using them increases catch and release mortality. Curious!

Here in Maine we have sacrificed, and waited. We stand on the verge of a remarkable resurgence in our recreational striped bass fishery in the form of several very strong juvenile cohorts. Yet we're about to see it once again snatched away, in large part as a result of excessive mortality occurring in states to our south, particularly the mid Atlantic. Rather than applying simple, broad reductions to the Atlantic coast, where striped bass fishing occurs in very different and disparate situations, perhaps we should consider the unique characteristics of individual states, and apply the burden more fairly and appropriately.

If we are in fact resigned to accepting one of the proposed options, I would vehemently oppose anything other than Sub-Option 2-A2. Sub-Option 2-A1, a 35" minimum would certainly achieve an 18 percent reduction. It would probably achieve a 95 percent reduction because we simply don't have many fish in that size class. Of the approximately 300 fish I caught and released this year, only two exceeded the 28-inch legal minimum currently in place. Furthermore, slot limits proposed in 2-A1, 2-A3 and 2-A4 all direct fishing effort toward larger, older breeding age fish, and thus have greater impact on long term productivity. They would certainly reduce catch and keep mortality, but do little to reduce catch and release mortality, though admittedly, overall angling effort and participation would likely decline measurably.

Respectfully submitted,

Capt. Bob Humphrey

Registered Maine Guide, U.S.C.G. licensed charter captain

Member, Maine Association of Charterboat Captains, National Association of Charterboat Operators

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August 21, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

(Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I am writing in response to the proposed Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI. I have fished stripers for over 35 years, mostly on the surf. It is one the most exciting experiences to land a striper regardless of size; however the big ones get your heart pumping. This fishery is in danger and I am supportive in doing what it takes to get it back to a healthy stock level. I understand that something must be done sooner than later to achieve these goals. I have read the draft addendum VI and it is a lot to absorb but I understand most of it.

I would I make the following comments to be considered:

1. **Regarding Circle Hooks** –I have always used circle hook when fishing for stripers. They are excellent for making a humane hookup in the jaw. I never had a gut hookup with the circle hook. **It should be mandatory at all times when targeting Stripe Bass.**
2. **Fishing During the Spawning Season-** In my area the Delaware River is the main spawning area. If we want to be serious about minimizing mortality rates let's start here. **A total ban of any striped bass fishing during the spawning period in spawning rivers. The time frame is relative to the spawning cycle in each of the respective rivers.**
3. **Bag Limit/Size Limit-** I would be in favor of **1 bag limit per day of a slot of 30" – 38"**.

The commercial regulations are too liberal in MA, RI and CT. They should be held to the recreational standards for minimum sizes during this period that we are trying to improve the striped bass stock levels.

I hope my input and thoughts are helpful. As a recreational fisherman I want to do my part to improve striped bass fishing for now and the future.

Sincerely,

Manny Butera

Manny Butera
Mannybc3@gmail.com

Center for Ecological Economic and Ethical Education

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27 September 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Via email: comments@asmfc.org

Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Sir:

I have been fishing for striped bass in Ipswich, MA (and occasionally on Cape Cod) now since the mid-1950s, and have watched this fishery go from *good* to *bad* to *nonexistent* to *good* again and then to *great*, and now back down to *bad* going toward *terrible* (but hopefully not again *nonexistent*, though I have fears about that)...

I am also a professional economist who has studied the economics of the recreational and commercial striped bass fisheries in Massachusetts as well as in other Atlantic coastal states. Their downward trend is worrisome.

Personally, I think this fishery needs some much stronger restrictions in order to restore this great fishery to the levels of abundance we saw between around 1995 and 2003. My own preference would be to place a complete **moratorium** on all harvests of these special fish, and so to allow catch-and-release fishing only for this species. However, this is not an option that you are currently entertaining. I am also concerned that the 18% reduction in harvests that you advocate provide only a 50% chance of successful recovery, which isn't really good enough.

However, given the options that you are considering, I would like to support the use of **slot limits** in this fishery because we need to lay off the largest female breeders in order to protect and preserve them for reproduction.

Consequently, I would support **Sub-Option 2-A2** which protects stripers of over 35" from recreational harvest. For the Chesapeake Bay, I would favor **Sub-Options 2-B3 or 2-B4**, for like reasons, without a trophy season.

I also strongly favor the mandatory use of **circle hooks** for all bait fishermen, and some encouragement of the use of such hooks as well for lures and flies. I also would like to see you require that all recreational anglers use **single barbless (circle) hooks** in their bait, lure and fly fishing, although you are not considering any such plan.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to preserve, protect and restore this special fishery back to its full potential.

Most sincerely and respectfully,



Frederic B. Jennings Jr., Ph.D.

Dear Max Appelman
FMP Coordinator
ASMFC
RE: Striped Bass Draft Add. VI
10/7/2019

*Unequable regulations

What is the difference between a depleted fishery and a super healthy one managed so strict that its not worth while trying to harvest one? This could only make one stakeholder group happy, the catch and release group. Catch and release anglers boost on social media about releasing 50 Striped Bass a tide, or how they released a 50" Striped Bass that remained out of the water several minutes while a full photo shoot ensued. The best available science shows that 9% or more of released Striped Bass die. So the guy releasing 50 a tide just killed 4.5 Striped Bass 450% his harvestable limit. The guy that camera posed minutes removing a 50" Striped bass from the water may feel good and brag about his release but that Striped Bass isn't going to live and reproduce a million eggs.

The Addendum VI. proposed options only restrict anglers that want to harvest a fish, 18%. Commercial fisherman, Shore Anglers, Charter Customers and recreational angler who want to eat their catch will be the ones penalized 18% in harvest. But what about the Catch and release angler who kills 450% his limit, where is his reduction? What does he lose? Of course this mode (catch and release) wants an "Abundant" supply of fish to kill. Maybe catch and release anglers shouldn't fish Sundays that would equate to a near 14% for them. Then catch and release could share in a reduction.

*Maryland

Comparing State MRIP harvest data, the state of Maryland has an overwhelming share of harvest. Maryland harvest 1,000,000 fish on average per year. When you combine Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine these four states only harvest 200,000 fish per year, or 800,000 less fish than that one state of Maryland. So why is Maryland privilege to regulation less than 1 @ 28"? Why wouldn't Long Island Sound, Narragansett Bay and other inshore bodies of water be privileged for lesser/smaller regulations?

(2016) 1 @ 28" from 2 @ 28" is returning positive reductions in harvest, what page is that data displayed in Addendum VI? Why not give a longer opportunity to this regulation to return further positive results, before setting new ones?

We study Striped Bass every trip, we measure and record: length, location, water temp and lure color on every fish caught. Since 2014 I have seen patterns change in Striped Bass migration and habitat. Nothing stays the same year to year but two. Find the bait and find the fish and 2nd we need to stop depleting the Striped Bass food supply, the Menhaden. 2019 really showed how great and healthy the population that exists. Just keep feeding them, cut down the commercial Menhaden harvest, keep Striped Bass out of commercial nets and this species will continue to thrive.

I support Status Quo for this fishery!!!

**Capt Mike Pirri
FlyingConnie Charters
Clinton, Ct.**

Rachel Dean
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Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

comments@asmfc.org, 5 PM October 7

Option 3-B1, Preferred Management Option. I support 3-B1 as written because it uses bag limit reductions to make a 29% reduction in total removals of the recreational fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.

Option 1: Status Quo, not in favor.

Option 2: Equal Reductions, not in favor. The recreational sector accounts for 90% of the fish harvested. The recreational sector fluctuates because it is managed predominately through bag and creel limits. Managers cannot account for availability of fish and fishing effort. The recreational sector needs to be held accountable for these uncertainties if ASMFC hopes to rebuild striped bass stocks.

The commercial fishery is held accountable through hard quotas with payback requirements.

In the State of Maryland, the CEs approved under Amendment 6 and subsequent Addenda I-IV were effectively used to reallocate commercial reductions to recreational fishermen. The State of Maryland recognizes the inequities imposed on commercial fishermen in its fisheries. If Option 2 is selected, Maryland should have the ability to apply reductions to commercial and recreational fisheries at their discretion to correct inequities.

Conservation Equivalencies. Conservation Equivalencies are used to circumvent mandated reductions, and fishery managers are being forced to develop CEs to keep their jobs. In addition, CEs are being used to form political alliances and fishery management quid pro quo. Conservation Equivalencies are hampering the ability of States, ASMFC, Striped Bass Board Members, and Fishery Managers from managing striped bass stocks effectively.

Because CEs will be permitted under addendum VI, CEs should be heavily scrutinized for ***enforceability, measurability*** and ***equivalency***.

- Limiting fishing to certain hours of the day is not enforceable.
- Prohibiting catch and release is not enforceable.
- Public outreach and education about ethical handling practices are not measurable.
- Decreasing the minimum legal size of striped bass will not lead to reductions in recreational harvest in the Chesapeake Bay. Recreational fishermen do not stop fishing when they catch their bag limit quickly. They will continue to catch and release for recreation. Lowering the minimum size will continue to contribute to harvest totals and release mortality.
- Increasing the minimum legal size of striped bass will not lead to significant reductions in recreational harvest or release mortality. Fishermen will continue to catch and release until they catch a fish of legal size, and they will continue to catch and release for recreation. Increasing the minimum legal size of striped bass will not significantly reduce recreational harvest totals.
- Shortening seasons during waves of low recreational effort does not significantly reduce recreational harvest and is not equivalent. Purposefully timed season closures during waves of high effort will reduce recreational harvest and release mortalities.
- Trophy fishermen in the Chesapeake Bay spring fishery had few interactions with SSB in recent years. Limiting the trophy season in the Chesapeake Bay is not equivalent to limiting interactions during peak times of angler interactions.

- Season closures should be imposed during summer months to significantly reduce catch and release mortality that occurs in high temperature waters.

Socioeconomic Impacts. The 2019 report from Southwick Associates, should not be included in a public document if the information is not peer-reviewed. Including such a report downgrades the importance of commercial fisheries and communities along the coast and shows bias towards the recreational sector.

Circle Hook Provision. No preference. They are only as effective as the person on the other end of the rod.

I have been running my Reel Therapy fishing charter company for 20 years. We specialize in catching Striped bass on fly & light tackle. Since inception, I have never had a single barb on any hook on any lure or fly. Ever. I use a rubber coated landing net, We don't do striper trips when the air and water temps are high. I hold the fish in the water until camera is ready, and fish are always held horizontally.

If a client wants to take a bass on a charter, my boat rule is one fish per angler, Captain NEVER takes an additional fish. This bass must be between the legal limit of 28 to no greater than 32". Anything bigger swims away after correct revival. Now that Stripers are declared overfished, there is a no kill rule on my boat until stock is deemed healthy. End of story.

I intentionally preceded with the above info because if more anglers adopted these methods we would all benefit. It's very clear that the ASMFC's focus on an ultra-high mortality rate during catch and release is being used to shift focus away from implementing harvest reductions. I also urge the technical committee to reject nonquantifiable conservation equivalency proposals.

The number one cause of catch and release mortality is deep hooking when fishing with bait. The ASMFC needs to be more vocal to the recreational angling community and stress the correct usage of circle hooks combined with improved catch and release habits.

There must be an effort to change the regulations as they pertain to pre spawn aggregation staging areas, Starting with the spring of 2020, either delay the season opener, close the areas or make it catch and release only. These bass need to be protected on these grounds as they stack up like cordwood directly before and after spawn to feed. Its obvious to all of us on the water that much of the decimation of key brood stock is killed off at this time by the catch and filet crowd. Take action immediately.

As a steward of the waters I fish and work on and someone that has a vested interest in the health of our striped bass stocks I cannot accept the harvest options that the ASMFC is offering and submit selections as requested, but under protest. The best available science has declared the SB "overfished and overfishing is occurring", yet you continue to opt for maximum sustainable yield management and give a green light to removals. On top of this you give us options that only have a 50/50 chance of success. Unacceptable.

Striped bass are far too important for your standards to be so low and the ASMFC needs to stick to its own rule of a 10-year timeline for rebuilding SB stocks. The focus right now should be on maintaining abundance and ensure that if good spawning conditions are presented, we have the maximum amount of brood stock showing up to spawn.

Option 2: Equal 18% percent Reductions of quota on BOTH recreational and commercial sectors-

Sub-Option 2A-1 -1 fish @35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery

Sub-Option 2B-1- 1 Fish @ 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

In favor of: Expansion of the Black Sea Bass Fishery, initiate coastwide gamefish status and bigger enforcement budget should be a priority. PROPER catch and release methods need to be promoted and spread far and wide. Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Capt. Paul Eidman, Reel Therapy charters, 9 Williamsburg drive, Tinton Falls NJ 07753

Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI – Ken Whiting Comments(Edited)

September 30, 2019

I am an avid recreational saltwater fisherman and a member of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club.

I live in Harwich, Ma, with my wife. I am a retired Mechanical engineer.

My opinion of Striped Bass conservation measures and included comments herein, do not reflect the opinion or position of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club.

I recommend that Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions be enforced with Sub Option 2-A1 be enforced with a bag limit of 1 fish per day at a length of 35" minimum.

I am also in favor of Option 3.2 Option B., requiring the use of circle hooks when fishing with bait.

In addition to the above requirements I would like to suggest that the fishing season for striped bass in Massachusetts be from May 1st through November 1st, to reduce the number of discarded fish that struggle to survive from being caught from spent energy during the cold months in Massachusetts.

My wife and I do consume saltwater fish that I catch, including Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass, Cod, Haddock, Tautog, and occasionally Striped Bass and Yellowfin Tuna.

My feeling is that limiting the bag limit of Striped Bass to 1 fish per week at 35" inches or greater in length verses 1 per day would provide more than enough food for the average family for a week. This would reduce the number of Striped Bass that are killed and wasted rather than consumed. Kept fish should be tagged similar to how deer are tagged in Massachusetts to control the number of fish caught. Fishing for Striped Bass should cease, once the days or weeks bag limit is obtained.

PCB's and mercury in Striped Bass, play a major factor in our choice not to eat the flesh of Striped Bass on a frequent basis, with the other available species, which have lower levels of these contaminants.

Increasing the number of Environmental Police to patrol our waters would also help reduce the number of legal and sub legal size fish that are kept illegally.



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www.fish-ri.com

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI
Dear Mr. Appelman,

I would like to submit the following comments regarding Draft Addendum VI to the ASMFC's Atlantic Striped Bass FMP.

After carefully reviewing the Draft Addendum and recognizing the importance of Striped Bass to my businesses and my clients, I recommend **Option 1: Status Quo**.

Option 1 is the only option in the document that will not increase dead discards. All the sub-options listed in Options 2 and 3 will cause me to fish harder than I do now to catch keeper striped bass with more fished released that will end up dead according to your catch statistical analysis. I provide a means for the non-boat owning public to access the Striped Bass resource and most of my clients have the hope and expectation of being able to bring one striped bass home to eat. Once we catch our daily limit, we generally move onto another species for the remainder of the trip. As the document states, 49% of all Striped Bass mortality comes from recreational discards. Some of the sub-options could see that rate go as high as 55%! I see that as wasteful and a total disregard for the striped bass fishery, and not in line with the goals of the ASMFC.

Options 2 and 3 will negatively impact recreational anglers who wish to take a fish home to eat, but a catch and release recreational angler will not be impacted in any negative way. Mortality comes from all recreational fishers and management measures should be developed that recognize what drives mortality caused by all recreational fishers, not just those who want a fish to eat. Our clients rarely take part in the fishery management process, our voice is theirs and we believe they should be treated fairly.

As stated in the document, Option 1 Status Quo has the potential to constrain mortality to the required F rate. This occurred in 2018 and we believe it will again in 2019. We expect recreational catch estimates to decrease in 2019 from 2018, and 2018 was already down 18% from 2017 levels under Status Quo measures. This would suggest

our current measures already constrain catch to a level necessary to allow growth of the stock and meet the objectives of the Draft Addendum.

In Rhode Island, few species mean as much as Striped Bass to my industry. The proactive measures taken by the Striped Bass Management Board in Addendum IV took an economic toll on my business. It has been a difficult time adjusting and adapting to Addendum IV and I am finding it harder and harder to remain profitable, unnecessarily adding more restrictive Striped Bass regulations will hurt me further. Selecting measures that impact only those who take fish home and promote increased release mortality is premature when measures to address release mortality have not been contemplated.

Additionally, the Striped Bass Management Board should consider increased non-compliance that will result from stricter regulations placed on a stock that is so abundant to the recreational fishery. Non-compliance and illegal poaching of fish is rampant under the current regulations, this is evident when one reviews different State enforcement social media postings. Selecting management Option's 2 and 3 will ultimately increase and reward bad behavior while punishing recreational fishers that abide by the regulations. Managers should develop measures that address illegal fishing and curb release mortality prior to looking to harm recreational fishers that pride themselves in following the rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Addendum. The Boards decisions are very important to our short- and long-term future and we hope our comments help to inform those decisions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Capt. Thomas Logan Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Logan Jr.', written in a cursive style.

September 26, 2019

Max Appleman, FMP Coordinator

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N Highland Street, Suites A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Appleman,

I offer the following comments regarding Draft Addendum VI to the Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan based on my 50 plus years in both the commercial and recreational striped bass fisheries here in Massachusetts and nearly 30 years in fisheries biology and management for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Regarding the three major options I fully support Option 2 which aims to reduce total annual removals by 18% by imposing equal reductions in removals from both fisheries sectors. Here in Massachusetts the fisheries sectors are relatively indistinguishable, except for the sale component, so it is difficult to determine not only the level of data confounding with regards to tracking of landings and discards but predict how such regulations will achieve the desired results and benefits. There will also be enforcement issues for the maximum size if the commercial fishery can keep fish larger than the recreational maximum.

Regarding the suite of Option 2 sub-options for the Ocean Recreational Fishery I feel that sub-option A2 is in essence just a 28" minimum size which for most of the coast is status quo and do not see how that would equate to any substantial reduction in landings. The other three sub-options would be expected to at least provide a few year's reduction in harvest, until the present large year classes recruit to the minimum end of the slot limit. However, any increase to the minimum size above the current 28" coastal size limit adversely affects the shore and small private boat modes ability to harvest fish as the habitat utilization of striped bass largely changes at around the current minimum size. I would suggest that the PDT and the Board consider transitioning way from class discriminating minimum sizes and deal with the myriad of recoupment issues that always water down expected harvest reductions over time as anglers adapt compensatory behaviors by adopting a license based tag system that would be expected to better control harvest. I cannot recall one instance where well designed season, bag and size limits equated to the desired or calculated results, there are just too many variables that effect fish species harvest and most are outside the boundaries of fisheries management.

Lastly, while I fully support the mandatory use of circle hooks for the bait fishery for striped bass, as well as other species, I would not expect any large reduction in discard mortality from this move and the positive effects of such regulations would be extremely difficult to predict or measure.

Should you have any questions concerning my comments I can be reached at the contacts listed below.

Sincerely, Paul G Caruso

pkcruso@comcast.net

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October 4, 2019

Mr. Max Appelman; Fisheries Management Plant Coordinator
ASMFC 1050 N. Highland St - Suite A-N. Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman;

I am a recreational, charter and commercial rod-n-reel fisherman fishing Buzzards Bay, Eastern RI Sound, the Elizabeth Islands, Vineyard Sound, all around the western areas of Martha's Vineyard, and Noman's Island. I have been a licensed Captain since 1985 and have over 40 years of experience. My father was a charter fisherman so I grew up fishing. I have seen all kinds of ups and downs, with all fish species, so have learned not to panic and to accept changes.

It is totally impossible to consider the stock of striped bass without first considering the major impact that the explosion of the Seal population has had on the stock. Over the past 20 years, the seals have invaded the area, living on Gull Island in the Elizabeth Island chain, and now on Noman's Island. It started with a few harbor seals which are small animals with minimal impact. Then the huge Gray seals started to arrive around 2007 & 2008. These animals are enormous with many weighing 500+ pounds and some topping out over 800 pounds. These animals live and feed here all year, every day and now number close to 1000 animals in my area. They have simply vacuumed the bottom of the forage fish including all of the food that held striped bass in our area such as scup, sea bass, tautog, choggies, crabs, eels, lobsters, mussel beds, etc. This impact has been most significant on the waters from 35' of depth to the shallows. They have simply stolen the food that held the stripers along the once storied, striped bass waters of the Elizabeth Islands. I am not saying that we cannot catch a few fish but the fishery has declined.

There are millions of small striped bass. We catch an average of 50-75 fish per trip (sometimes 100-125+ fish on jigs 1 at a time) when the fish are moving through from late May to early August. These fish are on small bait the majority of the fish are in the 22" – 27" range with keepers mixed in, but very few fish over 15 pounds. We see dozens of acres-sized schools at the same time. There is not a shortage of striped bass in total numbers.

However, there is simply a shortage of forage food to hold the larger fish. Currently, New Bedford harbor is full of small bass and bluefish feeding on peanut bunker. There are few big ones, but not many.

Inshore there are less striped bass, especially larger striped bass. But offshore, where there is plenty of larger food such as herring and squid, there are plenty of large fish. We catch them regularly tuna fishing.

For Striped Bass, we do not have an issue of coastal stock decline, *we have an issue of Near Coastal Stock Displacement* cause by the 30,000+ seals living between Monomoy Island, Muskeget Island, Nantucket, the Elizabeth Island and now as far west as Block Island, RI and Montauk and estimated at 1.3 million seals in the western Atlantic.

The seals are the largest reason that the striped bass population is not healthy in the near coastal waters. This is a FOOD issue for Striped Bass and other species. In order to manage Striped Bass, we must first manage the ECO SYSTEM, including the needs of Human Beings, **and deal with the huge marine mammal problem.**

When looking simply at Striped Bass management, it is well known that Recreational fishermen take roughly 90 % of the stock. Much of this is due to inadvertent dead discard due to catch and release fishing. Commercial Striper fishermen have already been penalized significantly. Now down to 2 days per week. No weekend days allowed. No fishing during Holiday periods. The problem is as much about allowed effort as to the availability of fish. When I go out with a charter and catch 25 big stripers on a Wednesday morning but have to throw them back because it is not a commercial day, they simply do not stick around for a few days like they used to do. There is simply not food on the bottom to hold them since the seals have decimated the food. We are catching fish that are migrating through and then they just keep moving.

I advocate for the recreational anglers to be able to continue to keep one fish of any size above 28", per angler. This includes fishing on charter-boats. Most people only want one small fish to eat. This will allow us to get a few keeper stripers while putting less pressure on the fishery applied by catch and release fishing. More of those 22"-27" fish will be 28" keepers next year. Slot limits are a farce as they put way too much pressure on a certain year classes. Raising the current recreational size limit to 32", 35", or 36" will simply put MORE pressure on the fishery by promoting more catch and release mortality.

Once again, there is no effective way to deal with Striped Bass management without dealing with the MASSIVE Problems caused by totally protected, unmanaged, and extremely overpopulated Gray Seal population that has put incredible strain on the coastal ECO System.

I hope you take the time to reach out to me by phone so that I can further discuss this issue. Please e-mail me macatac.sportfishing@gmail.com so we can set up a time to speak. I am very passionate about my coastal eco system and about all fish species, including our storied striped bass. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Capt. Todd MacGregor
Fairhaven, MA

Mr. Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
comments@asmfc.org

September 4, 2019

Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman and ASMFC Representatives,

I am a citizen from New York. I have been fishing for striped bass since the late 1970s, when the striped bass fishery was in its historic decline. The 1980s were essentially the “lost years” for striped bass. Dwindling stock assessments were ignored. It took congressional action to implement effective conservation measures.

I’ve watched the development of every Amendment and Addendum since. Regulations for striped bass were relaxed in the mid 1990s after the fishery was declared restored. I remember long and fierce debates in New York, when large numbers of conservation-minded fishermen were over-ruled, and asked to “compromise” so that much more liberal catch limits could be rushed through the process. We were told not to worry - there was a biomass target, with built-in corrective measures if regulations proved to be too liberal.

That never happened. The spawning stock target was essentially ignored.

My own observations today track closely with the stock declines as documented by the ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee. Scores of local fishermen have also noted how striped bass have grown more and more scarce, though small areas of good fishing remain. This seems no different than the epic striped bass fishing that still existed locally on Block Island during the last great stock crash.

ASMFC minutes, covering many years leading up to today, illustrate in detail how the scientific assessments by the Technical Committee projected the fishery would decline. Here we are in 2019. The striped bass is overfished by the agreed measures, and as predicted in the ASMFC minutes.

Decisions made by the ASMFC Board have consequences. ASMFC appointees at the helm during the now SECOND major management failure with striped bass, must accept this as their legacy.

In looking for a root cause to the problems we now have with Striped Bass, there is compelling evidence of flaws in the policy-setting and decision-making framework within the ASMFC. One thing is very clear: Science-based decisions on biological reference points, and levels of fishing mortality needed to adhere to those reference points, should NOT be made or influenced by political appointees who have no relevant background or training.

At this point, entertaining any discussion of a “status quo” option, or relaxing reference points, would just be another data point supporting the idea that ASMFC cannot effectively manage a stock.

Getting back to the options we are being asked to comment on today: Option 2A-1, 1 fish at 35 inches, is the only option that is easy to understand and implement, and close enough to the size limit that worked in helping to restore striped bass the 1990s.

I have no comments on the other proposals, especially those in the mid Atlantic bay areas. The public was never given a reasonable explanation for the disappearance of the dominant 2011 year class. It is beyond my comprehension that the ASMFC would be contemplating anything other than radical reductions in producer areas to prevent the loss of another important year class.

Overall, I am highly disappointed that the public has not been offered more information and has not been allowed to comment more broadly on Striped Bass.

There is very little detail on how the numbers might work under a range of more conservative options that might have an even greater chance of restoring the fishery, and in a shorter period of time.

Similarly, the Board voted against allowing the public any discussion on the reported mis-use of conservation equivalencies, even though the Technical Committee noted the difficulty in predicting how Anglers would react to rule changes in certain areas.

In closing, let me ask state and ASMFC representatives to remember the gravity of the decisions that the public has granted in you. This is the SECOND historic decline in the striped bass stock. There are hard decisions to be made here, and you have the responsibility to influence the outcome for this resource for the long term.

John Papciak
Montauk, NY

Captain Donald Johnson
Hot Pursuit Charter Fishing
19009 Old Baltimore Rd.
Brookeville, MD 20833

October 2, 2019

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming discussions for the implementation of new regulations, particularly as they relate to the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay. I am a life-long resident of the state of Maryland and have fished on these waters for over 45 years. I currently own and operate a charter fishing business in Edgewater, Md. I am concerned over the welfare of the industry and particularly of the striped bass. I have some suggestions that I hope you will consider.

I have reviewed the proposed regulation changes for 2020 and I must say that I have some concerns. The first issue that I noted is there is almost no discussion on shortening the fishing season, rather all measures seem to address the size and creel limits. I truly believe that the only way to achieve reductions in the striped bass kill rates is to reduce the season. I have a few comments and suggestions.

If the only measure taken is to increase the minimum size, as I have seen in the draft, I believe this may actually increase mortality. Most of my customers want striped bass. If the minimum size is increased to 20 inches or more, then most charter captains will continue to pursue striped bass throughout the season. What I have observed over years of fishing is that in the beginning of the season larger fish are more plentiful. As the season progresses it becomes harder to catch legal size fish. Currently there are some days when we catch 5 undersize fish to get one legal (19 inch) fish. If the minimum size is increased this ratio will increase significantly and so will the mortality.

While I realize that statistically 9% of released fish will die, I believe that number is low and that mortality of released fish is much higher. But even if you consider that an increased minimum size will at times create a situation where fishermen are now catch 10 or even 20 undersized fish to keep one legal fish, imagine the impact on the undersized population as more and more fish are being killed. I truly believe that an 18 inch minimum size with a 2 fish limit per person will be the best way to sustain the population.

In conjunction with my suggestion for an 18 inch minimum size I do believe further measures should be taken. I believe that the only way to reduce mortality is to reduce the season. While there could be a financial impact to me and other charter captains, imagine what the impact would be if the fishery was closed for an entire season or seasons.

When you look at the current striped bass season in Maryland it is usually around 235 days depending on when the season actually starts. In my opinion if you want a 20% reduction in the mortality of striped bass, then you need to reduce the season by 20%. I also believe that to reduce the financial impact to the industry, strategic moves can be put in place that will make these measures acceptable.

A 20% reduction in the fishing season translates into about a 46-day reduction. While that number seems high, I believe there are many formulas that can be used to get to that number or at least, get close. Trophy season should be closed and the earliest the season should start would be May 1. In addition, reductions in summer months should be considered. These are the months when the water temperature is the highest and also the times when the keeper to throwback ratio is poor. Reductions could be achieved by closures during July, August and September or even removing Sundays from the season. Note that these closures would only be for the striped bass and no other species. Another benefit to some partial closures in the summer months is that other species are available. This year, we have enjoyed a great variety of fishing to include; perch, spot, Spanish mackerel, bluefish and even cobia! While many will want to pursue striped bass, if the season is temporarily closed the other options will at least be available.

I believe there are several formulas that could work to achieve a reduced season. I have listed a few below. Again, this would only pertain to striped bass and no other species.

-No trophy season; one week closure in July, August, and September- approx. 46 days reduced

-Season begins May 1 and is closed on Sundays-approx. 45 days reduced

-Season begins May 1 and is closed for August or September- approx. 45 days reduced.

I believe that there are numerous scenarios that should be explored that will give us the desired results without a significant financial impact to the industry. I want this fishery to continue and everyone should understand that there will be some hardship and adjustment. I would just refer to the years of the moratorium and the years that followed. The season was increased slowly, and now I believe it should be decreased slowly. Again, please do not consider any regulations that will increase the minimum size as this will only increase mortality.

Sincerely,

Captain Donald Johnson.

Craig A. McIlrath
New Jersey Recreational Surf Fisherman
38 Mill Park Lane
Marlton, NJ 08053
blandmail@comcast.net
856-905-1711

Max Appelman
FMP Coordinator Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Comments on the DRAFT ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE
INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DRAFT ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE
INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS.

Paragraph 2.2.1 Status of the Stock. Please do not accept the 2018 benchmark stock assessment for use. Describing it as the latest and best and therefore worthy of use is disingenuous and gives up in the pursuit of accurate data. The assessment is based on MRIP data that is wrong. The Striped Bass Management Board and NOAA need a test—a way to check MRIP recreational catch estimates. Currently there is no amount of recreational catch that isn't possible in MRIP statistician's eyes ...while fisherman see the estimates for what they are - a fraud. This is an easily identified example in a plethora of unbelievable Marine Recreational Information that is causing mismanagement of our recreational fish:

- It is not true the "Average Size" of shore-caught stripers in CT were 19.6 lbs. - MA 33.4 lbs. - RI 33.8 lbs. And the grand prize for "Average" Shore caught stripers is RI in 2018 at 45.1 lbs.!

Paragraph 2.2.3 Status of the Fishery *Recreational Fishery Status* In my experience the 9% fish that is estimated to die is extremely high. Over the past 25 years I have spent extensive time in New Jersey's littoral zone. Never once have I ever seen a dead striped bass washing around in the surf or washed up on the beach. If your estimate was accurate surely, on a day when surf casters are lined up shoulder to shoulder hauling in stripers I would have seen at least one dead fish release floating in the wash or being eaten by sea gulls. Further thinking this through, if there are that many dead stripers, they are contributing to the food chain of something if not a striped bass then something a striped bass probably eats. I don't see anywhere that you have taken into account the adverse impact decreasing release mortality has on the food chain of striped bass.

3.1 Proposed Management Scenarios I prefer Option 2: Equal Percent Reduction with sub-options 2-A1 and 2-B4.

3.2 Circle Hook Provision For 25 years I have conducted my own extensive study surf fishing with bait using j-hooks. I use a high/low rig tied with 5/0 j-hooks attached to two inch dropper loops. Fishing with j-hooks in this manner I have always had lip hooked fish and NEVER had a gut hooked fish regardless of species and size. The problem is not with j-hooks but rather with attaching them to a long line that can be gulped directly into a fishes internal organs. On the other hand I have lost countless fish using circle

hooks on pulley rigs with a long line. Please allow for the appropriate use of j-hooks. Additionally, you should consider regulating the use of plugs with 3 treble hooks. I prefer Option A.

6.0 Tables and Figures Table 1 and 2 Total removals is described as “harvest and discard/release mortality”. Based on this I thought Total Removals = commercial harvest + commercial dead discards + recreational harvest + recreational release mortality, but it does not in either Table 1 or 2. For example in Table 1 row 2018 the numbers add up to 55,825,499 not 40,991,978. Please explicitly state in the Table Column header Total Removals the equation that is used to calculate Total Removals. An example column header would be Total Removals (commercial harvest + commercial dead discards + recreational harvest + recreational release mortality).

Tight Lines,

Craig A. McIlrath

October 7, 2019

From: Mike Laptew

Company: Laptew Productions

To: Max Appelman

Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

1050 N. Highland St., Suite A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it may concern:

I am an underwater documentary filmmaker with over 25 years of experience filming striped bass from Maine to New Jersey. I am a native Rhode Islander and I have been fishing and spearing striped bass for over 50 years. I've witnessed striped bass abundance, decline, crash, and rebuilding of the stocks only to watch us overfish ourselves into the current status with a need to reduce mortality.

To rebuild the striped bass stocks, we should look at what worked in the past, while considering many of the new challenges facing the fish today.

In 1988 the minimum-length limit was increased to 36 inches. The increase was necessary to protect the 1982-year class of fish which allowed 95 percent of them to spawn at least once—those fish would be about 30 inches long and weigh about 18 pounds. 1982 wasn't a particularly strong year for production, but it was far better than the previous three years and as it turned out, it was better than the next six years. The increase to 36" worked—the female spawning stock biomass in 1988 was close to what it is today and over the next five years it moved close to the threshold and the increased size limit led to a huge spike in recruitment over the same time period. However, today there is far more fishing pressure by both recreational and commercial fishing: in 1988 Massachusetts took 103,000 pounds of bass (4,384 fish) and even with a cutback MA is aiming to take 713,000 pounds of fish this year. There has been a huge increase in the number of recreational anglers and today's electronics make it far easier to find and target fish. The internet has played another key role in mortality by pinpointing when and where the 'bite' is going off and the rush to get a selfie photo online has led to a lot of dead stripers for the sake of a hero photo. The price of striped bass has led to an enormous black market and poaching has reached epidemic levels with not enough enforcement and penalties that are simply a cost of doing business.

With only a modest 50% chance of achieve the management goals I feel we need to cap the maximum size of the striper through a slot limit and thereby protect the remaining schools of large stripers that have been hammered over the past several years with no letup in sight. Block Island and the EEZ are just a couple of the areas in Rhode Island where the big fish need a break. I am opposed to any "conservation equivalency" alternatives, by any state, given the horrendous overfishing that occurred in the Chesapeake Bay resulting in the decimation of the 2011 year-class fish as a result of employing conservation equivalency in the past.

I support:

Proposed Management Scenarios

OPTION 2: Equal Percent Reductions for Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

For Ocean Fisheries

SUB OPTION 3-A4: 1 fish @ 32" – 40" slot which would achieve a 21% reduction

For Chesapeake Bay Fisheries

SUB OPTION 3-B2:1 fish @ 18" minimum which would achieve a 20% reduction

Circle Hooks

Option B- Mandatory use of circle hooks with outreach campaign to educate anglers on proper fish handling and release techniques. Each state should have a dedicated website that has photos and videos describing their states regulations on when circle hooks are to be used and how to properly handle fish for a minimum mortality after release.

Sincerely,

Mike Laptew

Comments

From: paul thomas <estriker1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Strip bass

Hello my name is Paul Thomas and I'm very concerned about the strip bass conditions so I'm hoping for the option of 1 fish a 36 " to 40" season start after july 15-december 15 no cat and release till July 15

Comments

From: Richard Samalonis <reconsam@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: STIPEBASS

MAKE 4 FISH LIMIT AT 28 IN, RICH SAMALONIS

Comments

From: Melody Lorenzen <mquipp@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Comments

I opt for the 28"-35" fish and maintain our bonus slot.
Hans Lorenzen

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Droid

Comments

From: 8482214739@mms.att.net
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 11:14 AM
To: Comments
Subject: *****SPAM*****
Attachments: Original message before MIMEDefang

This e-mail has been identified and tagged as Spam by the Raptor Anti-Spam filters.

If this was done in error, your original message has been attached along with this report, so you can easily retrieve it.

If you would like to whitelist or blacklist this sender, you can tailor the filters on the web at <https://raptor.pccc.com/>.

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Content preview: I opt for the 28"-35" fish and maintain our bonus slot

Filter Tests:

DKIM_SIGNED,DKIM_VALID,DKIM_VALID_AU,JMQ_SPF_NEUTRAL,KAM_RPTR_SUSPECT,MISSING_SUBJECT,RCVD_IN_IVMSIP,RDNS_DYNAMIC,SPF_PASS,TXREP

URI Tests: _URIDOMAINS(,)_

Content analysis details: (9.6 points, 6.0 required)

0.5 JMQ_SPF_NEUTRAL ASKDNS: SPF set to ?all
[mms.att.net TXT:v=spf1 ip4:166.216.149.0/24]
[ip4:166.216.152.0/24 ?all]
5.0 RCVD_IN_IVMSIP RBL: listed on ivmSIP found at invaluement.com
[166.216.149.7 listed in sip.invaluement.local]
-0.0 SPF_PASS SPF: sender matches SPF record
-0.1 DKIM_VALID_AU Message has a valid DKIM or DK signature from
author's domain
0.1 DKIM_SIGNED Message has a DKIM or DK signature, not necessarily
valid
-0.1 DKIM_VALID Message has at least one valid DKIM or DK signature
2.5 KAM_RPTR_SUSPECT Suspected Dynamic IP/Bad TLD/Spammy TLD from
Mail Relay Reverse DNS Test
1.8 MISSING_SUBJECT Missing Subject: header
0.4 RDNS_DYNAMIC Delivered to internal network by host with
dynamic-looking rDNS
-0.3 TXREP TXREP: TxRep reputation score

Comments

From: schlager01@aol.com
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper Proposal

Consider a size where the breeders are not taken. That is 24 to 32 inches. And two at that size. The larger fish spawn.

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

Comments

From: Alisa Madden <alisamadden07@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum vl

I feel strongly about saving the striped bass stocks and adding a slot 28-35 will be a sound start to rebuilding numbers.

Comments

From: Jim Callahan <tiderunr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 12:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum VI comments

Attn: Max Appelman

Please be advised that I support the following with regards to Striped Bass.

One fish @ 35"

No size reduction for the Chesapeake.

--

Jim Callahan

Comments

From: Randy Soper <securingman@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 8:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper size

28-35" slot

Comments

From: Nancy Kosiewski <nancykosiewski@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 6:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I would like to see a 24 to 28" slot and maybe 46+. You can only eat so much fish & the small ones are better eating. 1 fish per day.

Thanks

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Brian Pollock <bpollock@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Striped bass need a slot limit a low slot to be sure the large trophies are regarded as breeders. If redfish anglers can return the big channel bass and accept that, so striper fishers can , at least, do the same. The small ones are the tastiest. I think 18 - 28 or 30 inches is appropriate but you know the biology better than I.

Brian Pollock
Atco, Nj

Comments

From: Bill Thomas <bamosthomas@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 3:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Gentlemen,

I support a slot limit of 1 fish 24"-32" for all states NC to ME.

Bill Thomas
Westminster MD

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Comments

From: Wayne Frieden <capt.wayne1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 5:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Regs

To whom it may concern:

We need to act now before it's too late. One fish per person per day at 35".

Thank you,

Capt. Wayne Frieden
Reel Dream Charters
Boston

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: jdefina1@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Recc

I would like to see a slot limit of 28-35 inches to improve the fishery!

Comments

From: Ernest <ernhmm@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 6:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum click

I have been salt water surf fishing for years. Have seen the striped bass population explode and now for the last several years decline. The hieghtened years from 2003 to 2011 Monmouth co. With bass 20 to40+ lbs From the surf gone. The eastern sea board should draw a 1 fish limit 26”to30” to help restore the stocks for the next 10 + years Thank you Ernest Hammer

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: eeg@graybooks.net
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 1:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

I support a shift to slot sizes for striped bass, specifically a recreational daily limit of one fish at 28" – 34".

The slot size should also apply to commercial limits, whatever that number of kept fish may be, as long as the kept fish are within the slot.

This will protect the larger breeding cows. The current regs clearly are allowing an excessive kill of these valuable fish.

Ed Gray
PO Box 231
Lyme, NH 03768
ed@graybooks.net

Comments

From: Robert L. Bolger <robertlbolger@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am sending this email to say that the Cape May County Party & Charter Boat Association supports:

1 fish 28-35"

Keep the bonus program slot fish the same as it is now 24-28".

Thank you,

Bob Bolger, acting president

Comments

From: Stewart Rosen <swr47@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 5:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: NJ Public Hearing on Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern:

As a sports fisherman who has been fishing since 1950 I've seen species fluctuate from abundance to scarcity and back. This applies to bass, blue fish, fluke, & weakfish in particular as I've never had an issue catching black sea bass or blackfish.

Since the largest bass are the most important breeders I favor a **28-36" slot limit with a single fish possession.** Additionally, discard the bonus fish program (SBBP).

This approach has been successful with other species in other locations - namely snook and redfish.

Thank you,

Stewart Rosen
210 5th Street, #1
Hoboken, NJ 07030
Fishing on the Searcher II
917-923-9995

Comments

From: David Hickey <davidhickey418@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 2:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Proposed Striped Bass Regulations

I am a Sandwich resident and have been fishing the Cape Cod canal for the past 20 years. I believe the best change to striped bass regulation would be to create a slot (possibly 28 to 34 inches) allowing 1 fish per day to keep. The slot would allow people to be able to keep fish for their table but would protect the larger breeding fish. I am certainly concerned about the fishes decline in the last few years. Over the last few years more and more fishermen come to the canal when bass are blitzing. This is likely the result of cell phone or social media publication in real times. I have witnessed hundreds of fishermen with very big, 40 inch plus, stripers up on the access road during these blitzes. These fish are all big breeders and it would be unsustainable for the species to continue this over harvest. I hope to keep enjoying striped bass fishing with my children into the future

Sincerely,
David Hickey
Sandwich, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Frederick Leahy <drfwed@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 11:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass addendum VI

I think the slot fish 28-35 works best for preserving breeder females. I also believe the circle hook should be mandatory at least for now since weighted tables are indiscriminate much like long lining is. Once the fish swallows a treble there is no good release.

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: JAMES MOLINARO <jim.m1@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 6:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Slot limits 19" to 29" circle hooks release the breeding stock !

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Rob Meagher <robertm@lmbprofessional.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 3:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Public Comment

Greetings,

I am writing this to voice my opinion on the upcoming Striped Bass Proposals. I think a slot limit of 28"-35" is the best approach. I feel that this will be the best chance to reduce discard mortality rates while allowing the breeding stock to stay in the waters. The resources tastes best closer to the 28" mark as well.

Thank you,
Robert W, Meagher
5 Beaupre Court
Huntington, NY 11743
631-645-7448

Comments

From: John Olsen <jro13071@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 9:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Appelman Sir, Thank you for the opportunity to add my "two cents worth" to the comments for the proposed new striped bass regulations. Just a bit of history to begin with. I am currently in my 70's. I have seen both good and bad times regarding stripers. I lived thru the "No Possession" period in Rhode Island several years back. I have seen their minimum size increase from 16" to the current 28" in Rhode Island. I started going to public hearings and meetings concerning this fishery in the early 80's. I have listened to biologists, regulators, commercial and recreational fishing interests thru the years. Believe me I am no expert, but what I will propose is based from what I learned at all those meetings and public hearings. It is my understanding that stripers do not breed until somewhere around 28-30" inches in length (around 7-8 yrs old). All of proposed new regs that are listed in my Sept issue of "On The Water" (Tales and Scales section) by my fellow recreational fisherman are involving fish in the 28-40 inch slots. Most of these fish are the size of the propagators of the species, AKA The Breeders. I do consume stripers, they are one of my favorite eating fish, but I would rather consume a smaller one than a larger one. With that said may I propose a slot of 18" to 24" with a one fish per day bag limit. I will concur that some will say I am killing a fish that will never have a chance to breed, but I am not killing a fish that is an active breeder at a time when we need them most. Thank you Sir. John Olsen, South Kingstown Rhode Island

Comments

From: Vincent Jacaruso Jr <vincent.jacaruso@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV

Dear Asmfc,

Please make the change to 1 bass @ 30" 5-1/11/30

It would be best for our fishery!

Thank You,
Vincent Jacaruso Jr.
646-302-9897

Comments

From: Victor Pisaniello <vapisaniello@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 9:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: minimum size limit

P.S I am from the New York/ Long Island Area.
Thank you
Victor

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 9, 2019, at 2:56 PM, Comments <comments@asmfc.org> wrote:
>
> Thank you for taking the time to submit your input on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board in October when it will review submitted public comment and consider final action on the addendum.
>
> -----
> Max Appelman
> Atlantic Striped Bass FMP Coordinator
> Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
> 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
> Arlington, VA 22201
> 703.842.0740
> mappelman@asmfc.org
> www.asmfc.org
>
> Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Victor Pisaniello [mailto:vapisaniello@optonline.net]
> Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 10:18 PM
> To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>
> Subject: minimum size limit
>
> To whom it may concern
>
> A much better management option for the fish, and for the fishermen is a conservation equivalency approach with a 30" size limit, and a season of May 1 - Nov. 30.
> OR
> A 28-35" slot April 15 - Dec 15.
> Thank you,
> Victor
> Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Erik Hoffner <erik.hoffner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 10:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: draft addendum VI

Thanks Max.

Erik

--

www.erikhoffner.com

On Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM Comments <comments@asmfc.org> wrote:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your input on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board in October when it will review submitted public comment and consider final action on the addendum.

Max Appelman

Atlantic Striped Bass FMP Coordinator

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0740

mappelman@asmfc.org

www.asmfc.org

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

From: Erik Hoffner [mailto:erik.hoffner@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:38 AM
To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>
Subject: draft addendum VI

Hello, I'd like to comment on the new striped bass regulations. For years I fished in Maine when its slot limit was in use and I became a fan, we kept smaller ones and set the big breeders back in the water. I think this makes sense to do on the whole coast and have bored people with that opinion for years. So I'd like to see a slot limit like the 28-34" range, vs raising the minimum size.

Thank you,

Erik Hoffner

795 Ashfield Mountain Road

Ashfield, MA 01330

Comments

From: Erik Hoffner <erik.hoffner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: draft addendum VI

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Thank you,

Erik Hoffner
795 Ashfield Mountain Road
Ashfield, MA 01330

Comments

From: Erik Hoffner <erik.hoffner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: draft addendum VI

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Thank you,

Erik Hoffner
795 Ashfield Mountain Road
Ashfield, MA 01330

Comments

From: richard roberts <638steamny@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 10:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripe Bass Regulations

Please accept my input I am in favor of one fish at 30 inches and a season start May 1 ending nov 31. Thanks Richard Roberts. Wantagh Ny.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Pat Finley <pfin44@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 10:48 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV

To Whom It May Concern:

> Considering the Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV I chose 1 bass at 30"
> from 5/1-11/30.
>
> Regards,
> Patrick Finley

Comments

From: Mike Anderson <584mikea@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 11:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV

Dear Sirs or Madam,

As a surf casting angler who fishes the south shore of Long Island, I would like to voice my opinion for the option of 1 bass slot limit 28"-35" no change in season.

order to reach a more healthy status for this fishery that simply increasing the size limit will keep most anglers in pursuit of the most productive egg laying females, while a slot limit will keep the big breeders from being targeted at all.

most anglers happy that they still have a reasonable opportunity to catch a nice fish to take home to their dinner table. I see no need to satisfy the trophy hunter.

I don't envy your task and I appreciate your efforts.

Mike Anderson
584mikea@gmail.com

Comments

From: V R <vdr67890@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 10:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I agree with the 30" size limit, and a season of May 1 - Nov. 30.

Comments

From: Victor Pisaniello <vapisaniello@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 10:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: minimum size limit

To whom it may concern

A much better management option for the fish, and for the fishermen is a conservation equivalency approach with a 30" size limit, and a season of May 1 - Nov. 30.

OR

A 28-35" slot April 15 - Dec 15.

Thank you,

Victor

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Glenn Evans <gme1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 6:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV

5/1 open and 11/30 closure with a minimum size limit of 30"

Comments

From: Maryellen Smith <harbourgurl@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 6:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

1 Bass 30" - 5/11 thru 11/30
Thank you
Maryellen Smith
Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Tom Heinlein <tomwetnwild2@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 1:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good Afternoon,

I am composing this letter to show my concern on the above proposed Addendum.

I feel that a 35" minimum size limit on Striped Bass will definitely lead to an increased discard mortality rate and shut down many people that make a living on the industry. Furthermore it will lead to Economic disaster to those of us that depend on fishing.

A more realistic option would be a 30" limit one fish per Angler. It is a more sensible approach to conservation Quotas going forward. With the season being May 1st-Nov 30th..

It would accomplish both conservation and keep us fishing both recreational and professional

Regards,
Capt Tom Heinlein

Comments

From: Jon Diat <jondiat@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 10:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

Hi there.

Please note that a 35" minimum size limit is unacceptable for us here in NY. This will only lead to increased discard mortality, and shut many people out of the fishery.

A much better management option for the fish, and for the fishermen is a conservation equivalency approach with a 30" size limit, and a season of May 1 - Nov. 30.

OR

A 28-35" slot April 15 - Dec 15.

Regards - Jon Diat

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Frank Manfredo <frank_manfredo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 9:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass regulation

To whom this may concern,

The new management that will serve best to the fisheries is a slot between 28-35". This will help less fish returned below that range and have a risk of not surviving. Too many people do not know how to release a fish safely and increase the death rate.

Frank Manfredo

Comments

From: James McMenemy <jhmcmenemy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I am writing as a private citizen/recreational fisherman. Also please know that I am a supporter of the non-profit NY RFHFA and support their views on Striped Bass management.

When considering where to set management levels for Striped Bass I support a slot limit of 1 fish between 28"-35" from April 15-Dec 15. My second choice would be 1 fish at 30" from May 1st to Nov 30th.

I believe 1 fish at 35" or greater is going to harm the industry and lead to a greater bass population imbalance in the long term.

Right now there is an abundance of bait in the waters like I have not seen in over 40 years of fishing. There is also an amazing amount of striped bass to go along with the bait. It is evident to me based on my observations that the striped bass population is strong but needs a long term management plan which will sustain it. I feel that setting a limit of 35" will not yield the results desired for long term sustainability.

Honest fishermen will catch smaller fish and release them with unknown harm done to them. We will keep trying to catch a keeper for enjoyment releasing fish after fish of smaller size. If we were allowed to keep one fish of a smaller size it may be better for the population.

In addition have you considered an annual catch limit for NY anglers. Personally I would not mind being limited to 4-6 keeper bass per year. This may be another tool to help manage the population for the long term.

Thanks,
Jim McMenemy
218 94th street
Brooklyn, NY 11209
718-748-7223

Comments

From: ROCKFISH CHARTERS <rockfishcharters@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum IV

Based on my 15 years of running striped bass charters full time, I believe one striped bass @ 35" to be the wrong choice to rebound the fishery and sustain fisherman. This regulation will personally put myself and many others out of business. Meeting the same requirements, the choice for one fish @ 30" minimum size fish with a shorter season from 5/1-11/30, is a choice that we can all survive. I implore you to make the most equitable decision, while meeting your regulatory needs.

Thank you,
Captain Richard C Colombo

Comments

From: William Sands <wlsdesigns@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 6:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: rock fish comments

To whom it may concern,
I have lived and fished here my entire life, I am 67 years old
here is my two cents:

NO trophy season,
Summer season starts May 20th as to include Memorial day, the size limit to 19 min not to exceed 30 with a creel of 2,
this season will last to mid July (water temps get high)
Mid July drop size to 18 to minimize dead release with 2 fish creel limit.
close season in Late July/aug time frame in effort to eliminate dead releases(or NO chumming), resume season Sept 1,
close Dec 1
thank you,
William Sands

Comments

From: capt.tom02 <capt.tom02@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 4:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

We need to reduce striped bass fishing by any means available. I am in favor of these reductions.

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Comments

From: william martin <williamhmartin341@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Management proposals

I have fished for striped bass for over 55 years. During that time I have witnessed the fishery population.refrz

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: John Gallo <jdggallo2004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 2:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

If you want to end sport fishing why not just outlaw it and let the commercial guys take all they want...you people are too obvious about who is favored and why....John Gallo , retired NYPD Lieutenant , disabled Vietnam combat veteran, and member of the Manasquan Fishing Club..

Comments

From: JOHN ANGELINI <ange4@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 1:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am 53 years old and grew up surf fishing for bass with my father. That was back when there were no quotas or licenses. Every fish we caught went to market. He has since passed away but even he was saying just last year we gotta stop the slaughter of these fish. The fishing is clearly in decline. We need some action. I am very much in favor of this addendum.

Regards

John

Comments

From: Peter Scharf <melvinthefisherman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 6:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good afternoon ASMFC,

I am a 23 year old angler from Philadelphia, PA. I participate in the striped bass fishery in many areas. For example, I spend the spring targeting the migratory striped bass in the Delaware River. As summer rolls along, I participate in the summertime "schoolie" fishery in the back bays of southern New Jersey. Then in fall, I target the fall run of striped bass in the surf of northern New Jersey. The positive economic effects of my passion for stripers effects tackle shops from the Philadelphia area, to Cape May, to Sandy Hook.

While my passion for striped bass fishing has been consistent since I was 16, the quality of the fishery has been in decline (although the summertime schoolie fishery has been fairly consistent). This is not only reported by myself, but several of my fishing buddies all over PA and NJ. Notably, the fall surf fishery in NJ has been abysmal the past 2 years. It can barely even be called a "run" when for only 2 weeks 16"-26" fish are on the beaches. These fish are smaller than the residents I catch in OCNJ in July. It is truly a shame.

I hope that the ASMFC takes the appropriate strong action that is needed to get the fishery back to a sustainable level. I am truly jealous of the wonderful fishing that occurred, 10-15 years ago that I was too young to take part of. I hope in the future I can partake in the wonderful striped bass fishing similar to that which occurred in the recent past. It is essential not only for myself, but for the recruitment of thousands of other young striped bass fishermen to replace the generations of old. Except for this time, with a conservation mindset.

Thank you for reading!

-Pete Scharf

Comments

From: Dan Mazzaferro <eggrockswamp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 7:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I want to comment on the management of stripers.

I have fished for over 60 years and have truly enjoyed the ups and downs of fishing,

I have seen the demise of cod and to a lesser degree haddock.

We need to do something right now to reduce striper mortality. The best thing that ever happened in local fishing was the comeback of stripers.

I support whatever action is necessary to save the future striper fishery. It is obvious to avid striper anglers that Draconian measures are necessary.

I am hoping my children and grandchildren will someday experience the good fishing times I have.

Realizing it is not an easy decision. My experience is when I have been in that situation is I take a step back and make the decision that I feel is the right one that I can live with. One that I can feel proud about.

As stewards of the fisheries please make the right decision.

thank you,

Dan Mazzaferro

Comments

From: Jeffrey Cooperstock <jmcrep913@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 6:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: comment re stripers

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeffrey Cooperstock <jmcrep913@gmail.com>
Subject: comment re stripers
Date: October 3, 2019 at 3:51:30 PM EDT
To: savethestripers@gmail.com

My name is Jeff Cooperstock and I'm a seventy year old long islander. I've lived on L.I. for most of my life and the waterways and fish and wild life on long Island play a large and important part in my life. As for the Stipe Bass situation , I find that their continued support is necessary and prudent in maintaining the health of the specie. My family and I have made fishing for stripers an important part of our lives and can only hope that their well being is your primary motivation .

Your Truly
Jeff Cooperstock

Comments

From: R T Grimes Jr <rtfngrimes@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 9:59 AM
To: info
Subject: Rockfish Conservation

Good Morning!

Please add my name to those in favor of immediate action to help preserve Rockfish population of the Chesapeake Bay.

R. T. Grimes, Jr.
8611 Wintergreen Court, Unit 406
Odenton, MD 21113-3989
(410) 672-5195
rtfngrimes@verizon.net

Comments

From: David Wright <davidwright12@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 2:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I am an occasional angler, 78 years old, who travels to Northern New Jersey to fish only twice a year: striped bass in the Spring and Fall. I eat what I catch. Yes, I can go to the fish market here in Newtown Square, PA and buy all the bass I want but...there is nothing better than fresh-caught striped bass. The proposed change in the regulations, especially raising the size to 35 pounds, will certainly curtail me in catching any strippers; perhaps to the extent that I may just give up fishing for them. Strippers are not that easy to catch, not like blue fish (which I don't go out for) and with the proposed regulations in place, I can foresee many fishing trips with no caught fish.

Thank you,

David Wright

Newtown Square, PA



Sender notified by
[Mailtrack](#)



Comments

From: WENDY ZNANIEC <aggy.12@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Rockfish Addendum VI

Hello,

My name is Wendy Znaniec, and I live on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. I have lived on or near a Bay tributary my entire life, and many of my happiest memories involve activities around it. It is very important to me that we pass on a healthy Chesapeake Bay to future generations.

This is why I believe the implementation of Addendum VI is an important step forward in helping to conserve the Bay's unique and precious resources. I support the 18% reduction for the 2020 Rockfish season. Also, since commercial and recreational sectors are equally represented in the catch of Rockfish, I feel that both should share in the reduction.

One last point on the options presented in the Addendum. Option 2 for the mandatory circle hook regulation seems to be a great choice for a big impact.

Thank you for reviewing my comment.

WAZ

Comments

From: Jennifer DiDonato <jenniferdidonato131@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: striped bass addendum VI

Hello Max,

I am writing to voice my opinion on the very important vote in relation to striped bass management and the above mentioned addendum.

I am a recreational fisherwoman and care very deeply about the fishery. I believe it is best for all (commercial and rec) to manage striped bass into an abundance.

I am in support of Option 2-A2 of 1 fish at 28"-35" slot limit.

I am in support of Option 2-B3 of 1 fish at 18"-23" slot limit with no trophy season.

I am in support of Option 3.2B mandatory use of non offset circle hooks when bait fishing.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Thanks.

Jen DiDonato

Comments

From: Duncan Megroz <duncan.megroz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 8:55 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Taylor Ingraham
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good evening,

My name is Duncan Megroz and I am a resident of Brooklyn, NY and grew up in Darien, CT.

I am writing to urge you to implement regulations that stop overfishing within one year and rebuild the stock within ten years; and to implore the ASMFC to prevent moving forward with any amendments which will lower that threshold, please.

After reviewing the options set forth by the Commission, we support Option 2A-1 and 2B-1, 1 fish at 35" in the ocean and 1 fish at 18" in the Chesapeake Bay. Given how the abundance of striped bass is distributed across sizes / age groups, we think it is essential that the strong 2015 and 2016 year classes are protected for several seasons after reaching sexual maturity, so they are able to spawn before being harvested.

These actions could have a profound impact on the future viability of the striped bass population.

I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Duncan Megroz

Comments

From: erinhcharters@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 8:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Rex limit on striped bass
Attachments: StripedBassDraftAddVI_PublicComment_Aug2019.pdf; ATT00001.txt

I want to express my opinion/ vote for option two (I believe) for a slot of 28-35.

Also would this maybe allowed for only for hire boats, charter boats. For charters going to 35" will most certainly cause a loss in business.

Thank you

Robert Hussey

Erin - H charters

Comments

From: Lawrence Shieh <lawrence.shieh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 7:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appleman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI. I support sub option 2-A2 (28-35" slot). I applaud efforts to enforce a slot limit to preserve breed stock. Regarding the size limit/slot options: Despite shore fishing in the Boston area 10+ times per season, I have not caught a keeper sized striped bass (28") in 3 years. Also, the last keeper I caught was 28". If the size limit is increased any further, I would definitely fish a lot less as it would be significantly more difficult to catch a keeper and I enjoy keeping & eating my catch. I appreciate your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out directly with any questions.

Best,
Lawrence Shieh
617-901-0789

Comments

From: Peter Henderson <peterhenderson17@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 7:29 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Ben Burdine
Subject: Proposed 2020 Regulations

Dear ASMF commission,

I am an avid recreational angler located in CT. Striped Bass are one of the most important fish in our waters if not, the most important. Both for recreational anglers like myself and the local eco system. According to recent data and studies the Striped Bass is in MAJOR DECLINE and the only time to act is NOW so that by next season (2020) hopefully NEW and improved regulations will be in place.

After hearing and reading the Proposed options for 2020, I am in favor of OPTION 2A-1 (1 fish @ 35") This option seems to make the most sense of the ones proposed. Our 2014, 2015, and 2016 classes of striped bass are truly our last hope for this species. Any fish smaller than 35" being harvested would jeopardize the future of this fish immensely because they would never have a chance to spawn/reproduce.

Striped Bass don't usually spawn until they are at least 5 to 6 years old usually measuring 27-30" in length by this time. This is why it is so crucial to implement the 1 fish @ 35" (Option 2A-1) this off season so next spring the 2014-2016 classes of fish will have a chance to spawn. It is important to keep this regulation for at least 5 years then rotate to a slot limit (32"-40") but this isn't being proposed at this time.

I am also in favor of CIRCLE HOOKS ONLY (while bait-fishing, not lures) as this will improve mortality rates. I for one honestly don't think this is a "game changer" as I have gut-hooked many striped bass while using circle hooks. The best way to prevent striped bass dying this way is to eliminate BAIT, ENTIRELY. Again, this wasn't proposed and I truly believe it should be next season.

The nature of this situation is URGENT and words cannot describe the magnitude of this topic and possible bleak future of this beautiful and magnificent fish. It's unfortunate but we can change this now.

Thank you!

-Peter Henderson
Cell: 203-299-7778

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Ethan Lucas <ethanylucas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 7:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hi,

Here are my quick comments:

1. Bring the minimum size up to 36 inches - the same that was previously done.
2. Ensure greater than 50% chance of success with new management measures
3. Standardize the management across Atlantic states
4. Of course circle hooks
5. Of course no gaffs
6. Of course no fishing in federal waters
7. Reduce commercial take only in proportion to any recreational reductions
8. Figure out a way to account for and eliminate striped bass as bycatch in the herring and squid fisheries.

Thanks!

Ethan Lucas

Comments

From: Wesley Tower <wesley.tower@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 7:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments On Addendum VI

Hello,

As a MD resident and member of CCA MD, I would like to register my comments regarding Addendum VI.

Regarding Addendum VI, I support the same position as CCA Maryland. This include support for the following points:

- **CCA Maryland supports Option 2** – Equal Percent Reductions for all sectors. All sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector and equal percentages should be used.
- 18% taken off of recreational catch will account for 90% of the reduction necessary because 90% of removals coast-wide are from recreational fishing. 18% taken from the commercial catch will make up the remaining reduction necessary and be an equal reduction to both sectors.
- **CCA Maryland Strongly Opposes Option 3** - This option reflects a reallocation of harvest from recreational fishing to commercial fishing based on estimates of one year's harvest data. This is NOT the correct way to reallocate catch. No analysis was done or is planned to understand the socio-economic impacts of a reallocation, therefore one should not be done via this addendum. This option requires a 1.8% reduction of commercial catch, not 18% as is recommended by the technical committee. The remainder of the reduction would be placed on recreational fisheries with this option.
- **Option 3** was created using the coast-wide balance between commercial and recreational catch, not Maryland's historical balance. **If selected, the option could set the 2020 commercial quota, above the 2019 limits.**
- CCA Maryland has long supported reducing fishing mortality to provide for a greater abundance and develop a stock of larger, older fish. Thus, we support options that **meet or exceed the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI**, and support any proposed action with a higher probability of reducing fishing mortality.
- CCA supports conservation equivalency measures that meet or exceed the 18% reduction for all sectors, and are approved by the Technical Committee and SB Board.
- CCA supports the mandatory use of circle hooks when using natural bait as a matter of principle. All states should have monitoring programs, and enforcement plans in place so that conservation gains from circle hooks are realized.

Thank you very much,

Wes Tower
39 Harness Creek View Ct., Annapolis, MD 21403
410-991-2191

Comments

From: PAUL O KELLEY <paulgto455@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 6:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Option 2

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Darren Saletta <freemonomoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 6:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI Public Comment

I support management option 2-A2

An option not in the document which should be considered in the future is a recreational fishing boat limit of 2 fish max per trip superseding 1 fish per angler.

Thanks,
Capt. Darren Saletta
89 Mills Road
Chatham, MA 02633

2-A2	128"-35" slot
-------------	---------------

Comments

From: Michael Cacici <fisherking1979@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 6:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass

Dear Max Appleman,

My name is Michael Cacici and I am a recreational fisherman.

An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational, and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors.

The following are my preferred options in Draft Addendum VI

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector Option 2-A1: 1@35"
Option 2-B1 1@18" for the Chesapeake Bay Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to a positive outcome.

Respectfully,
Michael Cacici
Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Daniel Cotter <dcotter1534@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass addendum VI

Dear max,

My name is Daniel Cotter I am A New York City fireman and avid recreational fisherman. As someone invested in the health of our oceans and fishery both recreationally and morally I feel a abundant striped bass fishery is VITAL

The following are My preferred options as presented in draft addendum VI:

Option 2:18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1:1 @35”

Option 2-B1:1@18” for Chesapeake bay

Option 3.2 B mandatory use of non offset circle hooks when using bait help to reduce mortality

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Daniel Cotter

64-11 82nd pl

Middle village NY 11379

Comments

From: Crescenzo Abbatiello <cabbatielloauto@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Drafts Addendum VI

Hi Max

Please don't fail us. As you know ASMFC has no success with any fishery they manage. Let's make this a success.

I prefer options

Option 2. 18 % reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1 1@35 inches

Option 2B1 1 @18 for Chesapeake bay

Option 3.2 B. Mandatory use of non offset circle hooks to help reduce mortality

Crescenzo Abbatiello
65 Wickey ave
Westbury NY 11590

Avid surfcaster

Comments

From: Joseph DiBernardo <joseph.dibernardo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:16 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Comments Striped Bass Addendum VI

Hello,

I am writing to comment on the proposals for striped bass conservation. My preference is to increase the size limit to 1 fish per angler per day at 35". I believe that increasing the size limit will allow for more fish to reach sexual maturity and promote a rebound in healthy stocks. I am opposed to a slot style approach to conservation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joseph DiBernardo

Comments

From: glenn@guydist.com
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Strip Bass options

I would favor any combinations of option 2 or 3. The slots and closed or short spring seasons make sense. A closure for the hot summer also makes sense. Circle hooks are a good idea, and years ago I had good success with barbless hooks when chumming and live lining. I could easily release the fish without touching it or removing it from the water. No barbed hooks should ever be used when fishing for striped bass. If the fisherman does not want to replace hooks on a lure, they can easily be bent flat. A nice thought would be, as recovery progresses, maybe an extra fish from mid November til seasons end.

Thanks and best of luck,

Glenn Guy
Leonardtwn , Md.
SMRFO

Comments

From: Gregory Toomey <gregorytoomey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass addendum

Hi Max,

My name is Gregory Toomey. I am a recreational fisherman and support 1 striped bass fish at 35 inches.

Gregory Toomey
516-458-8567

Comments

From: Liam Rosati <Liam@angleradventures.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:12 PM
To: Max Appelman
Subject: Striped Bass

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Max,

I'm sorry this late and I hope I have the correct email address.

My name is Liam Rosati. I'm an avid recreational angler in CT and I pursue striped bass throughout the East coast.

I'm writing you this evening with regrets, as I believe all of the ASMFC's proposed options are disappointing and unsatisfactory in the rebuilding of our striped bass stocks. However, I believe the lesser of the evils is:

2A-A4 a 32-40 slot, with ocean fish trophy off the table.

2b-1 18" for the Chesapeake bay

and option B mandatory circle hooks.

The best available current science suggests that Big Old Fat Fecund Female striped bass are the most valuable members of the species; they produce the largest quantity, most vital and most resilient and most fecund eggs. BOFFF SB also carry the species' best genetics and should be protected not just for the sake of the species but for anglers alike, as they are the most desired by sports fishers. I cannot support a 1@35" limit as it puts the focus on only targeting larger female striped bass- the very fish we should always be protecting. Like most species, striped bass have evolved to absorb the greatest mortality of members in its immature and "smaller" representative members, and I'm concerned by the potential consequences resulting from eliminating large striped bass from the species.

I would like to see a selective slot harvest of smaller striped bass. I would also like to see a regulation where an angler's fishing day (for striped bass) cease once their creel limit has been reached. I believe this measure would greatly reduce catch & release mortality.

Finally, I strongly believe commercial striped bass must end and not be permitted. Having a commercial marketplace and a price tag on striped bass creates an incentive for poaching and creates and maintains distribution networks throughout the East coast. Make 'em a game fish! Please!.

Best regards and greatly concerned,

Liam Rosati

Liam Rosati ><(((((*>
PO Box 872, Old Lyme, CT 06371, USA
Tel 800-628-1447 (US) 860-434-9624
Fax 860-434-8605
Email: Liam@angleradventures.com
Website: www.angleradventures.com
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/angleradventures> Blog: <http://angleradventures.wordpress.com/>
Sign up for our FREE Newsletter: <http://www.angleradventures.com/newslettersignup.htm>

Comments

From: christsarnas <christsarnas@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Comments; savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max,

My name is Christopher Tsarnas and I am a recreational Striped Bass fisherman.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reduction

Option 2(A)(1): 1 @ 35" minimum

Option 2(b)(1): 1 @ 18" for Chesapeake bay Option 3 b2: mandatory circle hooks

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Tsarnas

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: michael hachey <mhachey23@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:02 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Rep. Sarah K. Peake; Michael Armstrong; Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us; Raymond Kane; Sherry White
Subject: *Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI*

Dear Max,

My name is Michael Hachey and I am a recreational fisherman. An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors. The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1: 1@35"

Option 2-B1 1@18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Michael Hachey

56 Belknap Street Westborough, MA 01581

Michael Hachey

mhachey23@gmail.com

508-439-3846

Comments

From: Daniel Drabkin <danieldrabkin5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

ASMFC Commissioners and Staff,

Let me thank you all in advance for the opportunity for both the recreational and commercial fishing communities to comment on Draft Addendum VI before its implementation for future seasons. I hope you will consider the many viewpoints of those whom this complex issue affects in your deliberations.

I have been fortunate in my ability to fish for striped bass for most of my life, beginning in 2006, not long after the female striped bass SSB reached its highest levels in decades after the largely successful effort to rebuild the fishery. Over the past eleven years, I have borne witness to a tragic decline that has resulted in the current assessment of striped bass to be overfished and the lack of accountability on the part of the ASMFC to prevent this disaster.

It is my belief that, in order for the ASMFC to again stand by its currently neglected mission statement: "To promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries, and by the prevention of physical waste of the fisheries from any cause," the Commission's management of striped bass must be conducted under the guidelines of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to ensure consistent and answerable decision-making so as to prevent a third failure on the part of the Commission to regulate the striped bass fishery appropriately.

Additionally, I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the following options to end overfishing and begin the rebuild of current stocks:

OPTION 2: Equal percent reductions

Everyone who takes part in the Atlantic striped bass fishery is responsible for its preservation and prosperity. Neither the recreational nor commercial sector is exempt from short-term sacrifices that must be made to stand a chance of long-term improvement.

Sub-Option 2A-1: 1 fish @ 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery

This regulation has a successful history in rebuilding striped bass stocks following their first decline, standing as a proof of that its consistent coastwide enactment and enforcement, without the allowance for exceptions as conservation equivalency would allow.

Sub-Option 2B-1: 1 fish @ 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

As you are surely aware, Maryland's conservation equivalency proposal was not assessed accurately, leading to overfishing on the part of the recreational sector. Furthermore, the fact that this was allowed to happen in the breeding grounds of 75% of the entire population of striped bass is appalling.

CIRCLE HOOK PROVISION: Option B

Circle hooks must be mandatory for use in all states when fishing with bait. Studies have demonstrated that circle hooks greatly decrease catch and release mortality rates, and it is the tendency of striped bass, large and

small alike, to swallow natural baits such that any hooks, other than circle hooks, result in gut-hooking and extremely high mortality rates.

My positions, as outlined above, are mirrored by the Atlantic Saltwater Guides Association, with which I align fully on this matter. I believe that their guidance and expertise is the best chance we have to rebuilding the striped bass stocks as well as ensure healthy and prosperity for the natural resources on the east coast.

These are the most restrictive and therefore most appropriate options for Addendum VI, and must be adopted in its final draft. As a recreational angler, I have and continue to spend a massive amounts of my time and money investing in gear, fishing trips, and networking with other anglers on the East Coast to fish for for striped bass. As a rising guide, the striped bass fishery is one I hope to one day be able to share with other anglers as the conservation success story that it once was. As it stands, 2020 will be my last year to fish for striped bass until the stocks are rebuilt to levels like those of the early-2000s or even 1960s, if they are ever even rebuilt at all. Many of my friends have already abandoned the fishery because of how dire the situation has become. We all see that a total collapse is imminent, and know it will result in the loss of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in the states under the Commission's jurisdiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I trust that you will make the right decisions to ensure a hopeful future for the Atlantic striped bass.

Daniel Drabkin

Senior at Marblehead High School, Marblehead, Massachusetts
Member of the American Saltwater Guides Association and Stripers Forever
Lifelong, Stark C&R Striped Bass Angler and Yearning Future Guide

Comments

From: Callan Noone <callanfn14@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI - ATTN: Max Appleman

Hello,

My name is Callan Noone. I am a resident of New York/Connecticut and fish from Maryland all the way up to Maine for Striped Bass. I am writing in relation to potential regulations that will work to curb the decline of our Striped Bass fishery.

For the past 15 years, bass populations have been steadily declining (especially in the last 8 years). Female spawning stocks are currently at roughly 150mm pounds per year, while the target number is 300mm and the lower threshold is 250mm. The stock in 2012 was roughly 280mm pounds and now it is RAPIDLY declining. There are a number of factors contributing to this including botched releases of bass, poaching, overfishing of an overfished population (no, I am not being redundant, its a thing), insufficient enforcement and incorrect size limits on fish (in my opinion). However, it is blatantly clear that the largest factor contributing to the decline of the population is the 10 year long inactivity from our legislators across the Mid Atlantic and New England.

Something needs to be done and it needs to be done now. In my opinion, I think that we need to figure out how to keep the spawning stock (large females) alive and in the water for as long as possible throughout their lifecycle. I do now know the best possible direction to go with this, but I know that the science behind populations numbers are very clear and populations will continue to decline if we don't do something about it. In terms of the potential regulations at the time being, I think that the fishery would benefit most from equal regulation from every state where Striped Bass swim and I think that the recreational limit should be 1 fish @ 35". This regulation has seen success before, and will be crucial to helping the 2015 class of fish spawn as much as possible before been taken by recreational anglers.

I am 24 years old and taking time out of my busy work day to write this email and send it in on time. We as anglers care about our fish and do not want to see another situation like the 1980s moratorium. I want my kids and my kid's kids to be able to enjoy one of nature's great migrations first hand as I have been able to over the years. The lack of care to this issue over the past few years has been alarming. One would think that we would learn from our mistakes made back in the 70s, but the current political climate is not too encouraging.

I am not sure who will actually read this or if it will even be read at all, but people care about this fish and want to see it thrive in our waters for years to come. I ask that you all act as proponents for sustainable regulation for a species that is currently at risk and offers millions, if not billions, of dollars a year in value to towns, counties and states from North Carolina to Maine.

Our waters will never be the same without this magnificent fish dwelling below, please don't wait any longer.

Best,

Callan Noone

Comments

From: Dan Sharoh <dan.sharoh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

As a recreational angler for the past 40 years and having seen the ups and the current down in Striped Bass populations, I am in strong support for 1@ 35" and no spot limit, the measure that was adopted many years ago of 1 fish @36" made great strides in allowing the species to rebound, with today's technology influences the pressure to right this wrong is stronger than ever before

1@35 NO SLOTS

Sent from Yahoo Mail. [Get the app](#)

Comments

From: Capt. Brian Williams <Bwilliams@ocnjfishing.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum VI

My name is Captain Brian Williams owner of badfish fishing charters, a member of the cape-atlantic striper club, and a member of the American Saltwater Guides association. I'm a full-time fishing guide right here in ocean city new jersey. I don't hide behind regulations like some... I promote a future for our fisheries and practice catch and release for multiple species. And over the years the ASMFC's along with the state of new jersey's reckless and unaccountable mismanagement of striped bass forced my hand into going completely catch and release for striped bass in the backwaters, these fish are primarily resident and a fixed number and it is extremely detrimental for anyone, business or recreational to remove these fish from such an important bay and river system when the biomass is in such a decline. My methods account for very very little release mortality as a lot of my fish never leave the water and hook damage and fight time is very very minimal. I take into account salinity, air and water temperature when targeting these fish and only want the best for them to assure my clients can catch them again, in turn this assures they will continue to book me in the future.....

Of the proposed regulations although flawed we are limited to choose the lesser of the evils, I support the decision of option 2A-1 with 1-@35 inches. While to me a mid 30 inch slot fish, one with a top end cap so we cannot harvest a large breeder would be the more beneficial option, until we can do away with conservation equivalency it would not work. I believe in unified regulations throughout the coastal states... if we can do this a slot regulation would be beneficial. We need unification of all states because these fish swim and migrate across state lines.

With that said I believe if we have to make a choice for the Chesapeake region I support option 2b-1 1@18" BUT THIS IS JUST CHOOSING THE LESSER OF THE EVILS as all the options in such a sensitive and important ecosystem such as the Chesapeake along with any river system the striper spawn in, in my opinion should be more restricted of harvest and targeting tactics to better protect our all so important spawning grounds including all rivers coastwide, great egg harbor estuary included. This would protect our resident spawning fish some of which never leave our rivers throughout their entire lives.

Proper catch and release tactics are important to me and so I support option 3.2.B the use of circle hooks with any live or dead bait. With proper education programs put into place this would be a great option to limit release mortality when bait fishing. With the decline of the stock and this regulation appearing to be an imminent no brainer for conservation I have been experimenting incorporating circle hooks into my occasional practice of live baiting for striped bass over this summer and have had very great success with it.

I also believe going forward we need to do away with captains keeping their personal bag limits for the charter boats this goes on everyday coastwide and is very detrimental to rebuilding our striped bass, I also support the idea of education programs or courses for the charter fleet to better educate and equip these businesses to incorporate proper conservation, handling and release tactics into their trips. Helping them better understand the effects of air and water temperatures and salinity levels and how these affect the fish during different times of year. This would help alleviate the issues with release mortality and promote a sustainable future for everyone assuring these coveted fish are there for years to come.

Another recommended proposal is the ban of the use of Gaffs when landing striped bass. Coastwide there are many gaffing and releasing striped bass and this would do away with this. Along with promoting the ability and option for charters to allow their clients to release the striped bass rather than pressuring or assuming they wanted the fish dead which my clients tell me occurs a lot on other vessels. Thinking future forward is the only way we're going to climb out of this mess we're in with the declining stock and there is no place for gaffing striped bass in that future.

We also need to get the state of New Jersey on board. The fact that today my home state still allows a 3 fish harvest makes us the embarrassment of the coast. I believe the bonus tag slot program should never have happened as this

was a specific target of the 2011 year class at the time this regulation was put in place. And now today is specifically putting harvest pressure on the reasonably strong 2015 Year class fish which we need to keep alive if we have any hope of a quick rebuild. SO WE MUST DO AWAY WITH THE BONUS TAG NOW ! we can revisit this someday if the stock is rebuilt... but,,,,,, as it stands to purposefully promote harvest of our resident fish and allow UNLIMITED BONUS TAGS TO CHARTERS is a horrible idea..... and its very evident the poweres that be at the commision donot represent the angling community by allowing this regulation to even still exist.

I also would like to see the ASMFC hold to their requirements and rebuild this stock in the required 10 years NOT 13. We need stronger accountability measures in place, measures like the ones the magunussen stevens act incorporates. While not perfect it is better than the gross neglegence that has gotten us into this mess in the first place....

Thanks you for youre time and please keep whats best for the fish in mind because we no longer live in an age of a consumptive fishery that era ended with the last moratoruim. The value of a striped bass is very limited and FINITE when dead on a dock, This same striped bass's value is INFINITE when left swimming to reproduce and be caught again... if we have abundant fish populations we increase opportunity and with opportunity comes increased participation.....

Capt. Brian Williams

Badfish Fishing Charters

856.371.4346

Bwilliams@ocnjfishing.com

Insta: captbrianwilliams

Fb: Badfish charters oc

www.OCNJFISHING.com

Comments

From: Nicholas Dalimonte <surfcastingnewengland@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass AddendumVI

Dear Max,

My name is Nick Dalimonte and I am a recreational fisherman.

The following are the available options as presented in Draft Addendum VI that i feel provide the greatest chance at creating a healthy striped bass fishery that supports both recreational and economic interests up and down the Atlantic Coast:

Option 2: 18% reduction applied equally between recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1: 1@35

Option 2-B1: 1@18 for Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely, Nick at Surfcasting New England

Comments

From: Worrall Carter <nmcarter1@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: FW: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

From: Worrall Carter [mailto:nmcarter1@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:42 PM
To: dave harp <dharp@chesapeakephotos.com>
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

This is to advise that I, as an independent recreational striped bass angler, primarily fishing in Chesapeake Bay, support:

1. Option 2 : 18 % reduction for commercial and recreational sectors, as outlined in sub-option

2-B-3, i.e. : Bag limit 2, size limit 18"-23" slot, same seasons as 2017 but without trophy fish season, estimated to achieve a harvest reduction of 36 % and total removals reduction of 19 %. And

1. Option 2 as outlined in sub-option as outlined in sub-option

2-A-4, i.e. : Bag limit 1, size limit 32"-40" slot, same seasons and trophy season as 2017, estimated to achieve a harvest reduction of 49 % and a total removals reduction of 21%. And

2. As regards the circle hook provision, Option B: States/jurisdictions required to implement regulations requiring the use of circle hooks when fishing with bait.

W. R. Carter, III
14272 Draper's Mill Road
Greensboro, MD 21639
Ph. 410-482-6729
[Nmcarter1@verizon.net](mailto:nmcarter1@verizon.net)

Comments

From: Dale Pike <dalepike52@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Grout,

I'd like to write in support of the following options on Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

Option 2: 18% reduction equally applied.

Option 2 -A-1: 1 fish @ 35 inches

Mandatory Use of Circle Hooks

The statistics confirm what I have experienced, the population of striped bass is declining. I fondly remember what the 36" length limit did to restore striped bass in the past.

Warm Regards,
Dale

Dale Pike
30 Smith Garrison Road
Newmarket, NH 03857

Home: 603.659.7722
Cell: 603.498.9670

Comments

From: Yan Tan <hoshiew@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI Support

Dear Commisioners and Staff Members,

My name is: Yan Tan, I am an avid surf casting angler. Year after year, I see and feel a drastic decline in the striped bass population. I am writing to you to support the Option 2:
sub option 2A-1, 1 fish @35" position, no additional bonus or trophy tag should be allowed.
sub option 2B-1, 1 fish @18" for the chesapeake bay.

Furthermore, I would strongly suggested the delay of spring opening day so that more mature spawning female can have a chance release their eggs before harvested.

I hope that these small steps would be a good starting point in the striped bass population recovery.

Thank you for your consideration
Yan Tan

Comments

From: matt lejeune <linesider82@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM VI

I am writing in as a recreational angler from CT,

I am in favor of option 2: equal harvest reduction

2A-A4 a 32-40 slot, with ocean fish trophy off the table.

2b-1 18" for the chesapeake bay

and option B mandatory circle hooks.

-Anglers who select option 2 in general want an across the board 18% reduction in harvest/ release mortality. The 1 @35" option does not achieve this because it hurts party charter boats, it hurts the recreational angler over the largest contingency, however it maintains status quo for the trophy hunting crowd. We have all heard about what has been happening to the large breeding female bass off block, the CCC, montauk and other notable places along the striper coast. The continued removal of those fish leave a less than desirable fishery for the future.

-Option 2A-A4 allows for some breeding to occur in the lower limit before harvest and also protects the larger breeders by taking them off the table. It removes the trophy fishery, namely tournaments and trophy hunting for pictures and online "likes".

-general comment, states that exceed their quota should be required to take a penalty in quota reduction.

-from prior meetings, enforcement has stated that constant changes in regulation is difficult to enforce. The technical committee has also said that constant changes in regulation is more difficult to represent in regards to science.

-from a state health viewpoint, how can 1@35" be an option regarding contamination in these fish?

All of the above being considered, consistent regulations, public health, broad and equal mortality reductions, the only sensible option is a moratorium.

Thank you for your time.

Matt LeJeune

Comments

From: Evan Priovolos <evanpriovolos@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass - My Comment to Max Appleman

Hi

Max Appleman

Please consider 1@36" to help rebuild the spawning stock of striped bass to the target threshold. This worked before, and it should work again to achieve the target threshold.

Also, please make sure Maryland makes regulation changes other than closing the winter season or shutting down night time hours for striped bass fishing, in place of making real regulation changes. The Chesapeake bay is what really matters for these fish. Without a robust population in the Chesapeake bay, the target will never be met. The Chesapeake bay fish are being removed faster than they reach sexual maturity. The fishing has been becoming significantly worse each year. There are truly less fish available each year. The remaining fish school up in big schools each summer, leaving huge expanses of the bay nearly fishless. Maryland needs to follow suit. We have many states on board to rebuild the stocks except the state that really matters. Please make sure the Chesapeake is protected. It truly is the striped bass nursery.

1 at 36" and special protection/regulations for the Chesapeake.

Option 2-A1

Thank you for your time.

Evan Priovolos
October 7, 2019

Comments

From: Alec Griswold <alec@elevate-youth.org>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:35 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Addendum VI for striped bass

Hello,

I would like to voice my support for the following:

- Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.
- Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".
- Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.
 - Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery

I urge you to follow these guidelines. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Alec Griswold

Sent from my iPhone

Alec Griswold
Executive Director
Elevate Youth
89 South Street, Suite 203
Boston, MA 02111
(o) 857.995.8050
(c) 410.627.8066
alec@elevate-youth.org
www.elevateyouthoutdoors.org

Comments

From: Paul E. Hagen <PHagen@bdlaw.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:38 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Maureen Davidson; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY
Subject: Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI Comments
Attachments: 2019-10-07 Hagen ASMFC Comments on Striped Bass.pdf

Dear Mr. Appelman,

Attached please find my comments on the Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass.

I am writing as an avid recreational angler who has for many years fished the Atlantic shore in New York and parts of the Chesapeake Bay. I regularly surf-cast from shore and charter guides in pursuit of striped bass. The fishery is in very steep decline. I urge the ASMFC to take aggressive actions to reduce the commercial and recreational harvest of striped bass in both the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic Coast.

Specifically, I request that the ASMFC take the following actions to stop overfishing and promote the recovery of the region's most important recreational fishery:

- Adopt Option 2 in the draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass: Mandating Equal Harvest Reductions for both recreational and commercial fisheries.
- Adopt Sub-Option 2-A1 for a one fish bag limit with a minimum size of 35 inches.
- Adopt Sub-Option 2-B3 for the Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery without a trophy season.
- Require the use of circle hooks along the Atlantic coast to reduce fish mortality after catch and release.
- Mandate that states prohibit the use of gaffing on all striped bass.
- Prohibit hired charter boats from counting crewmembers toward allowable daily fish harvests.
- Encourage all states to cancel or shorten trophy seasons.

In addition, I urge the Commission to take strong action to promote a more robust population of Menhaden, including the adoption of ERPs that will ensure an adequate food supply for striped bass and other important commercial and recreational fish. Finally, I wish to state my strong opposition to any effort to open parts of the EEZ to recreational or commercial fishing for striped bass. Now is the time to embrace protective conservation and harvest measures to ensure the near and long-term viability of our striped bass stocks. Please manage the fishery toward abundance.

Thank you.

Paul Hagen
Quogue, N.Y.

Comments

From: William Prodouz <bprodouz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I have experienced and witnessed the drop in available striped bass. I see that we have hit the trigger point for immediate action on Striped Bass.

I am a recreational angler living in Massachusetts but I also periodically fish in Rhode Island. I believe a healthy striped bass stock is good for tackle shops, motels and restaurants as fisherman need to use these services. Without striped bass there would be an economic drop in the use of these services.

I believe that BOTH recreational and commercial quotas in Massachusetts should be cut 18%. The current commercial yield being below the quota just further emphasizes the need for the cut by 18% in both sectors.

Massachusetts and all states outside the Chesapeake Bay should go to a single fish as 35 inches. This will simplify enforcement and more importantly allow bass several more years to spawn and recruit than the current 28" minimum.

Regards
Bill Prodouz
617 694 0723
bprodouz@gmail.com

Comments

From: Frazer Page Dougherty <frazer.dougherty@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

October 7, 2019

Dear Max Appelman, Commissioners and Other Officers of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC).

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments in regards to the options in the Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6. I am a member of the North Fork Anglers, a club of some 40 anglers based on the North Fork of Long Island, many of us have been fishing for several decades. Now that I am 75, it's been 5 decades for me and during this time it is abundantly clear that based on my own catches, those of fellow club members and other surfcasters, that our catches have now declined sharply in both numbers and in the individual size of Striped Bass.

The Striped Bass Fishery continues to be over-harvested, in spite of the best of the earlier management processes. The science behind the Striped Bass Resource has always been available – the current plan puts the stock recovery at around 2033 some 14 years from now. This is more than disappointing when Amendment 6 called for a recovery in ten years.

Stringent controls are necessary – an 18% reduction in harvest is way too small. So to return to the list of options in Addendum VI here are my choices:

Option 2

- Equal Percent Reductions.
- Every Stakeholder who participates in the Striped Bass fishery is equally responsible for its health and future continuation.

Sub-Option 2A-1

- 1 fish at 35 inches for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery.
- A similar size was used in the past with some historical success.

Sub-Option 2-B-1

- 1 fish at 18 inches for the Chesapeake Bay.

Option B

- Circle Hooks must be mandatory for use when fishing with bait in all states.
- Circle hooks have been proven to offer increased survival rates for fish returned alive to the ocean.

These are the most restrictive and therefore the most appropriate options from Addendum VI. I urge you most strongly to adopt them in the final draft. Conservation Equivalency must not be permitted. All states must adhere to this rule if there is to be a reasonable chance of recovery.

The Striped Bass was so close to being lost previously and to allow that situation to repeat itself would be nothing short of a disaster for the Striped Bass and to all the stakeholders and communities which lie on their migratory routes.

Sincerely Yours,

Frazer Page Dougherty 1560 Willow Dr. East Marion, NY 11939

--

Frazer Page Dougherty
East Marion, NY 11939
631.645.3534

Comments

From: eliccion <eliccion@atlanticbb.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass comments

I am a maryland recreational angler and I support option 2 - 18% reduction for both recreational and commercial fishermen. I also support conservation equivalency and mandatory use of circle hooks when fishing with bait for striped bass. Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Comments

From: Lindsey Shaw Bardsley <lindseyshaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft addendum VI

Dear committee members,

My name is Lindsey Shaw Bardsley and I am avid recreational striped bass angler from Massachusetts. I fish 5-6 day's a week and am very distressed by the low numbers of fish we are all seeing this year.

The fishery is in trouble.

I am writing to voice my support of Option 2- equal reduction for both commercial and rec. stake holders, option 2A-1: 1 fish at 35", option 2B-1: 1 fish at 18" for the Chesapeake Bay, and Mandatory Circle hook usage with bait fishing coast wide.

I also want to state my opposition to biological equivalency and my belief that these regulations should stand along the striper coast.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsey Shaw Bardsley

Comments

From: christopherlgroves@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum Regs

Hi Max Appleman:

Given my vision of the state of the East Coast SB fishery.. I recommend moving to a Catch and Release policy for the next 4 years.

Its time to allow the population to rebuild.

Commercial season should be eliminated and all guided trips must switch to C&R

Chris Groves
Lexington, MA

I fish the MA coastline , the MA islands, and Rhode Island.

--

Christopher Groves
christopherlgroves@gmail.com
781 862-3276 Home
617 875-6535 Cell

Comments

From: Kyle Tangen <kyletangen93@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM VI

Dear Max, my name is Kyle Tangen I am 26 years old and I am an aspiring career Surfcaster. I've fished all across the Eastern Shores of the United States, and even moved to Florida for sometime. However, my true love is targeting striped bass, so much so that I moved back to NJ just because I felt like my work with this fishery was not complete and that it is my one true love no matter what. The culture that surfcasters have in the NE region is like no other. I have given up career paths, relationships, and most responsibilities just to target these majestic fish. Yet, we face a near extinction of this industry due to gross negligence and mismanagement of this resource.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

- Option 2: 18% reduction across all sectors including both recreational and commercial
- Option 2-A1: 1 fish @35"
- Option 2-B1: 1 fish @18" in the Chesapeake Bay
- Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

In the beginning I would have fought tooth and nail to preserve the fish stocks of big breeder fish in order to ensure high numbers of hatched fish. However with the disgusting condition of the Larger fish populations being nearly gone. The most valuable options seems to be to protect the current stocks of smaller fish to ensure they become of breeding age and are allowed spawn continuously. These are the most precious building blocks we have to invest our main interest in. Unfortunately due to fishery management of the past, it's a real stretch to trust that a logical decision will be made without money being the motivating factor rather than the health and prosperity of a natural resource that WE DO NOT OWN. I only hope you've received enough emails to realize the effects that over fishing, mismanaged resources and uneducated anglers have on something that was once historically great. Thank you for your time.

Comments

From: Jim Dufresne <jim.dufresne@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI - NH Angler in Support of Option 2

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to share my support for **Option 2** of the ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6.

As a life long angler in a state that has already classified Striped Bass as a game fish, we must do something now to preserve the stock and ensure my 1.5 year old son will have the same opportunity to create memories fishing for such a majestic fish as he grows.

Thanks,

Captain Jim Dufresne
Brentwood, NH

--
Jim Dufresne
(603) 548-5743

Comments

From: Steve Chafee <schafee@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

To those responsible for saving the Striped Bass fisheries.

Please do not let the decline of this fish continue to progress any further. What worked last go around should be implemented once again to rebuild stocks and a complete moratorium should be implemented. Since we will not go that route how about the 35" minimum length and circle hook mandate. Please do what is in the best interest of this fishery.

Thank you.

Steve Chafee
105 Reservoir Rd
Middletown, CT 06457
Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Jim <james.savage19@frontier.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:39 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Addendum VI Comments

October 7, 2019

James Savage

19 Broadview Drive

Wallingford, CT 06492

Ref: Addendum VI Comments

Dear ASMFC,

As an avid fisherman and conservation minded individual I feel strongly that a reduction in the allowable catch for striped bass is not an option but a requirement!

While none of the proposals are guaranteed to achieve the desired reduction I am in favor of:

Option 2: An Equal Percent Reduction – Sub Option 2A1 a 35” minimum.

Sincerely yours,

James Savage



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Comments

From: Tommy Corrigan <tommy@surfcastersjournal.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Maureen Davidson; James Gilmore; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max,

My name is Thomas Corrigan and I am an avid recreational fisherman. As someone involved in both recreationally and commercially via my online publication surfcastersjournal.com and I feel an abundant striped bass fishery is VITAL.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1: 1@35"

Option 2-B1 1@18" for Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Tommy Corrigan

Surfcaster's Journal Magazine

73 Wings Ave

Patchogue, NY 11772

Comments

From: pfallon mainestripers.com <pfallon@mainestripers.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC Striped Bass Board Members,

While I am a resident of Maine, I run for-hire charterboat trips in Maine and Massachusetts full-time from May through October, with striped bass as the primary target. I'm writing to express my support for the following options under the proposed Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6.

I strongly am opposed to Option 1. We can't continue with the regulations as they currently stand.

I strongly support Option 2-A1.

While I get that commercial harvesters haven't exceeded their quotas, current quotas are clearly unsustainable. I am fan of slot limits for a bunch of reasons in many instances but right now we need to protect the 2015 year class and get them to breeding age before harvesting the bulk of them. What we've seen with the 2011 year class was a group of fish that were going to "save" the fishery that got hammered as soon as they reached the 28' minimum size. I can envision getting behind a slot limit of some kind in future years but not right now. I know we want to protect the largest fish as they produce a huge amount of eggs and are the genetics that we want, but we need to deal with more immediate problems

I support Sub-Option 2-B1 for the Chesapeake as it provides greatest reduction in mortality.

I'm opposed to Option 3, for reasons stated above.

I do favor Option B under 3.2 which is mandatory use of circle hooks. I would hope that the Board would be able to add language to this proposal that would make some exceptions for tube and worm rigs, if just to minimize the number and variety of CE's that individual states would propose should this rule pass.

Both ASMFC assessments and the reduced commercial landings reported in Massachusetts this season (and in 2018) call for more conservative management of this resource, not the opposite. One of the great shortcomings of the tools available to the ASMFC to manage striped bass is the ponderous pace at which regulations can react to changes in fish populations. Trends in lower commercial and recreational landings are telling us something, and we should heed that message. If we were running a business, managing striped bass stocks, we'd be reacting far more quickly and decisively or we'd be looking for new jobs.

I urge you to think long-term in making these short-term decisions. We needed to make changes to striped bass harvest years ago. You have the opportunity to start us on a road to recovery now.

Sincerely,

Peter

Capt. Peter Fallon

Gillies & Fallon Guide Service, LLC

824 Main Rd

Phippsburg, ME 04562

207-522-9900

Mainstripers.com

Comments

From: patrick@capecodonthefly.com
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Attn: Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St. Suite A-N
Arlington, Va. 22201

Dear sir:

Please accept my comments on the proposed Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

I am a saltwater fly fishing guide in Massachusetts and a member of the American Saltwater Guides Association. As you are likely aware, the association supports option 2 (equal percentage reductions); sub-option 2A-1 (1 fish at 35 inches for the coast ocean recreational fishery); sub-option 2B-1 (1 fish at 18 inches for the Chesapeake Bay); and option B of the circle hook provision (mandatory circle hook regulations). I add my support, both individually and as a member of the association, to these suite of options for the following reasons:

The science tells us striped bass are overfished and overfishing is occurring so as managers you should immediately set aside any arguments to the contrary unless there is identifiable concerns with that science. If there are, those should be shared with the public. If not, move on to the solutions.

I attended and spoke at the hearing in Buzzards Bay on Oct. 3. While there were many arguments for other options, including a slot, none included historical evidence of success as is the case with sub-option 2A-1, which is essentially what was used to rebuild the fishery from its closest brush with complete collapse. There are questions about the pressure a slot might put on specific age fish and therefore, until there is counter evidence, using what is essentially a slot that includes a much broader spectrum of fish (35 inches to whatever the largest fish is swimming free) is the most likely to distribute harvest pressure most evenly. In addition, there is a growing aesthetic among recreational anglers to let larger fish go. While catch-and-release comes with its own mortality rate concerns, as identified in the assessment, there are many anglers who are now taking the time to revive fish properly. In addition, they are sharing their experience with others, filling a void in education both federal, state and local governments could help address. So even, if they can take a larger fish, many choose not to do so. As I mentioned at the hearing, increasing the size limit also gives younger but mature fish at least some opportunity to spawn and add to the biomass before they are harvested. It also gives them a chance to learn and makes them harder to catch, perhaps keeping them from the cutting board altogether. A true slot limit reduces that opportunity.

The equal reduction (18/18) is fair, not because the commercial harvest is greater than recreational (it is clearly the opposite) or the "problem" but because, here in Massachusetts at least, the commercial sector has already failed to meet its quota by a long shot, another indication that the population is in trouble, and, as recreational fishers are a much more significant portion of the fishery, it makes sense that the distribution of pain should be at least equal. While the proposed alternative of making striped bass a gamefish has support from many anglers, short of such a dramatic move, compromise calls for managing the species in such a way as to acknowledge its status as primarily a recreational concern and acting in accordance with that understanding.

Although originally from Virginia, I will not write at length on the Chesapeake Bay sub-option other than to say that while I understand the historic reasons for the smaller limit in that region, from a coastwide management standpoint, I'm not sure I understand the logic. I might feel differently if I was still living in the area and saw these fish for less time than I do here, but I doubt it. The word from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries on Thursday was that it has always been that way and it will never change. Seems like a flawed way to make such decisions but perhaps it is a personal fight for another day.

Regarding the circle hook provision, there is no mystery about why it is a good idea despite the insistence that it cannot be counted toward the 18 percent reduction figure. It just makes sense.

I am relatively new to the industry and count myself among the guides, charter captains and fishers who would rather release a fish than put it in the freezer. I will not pretend that this has always been entirely the case but having fished the area around Cape Cod for the past 30 years, I have come to realize that the experiences that rely on an abundance of these animals being in the water have far greater value than the meal an individual fish might provide.

And, finally, the service I and my fellow guides provide undoubtedly adds significantly to the wider economy, whether in the form of gas for the boat, clients eating at local restaurants or the dizzying amount of money spent on licenses, fees, ramp permits, certifications and taxes. At the very least I have a right to be heard; I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments.

Tight lines,



Patrick Cassidy
508-246-3757
patrick@capecodonthefly.com
capecodonthefly.com



Comments

From: Joe Hopkins <joe.hopkins@doubletapsoftware.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:25 PM
To: info
Subject: Striped Bass fishery

Greetings,

I enjoy fishing for striped bass and I use barbless artificial lures to try and reduce mortality. I am worried about the fishery and believe measures should be taken to increase the population. I believe that circle hooks should be required for live bait and that chumming should be banned.

Thanks for taking into account my opinion!

Joe
215 266 6399

--

Joe Hopkins
DoubleTap Software LLC
joe.hopkins@doubletapsoftware.com

Comments

From: Zachary Maxwell Stertz <zachary@zacharystertz.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:20 PM
To: Comments; James Gilmore; Maureen Davidson; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good Afternoon,

I am a New York state resident and recreational fisherman. A healthy and abundant striped bass population is very important to me, both personally and for the interests of the recreational and commercial communities. As a surfcaster, I have seen a sharp decline in striped bass over the last decade and support all measures to rebuild the stocks.

Specifically, I support the following options in Draft Addendum VI.

- **Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.**
- **Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".**
- **Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.**
- **Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.**

Thank you,

ZACHARY MAXWELL STERTZ
Photography, Inc.
C: [917-621-6143](tel:917-621-6143)
www.zacharystertz.com

Sent from a Phone

Comments

From: Jonathan O'Connor <surfrods@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

Striped bass are in trouble and i would like to see the following based on the choices provided.

Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.

Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35". However I feel this is not conservative enough, and a one fish limit with a minimum size of 36" would be more appropriate, based on previous history.

Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.

Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

The time for restoration is now. Please vote accordingly.

Jonathan O'Connor
207 samoset street, apt c10
Plymouth MA 02360

Comments

From: Brian DiDonato <briandidonato@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Hello Max,

I am writing to voice my opinion on the very important vote in relation to striped bass management and the above mentioned addendum.

I am a recreational fishermen and care very deeply about the fishery. I believe it is best for all (commercial and rec) to manage striped bass into an abundance.

I am in support of Option 2-A2 of 1 fish at 28"-35" slot limit.

I am in support of Option 2-B3 of 1 fish at 18"-23" slot limit with no trophy season.

I am in support of Option 3.2B mandatory use of non offset circle hooks when bait fishing.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Thanks.

Brian DiDonato

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Gerald Audet <geraldaudet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Support Option 2!

Hello-

You're getting thousands of emails. I'll keep this short.

I'm in support of option 2A-1, 2B-1. 1 fish at 35" coast wide, 1 fish at 18" for the bay. I'm also for Option B for circle hooks.

Slot limits are not proven for the Striped Bass. At least we have a little data from the last moratorium that showed 1@36" worked.

I want to also state my disgust at the option for conservation equivalency. We need to unite and not target all sorts of different age classes. I believe this will only hamper the recover, and potentially ablate any response we might see from these conservative measures.

Further, I want to also state my frustration with the 10-15 year timeline. Why roll the dice with such a long recovery? Why not "bite the bullet" now and do a 5 year recovery, and get back to an abundant fishery (which, one may argue we never actually had!).

Finally, I want to also state that I do not believe these measures go far enough. The statistics are not strong, this is clear. Why use 18% as the mid point (the 50% probability), and let the tails fall well below what we need to do to save the fishery? Why not set the conservation value at something like 25% reduction- so that if we are off by a standard deviation or two, we still are as close to the 18% as possible. And, if it goes the other way, we bring the fishery back to sustainability much more quickly. I voiced this at my hearing in MA, and I will continue to do so elsewhere.

Do what is right for the fish; let's worry about the fisherman (like myself) once it's back to abundance.

With great concern
Dr. Gerald N Audet, Ph.D.

Comments

From: David Sherwood <dfsherwood207@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI Comment

Mr. Appelman:

My name is David Sherwood. I'm a resident of Bowdoinham, Maine, and have fished for upwards of 30 years on the mid-coast of Maine, including a 5-year stint as a fishing guide.

I, like virtually every single other fisherman along the East Coast, have watched as the striped bass fishery has dwindled to near ridicule. It is now just fraction of what it once was. Many of my former clients, friends and family have long since given up on the fishery. This despite a healthy ocean environment in Maine, including the successful restoration of major river herring runs, that should be attracting record-class runs of striped bass.

It is a sad state of affairs, and I, like so many others, am deeply disappointed in the lack of proactive action on the part of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. But there is still time to make a difference.

For this reason, I am writing in support of **Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions and Sub-Options 2-A4 and 2-B1**, based entirely on the projected change in total removals.

I also strongly support mandatory circle hooks - Option B, and would support the earliest feasible implementation of new regulations requiring them.

Strong and decisive action is needed now, so that my children, ages 2 and 5, can enjoy the fishery their father once knew.

Sincerely,

David Sherwood
Bowdoinham, Maine

Comments

From: Mike Mullen <surfbass52@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

For the record, I don't like any of the slot limits. Until the stocks of striped bass are back to a more sustainable level, I think we should take smaller fish, 1 per day at 16 to 24 inches, because they are more plentiful and many are hurt while being caught. I think it is important to be able to take a fish home for the table as it will help us to realize that we are dealing with a food source rather than just an object of sport. Fishing should mean food.

Mike Mullen, Connecticut Surfcasters Association

Comments

From: billy mitchell <sevenstripesfishing@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass addendum VI

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

As a member of the recreational and commercial striped bass fishing communities, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue.

A quick anecdote: I remember my first striped bass. We caught it off Plymouth Beach on a windy May day. My Dad put a chunk of smelly clam belly on a snelled hook, cast it out into the white caps, and handed me the rod. I won't soon forget what happened next.

My wife and I are expecting our first child in three weeks. I want my child to experience his first striper catch on some cold, May day. I want him to be able to look back and remember those seven stripes.

It seems to me we are at a decision point. The right decision is to save the Striped Bass not just for us, but for future generation who haven't yet had the opportunity to catch their first striped bass.

And the research you've provided makes it clear that in order to achieve this, changes need to be made. This is why I urge the commission to adopt Option 2, sub option 2-A1, sub option 2-B1 and circle hook provision option B.

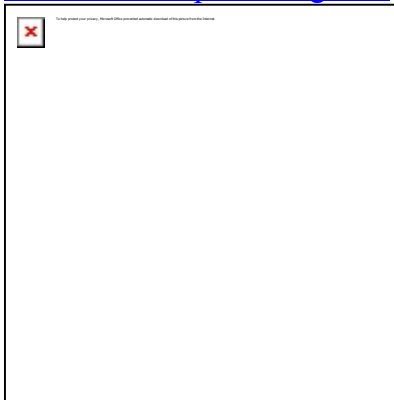
Thank you for you time.

Sincerely,

Bill

--

www.sevenstripesfishing.com



Comments

From: Steve George <nightstrikes@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: : Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

I would like to put on record to support the following / Steve George ~ Barnegat NJ / Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions and &

2-A4^ 1 Fish 32"-40" slot plus 2-B1 for the Chesapeake Bay Fishery // circle hooks > option c. Thank you. SteveG.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Chris Lixfield <medic6973@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Emerson Hasbrouck; James Gilmore; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY; Maureen Davidson
Subject: *Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI*

Dear Max,

My name is Christopher Lixfield and I am a recreational fisherman. An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors. The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1: 1@35"

Option 2-B1 1@18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lixfield
210 Lake Pointe Cir
Middle Island, NY 11953

Comments

From: Luis C <cadalzol@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Gentlemen,

I believe it makes most sense to protect the larger breeders than allowing them to be taken as trophies and allowing a limited number of smaller fish to be taken as food. Thank you.

Luis Cadalzo

Comments

From: Gianfranco Z <gzaffina13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:02 PM
To: Comments; Justin Davis
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commisioners,

My name is Gianfranco Zaffina I am recreational surfcaster from Connecticut and Striped Bass are my main pursuit. I have been a strict catch and release fisherman for close to 10 years and I want to see this fishery thrive and rebound once again so that myself and many others along the coast can enjoy this amazing natural resource.

Based on the options presented in the addendum I support:

Option 2 - Equal reduction for both sectors

Sub option 2-A2

Sub option 2-B1 for the Chesapeake

Option 3.2 Circlce Hook

Option B Required use of Circle hooks

Although I would prefer a slot with lower requirements to protect the larger fish or even a full closure, with the options presented these are what I support in helping the stocks rebound.

It is of utmost importance that you move forward with these changes in a timely manner because you have allowed them to fall below the target threshold and now we are left playing catch up.

Thank you for your consideration,
Gianfranco Zaffina
32 Westway Road
Westport, CT 06880

Comments

From: Bob <surfratt@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass addendum VI comments

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I would like to take this opportunity to submit to you my comments and concerns on the Draft Addendum VI to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.

I am an avid recreational angler and have spent many years fishing for striped bass. I have seen the specie come back from near collapse to a record high biomass. I believe that when ASMFC dropped the size/bag limit from 1 fish@36" to 2 fish@28" was the death knell for the fishery. We need to correct that now. We cannot let the opportunity to rebuild this all important fishery slip through our fingers.

Therefore, I believe that Option 2, an 18% reduction across both commercial and recreational sectors, is the best possible option for the stock at this time. Furthermore I support Option 2A-1, a 1 fish @35" size and bag limit. I do not support any slot limit that will target juvenile fish before they get into the Spawning Stock Biomass, SSB. We need to protect the remaining few decent year classes we have left, in particular the 2014 and 2015 year classes who have yet to reach 28".

I also support option 2B-1, a 1 fish @ 18" size and bag limit for the Chesapeake Bay system. Although i understand that the trophy fish is still viable in Maryland I firmly believe that this option will have better results protecting the fishery. I also firmly believe that the Bay anglers need to find some mechanism to significantly reduce their discard mortality. We all know that the coastal fishery has a 9% discard mortality but I believe fishing inside the Bay during the warmer summer months significantly pushes up that mortality rate. Perhaps we can work to closing down the Bay fishery in Maryland like Virginia has already taken upon themselves.

When it comes to Option 3.2, circle hooks, I support Option 3-2B, promotion and education in support of circle hook use. I have heard many arguements in favor of mandated use of circle hooks but I cannot support that option at this time. I don't feel that this is truly enforceable considering all the other species we recreational anglers can come in contact with while targeting striped bass. All one would have to do is state that "I'm fishing for X specie of fish" and there wouldnt be much to do about it. There are also bait techniques that are widely used to target striped bass that won't work with circle hooks. Particularly the rigged eel. I do believe that required use of circle hooks are apropos for targeting striped bass like clams and live menhaden. Again, I believe that education is the key just like safe catch and release practices.

Sincerely,

Bob Danielson
86 Balin Ave
South Setauket, NY 11720

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Comments

From: Eric Hellberg <ehellberg@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max,

My name is Eric Hellberg and I am an avid surfcaster for striped bass, traveling the east coast to enjoy this amazing sport and fish. A healthy striped bass fishery is vital to the economic interests of both the recreational and commercial sectors. The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector.

Option 2-A1: 1 @ 35"

Option 2-B1: 1 @ 18" for Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

Fishing, particularly for the striped bass, is a huge part of my life. It's something that brings great commerce and culture to the many coastal towns along the eastern seaboard. This resource should be protected and allowed to spawn as many times as possible before being harvested, to allow the fishery to remain healthy and available to the generations of anglers to come.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Comments

From: Mark Alongi <mark.alongi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support ending over-fishing of Striped Bass. I am a recreational fisherman and have been fishing for bass more than four decades. A single fish of 35" minimum in length per day makes the most sense to me.

Additionally, there should only be one commercial licence type per person / vessel.

Thank you for your time.

Mark

Comments

From: Ryan Cho <ryancho213@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Commissioner and Officers of the ASMFC,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments concerning the Addendum for the Striped Bass Resource in 2019.

Our striped bass fishery needs to be protected. As a recreational fisherman I have seen a decline in the overall number and size of fish in recent years. Drastic and immediate action is necessary.

I support an immediate move to make striped bass a catch-and-release only species, mandate the use of barbless, single hook lures on artificial lures, and impose a moratorium on live bait fishing until such time as female spawning stocks recover.

With respect to the proposals open for comment, I support and encourage the following:

Option 2

18% equal reduction for both commercial and recreational stakeholders

Option 2A-1

1 fish at 35" applicable to all states

Option 2B-1

1 fish at 18"

Option B

Circle hooks to be made mandatory for use when fishing with live bait, no exceptions.

We are at the tipping point! Decisive action, taken not in the interest of the commercial or recreational anglers, but in the interest of the "most iconic" fish on our Atlantic coast, is necessary to preserve this fishery for our future generations. We have but one chance to protect this great natural resource.

Respectfully,
Ryan Cho

Comments

From: Ryan Cho <ryancho213@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioner and Officers of the ASMFC,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments concerning the Addendum for the Striped Bass Resource in 2019.

Our striped bass fishery needs to be protected. As a recreational fisherman I have seen a decline in the overall number and size of fish in recent years. Drastic and immediate action is necessary.

I support an immediate move to make striped bass a catch-and-release only species, mandate the use of barbless, single hook lures on artificial lures, and impose a moratorium on live bait fishing until such time as female spawning stocks recover.

With respect to the proposals open for comment, I support and encourage the following:

Option 2

18% equal reduction for both commercial and recreational stakeholders

Option 2A-1

1 fish at 35" applicable to all states

Option 2B-1

1 fish at 18"

Option B

Circle hooks to be made mandatory for use when fishing with live bait, no exceptions.

We are at the tipping point! Decisive action, taken not in the interest of the commercial or recreational anglers, but in the interest of the "most iconic" fish on our Atlantic coast, is necessary to preserve this fishery for our future generations. We have but one chance to protect this great natural resource.

Respectfully,
Ryan Cho

Comments

From: Crabnet <Crabnet@netscape.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:42 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max Appelman

Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Appleman;

In reviewing I believe:

- Conservation efforts should be shared equally between the recreational and commercial sectors because everyone that uses the resource has a shared interest in its future.
- In both management scenarios (i.e., 2 and 3), the reductions for the commercial sector are based on Addendum IV quotas instead of 2017 harvest potentially allowing for an increase in removals if the quotas are fully utilized. This contradicts the intent of the Addendum.
- Scenario 3 would disproportionately penalize states that only have a recreational fishery or convert their commercial quota to a recreational bonus fish program (e.g., ME, NH, CT, NJ, PA, DC).
- 97% of total economic contribution came from the recreational sector in 2016, and that amounted to expenditures totaling \$6.3 billion dollars. Therefore, placing more economic burden on the recreational fishery by taking a smaller reduction on the commercial fishery is not supported.

I support scenario 2: equal percent reductions between the recreational and commercial sectors.

As follows I recommend:

Recreational Fishery Management Options Ocean Fishery (all jurisdictions) – I support the sub option 2A-1 which would specifically apply to the recreational ocean fishery.

Chesapeake Bay Fishery (MD, PRFC, DC and VA) – I support sub option 2B-1 listed in which would specifically apply to the recreational Chesapeake Bay fishery. All these sub options achieve the required reduction, so it's recommended to support a sub option that fits with the type of fishery you prefer. As a reminder, the current bay recreational fishery is managed with a 20" minimum size and a two fish bag limit with only one fish allowed >28". There are also various seasonal trophy fisheries.

I ask that the ASMFC strive for coastwide consistency in management measures yet supports the use of conservation equivalency programs if the proposed alternative measures quantifiably achieve the required reduction, and the Board follows up to hold states accountable for those reductions through the fishery performance review process.

Circle Hook Provision Recommendation Support option 3.2 option 2: require the use of non-offset circle hooks when fishing with bait.

- Currently, circle hook requirements for the striped bass fishery vary across the states even though science supports the use of circle hooks reduces discard mortality.
- 90% of recreational catch is released alive so any efforts to reduce discard mortality will help the resource.
- Educational campaigns to teach anglers the various techniques of using circle hooks should be employed by all the states to support effective implementation of this option.

Summary:

- **Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.**
- **Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".**
- **Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.**
- **Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Ross H. Johnson
57 Troumaka St.
Toms River, N.J. 08757

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Comments

From: Glenn Freiman <Glenn.Freiman@scapa.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments to Atlantic striped bass draft

Hi

I would like to voice my concern for the overfishing of Striped Bass. I am a recreational fisherman and have seen a dramatic reduction in the catch in recent years after having fished this species primarily in Connecticut waters for over 30 years. I am in favor of a 30" – 38" slot limit with a reduction in commercial quotas and no provisions for the reallocation of commercial quota to recreational quota.

Thanks for listening

Glenn



Glenn Freiman, PE
Sr. Process Engineer

Scapa North America
111 Great Pond Dr.
Windsor, CT 06095
860 688-8000

Email: Glenn.Freiman@scapa.com
www.scapa.com

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Comments

From: Arthur Sawayer <finfuncharters@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I agree with the 18% reduction and the circle hook use. Also we should be far more aggressive in saving this valuable resource. We almost lost them once and it seems were going down the same path as we did in the 80s .

Capt Art Sawayer

Comments

From: Jonathan Watson <jonomwatson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support Option 3, specifically sub-option 3B-4.

For the circle-hook provision, I support Option B, with plenty of time (e.g., > 2 years) for states to implement this change.

Finally, I am disappointed that there is not a closed season option for the Chesapeake Bay. I think your logic that "closed seasons may have little or no impact in fisheries that operate as catch and release" is somewhat flawed here. It seems that you suggest that catch and release mortality is constant across environmental condition gradients (e.g., temperature), which I suspect is incorrect. I would hope that ASMFC would consider investigating whether recreational dead releases increase significantly during periods of thermal stress and/or hypoxic conditions, which will likely increase in duration under a warming climate.

Thanks,

Jonathan Watson

Comments

From: Ben Pentoney <bpentoney@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max Appelmann,

My name Ben Pentoney and I am a recreational fisherman. An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interest of the recreational and commercial sectors. Over my lifetime, I have seen what harvest reductions and moratorium can do to sustain a fishery. Lets protect the the future of this fishery years to come.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A2: 1 28" - 35" Slot

Option 2-B1: 1 @ 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2B: mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Ben Pentoney
717 Moore Ave
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Comments

From: Taylor Vavra <taylorvavra@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max Appleman & ASMFC-

Striped bass are in big trouble, this is not the time for status quo. I am writing today in support of Option 2 (equal percent reductions) and option 3.2 Circle Hook provision. Ultimately I believe Striped Bass should be declared a game fish but this reduction has to happen now for that to even be a chance in the future. Of all the information presented by scientists I think the most important and overlooked of all is CLOSED SEASONS. There is no better way to rebuild a stock than to leave it alone, especially during the important spring spawning months in the Chesapeake and Hudson Rivers. I STRONGLY advise that you consider dramatic closures to insure that Striped Bass have the time and space to spawn.

Thank you!

Taylor Vavra
Flame Artist
www.justaddwater.tv
www.stripersforever.org
mobile: 914.522.9507
office: 212.838.8883

Comments

From: Kyle <mxryder3190@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max Appelman,

My name is Kyle LaPorte. I am an avid surf fisherman for striped bass. I would like to see option 2 with 1 fish at 35" go into effect in helps to aid in recovery for this dying striped bass fishery. This is my number one hobby and love in my life. The striped bass. Without this fish me and hundreds of others who catch and release these fish for the thrill and love of the surfcasting game will no longer be able to enjoy this fishery we once did when it was a healthy one. The smaller class fish and schoolies need to be protected to a certain age to help the fishery bounce back in action. Please consider our thoughts. Have a nice day! Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Taylor Vavra <taylor@stripersforever.org>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max Appleman & ASMFC-

Striped bass are in big trouble, this is not the time for status quo. I am writing today in support of Option 2 (equal percent reductions) and option 3.2 Circle Hook provision. Ultimately I believe Striped Bass should be declared a game fish but this reduction has to happen now for that to even be a chance in the future. Of all the information presented by scientists I think the most important and overlooked of all is CLOSED SEASONS. There is no better way to rebuild a stock than to leave it alone, especially during the important spring spawning months in the Chesapeake and Hudson Rivers. I STRONGLY advise that you consider dramatic closures to insure that Striped Bass have the time and space to spawn.

Thanks,

Taylor Vavra
National Board Member
Stripers Forever
www.stripersforever.org
stripers@stripersforever.org

Comments

From: Adam Wiles-Rosell <awilesro@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it concerns,

I would like to express my support of the ASMFC draft addendum VI. Specifically "option 2". As a Mainer, fly fisher, and avid outdoors person, I WANT this species to thrive so that everyone can enjoy a tight line in some of the most beautiful locations on Earth (the New England Eastern Seaboard).

This resource does us no good if it does not exist and anything less than thriving is a shame particularly when there is precedent and the ability for a recovery.

Respectfully,

Adam Wiles-Rosell

Comments

From: Mike Delzingo <ff_boston@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI comments

If the commercial striped bass harvest is only 10% of the total harvest, it only make sense that the commercial reduction be 10% of the 18% total reduction. and therefore I am in favor of option 3.

Otherwise the fishery should remain status quo, no change!

Captain Mike Delzingo
Fishbucket Sportfishing Boston

Comments

From: Dominic Lentini <dlentini@alumni.conncoll.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Two whom it may concern,

Research shows that the striped bass population is at its lowest in decades, and that fishing—notably commercial fishing—is under regulated and taking a severe toll. I support Option 2 of the Striped Bass Draft Addendum, and support even more serious regulations in the future.

Please don't make the same mistakes we've made in the past. Take the necessary action to protect striped bass.

Thank you,
Dominic

Comments

From: Alan Cordts <dralancordts@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:26 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Alan Cordts; George Christman
Subject: Draft Addendum VI Public Comment.

I attended the Open Comment meeting at the Mass Maritime Academy last Thursday, October 3rd.

I am in favor of the Proposal for Massachusetts: An 18 per cent reduction in catch effort (F) reduction for both the MA Recreational and the Commercial categories. For the ASMFC, MA Division, to propose or implement any different will just increase the animosity between these two user groups, both of whom seek a significant sized, or "trophy" striped bass.

Only in the Recreational Sector is the biomass a potential reusable resource, with the rather massive 90 plus percentage C&R, by your statistics. Yes I understand the 9 percent release mortality impact. The Commercial Sector thrives only for kill. The Commercial sector has a disproportionately larger contribution to catch effort (F), with their own culling, high grading, and increased effort driven by profit. Individually, the Commercial License harvester is far more skilled and effective in harvest than the average Recreational fisherman.

The Commercial harvest and sale of striped bass is a much larger driver of catch effort (F), than your statistics indicate, for the significant decline of the quality and quantity of this fishery.

I wish to call to your attention to the Florida Snook Fishery and the regulations presently in place which have been so successful in salvaging this resource: There is a Closed Season (during the early summer) when the fish are spawning. When the season is Open, you can only kill a snook withing a very small Slot Limit of 28-32 inches. IF: a fisherman wishes to legally kill a snook within the Open Season, and within the Slot Limit, this fisherman must also be in possession of a special, purchased Snook Stamp. Finally, snook are a Game Fish; therefore, commercial sale of the species is unlawful under any circumstance.

These are your tools for decreasing catch effort (F): Closed Season, Size Limits, Daily Bag Limits, Slot Limits, Special Licensing, No Commercial Sale; and finally, Enforcement. I know I do not need to tell you how to do your job. What I am asking of you is to DO YOUR JOB.

I am 70 years old. Yes, recover this striped bass fishery; BUT ALSO PRESERVE IMMEDIATELY WHAT IS LEFT. I will not be alive for regulations to grow me another 40 pound beach bass from scratch.

Alan E. Cordts, M.D.

Comments

From: Tyler McPherson <tylerjmcpherson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

ASMFC,

I am in favor of Option 2.

Thank you,
Tyler McPherson
Cohasset, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: budmar3 <budmar3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM VI

Lee Roy Carson III - TFL 256
P. O. Box 41
Crisfield, Md. 21817-0041
C-410-251-0741

To whom it may concern:

Subject Line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Option 3-B1, I Support

Option 1: Status Quo, I am not in favor.

Option 2: Equal Reduction, I am not in favor. The recreational fishery accounts for 90% of the fish harvested.

You can write all the Rules and Regulations you want but they aren't working. IF WHAT EVER YOU'RE DOING ISN'T WORKING TRY SOMETHING ELSE.

The only way to reduce the Harvest & Release Mortality is by the Reduction of Fishing Days.

Do away with Catch and Release. Shorten or do away with the Trophy Season. The deadliest months for Striped Bass Fishing are July and August. Remove some fishing days during July and August and you will reduce the Harvest and Release Mortality. Remove the month of December.

Sent from Windows Mail

Comments

From: Pete <montana3a@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: I support 35" minimum striped bass

Dear members of the ASMFC,

I strongly urge you to take measures to protect the future of the striped bass population. I have been fishing in Connecticut and Rhode Island for the last 20 years in the last five years I have noticed a sharp decline in the presence of striped bass. I urge you to change regulations for 2020, and I support a 35 inch minimum equal to an 18% reduction of both commercial and recreational harvest. The long-term economic benefits far outweigh any short term economic downfalls. Please do what you can to protect the future of this fishery.

-peter Kosciukiewicz

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Lou Bleiler <loubleiler75@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:02 PM
To: Tina Berger
Subject: Striped Bass

I live in PA and fish Raritan Bay/New York Bight, I support options ; 2A2 and 3A2. Thank You, Lou E Bleiler

Comments

From: Matt Boutet <mattboutet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 comments

I'm writing today to offer my comments on Draft Addendum VI.

My overarching comment is that it's very disappointing that the ASMFC has ONLY put forward options for comment that have a 50% chance of success. To have waited this long and then not even tried to ensure success ought to be criminal.

That said, in a world where the only solutions available are woefully inadequate, my I support the most conservative of those available solutions:

I support Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions and Sub-Options 2-A4 and 2-B1 based entirely on the projected change in total removals.

I also support mandatory circle hooks- Option B. and would support the earliest feasible implementation of new regulations requiring them.

Thanks for your time,
Matt Boutet

Comments

From: Matt Boutet <mattboutet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 comments

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I also support mandatory circle hooks- Option B. and would support the earliest feasible implementation of new regulations requiring them.

Thanks for your time,
Matt Boutet

Comments

From: Adam Eldridge <adam@onthewater.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Comments

Good Afternoon,

I'm just submitting my comments on the alterations to the striped bass fishery. I'd really love to see these options implemented:

2A-1 (1 fish at 35 inches) and 2-B1 (1 fish at 18 inches for the Chesapeake fishery). Also Option B for Circle Hook Provision would be ideal, especially pertaining to the live bait / chunk bait side of things. I've never seen a gut hooked Striped Bass when fishing with circle hooks but I've seen plenty of J hooks getting swallowed and ultimately causing fish mortality. I try to use circles anytime I'm eel fishing for stripers as it always seems to get them right in the corner of the mouth.

Much appreciated!

Adam Eldridge
TV Producer/Editor

On The Water

Magazine • TV • Digital • Striper Cup
508.548.4705 x. 218
www.OnTheWater.com

Comments

From: Matt Boutet <mattboutet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Apologies for re-sending, earlier version didn't have exactly the right subject, and if this is being filtered automatically I wanted to ensure it made it to the right place.

I'm writing today to offer my comments on Draft Addendum VI.

My overarching comment is that it's very disappointing that the ASMFC has ONLY put forward options for comment that have a 50% chance of success. To have waited this long and then not even tried to ensure success ought to be criminal.

That said, in a world where the only solutions available are woefully inadequate, my I support the most conservative of those available solutions:

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I also support mandatory circle hooks- Option B. and would support the earliest feasible implementation of new regulations requiring them.

Thanks for your time,
Matt Boutet

Comments

From: Sam Johnson <sam@csjohnson.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: my comments on Draft Addendum VI

My name is Sam Johnson and I am a lifelong angler living in East Haddam, CT. I fish for many species with different kinds of tackle. About half of my time angling in the last 15+ years has been spent targeting striped Bass. I am in support of slot limits for Striped Bass, coast wide. I feel that the ASMFC is falling short as far as making drastic enough cuts to save this fishery. Of all the options, a 22-28" slot would be best. A regulation of one fish at 35" is not going to save this fishery. I understand that there are strong year classes of fish under 35" in length right now, and that they need to be protected. However, protecting the largest breeders from unnecessary harvest will do much more for the future. One fish at 35" will just make sure to remove more of the breeders, which we need to keep alive and in the water now more than ever. Also, the overwhelming majority of Striped Bass over 35" are egg-bearing females, why would we want to only harvest these fish and leave all of the smaller males alone?

I am in favor of circle hooks for any form of bait fishing, and any sort regulation that mandates their use wherever possible. This should be required for bluefish as well so that uncaring anglers cannot simply claim that they are "fishing for bluefish" with J hooks where both species are found. Snag and drop fishing with weighted trebles should be outlawed for Striped Bass and Bluefish as well. When fishing a menhaden school where snag and drop is popular, anglers are just as likely to find bluefish as they are striped bass. Again, this prevents the issue of "fishing for bluefish" with a weighted treble hook where Striped Bass are also present. I work in the marine industry. Anything that can be done to save Striped Bass and increase their numbers before another moratorium takes place is important to the economy that fuels my family business. When one sector of the boating industry suffers because of a lack of fish and fishing effort, it affects all of the businesses in this industry. In closing, please do your jobs so that another moratorium doesn't need to take place.

Regards,

Sam Johnson

Sales Manager



C.S. Johnson Co. Inc.

(860)873-8697 P

(860)873-8589 F

sam@csjohnson.com

www.csjohnson.com

Comments

From: Sam Johnson <sam@csjohnson.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: my comments on Draft Addendum VI

My name is Sam Johnson and I am a lifelong angler living in East Haddam, CT. I fish for many species with different kinds of tackle. About half of my time angling in the last 15+ years has been spent targeting striped Bass. I am in support of slot limits for Striped Bass, coast wide. I feel that the ASMFC is falling short as far as making drastic enough cuts to save this fishery. Of all the options, a 22-28" slot would be best. A regulation of one fish at 35" is not going to save this fishery. I understand that there are strong year classes of fish under 35" in length right now, and that they need to be protected. However, protecting the largest breeders from unnecessary harvest will do much more for the future. One fish at 35" will just make sure to remove more of the breeders, which we need to keep alive and in the water now more than ever. Also, the overwhelming majority of Striped Bass over 35" are egg-bearing females, why would we want to only harvest these fish and leave all of the smaller males alone?

I am in favor of circle hooks for any form of bait fishing, and any sort regulation that mandates their use wherever possible. This should be required for bluefish as well so that uncaring anglers cannot simply claim that they are "fishing for bluefish" with J hooks where both species are found. Snag and drop fishing with weighted trebles should be outlawed for Striped Bass and Bluefish as well. When fishing a menhaden school where snag and drop is popular, anglers are just as likely to find bluefish as they are striped bass. Again, this prevents the issue of "fishing for bluefish" with a weighted treble hook where Striped Bass are also present. I work in the marine industry. Anything that can be done to save Striped Bass and increase their numbers before another moratorium takes place is important to the economy that fuels my family business. When one sector of the boating industry suffers because of a lack of fish and fishing effort, it affects all of the businesses in this industry. In closing, please do your jobs so that another moratorium doesn't need to take place.

Regards,

Sam Johnson

Sales Manager



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sam@csjohnson.com

www.csjohnson.com

Comments

From: Christian Awe <christianawe32@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My name is Christian Awe and I am 23 years old. I graduated from college with degrees in Environmental Science and Political Science and am now a professional fly fishing guide and employee at The Saltwater Edge in Newport, Rhode Island. I have enjoyed fishing for Striped Bass my entire life and am incredibly concerned with the current population issues they are facing. In light of these issues I would like to support the following regulation options:

Option 2: 18% reduction applied equally between sectors

Option 2-A1: One fish @ 35"

Option 2-B1: One fish @ 18"

Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of circle hooks across

I feel as though these options, if adopted into regulation will even out the damage done by recreational and commercial fish harvest, allow appropriate spawning time for younger fish, reduce harvest numbers in the fragile Chesapeake Bay fishery and reduce mortality rates.

The fact that I have been able to witness first hand the staggering decline of Striped Bass numbers over the course of my life is shocking. Without regulation and more strict/consistent enforcement of said regulations the Striped Bass is almost certainly doomed. I urge you to follow the suggestions of informed anglers and associations such as the ASGA and save the Striper and its ecosystem.

Thank you,

Christian F. Awe

Comments

From: John Gobel <jgobel@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI (VERY IMPORTANT) !!!!!!!

Good afternoon,

My name is John Gobel. I have been an avid Striped Bass fisherman for over 35 years. Having experienced the last crash as a teenager back in the 80's and watching how the population recovered incredibly well only after extreme measures were taken by limiting to 1 fish at 36" I am in favor of Option 2-A- 1@ 35".

The party boat and charter industry paid no attention to the Striped bass until they decimated the flounder, fluke, bluefish, blackfish and Porgy fisheries.

All of these fisheries have been making a steady recovery over the last several years because of the cuts in the season and either increasing the size limits or reducing the daily limits for each species. With that said it is imperative that you put the most effective limits on the striped bass fishery.

Thanks for your time.

John Gobel
Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: nathan <nathangeoffery@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: "Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI"

To Whom it May Concern,

I firmly believe that Striped Bass are far more valuable alive than dead. I feel the fishery should be catch and release **only** with full protection of the resource. That said, I support the following:

- Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.
- Option 2A-1 or Option 2A-2. One fish limit with a minimum size of 35" or a 28-35" slot. For option 2A-1 it would need to be adjusted to a slot within a few seasons in order to let fish spawn then cap the max size. The most responsible and intelligent choice would be to make striped bass fishing catch and release only along the entire Eastern seaboard.
- Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay. That said, I personally do not feel the bay should have any different regulations than the rest of the coastline. I feel 18" is far too small.
- Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

Thank you,

Nathan Gould

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Harry Truong <flyasalt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:34 PM
To: Comments
Cc: MAUREEN.DAVIDSON@DEC.NY.GO; James Gilmore; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY
Subject: Striped Bass Comments

Dear Mr. Appleman,

My name is Harry Truong and I have been a recreational striped bass fisherman for over 30 years. I can easily remember the last collapse of the striper fishery and how it recovered. A healthy striped bass fishery is vital to many coastal communities and their economies.

With that said, I support Option 2-18% reduction applied to both recreational and commercial fishing, option 2-A1-1@35", option 2-B1-18" minimum for Chesapeake Bay, and option 3.2B-mandatory use of circle hooks for bait fishing.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Harry Truong

Comments

From: Gene <geneander@optimum.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:27 PM
To: Comments
Cc: James Gilmore; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY;
saveourstripers@gmail.com; maureen.davidsom@ncdenr.gov
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6
Attachments: Gene Ander.vcf

I support Option Two: which requires changes to current regulations resulting in an equitable 18% reduction in recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass.

Also, I support the use of circle hooks for both recreational and hook-and-line commercial fishing using bait.

Thank you,

Gene



Comments

From: George Baldwin <baldwingr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum VI

To the Members of the ASMFC,

My life is strongly tied in to our marine ecosystem and the striped bass. I'm the president of the Connecticut Surfcasters Association, an organization whose membership averages around one hundred members yearly. I teach at a school that specializes in marine science and technology, and run after school programs on salt water fishing, marine biology field studies, fly tying, and a youth kayak fishing team. I spend a lot of my nonworking time pursuing striped bass in waders, wetsuit and kayak.

Over that last decade and a half, I've become very disillusioned with the performance of the ASMFC and their supposed great success with rebuilding the striper stocks. Their great work has been supplanted by neglect and mismanagement, allowing this important species to fall again by the wayside. This fish alone is responsible for many millions of dollars poured into our economy each year, yet its demise is ignored by the agency that is supposed to protect and enhance it. It would be embarrassing if they actually cared about it enough to feel that emotion.

I'd really love to see a moratorium on killing stripers, but I'd settle for the most conservative measures available. I support a 35" minimum size, an equal 18% reduction of both commercial and recreational harvest, and circle hooks mandated for all bait fishing (including livelining menhaden).

I also firmly believe that the inaction and complacency by the ASMFC necessitates a renovation of that organization, including accountability measures to make sure that the members do their jobs in putting forth the effort needed to preserve the striped bass fishery.

With much concern,

George R. Baldwin
30 Mansfield Drive
Unit 705
Northford, CT 06472
baldwingr@yahoo.com

Comments

From: Nauris Zmuida <nauriszmuida@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: STRIPED BASS

Dear Max,

My name is Nauris Zmuida . I am an avid striped bass fisherman of 15+ years . I chase these fish religiously from Virginia to Maine almost year round . Growing up on the jersey shore gave me a chance at catching fish to 40 pounds consistently in the spring and fall till about 10 years ago. It has been very easy to see the downfall of the population wether I'm fishing my home turf , montauk , cape cod , block island or even curry hunk . I wear a wetsuit for hours just at a chance at a keeper nowadays where 10 years ago I wouldn't even waste my time with those small fish , I'd rather drive a couple hours and hunt for a trophy . The decline has been consistent . Every year it's worse and worse and the last couple seasons have been horrible. The effort I am putting in just does not outweigh my results anymore. I have a close group of friends who I share this passion with and we are all on the same page - if nothing is done to save these fish my kids will never have the chance to catch one (let alone my grandkids if I'm fortunate to have them) . The fish are way too pressured and it's our fault as fishermen. I don't blame the commercial guy any more than I blame the recreational fisherman or even the seal that consumes a ton of striper. I just think we should do our part and give these fish a CHANCE to grow big and reproduce . They have a hard enough time considering natural predators , diseases and pollution . It's time we change the regulations and stand together for a better future of the striped bass . I support the options 2 , 2a1 , 2b1 , and 3.2.b . We must give these fish a chance to spawn , protect the yearly classes , and reduce catch and release mortality to make sure the fishery doesn't get any worse than it already is . Thank you for reading my letter and I pray that we take a step forward in the right direction

Comments

From: Ben Burdine <benburdine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:21 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass 2020 Regulations

Dear ASMF Commission,

Please consider Options 2A-1 or 3A-1 (1@35" or 1@36") for 2020 Striped Bass regulations.

Alternatively, please consider 2A-4 and 3A-4 (32"-40" slot).

Also am in favor of mandatory circle hooks for fishing with bait.

Based on the latest Assessment data, it is clear that the Striped Bass have been overfished, in particular by Recreational anglers such as myself. It would be reckless and negligent to vote in favor of Option 1 or any Option that allows harvesting 28" to 32" Striped Bass, as these size fish will represent the 2014 and 2015 recruitment class. These recruitment years are our only hope to restore the health of this fishery.

I would be in favor of a moratorium, although this is not being proposed.

Please also reduce the future Menhaden quota and enforce the current Menhaden quota. This requires punishing Omega Protein for egregiously violating their 2019 quota. The health of the Menhaden stock is inherently related to the health of the Striped Bass fishery. It's just common sense and the time to act is NOW.

Thank you,
Ben Burdine
Cell: (203)-394-7777

Comments

From: BRTHR FILMS <brthrfilms@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max Appleman,

My name is Kyle Wightman and I am a striped bass fisherman from Long Island. An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector
Option 2-A1: 1@35"
Option 2-B1: 1@18' for the Chesapeake Bay
Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter

Sincerely,

Kyle Wightman

50 Barnum Ave apt 213
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Comments

From: Ben Romsky <benromsky@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:17 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped bass addendum VI

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my concerns over the striped bass Addendum VI.

As a recreational fisherman, retired commercial fisherman and now currently as a member of the Montauk Surfcasters Association, I've seen the ups and downs of the fishery.

Many years ago a limit of I believe, 1@36" was implemented and in a few short years the striped bass rebounded to record numbers, then the size limit was lowered to accommodate I believe some lobbyists with the wrong interests, Apparently overfishing has hurt up and down the coast.

I am in favor of the proposal of 1@35" and not the "slot" system as it would take away the core of the reproductive stock, destroying the chances of recovery.

Thank you in advance,
Ben Romanasky

Comments

From: Kyle Wightman <kgwightman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max Appleman,

My name is Kyle Wightman and I am a striped bass fisherman from Long Island. An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector
Option 2-A1: 1@35"
Option 2-B1: 1@18' for the Chesapeake Bay
Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter

Sincerely,

Kyle Wightman

50 Barnum Ave apt 213
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Comments

From: Chase Freiman <cfrei44@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass overfishing

Dear commission:

My name is Chase Freiman and I have been an avid striped bass fisherman my whole entire life. I am emailing you today to support Sub-Option 2A-1 and 2B-1 regarding Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstates Management Plan for Striped Bass.

Striped bass are overfished, and overfishing is occurring. I have watched the population decrease noticeably in my home waters of the Eastern Long Island Sound and in Rhode Island, where I fish frequently, and know that action must be taken to slow the depletion of the striped bass population. Given that, and given the options presented by the Commission, I believe that 1 fish at 35" in the ocean and 1 fish at 18" in Chesapeake Bay present the best path forward. Given the inconsistent spawning success of striped bass, if harvest was focused entirely on specific year classes, once the strongest year classes (next up, 2015s) reach that slot, they would risk being wiped out, and with them, our greatest chance for high recruitment in the future.

I would also like to mention that as long as conservation equivalency is on the table for states, a slot does not make sense, since some states would undoubtedly find research that suggests killing the largest fish in the population has a similar impact than the proposed slot, putting the fish we are looking to protect with a slot back in the crosshairs.

Third, there is little to no science outlining what the impact of releasing large fish would be. While I support Sub-option 2A-1 and Sub-option 2B-2 of those that have been presented, it is my strong belief that more needs to be done in the management of striped bass to ensure that the population does not continue to decrease. These additional actions include the development of regulations that are designed with a higher than 50% probability of success and to not only stop overfishing, but to rebuild the stock back to the threshold that has been established and maintained in the past.

I am afraid that if the wrong regulations, or no regulations, are put into place then we will see an even worse stock collapse.

Sincerely,

Chase Freiman

Comments

From: Captain Bobby Rice <captainbob@fishreeldeal.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:58 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Captain Elena Rice; Captain Bobby Rice
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman:

October 7, 2019

Comments to Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI:
Arlington, Virginia 22201
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200 A-N
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Mr. Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator

Recommend Option No. 2 – Equal Percent Reductions
Recommend Sub-Option 2-A2: Bag Limit 1, 28” - 35” slot

I believe some initial context will be helpful in characterizing from where this comment originates. We own Reel Deal Fishing Charters, a multi-boat charter fishing company operating out of Cape Cod, specifically Truro, MA since 2001. We provide primary employment to three employees. We target striped bass and bluefin tuna. Striped bass fishing charters are over 75% of our business. We recognize from our own experiences over the past several years that striped bass are over fished and we strongly agree a change needs to occur now. This belief also must be balanced with our desire to stay in business in the short-term and the long-term. This is why we are supporting Option 2-A2. We believe this will increase protection of striped bass, yet not create an unsurmountable economic blow to the charter fishing industry.

With this option, we will be contending with potentially unsatisfied charter customers during the month of June when we regularly catch striped bass over 35”, which will now need to be released. It is possible and likely that we will lose some of our early summer charter revenue if Option 2-A2 goes into affect. However, during the full peak of our season in July and August, we are mostly catching fish within the 28” - 35” slot. Therefore a large portion of our customers will continue to be able to keep their striped bass for food consumption, as they have come to expect as the main value of their fishing charter. We expect lesser charter revenue impact during the peak summer months, if Option 2-A2 goes into effect.

In comparison, if Option 2-A1 was chosen this would have a large impact on our fishing charter business to the extent that our feasibility to stay in business would come into question. One fish over 35”, would mean that most of our trips in July and August would come in empty handed. Our clients fortunately understand that “fishing is not catching” and they have tolerance for a trip or two with no catch, as that is the dynamic of the sport and they will return the subsequent season. However when customers are informed of the recreational regulations *before* booking their trip, we know that a substantial percentage will not book the fishing charter should Option 2-A1 go into effect.

Cape Cod already is up against negative impact on tourism due to the white shark activity and piping plover protection beach closures. Many of our customers tell us the highlight of their Cape Cod vacation is their fishing charter with Reel Deal and it is **the reason** they continue to visit this area. Clients fishing on our boats generate a sizable amount of revenue to our local motels, coffee shops/delis and gas stations. Our boats alone provide well over \$40,000 in revenue to local gas stations. The impact of people not booking fishing charters will be felt far beyond just our business.

We agree that short-sighted economic interests should not prevent the striped bass regulations from changing and we are not in favor of status quo. We are in favor of striped bass protection changes that factor in economic impact on the charter fishing industry. Our business provides **primary** employment for three Cape Cod residents. This is not a part-time retirement, weekend hobby or “side job”. Personally, we have three children in the Truro school district and our business is our family’s primary

source of income. We do not want to leave Cape Cod and do not want to join the exodus of young people leaving Cape Cod due to lack of employment opportunities.

Circle Hook Provision - Status Quo

The Mass DMF is requiring the use of circle hooks by the recreational angling community in 2020. The Massachusetts commercial anglers and charter boat or for hire fleet is exempt from the requirement and represent a small percentage of the landing and discards. As noted the 9% dead discard rate by the recreational community is driving the mortality level below recommended thresholds.

As stated above we recommend Option No. 2-A2 and Circle Hook Provision - Status Quo.

We thank you very much for your time in considering this comment and appreciate the opportunity for which to provide it.

Respectful regards,

Captain Bobby Rice
Captain Elena Rice

Please [VOTE](#) Captain BOBBY RICE for this year's Top Charter Captains!

Captain Bobby Rice @fishreeldeal
Featured in On The Water Magazine
Reel Deal Fishing Charters LLC
www.fishreeldeal.com
(508) 487 - 3767



Comments

From: Rick Golden <1620anglers@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Greetings ASMFC,

I would like to officially comment on record. I was in attendance and spoke up a few times at the meeting held at Mass Maritime on 10/3.

- Circle hooks should be mandatory and enforced for recreational fishing from boat or shore with live bait (Charter boats should not be included in this since they will be adding pork rind and sand eels to tube and worm j-hooks and jigs to increase their chances of catching a 35" fish) but I know that this isn't something that could easily be changed and most likely never will. For that reason, there should be an further amendment to this for tube and worm and jigs.
- The limit should be one 35" fish for recreational. A slot limit would continue to damage the population of breeders which would ultimately cause more damage to this fishery as a whole in the years to come. Many of the unfortunate charter captains that were in attendance of this meeting were strongly against this and prefer a slot limit because they say they won't be able to catch their clients fish for them to keep. I feel that their marketing and the experience those charters are providing aren't inline with the younger demographic and their way of thinking needs to change to align their business strategy. The fish under 35" can always be caught, a photo taken with education on a clean and revived fish release. That is how 1620 Anglers gets it done. We are confident in our ability and spots to produce 35" and above fish for our clients to take home to eat or cook and eat by one of our partners.
- I don't believe the commercial fisherman should have to take on an equal split of 18% and 18% for recreational fishermen. This quota is already taking a hit in MA due to overfishing by recreational anglers. Not to mentions sharks and a severely high seal population, but that's an entirely different story that really isn't being looked at deeper, along with dragging net caused mortality. The commercial quota in MA is such a small effect on the overall fishery that this should be reason enough to go to - 1.8% for commercial and - 20% for recreational.

We are all responsible for protecting and conserving the fishery. We must come together and agree to something that will make the most sense for the goals for managing and increasing the stock of striped bass while decreasing the high mortality rate.

Thank you,

Rick Golden
Founder & CEO
1620 Anglers

Comments

From: Saltwater Heart Fishing <ljssurfing@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments

Hello I'm Lee from saltwater Heart Fishing. I'm an avid angler and fish for striped bass often. Here's is what I'd hope for:

Option 2: Equal reduction across all sectors Option 2A-1: 1 fish at 35"

Option 2B-1: 1 fish at 18" for Chesapeake Bay Option 3.2 B : mandatory non offset circle hooks for bait fishing.

Thank you for considering.

Lee Wakefield
Saltwater Heart Fishing

Comments

From: Brennan Thompson <brennanthompson@me.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Sub option 2-A2

I would like to see sub option 2-A2 adopted for the 2020 season. I think by disallowing the harvest of fish over 35" this gives the major breeding population of fish a chance to thrive and reproduce.

-Brennan Thompson

Comments

From: Jake Naso-Kushner <birdshark@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:29 PM
To: Comments; James Gilmore; Maureen Davidson; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

Good Afternoon,

I am a New York state resident and recreational fisherman. A healthy and abundant striped bass population is very important to me, both personally and for the interests of the recreational and commercial communities. As a surfcaster, I have seen a sharp decline in striped bass over the last decade and support all measures to rebuild the stocks.

Specifically, I support the following options in Draft Addendum VI.

- **Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.**
- **Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".**
- **Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.**
- **Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.**

Thank you,
Jake
PO Box 18
Ocean Beach, NY 11770

Comments

From: grimard@tidewater.net
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To: Interested parties regarding recreational striped bass fishing limits.

From: Larry Grimard, citizen angler

Subj: A decrease in striper catch in order to meet intended reductions is not necessary in Maine because we already meet the intended catch targets proposed.

Date: October 7, 2019

To whom it may concern:

Apparently Maine Department of Marine Resources intends to reduce the annual number of striped bass caught in Maine waters by 18%.

Their plan is to establish a catch reduction by creating a rule change in 2020. The rule change is intended to result in a new lower annual catch that is based on a reduction of 18 % of the 2017 catch. This information was announced at the hearing in Yarmouth on 2 October 2019.

The 2017 catch (in numbers of fish), indicated in the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) query **below** is 2,738,103 fish.

18% of 2,738,103 = 482,858. $2,738,103 - 482,858 = 2,255,245$

Reducing the 2017 catch by 482,858 = **2,255,245** fish as the new annual catch limit.

The annual bass catch for year 2018 is **2,190,455**.

The intended target reduction has already been met. There is, therefore, no need to apply further reductions to recreational striped bass limits. The Maine F target has been met with current catch restrictions.

Submitted,

Larry Grimard

Jefferson

<https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/SASStoredProcess/do?>

Your Query Parameters:

Query:

MRIP CATCH TIME SERIES

Year:

2017 - 2019

Wave:

ANNUAL

Species:

STRIPED BASS

Geographic Area:

MAINE

Fishing Mode:

ALL MODES COMBINED

Fishing Area:

STATE WATERS

Type of Catch:

TOTAL CATCH (TYPE A + B1 + B2)

Information:

NUMBERS OF FISH

** Results from this query for 1981-2017 now contain estimates resulting from the full application of both the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) and Fishing Effort Survey (FES) calibration.

** Beginning in 2018 wave 1, all catch estimates in shore and private/rental boat modes are calculated using effort based on the FES.

[Return to Query Page](#)

Estimate Status	Year	Common Name	Total Catch (A+B1+B2)	PSE
FINAL	2017	STRIPED BASS	2,738,103	22.6
FINAL	2018	STRIPED BASS	2,190,455	20.8
PRELIMINARY	2019	STRIPED BASS	652,746	20.1

Comments

From: Mark D'Alessio <app1mxd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

To whomever it concerns,

As a fisherman I would to pledge my support for option 2 which takes an 18 percent reduction from both recreational and commercial quotas in order to restore the stocks. Any questions please reach out

Thank you, Mark D'Alessio

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Comments

From: Island Graphics <islandgraphics@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 12:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Support Addendum VI OPTION 2

Dear ASMFC . . . I support Addendum VI OPTION 2 because it fairly distributes catch reductions across all user groups.

Sincerely –
Harry

Harry J. Wujek, Sr.
ISLAND GRAPHICS
7705 Trappe Road
Baltimore, MD 21222
PH 410 282 4003
FX 410 282 4006

Comments

From: John Figmic <jfigmic@MAFFEILANDSCAPE.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:53 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass rules

I wish to put on file, as a recreational fishermen, my opposition to the proposed increase in size for recreational striped bass. I would be inclined to support a slot limit between 28 and 36 inches with fish above and below that range released. However that being said I believe that changes to the gear allowed specifically the hooks allowed for recreational use and a far more rigid enforcement of the existing rules would be more beneficial to increase the striped bass numbers.

Furthermore, the rules governing size and catch limits should be uniform across all states. So called recrimercial fishing should be ended. Commercial fishing of striped bass should add a minimum be cut in half with a total phase out within two years.

Lastly, fisheries should look into some sort of hatchery program much like many states do for trout and salmon.

As someone who fishes for the table because my personal economics require it I feel it is not fair to me or other like me to Increase the difficulty I face in catching a legal fish so that others may catch recreationally when science shows a significant number of those catch and release fish die despite best intentions.

Thank you

John Figmic

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Rich Beverley <rbeverley67@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:42 AM
To: Comments; savethestripers@gmail.com; ctomelden117@comcast.net; Todd Clouse
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum VI

Max,
Good day, I am an avid fisherman and primarily pursue the striped bass from the Chesapeake bay up the east coast. I have personally seen the decline in the past several years and I feel that it is a duty to reach out and be a part of this ongoing discussion and help restore the striped bass population.
The following are my preferred options of the addendum :
Option 2 - reductions applied equally to both the recreational and commercial anglers Option 2 A1- 1 @35 inches Option 2 B1- 1 @18 for Chesapeake watershed Option 3.2B- Mandatory use of non offset circle hooks

I think that an immediate adoption of these options will allow for the large biomass of smaller fish to help grow the failing population.
I think that the future of the bass population would greatly benefit from a slot limit , once the population reaches its former peak in the biomass. This has been applied to fisheries further south of us, and I have personally seen how well the redfish, snook and various fish from South Carolina to Louisiana have benefited from this preferred option. Please , let's all do our part and make the striped bass a shining example of conservation and effective management.

Best and tight lines to all,
Rich Beverley

Comments

From: R B <stripernine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Thank you for the time and effort in reading and taking into consideration the comments of the public in this process.

To simplify my thoughts, my answers to the two primary questions proposed are as follows

1) Yes, fisheries managers should absolutely take immediate steps to reduce impact/mortality/pressure on the striped bass population. Of the options provided ... I believe that Option 2 is the only option. Short of a moratorium, the standing stock should be provided an opportunity to restore additional successful year classes to the overall population. I support one fish at 32" for compromise with those who prefer to keep fish.

2) Yes, circle hooks should be required to help reduce release mortality.

I fish for striped bass as a primary target 60+ trips a year. That is revenue for services, fuel, fishing and boating equipment. With no striped bass, I simply stop this expenditure in my local economy. This harkens the trophic cascade analogy ... albeit starting much higher on the food chain and only involving the top two classes ... but the tragedy would remain the same, should the striped bass continue to suffer into oblivion as I have observed over the past decade.

Thank you for your consideration, and efforts in support of this species and all those who love, admire and care for them.

-Ryan Brown
46 Navesink Ave
Rumson, NJ 07760

Comments

From: Tom <tsadler@middlerivergroup.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

Dear Commissioners,

I urge you to adopt the following options to end over fishing and rebuild the stock.

- Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.
- Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".
- Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.
- Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

I believe these are the best options to address overfishing and rebuild the stock in the most expeditious manner.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

-tom

Tom Sadler
Managing Director
[The Middle River Group, LLC](#)
202.957.4748 (mobile)

Comments

From: Eric Reed <ericreed@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:16 AM
To: Comments
Cc: SaveTheStripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to voice my support for the following options outlined in Draft Addendum VI:

- Support Option 2
- Support Management Scenario Option 2-A1
- Support Management Scenario Option 2-B1
- Support Circle Hook Provision Option B for Mandatory Circle Hook Use

Eric Reed
Exeter, NH
603-770-0923

Comments

From: shoffman@emcor.net
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Rock fish

#1

Sent from IBM Notes Traveler

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Comments

From: Mike Pavlov <mikepavlov2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:22 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments Striped Bass Regulations

Dear Max Appleman,

Please accept my votes for:

- 35" minimum
- 18/18 percent recreational/commercial reduction
- Circle Hooks Required

Thank you,
Mike Pavlov
Brewster, MA.

Comments

From: Steven Anderson <slanderson47@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum

I just read online the Cape Cod Times article on the MMA meeting about proposed Striped Bass regs. My input for Recreational fisherman is:

I am in favor of a slot program, 28" to 35" 1 fish limit. The higher limit could be adjusted but the 28" lower limit would allow for 1 nice eating size fish to be harvested.

Also, in-line circle hooks for bait fishing and possibly no treble hooks on artificials.

I am not totally against commercial harvest but I think the casual commercial who sells a few for gas money should be eliminated. Those people have other fishing options to make a few dollars.

Additionally, I believe we need to have better control over poachers.

Thanks for soliciting input,
Steve Anderson
Port Charlotte Florida and Plymouth Ma

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Mark Chassereau <mchassereau@windsorelectric.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass issue

I support #2 reduction for rec. & com. But I must say a federal mandate calling for a reduction in all the US states would be a faster and more effective way.thank you for reading my thoughts.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Omrod, Jeremy <Jeremy.Omrod@Chubb.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:13 AM
To: Comments; Max Appelman
Cc: Tina Berger; Cynthia A. Robertson
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Appelman,

First of all, I'd like to thank you and the members of the board for your dedication to the science, research, and analytics that have helped drive the meetings and discussion. At the end of the day, the data is the easiest way to present an issue, but please allow me to present a more compelling side to the data. My first hand experiences along with countless other angler's experiences tell a story that compliments the riveting information that's been released by the researchers.

I fish for Striped Bass 4 times a week for 6 months. I travel to and from Philadelphia to the NJ shore mainly looking for LARGE Striped Bass. Over the past 3 years I have traveled up and down the coast in search of these larger fish and I can't seem to find them, but maybe it is just me. No, it can't be just me because I am hearing the same thing over and over again from some incredible fisherman that have dedicated the lives to Striped Bass. We're all asking each other the same thing, 'Where are the BIG fish?'

There is an abundance of small fish inshore. They seem to be from the 2012 or 2013 YOY class. All of them are about 24-26" or smaller. Unlike most, I am very excited about this! Our future is looking bright with so many young fish, but they need your help!

Please consider saving the MAJORITY of the Striped Bass species. Protect the younger, smaller fish, because they are our future. I am asking that you consider the following options to be considered at your next hearing in cooperation with Draft Addendum VI.

- Option 2: 18% reductions equally split between Rec and Comm
- Option 2-A1: 1@35"
- Option 2-B1: 1@18" for CB
- Option 3.2B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks for all bait (excluding dead 'rigged' eels)

Thank you for your service to the Striped Bass,

Jeremy Omrod

CHUBB

Jeremy Omrod
Financial Analyst, Chubb Global Casualty

436 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106, USA
O: 215-640-4289
E: Jeremy.omrod@chubb.com

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Comments

From: Jason Dutremble <jaydu19@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:04 AM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Appleman,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI. I am a 33 year-old recreational fisherman in southern Maine with a goal of becoming a registered guide in the next 3-5 years. I've been fishing these waters as long as I can remember and would like the opportunity to help protect and revitalize this great fishery for years to come.

In my review of the draft addendum and research behind it, I strongly agree with the proposed solutions as laid out by the ASGA. In summary, my opinion would also be to adopt the following:

- - Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.
- - Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".
- - Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.
- - Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

I understand you will have lots of comments to sort thru so I'm trying to keep this short. I greatly appreciate the chance to provide you with my opinion on this matter. If you have any questions or need additional feedback please let me know.

Thanks,

Jason Dutremble

Comments

From: Joseph Judge <joseph.d.judge@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:06 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Dear Max,

My name is Joe Judge and I am a recreational fisherman.

The following are the available options as presented in Draft Addendum VI that I feel provide the greatest chance at creating a healthy striped bass fishery that supports both recreational and economic interests up and down the Atlantic Coast;

Option 2: 18% reduction applied equally between recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1: 1 @ 35

Option 2-B1: 1 @ 18 for Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

I appreciate your time and attention.

Thank you,

Joe

Comments

From: Christopher Duffy <luckyduff@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum VI

I support Option 2 because it evenly distributes catch reductions across all user groups. Chris Duffy, 2143 Cockspur Road, Middle River, MD 21220-4901.

Comments

From: Taylor Ingraham <tayloringraham@tightlined.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To the Commission,

I attended the public hearing meeting on September 25 in Bridgeport, CT, and wanted to follow-up on my comments there and support of Sub-Option 2A-1 and 2B-1 regarding Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstates Management Plan for Striped Bass.

Striped bass are overfished, and overfishing is occurring. I have watched the population decrease noticeably in my home waters of the Western Long Island Sound and in Rhode Island, where I fish frequently, and know that action must be taken to slow the depletion of the striped bass population.

Given that, and given the options presented by the Commission, I believe that 1 fish at 35” in the ocean and 1 fish at 18” in Chesapeake Bay present the best path forward. Given the inconsistent spawning success of striped bass, if harvest was focused entirely on specific year classes, once the strongest year classes (next up, 2015s) reach that slot, they would risk being wiped out, and with them, our greatest chance for high recruitment in the future. Second, as long as conservation equivalency is on the table for states, a slot does not make sense, since some states would undoubtedly find research that suggests killing the largest fish in the population has a similar impact than the proposed slot, putting the fish we are looking to protect with a slot back in the crosshairs. Third, there is little to no science outlining what the impact of releasing large fish would be.

I also support the mandatory use of circle hooks when using bait up and down the coast.

While I support Sub-option 2A-1 and Sub-option 2B-1 of those that have been presented, it is my strong belief that more needs to be done in the management of striped bass to ensure that the population does not continue to decrease. These additional actions include the development of regulations that are designed with a higher than 50% probability of success and to not only stop overfishing, but to rebuild the stock back to the threshold that has been established and maintained in the past.

I have young twin boys, and I have lived my entire adult life looking forward to the day I can bring them fishing for striped bass with me, and I am deeply concerned that the opportunities I have had afforded me will not be available to them if significant action is not taken soon.

I appreciate your consideration and am hopeful that meaningful change is coming to protect these valuable fish.

Sincerely,

Taylor Ingraham

Tightlined Conservation Coalition

Taylor Ingraham



Comments

From: Patrick O'Donnell <patrick@onthewater.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find my comments on the proposed draft re: Striped Bass Regulations Addendum VI.

2A-1 (1 fish at 35 inches)

2-B1 (1 fish at 18 inches for Chesapeake)

Option B of the Circle Hook Provision; requiring the use of circle hooks.

Thank you,
Patrick

Patrick O'Donnell
Regional Manager
On The Water Media Group
C: 203.913.7691
www.onthewater.com
707 Teaticket Hwy
E. Falmouth, MA 02536

Comments

From: CHRIS STIELPER <chrisstielper@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripped Bas regulations

Good Morning,

I stand in support of Addendum VI option #2 , stripped bass 18% catch reduction

Thanks

Comments

From: BRIAN P PATTERSON <brian@pattersonguideservice.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

First, Thank you for taking comments on this topic as it is an important one. As a fishing charter captain in Rhode Island and having lived up and down the east coast, I have seen the decimation of the striped bass population over the past years. It is time to make changes. This past season, I decided to make the entire striped bass fishery 100% catch and release. I initially thought it was going to turn many potential charters away. I was pleasantly surprised to see that it did exactly the opposite! I had my busiest season yet and everyone that chartered me was completely on board with it. We only kept 1 striped bass due to revival failure. This decision is an easy one for me and hopefully I can be an example to those that feel a change to the Striped bass regulation would in some way impact their business. For me, it was the best decision I made and will continue to do so in the future.

Since I realize that 100% catch and release will not be an option, I am in favor of the following changes:

- Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.
- Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".
- Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.
- Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Capt. Brian Patterson
Patterson Guide Service
Portsmouth, RI

Comments

From: Bob McDowell <sisubob@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Max Appleman,

I would like to express my comments on the Striped Bass Draft VI:

Option 2: 18% reduction applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1: 1 fish at 35 inches min

Option 2-B3: for Chesapeake Bay, two fish at 18" - 23" slot

Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait (including eels) to reduce mortality.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robert G. McDowell
680 North Clinton Avenue
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Comments

From: Denucci, Nicholas A - FLORHAM PA NJ <nicholas_a_denucci@ml.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Appelman,

As an avid fisherman in New Jersey and one who has spent 5 decades committed to chasing Stripers there has been a notable decline of Stripers the last 10 years.

This has been the case from both boat and surf as the largest stripers are harvested and most go to waste.

I am disappointed that the proposed changes to Striped Bass regulations are not more aggressive but I do vote for option Two mandates for a 18% cut for Commercial Fisherman and Recreational Anglers along with mandating Circle hooks.

The economic impact of the Striped Bass is tremendous and needs to be protected.

Florida does a great job of assessing the damage in stock of their fisheries and when depleted will close a season until stocks are back to acceptable levels ie. Snook. We should do the same as this worked back in the nineties for Striped bass

And we had our best fishing 10 years later.

Thanks for your consideration.

Nick DeNucci

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Comments

From: Helen Sledzik <sledzikht20@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:17 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum

Dear Max Appelman,

Please accept my vote for the Draft Amendment 6 for Option 2 with a 35” Minimum.

COMMENT:

I also feel that the striped bass should be classified as a GAME FISH with the Same 35 inch minimum.

Tom Sledzik
Harwich, Mass

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: rht1898 <rtaft3216@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:18 AM
To: Max Appelman
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I am an avid recreational fisherman. I have seen a dramatic drop in the ability to catch striped bass and am concerned about their future. I believe that option 2 is the best option as it will require an 18% decrease in mortality for both the commercial and recreational sectors. I am adamantly opposed to option 3 that would result in an 20 % reduction for recreational fishermen and only a 1.8% reduction for the commercial fishermen.

Option 2 is fastest way to restore the fishery and protect the 2014 and 2015 year classes. In the early 1990's the fishery was rebuilt by establishing higher size limits. That allowed the many smaller fish to spawn for several years before they could be harvested. It worked then and it will work again now.

Best regards,
Richard

Comments

From: ed mohan <emmohan@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Rockfish

I support and believe Addendum VI Option 2 should be adopted.
Ed Mohan

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy , an AT&T LTE smartphone

Comments

From: Norm Staunton <norm.staunton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 10:08 AM
To: Comments
Cc: SaveTheStripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr Appelman,

I am writing today as a recreational saltwater fisherman to encourage you and the ASMFC to support the strictest and fairest amendments the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan.

Specifically, I am asking you to support Option 2 of the proposed Addendum IV to Amendment 6, dictating an equitable 18% reduction in both recreational and commercial Striped Bass Harvest.

I fully support that ALL states in the Atlantic Fishery mandate the use of circle hooks.

I also fully support, and demand as a member of the northern fishery, that ALL states in the Atlantic Fishery have the same, equitable, and healthy bag limits. Stripers are a migratory fish, why then should Maryland, Pennsylvania, and other states have lower size limits and higher bag limits when in the north we can almost not find fish at all.

I am not being hyperbolic. I am writing to you now, literally, from the shores of Booth Bay in the Gulf of Maine where once there was a vibrant and healthy Striper fishery here and up the Sheepscot. Fish are almost gone east of the Kennebec River.

Of the options, I fully support Option 2, calling for the equitable reduction, as well as option 2A-1 and 2B-1 with the one fish limits at 35" and 18" respectively. As stated previously, I also support Option B calling for circle hooks.

However, I have to say, like the organizations the American Saltwater Guides Association and Stripers Forever, whom have also sent in similar comments, I do not think your options go nearly far enough. I am no scientist, but explain to me how we are allowing for the take of any fish in a crashing fishery, let alone the largest and healthiest breeding stock, or supporting one state having a lower size limit than another. I would go much further than those honorable and respected organizations and call for a complete moratorium on Striper harvesting until the population rebounds. Then, and only then, would I reassess the commercial harvest economic value in comparison to the overwhelming economic and environmental positive impact of the recreational fishery up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

As I am sure you have heard many many times from others like me, as kid Stripers were so plentiful there were easily caught by young fisherman of single digit age fishing alone from shore. They literally were the first fishery I was an active participant in and the first I learned to be a conservationist in. Now, those fish are gone. I am asking you to save what is left so that the next generation of fisherman can still have a piece of this remarkable Atlantic tradition.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my point of view and the views of many of my peers and those that came before us.

Sincerely

Norm Staunton

--

Splash More. Bark Less.

Comments

From: Bill Dean <bdean@onthewater.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:57 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I strongly support the options below:

2A-1 (1 fish at 35 inches)

2-B1 (1 fish at 18 inches for Chesapeake)

Option B of the Circle Hook Provision, which would require the use of circles.

Thank you!

Bill Dean

Bill Dean
Circulation Manager

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508.548.4705 x 233

www.OnTheWater.com

Comments

From: David Dellenbaugh <davedellenbaugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am a boat owner fisherman in Connecticut and I have caught approximately 200 striped bass this summer in the Norwalk Islands area. All were released successfully. Unfortunately only 2 of those fish were 28". Another 15 were between 23 and 27" and the rest were smaller. Clearly there are quite a few little bass but not many big ones.

I am strongly in favor of much tighter limits on the harvesting of striped bass. I would prefer a complete ban, but I realize that may not be realistic. But it is really painful to see charter boats going out with 3 or 4 people and coming back with 3 or 4 large dead bass. I would favor 1 bass per boat per day (which I think is the law in RI). Or a longer minimum length. Or a window of acceptable size, say 30" to 34".

Anything that is more restrictive would be better.

Thank you, David

David Dellenbaugh
P.O. Box 435 Easton CT 06612
M 203-520-1370
DaveDellenbaugh@gmail.com

Comments

From: John Hunter <johnlawrencehunter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max,

As a salt water angler concerned w/ the depletion of the Striped Bass Fishery, I am in support of the the Equal Percent Reductions.

An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.

Thanks in advance for your commitment in trying to manage the depletion of the striped bass fishery.

John Hunter

Comments

From: Gilbert Lookingland jr <gilbertlookinglandjr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:40 AM
To: Comments
Cc: GILBERT WM. LOOKINGLAND JR.

I support Addendum V1 Option 2. This fairly distributes the catch reductions.

Gilbert Wm. Lookingland Jr.
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Comments

From: Ben Scott <bscottdesign@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it May Concern,

I firmly believe that Striped Bass are far more valuable alive than dead. I feel the fishery should be catch and release **only** with full protection of the resource. That said, I support the following:

- Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.
- Option 2A-1 or Option 2A-2. One fish limit with a minimum size of 35" or a 28-35" slot. For option 2A-1 it would need to be adjusted to a slot within a few seasons in order to let fish spawn then cap the max size. The most responsible and intelligent choice would be to make striped bass fishing catch and release only along the entire Eastern seaboard.
- Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay. That said, I personally do not feel the bay should have any different regulations than the rest of the coastline. I feel 18" is far too small.
- Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

Thank you,
Ben Scott

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Ben Scott
--
Ben Scott

Comments

From: McNamara, Gregory <gregory.mcnamara@yale.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:26 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Public Comment: Striped Bass Management

Attention Max Appelman,

My name is Greg McNamara. I am a CT resident and CT licensed striped bass recreational fisherman. While I am not convinced that the options given will rebuild and sustain this fishery to and beyond the threshold, I feel that the slot limit Sub-Option 2-A4^: 32"-40" would leave the most striped bass in the water, where they are most beneficial to anglers, the economy and most importantly to their own preservation. I'm also in favor of mandatory circle hooks for use with bait. I think this sub option should also apply to the Chesapeake fishery as these fish are migratory. I understand the commercial fishery depends on the large population of 18" class of fish but I am of the feeling that they've exceeded what's sustainable in that region and ultimately it has affected the fishery coast wide. They've indulged financially and its time they lay off for a short time. It would appear that studies have put a massive amount of mortality in the hands of catch and release fishing. I feel a program should be implemented to educate all recreational anglers on the proper handling and releasing of striped bass. The calculated 9% mortality should be reduced and primary focus by fisheries management should be to get this message and education across to all recreational anglers. I'd also like to go on record and state that state by state enforcement is also inadequate. I am in favor of stiffer fines not only to deter poaching but to supplement more enforcement officers.

Thank you for your time and effort,

Greg McNamara

Comments

From: Travis Burr <travis.burr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:15 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max -

I've included my preference for the striped bass draft addendum VI below:

Option 2: 18% reduction applied equally between recreational and commercial

Option 2-A1: 1 fish at 35"

Option 2-B1: 1 fish at 18"

3.2 Circle Hook Provision: Option B

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Travis Burr

Comments

From: Jimmy Fee <jimmy@onthewater.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I work for On The Water Media, and am an avid striped bass fisherman.

I support option 2-A1

A single fish with a larger minimum size has proven effective in the past, and with a seemingly large number of 28- to 32-inch striped bass in the population, protecting those would prove more effective at restoring the fishery than a slot limit that would put even more pressure on them.

I support option 2-B1 for the Chesapeake.

I support Option B of the Circle Hook Provision—provided that it applies to rod-and-reel commercial fishermen as well.

Thank you,

Jim Fee

~~~~~

Jimmy Fee  
Editor  
On The Water Media  
OnTheWater.com  
508-548-4705 x 228

## Comments

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**From:** Pete Gray <peter.g.l.gray@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 9:07 AM  
**To:** Comments; James Gilmore; Maureen Davidson; Emerson Hasbrouck  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Addendum VI

Dear Max Appleman,

My name is Peter Gray and I am a recreational fisherman.  
An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors.

The following are my preferred options as presented in draft addendum VI:  
Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector.  
Option 2-A1: 1@35"  
Option 2-B1: 1@19" for the Chesapeake Bay  
Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

Thank you very much for ensuring this fishery is BIGGER, HEALTHIER, AND MORE ABUNDANT for our children.

Peter Gray  
71 E 77th St, New York, NY 10075

--  
Pete Gray  
646.483.7438

## Comments

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**From:** Walter C. Orestuk <wco9001@nyp.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 8:52 AM  
**To:** Comments; James Gilmore; Maureen Davidson  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

**Importance:** High

Dear Max Appleman,

My name is Walter Orestuk and I am a recreational fisherman.

An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational, and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors.

The following are my preferred options in Draft Addendum VI

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1: 1@35"

Option 2-B1 1@18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to a positive outcome.

Respectfully,

Walter Orestuk

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code:d34y

## Comments

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**From:** Paul Novello <njstripernut@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 8:23 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I have been striper fishing off the shore for over 10 years, with most of my fishing done with my son, who started and caught his first striper at age 4. It was a 27" striper, and after a quick picture it was released, as I wanted to teach my son right from wrong, and teach him about conservation. I now worry that my son will not have this same father-son bonding when the time comes and he has a son (or daughter) to take fishing. We must take proactive measures to protect the stripers, and we must act NOW.

For the reduction measures, I fully support 2-A 3 with a slot limit of 30"-38" as this option would result in a projected overall 21% reduction in the recreational quota. I only hope that the enforcement community is staffed sufficiently to properly enforce any regulations. The recreational fishing community also needs to work on leveraging peer pressure to ensure the regulations are enforced.

Regarding the use of circle hooks, I fully support Option C which would require states/jurisdictions to promote the use of circle hooks by developing public education and outreach campaigns on their benefits when fishing with bait. While I personally would prefer Option B requiring the use of circle hooks, I see this as creating an enforcement nightmare for our limited law enforcement personnel. I would like to go a step further and suggest that additional ways to reduce the C&R mortality be included in educational efforts. People should be educated on the proper handling of fish so that they can be successfully released. The use of larger hooks and setting the hook quickly should be encouraged to reduce the chances of gut hooking fish. The use of heavier tackle so as not to unduly stress the fish should be encouraged. Fishermen should also be made aware of the effects of releasing fish when the water temperatures are high or the air temperatures are very cold.

Please do the right thing and protect our beloved stripers. If you care to discuss this with me, please feel free to e-mail or call me at (609)203-4812.

Paul Novello  
Atlantic Saltwater Flyrodders  
Jersey Shore Surfcasters

## Comments

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**From:** stevemusso <musso.steve@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 8:06 AM  
**To:** Comments; James Gilmore; Maureen Davidson; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY  
**Subject:** *Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI*

Dear Max Appleman,

My name is Steve Musso and I am a recreational fisherman.

An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector

Option 2-A1: 1@35"

Option 2-B1 1@18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Steve Musso  
1747 August Rd,  
North Babylon, NY 11703

## Comments

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**From:** Thorpe, Joseph <jthorpe@umm.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 7:56 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Maryland Striped Bass Future Reductions

Hello,

I wanted to let you know that I support Addendum VI Option 2 for Maryland. However, I wanted to be clear that equal allocation should come from the recreational side and the commercial side. Please hold Maryland DNR accountable to doing this because I believe they will just put most of the allocation on the recreational side. Sincerely, Joe Thorpe Executive Director of the CBSFA (Chesapeake Bay Sportfishing Association, INC.)

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## Comments

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**From:** Dave Mills <dave@bandbwelding.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 7:53 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Addendum VI Option 2

I support addendum VI option 2.

David E. Mills, Sr.  
B and B Welding Company, Inc.  
PO Box 10  
Fort Howard, Maryland 21052  
O: 410-388-1100  
F: 410-388-2742  
C: 410-215-5051



## Comments

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**From:** Bob Goulet <bobgdbi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 7:38 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

**Please adopt option 2-A1, 2-B1 for Chesapeake Bay, and the requirement for Circle hooks for all bait fishing.**

Additionally, consideration should be given to increase fines and penalties for poaching. The price is not high enough for those who abuse the resource.

Thank you.

*Robert Goulet*

12 Newtown Rd  
Biddeford Me 04005

## Comments

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**From:** Jeff Popp <jeff@vistoladyfish.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 6:55 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Md rockfish comment

As the spawning stock is declining. We need to give those fish a break. No harvest of the spawning age fish till a recovery. Close the spring trophy season

## Comments

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**From:** Ross Kessler <rosskess1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 6:29 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My choice for the striped bass amendment is

**2-A1            35" minimum**

And option **B on the circle hook provision** requiring circle hooks for bait.

Thank you,

Ross K. Kessler  
Rosskess1@gmail.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Comments

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**From:** James Boyle <boylermaker@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 5:41 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am Capt Jaime Boyle. I've been a guide on Martha's Vineyard, MA. for 27 years. I am also the Mass board member for the America Saltwater Guides Association.

We have seen striped bass rise and ebb over the last few decades. We are clearly facing an ebb in the population. My business relies on abundant striped bass populations. My clients not only hire me but also spend their money on hotels, restaurants, and small businesses while visiting. What will happen to all that economic impact without striped bass around? I don't want to think about it.

It is time for all of us to come together to help striped bass. We all want to be able to pursue our dreams. We all want to leave something for the next generation.

We need to understand that there is a direct economic value to more fish in the water. Abundant fish populations are better for everyone. We need to move forward with conservation and the next generation in mind.

I am in support of the following items.

Option 2A-1 1 fish with a 35" min

Option 2B-1 One fish with an 18" min for the Chesapeake Circle Hooks: Mandatory

Thank you for your time,  
Capt. Jaime Boyle

## Comments

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**From:** deave41102@mypacks.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 10:54 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dear Max Appelman,

I attended the Oct. 3 meeting in Bourne and read the draft handouts regarding addendum VI to amendment 6. I would prefer scenario option 3 and management measure 3-A2. My preferred option regarding circle hooks is option C.

My thinking is;

If I understand the studies correctly, option 3-A2 decreases total removals and harvest by the largest percentage of the combined recreational and commercial fishery.

Option 3-A2 puts more of the responsibility to reduce removals and harvest onto the recreational fishery where most of the fish kill takes place, which seems to me to be fair.

A 34 inch max size could put less fishing pressure on Massachusetts fish by discouraging fishing trips on closed commercial days by those that take fish trips with the sole intention of "stacking" commercial sized fish. It could aid law enforcement if larger than 34 inch fish can only be in possession on commercial days.

It allows people a good option to take a fish sized to their needs. When I take fish for myself I prefer 30 to 33 inch fish, they taste better and provide plenty of fresh fillet between trips.

In addition to the new rules I think an educational program to teach all the new people getting into the sport the right way to do things would do a lot to reducing catch and release mortality.

Best Regards, John.

## Comments

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**From:** Lou Hammond <referee10@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 10:10 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** support for Addendum VI Option 2.

I think we can all agree Striped Bass need some help and this option effects all user groups versus other options that unfairly effects recreational fishing with very little impact on commercial fishing.

Lou Hammond  
Project Manager  
Conway Construction, LLC  
1119 Emerald Drive  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
443-463-2024  
[louconwayconst@gmail.com](mailto:louconwayconst@gmail.com)

## Comments

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**From:** Chris Bean <humanbe4n@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 10:01 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** SaveTheStripers@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good day,

I wanted to comment on this addendum because the decline is a big part of what we are witnessing being on the water here in Maine recreationally fishing striped bass.

I am in agreement that the options proposed in the striped bass addendum will help bring back the striped bass stocks.

Option 2 : equal reduction will save a lot of the mature fish for spawning.

Option 2A-1: 1 fish at 35”

Option 2B-1: one fish at 18” for the Chesapeake bay

And option B mandatory circle hooks coast wide.

We have the ability to make this happen, and hopefully my son will one day be able to see the same blitzes as I did as a kid because of it. Thank you for your time.

Christopher Bean

Lisbon Falls, Me

## Comments

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**From:** Barry Connell <finbar848@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 9:47 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass addendum number six

I support option 2  
Sent from my iPad



## Comments

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**From:** Alexander Gangi <alexander.r.gangi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 9:47 PM  
**To:** Comments; James Gilmore; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY  
**Cc:** savethestripers@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC Commissioners and Staff,

As a recreational fisherman and conservationist, I am very concerned about the future of our striped bass fishery. The latest stock assessment revealed that not only is the stock over-fished, but over-fishing has been occurring for quite a while now. The time for stricter management has already passed, but it is not too late to save this stock. While I do believe in even stricter measures, of the options discussed I support the following:

- Option 2- **Equal Percent Reductions**
- Sub-Option 2A-1 **1 Fish at 35" for Coastal Ocean Fishery**
- Sub-Option 2B-1 **1 Fish at 18" for Chesapeake Bay**
- Circle Hook- Option B **Mandatory Circle Hook use for Natural Baits**

It is time to manage the striped bass stock for long term sustainability. We should not be teetering back and forth between sustainable and unsustainable harvest. A thriving striped bass fishery is of utmost ecological and economical importance, and I truly believe that these fish are worth a lot more in our waters than on a dinner plate.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Best,

Alexander Gangi (Freeport, NY)

## Comments

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**From:** Theresa Razmakhnin <treeberian@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 9:47 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum VI--Striped bass fishery

Oct. 6, 2019

Dear Commisioners,

My name is Theresa Razmakhnin and I am a registered nurse living and working in CT. I am also an avid recreational fishermen and a member of the Connecticut Surfcasters Association. I am writing today to express my feelings about the current management options contained in Draft Addendum VI for the striped bass fishery.

I prefer the following options:

Option 2—equal percentage reductions  
Sub-Option 2-A1—1 fish at 35”  
Sub-Option 2-B1—18” min for the Chesapeake Bay Rec Fishery  
3.2 circle Hook Provision—Option B—circle hooks required

The above changes, in my view, are the best of those currently proposed to give the fishery the greatest chance to recover. Still, I do not believe they go far enough.

I would advocate additional restrictions to protect this valuable and inspiring resource.

In CT, I would favor eliminating the extra tag that has been awarded to use up our “commercial” quota.

Also, Omega Protein should not be allowed to decimate the menhaden population. These small forage fish are instrumental in rebuilding many fish stocks, including the striped bass.

Enough is enough. Time to act boldly and decisively now in order to insure that we have these very special fish for future generations to enjoy.

Do the right thing.

Thank you,

Theresa Razmakhnin

## Comments

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**From:** Jay Sullivan <jrsullivaniii@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 8:06 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum VI

To the ASMFC,

I am writing to offer my comments on the on the proposed changes to Striped Bass fishery regulation.

I support Option 2 with 18% catch reductions implemented equally between sectors.

I support Option 2-A1 with one fish at 35 inches.

For the Chesapeake Bay, I support Option 2-B1. I live in New York City now, but I was raised near the Bay in Baltimore, MD. The stakeholders in Maryland need to step up to protect this resource.

I support mandatory use of circle hooks. 3.2.B.

My additional comments are that the ASMFC must increase penalties for poachers and other fisherman who flout regulations. I also believe that the ASMFC must work to improve its Technical Committee to monitor catch accurately.

Regards,

James Sullivan  
New York, NY  
Recreational Fisherman  
917-715-5349

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Jay Sullivan <jrsullivaniii@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 8:06 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum VI

To the ASMFC,

I am writing to offer my comments on the on the proposed changes to Striped Bass fishery regulation.

I support Option 2 with 18% catch reductions implemented equally between sectors.

I support Option 2-A1 with one fish at 35 inches.

For the Chesapeake Bay, I support Option 2-B1. I live in New York City now, but I was raised near the Bay in Baltimore, MD. The stakeholders in Maryland need to step up to protect this resource.

I support mandatory use of circle hooks. 3.2.B.

My additional comments are that the ASMFC must increase penalties for poachers and other fisherman who flout regulations. I also believe that the ASMFC must work to improve its Technical Committee to monitor catch accurately.

Regards,

James Sullivan  
New York, NY  
Recreational Fisherman  
917-715-5349

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** brian crowl <briancrowl160@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 8:06 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support Option #2 that has been put forth. Please take this into consideration in this matter.

Regards,  
Brian Crowl

## Comments

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**From:** PAUL CRONIN <twigpc@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 7:47 PM  
**To:** Comments; Michael J Pierdinock  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Addendum VI

Good Day,

I attended the meeting at Mass Maritime Academy the other night.

I have sent in a letter earlier as well.

I stated and still am in favor of the status quo option.

When you had the slide up at the meeting and had been taking comments on the options, the status quo option was not there.

You showed page 11 of the draft addendum for public comment The slide had sub options on it. 2-A1, 2-A2,2-A3, and 2-A4, but no status quo option.

As I stated at the meeting and in my earlier letter, I support status quo. If that was taken off the table I would support sub option A-2. 1@28"-35"

On the subject of circle hooks I thought we settled that at the spring meeting?

Commercial could use the hook of there choice, and charter boats could do the same. Both segments of the fishery have lots of experience.

The one thing I added in the spring, and would still put forwarded is this. When a charter boat has caught there limit for there customers for the day with live or chunk bait, that they switch over to circle hooks. ( some do that already)

Thanks for your time,  
Paul Cronin  
Norwell, Ma

Sent from my iPad

## Comments

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**From:** Joshua K. Wrigley <jkwrigley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 7:34 PM  
**To:** Max Appelman; Comments  
**Cc:** michael.armstrong@mass.gov  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Delegates of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

As a concerned angler who resides in East Falmouth, Massachusetts, I would strongly urge you to take appropriate action when it comes to the conservation of striped bass via Draft Addendum VI.

I strongly support Option II which would impose an 18% harvest reduction for both the recreational and commercial fisheries. I would also support Sub-Option 2-A4 for a 32" – 40" slot limit.

For the circle hook measure, I would support Option B which would require the use of circle hooks although I believe that for this measure to be effective, it should be mandated in all fisheries (recreational and commercial) and for all participants (charter, commercial, recreational).

While I have faith that these management measures will contribute to decreased levels of fishing mortality, I would strongly urge the Commission to consider far stricter measures that would aim to fully re-build the stock in the shortest amount of time possible. I believe that harvest reductions greater than 18% are needed and that states from Maine to Florida should take action to educate recreational anglers on the need for proper Catch & Release practices that minimize harm to the fish and ensuing post-release mortality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joshua Wrigley

Joshua K. Wrigley  
[jkwrigley@gmail.com](mailto:jkwrigley@gmail.com)  
(518) 810-9478

## Comments

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**From:** Sof Gmail <sofopap@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 7:25 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max,

My name is Sof, I am an avid surfcaster and a father of 3 young children (ages 6, 4, and 8 months). A healthy striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the commercial and recreational sector. The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reduction applied equally between recreational and commercial sector  
Option 2-A1: 1@35"  
Option 2-B1: 1@18" for Chesapeake Bay  
Option 3-2B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

I feel that it is very important for the large number of small fish that we are seeing are protected and are able to spawn as many years as possible before being targeted by anglers and the commercial sector. I want my children to experience the joys of fishing for Striped Bass that I have.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Thanks,  
Sof



## Comments

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**From:** Lab Time <reclinerlab@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 7:20 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

Dear Max,

My name is Frank Horan, I reside in the state of NY on Long Island. I'm 54yrs old and have been an avid fisherman my entire life. I have lived through the bad years with no Striped Bass and the rebuilding years and the days of a good fishery. Unfortunately we have once again over fished them and measures need to be put in place so we don't see a total collapse of this fishery.

I think Option 2-A1: 1@35" would be a good start.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Thank You

Frank Horan

120 Rhode Island Ave

Massapequa, NY 11758

## Comments

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**From:** Jason DeLand <jason@anomaly.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 7:04 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass

Dear Commission,

I am writing you today from Montauk New York with my hope you place the entire striped bass fishery under a moratorium.

I have been surf fishing in Montauk and the south shore For 12 years and am a member of the Montauk Surfmasters Association.

Last year i won the surf fishing C&R Tournament “Surf Masters” in Montauk.

I am writing you to provide some insight into the state of the fishery.

I keep extensive logs of every fishing trip.

I log the time and date, tide, moon phase, air pressure, water temp, wave hight, water clarity, bait present, fish caught by size.

Looking back at my digital surf casting logs I can see there has been a clear trend of less and less striped bass. My catch rate, the size of bass, the largest fish per year are all down.

My own log shows this since 2012

2012: 77 trips - 449 striped bass landed 45 over 32 inches - largest 38  
2013: 72 trips - 412 striped bass landed 40 over 32inches - largest 36  
2014: 81 trips - 388 striped bass landed 33 over 32 inches - largest 33  
2015: 88 trips - 401 striped bass landed 20 over 32inches - largest 33  
2016: 75 trips - 362 striped bass landed 22 over 32inches - largest 28  
2017: 80 trips - 350 striped bass landed 21 over 32 inches - largest 24  
2018: 77 trips - 310 striped bass landed 8 over 32inches - largest 41 - Second largest was under 20)  
2019: 60 trips - 212 striped bass landed 6 over 32 inches - largest 18 ( so far this year)

In 8 seasons my catch rate has gone down by 50%.

But more shockingly, fish landed over 32 inches has dropped by 80%

I’m not the best fisherman I know but I take it seriously and keep dedicated logs and data which I am happy to share.

**MY DATA SUGGEST A MAJOR PROBLEM IN MONTAUK.**

The striped bass in Montauk are over-fished.

Commercials, Charters, Parties and, Rec boats and surf casters all contribute to a fishery that is in rapid decline. This taken together with ASMFC Data in the breeding biomass and I am very concerned.

Be led by science, be led by your own data.

You have a clear choice to make based on the data and that choice is to place the entire fishery into a coast wide moratorium until the data is above threshold. Then manage the striped bass fishery to minimum yield, not maximum.

The lively fishery of striped bass is a beautiful and American tradition.  
Please do the right thing.

Regards,  
Jason DeLand  
Montauk New York.

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Jason DeLand Founding Partner - Anomaly

## Comments

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**From:** Drew Holbert <drewbert124@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 6:46 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** savethestripers@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

In support of Addendum VI I do believe a slot limit is what we should be working toward as an entire coastal fishery. In the mean time until we make it to our goal of a slot a 1@ 35" maximum would suffice. We must make changes to the striped bass regulations as the species is being pillaged and destroyed before our very eyes. The future of the stock is in our hands and the time to act is now. There should be maximum efforts to decrease mortality with circle hooks for bait fishing. As well as a 0 tolerance policy on the harvesting of breeder sized fish. Thank you for your time.

Drew Holbert

## Comments

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**From:** Scott <scottnewhall@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 6:43 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass addendum

Hello managers,

I've observed a lot of things in the striped bass world. I believe the caution is a good idea, but I also believe the sky is not following. We are at a crossroads. Perhaps the fishery was artificially high in numbers when it was at its highest..... It would be great to get those fish numbers increased again while allowing for reasonable recreational harvest and no more closures.

I also believe that migrations have changed. Fish aren't swimming in the same numbers in the same places in the same sizes. You've heard it all I'm sure. Less fish in the Delaware system and Chesapeake system, not coming in those bays/rivers in the same numbers. Raritan Bay and attached rivers are thriving..... Fish pass our coast past the EEZ line and data collection can be flawed, at times. If it were up to me there would be no commercial harvest via net whatsoever.

I believe in getting rid of nets in any state all the time, allowing for one breeder size and a small slot size - like the early 00's.

Good luck with your decision. Captain Scott Newhall

## Comments

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**From:** Jonathan Kelman <jonkelman@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 6:20 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Commissioners:

Regarding the upcoming decision on decreasing the bag limit vs. introducing an area wide slot limit, I would suggest that we are playing a game of “russian roulette “ with a fish stock who’s reproductive status we do not fully understand. I am reminded of the dairy cow buy out that was offered years ago and the farmers who’s financial status was destined to failure ( due to a shrinking market and increased energy costs) and how those fellow New Englanders were given the opportunity to restart their financial lives. What is different in the Striped Bass scenario is that the “cows” ( i.e. *Morone saxatilis* ) in this scenario may be lost to our waters permanently . Why not consider a 5 year moratorium on all Striped Bass harvesting as well as a financial support package to commercial fishermen who have documented Striped Bass income ? Why not institute a mandatory tagging program so that we can finally begin to better understand this wonderful resource? If, after 5 years, we see that the trend is still towards smaller catch , at least we will know what is not contributing to the problem i.e. recreational and commercial harvest . This may be a simplistic evaluation of this complex issue but I believe that it is up to all of us, starting with the individual fishermen, to take a stand for this wonderful fish. I will not lie and tell you that I do not enjoy both catching as well as eating this creature; my hopes are that some day my children and grand children can say the same thing.

Respectfully:

Jonathan Kelman, DVM  
Capt. ( OUPV ) USCG

## Comments

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**From:** bsafford@cox.net bsafford@cox.net <bsafford@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 6:13 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

please support option 2 we need our stripers saved-

Brad Safford

## Comments

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**From:** Aram Berberian <aramberberian@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 5:59 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum VI--and the striped bass fishery

Oct. 6, 2019

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Aram Berberian and I am a registered nurse living and working in New Haven, CT. I am also an avid recreational fishermen and a member of the Connecticut Surfcasters Association. I am writing today to express my feelings contained about the current management options contained in Draft Adenddum VI for the striped bass fishery.

My preferences are:

Option 2—equal percentage reductions  
Sub-Option 2-A1—1 fish at 35”  
Sub-Option 2-B1—18” min for the Chesapeake Bay Rec Fishery  
3.2 circle Hook Provision—Option B—circle hooks required

The above options, in my view, are the best of those currently proposed to give the fishery the greatest chance to recover. Still, I do not believe they go far enough.

I would advocate additional restrictions to protect this valuable and inspiring resource.

In CT, I would favor eliminating the extra tag that has been awarded to use up our “commercial” quota.

Also, I would favor shutting down the fishery in the winter. I have caught striped bass in every month of the year because there is a substantial body of fish that winter over in the Housatonic River. Recently, the pressure on these fish during the winter months has become substantial. I regularly see cars with New York and Massachusetts license plates parked at many of the shore spots. Likewise, boaters locate a school of fish with electronics and pound away at them all day long. Witness the many videos uploaded on Youtube documenting the ease with which these fish are targeted and caught.

Enough is enough. Time to act boldly and decisively now in order to insure that we have these very special fish for future generations to enjoy.

Do the right thing,



Aram D. Berberian

## Comments

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**From:** Sean Tracey <sean@seantracey.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 5:54 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** Stripers Forever  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASFMC Coordinator  
Max Appelman

**Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI**

As an avid, lifetime Striped Bass fisherman, **I support Option 2, including an 18% overall reduction in harvest**, and the mandatory use of circle hooks.

I wish the commercial harvest of Striped Bass would end completely until the population was at much higher numbers, although I realize that that ban may not be realistic in the next year.

Sincerely,  
Sean M. Tracey  
residential address:  
24 Johnson Court  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Sean Tracey  
[email: sean@seantracey.com](mailto:sean@seantracey.com)  
p 603/427-2800

visit us: [seantracey.com](http://seantracey.com)  
like us: [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/seantracey.com)  
follow us: [twitter](https://twitter.com/seantracey)  
videos: [vimeo](https://vimeo.com/seantracey)  
skype: STAdvertising

address:  
401 State Street, Suite 3  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

 SEAN TRACEY  
A S S O C I A T E S

## Comments

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**From:** Chris Dollar <cdollar@cdollaroutdoors.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 5:47 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** Capt Chris Dollar  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Along much of the East Coast sport fishing has been exceptional this season for top game fish including red drum, cobia and Spanish mackerel. A major exception, however, has been striped bass, or rockfish as we call them in the Chesapeake. Unfortunately, for several seasons anglers have reported seeing smaller, skinnier stripers, and fewer large ones.

Sadly, this downturn isn't surprising, and more importantly it was preventable. The [2018 stock assessment](#) for striped bass, released by this body—the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)—confirmed what we've seen on the water for far too long: Stripers are overfished, and overfishing is occurring.

Decisive action is required to reverse this troublesome yet preventable decline. As a fishing guide and owner/operator of a fishing outfitter business, I fully support implementation of Option 2. Moreover, as a matter of fairness and equity, all sectors must share the reduction burden by taking an equal percentage of the reduction that accounts for the different harvest proportions in the recreational and commercial fisheries.

I also support mandatory circle hooks and conservation equivalency measures that meet or exceed the 18% reduction for all sectors in the Chesapeake provided they are approved by the Technical Committee and Striped Bass Board. Lastly, I want to be crystal clear: I strongly oppose Option 3 because it merely could reallocate the harvest from recreational fishing to commercial fishing. If the ASMFC goes down this path it would only reinforce the perception that you are not genuinely interested in conservation.

Most respectfully,  
Capt. Chris D. Dollar

Capt. Chris Dollar  
CD Outdoors  
Guided Fishing & Outdoor Communications  
(410) 991-8468  
[cdollar@cdollaroutdoors.com](mailto:cdollar@cdollaroutdoors.com)  
cdollaroutdoors.com





## Comments

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**From:** Charles Proctor <charlie@proctorlawoffice.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 5:25 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** Charles Proctor; Ted Merchant  
**Subject:** striper limits

I still don't understand why we keep large bass.

Why not keep one or two small ones ( probably 50 % males) and throw anything over 25 or 30 inches (mostly females) back?

As in big game limits there are limits on how many you can kill in one day – eg turkeys one per day and 2 in the spring season.

Some regulations limit how many you can have in the freezer or keep in one season. – why not have a limit on catch for the season?

Are plug and lure companies going to install circle hooks on their plug and lures?

Just some thoughts.

Charlie Proctor

Proctor Law Office  
249 Main Street  
Oxford, MA 01540  
Ofc. Tel. 508-987-2626  
Cell Tel. 508-243-7574  
Fax 508-987-3250

## Comments

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**From:** Germain Cloutier <stripedbassking@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 4:49 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I would like to voice my concerns about the striped bass regulation changes coming. It appears that there is conflicting interests up and down the coast about the new possible changes. It would be to the entire fisheries benefit to have the entire east coast have the SAME regulations for striped bass, that should include MD and the Chesapeake area. And on the recreational and the commercial sides. We can not afford to be harvesting the big breeder fish and continue to have MD be able to take the future breeding fish. There needs to be drastic cuts across the board of both Recreational and Commercial harvests. There should not be any bonus tags or certain equivalencies from state to state to try and boost the harvest numbers. This change is needed now as we are losing the big breeder sized fish at a very alarming rate. Please consider something to the effect of a slot limit between 32-38 or something in that range that would be for the entire east coast. Now the commercial fishing for striped bass is going to need to be adjusted as well or else it will be a nightmare for law enforcement to try and tell the difference of a harvested fish from someone with a commercial license and a recreational license. It would seem at the rate we are going a moratorium is likely within 5 years anyhow unfortunately. Please consider doing the right thing and protecting a fish that's worth A LOT more alive then dead.

Thank you,  
Germain Cloutier  
Maine  
207-216-0445

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

## Comments

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**From:** michael downing <viper2bn@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 4:39 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass

As both a recreational and commercial fisherman I think the only way to sustain the rockfish population would be a complete ban on file nets from jan1st until May 30th. This will eliminate the massive catch of spawning fish. While I know this will impact me, I also know It needs to be done.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Comments

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**From:** George Steller <captgeo1@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 4:35 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** stripe bass

i propose 1 fish per person 28 inches to 34 inches and 1 fish over 34 inches to 40 inches. All Stripe bass over 40 inches must be released unless the angler or boat is registered in a tournament that is registered with fish and game in the state the fish was caught in.

Many of these tournaments donate some of the money to reef programs and other worthy causes.

George Steller 2811 Johnson St Wall N J



## Comments

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**From:** Wayne Gustafson <wgustaf399@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 4:13 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear sirs;

I completely endorse option 2 in new Striped Bass Regulations and fully believe in circle hooks for bait fisherman either commercial or sport.

Thank you,  
Wayne Gustafson

## Comments

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**From:** Kyle Schaefer <kyle@soulflyoutfitters.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 4:09 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

ASMFC,

Please see my comments below. I am a striper guide in Maine and recreational angler; we desperately need to repair striped bass.

- Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.
- Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".
- Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.
- Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

Best,

Kyle Schaefer  
603.969.3050

[Soul Fly Journal](#) || IG: [@SoulFlyOutfitters](#)

[American Saltwater Guides Association Board of Directors](#)

[Thomas & Thomas Ambassador](#) || [American Museum of Fly Fishing Ambassador](#)

## Comments

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**From:** Hugo Williams <hugowilliams@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 3:41 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass regs

Please enact option 2

## Comments

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**From:** Louis Vizioli <vizioli@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 3:29 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I am writing as an individual.

Having fished Montauk NY for many years it is encouraging that data has been collected, reviewed and now open for public comment. Based on the information in the draft addendum clearly status quo will not do.

I think Option 2 is the best choice.

Equal percentage for commercial and recreational in my opinion has the best chance of rebuilding the Stripped Bass stock. I believe commercial fishing should have the same stake in protecting the resource and rebuilding the spawning stock biomass.

Sub option 2\_A

2-A1 35 inch 1 bag limit.

2-B1 18 inch Chesapeake Bay 1 bag limit

I think clearly defining the size is easier to regulate and document for statistical purposes

Sub option 3 Circle Hooks should be required for bait section B allows implementation and promotes education.

Louis Vizioli  
1171 Dobbs Ferry Road  
White Plains, NY 10607

Sent from [BlueMail](#)

## Comments

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**From:** John Glanton <johnglanton1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 3:04 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum VI

Dear members of the committee,

As an avid fisherman of striped bass for many years, I applaud your efforts to further increase regulations to help sustain this fishery.

Despite a lot of un-scientific observations from some people in the fishing community, it is obvious from all available data that the numbers of fish are down.

Changes in water temperature due to climate change may have lengthened seasons in some areas and increased prey fish(menhaden), giving a false sense of abundance.

The numbers do not lie, the biomass is down and action must be taken.

The mandatory use of circle hooks is a good start.

I have seen children learn to fish with these hooks, anyone can land a bass, even inexperienced fishermen.

The snag and drop method some for-hire captains cite as reason to not make circle hooks mandatory is ludicrous.

Snag and drop is one of the most lethal methods of fishing for stripers—probably the highest percentage of fatal “gut hooks” occur using this method.

Snag and drop should be discouraged, if not altogether ban, not used as an excuse from finding safer methods of fishing.

The bonus bass program should also be eliminated in all states—it is an obvious way to help the population rebound.

As for size limits, I am in favor of 1 keeper fish 25-34”.

This would allow more keepers without damaging the stocks of large, breeding fish.

It is unfortunate that a small minority of voices that claim everything is fine often are the loudest ones.

Many for-hire boat captains tend to place all the blame on the commercial fishery or simply say all is well.

These same boat captains do not take responsibility for decades of overfishing and overall bad stewardship of the fishery.

The irony is that the short term economic loss of greater striped bass regulation that these captains face will be insignificant if one considers that if nothing is done, the fishery may well collapse leaving them with nothing but regrets.

Best,  
John

## Comments

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Best,  
John

## Comments

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**From:** John Glanton <johnglanton1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 2:59 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** striper regulations

Dear members of the committee,

As an avid fisherman of striped bass for many years, I applaud your efforts to further increase regulations to help sustain this fishery.

Despite a lot of un-scientific observations from some people in the fishing community, it is obvious from all scientific data that the numbers of fish are down.

Changes in water temperature due to climate change may have lengthened seasons in some areas and increased prey fish(menhaden), giving a false sense of abundance.

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The irony is that the short term economic loss of greater striped bass regulation that these captains face will be insignificant if one considers that if nothing is done, the fishery may well collapse leaving them with nothing but regrets.

Best,  
John

## Comments

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**From:** Paul Shafer <shafer.paul@att.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 2:00 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** ASMFC Striped Bass Comment

Max and ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

I wish to comment on the proposed options. I have been a salt water angler for over 60 years. I have a boat, but I also fish from shore. I have personally witnessed the lack of stripers in the 70's and 80's, the resurgence in the 90's and 00's. and the resultant decline over the past 10 years or so. I strongly support Option 2 which would require an 18% reduction for **both** the commercial and recreational sectors from 2017 levels.

Whether you believe the stocks have collapsed or that the stocks have shifted to the east, something has to be done to further increase the biomass and improve our striper fishing. Even for those of you who may believe that the stocks have shifted to the east and that status quo is sufficient, please realize that by increasing the biomass, their range will expand not only to the north and south but hopefully to the west and into state waters where our many fishermen are allowed to fish for them.

Though we understand why some might argue for status quo, I don't agree with that for the reasons stated above and I am adamantly opposed to Option 3 that would result in a 20% reduction for recreational fishermen and only a 1.8% reduction for the commercial sector. JCAA was chiefly responsible for making striped bass a no-sale or gamefish in NJ and has been advocating for coast-wide gamefish status for many years. While the commercial catch may seem relatively insignificant, the illegal sales of striped bass is a big problem in the states that allow stripers to be sold and these illegal fish are not added to the commercial harvest numbers.

Regarding the sub-options for Option 2, I favor some form of the slot limit.

Regarding the use of circle hooks, I support Option B that would make circle hooks mandatory. While difficult to enforce, it will result in overall greater compliance.

In closing I would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please take the appropriate action to restore our striper stocks!



## Comments

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**From:** Mark Sedotti <msedotti@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 1:24 PM  
**To:** Comments; Mark Sedotti; Jim Levison  
**Subject:** Comments for Striped Bass management

Hi, This is Mark Sedotti, fanatical Striped Bass fly and light tackle fisherman (as well as just fanatical fishermen salt and fresh, worldwide).

- 1.) I would like to see an 18% reductions applied equally between the sectors.
- 2.) I support Option 2-1A @ 35 inches - one fish kept per day at 35 inches or longer.

I DO NOT support separate regulations for charter boats and businesses to this. That will just keep accelerating the decline.

- 3.) I support Chesapeake option 2-B1 18 inches.

I've fished Striped Bass recreationally for 51 years including for an incredible amount the last 40 years. I'm a fly fishing writer, was Casting Columnist for Saltwater Fly Fishing Magazine, have taught many fly fishing classes (at Universities, fly shops, for sportsmans groups and in communities - especially about Northeast saltwater fly fishing) and for 13 years went around the Country speaking about and promoting Northeast saltwater fly fishing. I could do this until the numbers of Striped Bass started dropping to the point I couldn't ethically do that anymore, and then couldn't do it because the fishing was that bad. I essentially made my living this way, and the decline of the bass population (and big bass essentially disappearing from the shorelines, and being found mostly in deep water) put an end to that! I'm not the only one. Many fly and light tackle guides (as well as fly shops and fly-tackle shops) have been forced to other lines of work in recent years as a result of the bass decline. Many (non fly and light tackle) charter captains today holler about "losing" their businesses. Well it's already happened in the fly and light tackle charter end. That probably started about 2011. By the way, the incredible rise in interest in saltwater fly fishing (including the accompanying rise in related fly shop numbers and fly charter businesses) was due to the striper comeback of the 90's and it's "fall" (great decline) is due to the precipitous falling numbers of bass.

The close to shore inshore striper fishing right now is FAR worse than it was even DURING the last crash in the 70's. A moratorium helped bring the bass population back then (although it STILL wasn't like it was before that first crash) and I think what we need now is A MORATORIUM on the striper, if we want to even have a CHANCE of the species coming back. The 36 inch limit worked well too, so maybe the 35 inch limit will also give us a comeback CHANCE. Maybe.

With what I've seen with the effects of Human Caused Climate Disruption on our Northeast marine system (on baitfish, crustaceans, groundfish, bottomfish, sportfish, and other creatures) added to the overfishing, I think we will have to be very, very LUCKY to have a Striped Bass comeback even if we leave whats left in the ocean completely unmolested!

I think we should look ahead at continually warming marine waters ( waters which are warming at an accelerating rate) and think about wholeheartedly introducing redfish into the Northeast fishery. The waters become more and more conducive for this species now as the years go on (and less and less friendly to the striper).

Good luck! I hope we go to 35 inches!

All My Best,  
Mark Sedotti

## Comments

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**From:** Justin Cooper <rsqcoop@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 12:42 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** meagan.ware@maine.gov  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am for option 2-A1 1 at a 35" minimum and sub option 2-B1 for 1 over 18" in the Chesapeake.

I believe strongly that if and after we are successful at rebuilding the stocks we need to look at protecting the large breeders and then set a slot at 1 fish 35-38" and make that uniform across all of the states.

Commerical fishing for striped bass needs to be eliminated. I have personally observed myself in Massachusetts when charter captains who also hold commercial licenses will use buddy boats to max out there 15 fish at the largest possible for each fish. i know that if I am directly observing this behavior myself that this is occurring all over the state. There is a lot of illegal sales and other poaching that is occurring as well. Commerical sales needs to end.

I believe strongly that we need to incorporate some basic education into the licensure or salt water registration process. It is very apparent many fisherman do not know the regulations, do not know what types of hooks to use (the difference between in line circles and offset.) The stores in states that require inline circle hooks aren't even selling the correct hooks so without education fisherman will not be using the correct ones. Fisherman do not know the state of the fishery and do not realize what they can do to release fish and in doing so when releasing minimize the probability of catch and release mortality. This could easily be accomplished with short educational videos that are a few minutes long and have a few question quiz at the end. You would not be able to register or get your salt water license without completing these quizzes. There is a huge component to hunter safety classes, granted they are using fire arms but there needs to be yearly education and updates for salt water fishing. All states should charge around \$10 for the license or registration and earmark the funds generated to put back into the fisheries management.

I would be happy to help create educational content if that was needed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Justin Cooper  
32 Powder Mill Dr.  
Kennebunk, ME 04043  
207-423-4840

## Comments

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**From:** Art Boyd <biga598@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 12:42 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** striped bass addendum

to all concerned.

my name is art boyd,i am the president of “all island surfcasters” on long island n y. as a club the majority would like to see option a-2a implemented for the 2020 striped bass season. while not perfect we believe that this option would best serve to protect the targeted year classes. however if the numbers were adjusted slightly higher but not quite as high as a-3a we think it would have a greater impact on the stated goal. while we realize that we are in the minority in our stance as compared to the other surf clubs we feel that there are many larger egg producing fish available that need protection. the 36” size limit of the past was very successful because the majority of fish fell well below that threshold. if we were to repeat that scenario our members fear that too many of those egg laden fish will be allowed to be harvested. captain ken higgins made an interesting proposal at the bethpage hearing(allow for a different size limit for party boats). thank you all for listening to our input and good luck with your recommendations. -art boyd,president ALL ISLAND SURFCASTERS

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Steve Trogele <strogele107@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 12:34 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

As a long time recreational fisherman ,option 2 is the better choice for helping the depleted striped bass fishery to get it back possibly to where it once was. Thanks

## Comments

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**From:** Brian Rohde <brian@therohdes.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 11:49 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support option two to reduce both the commercial and recreational harvest of striped bass by 18%.

This will help maintain a sustainable level.

Respectfully ,

Brian Rohde

--  
Brian E Rohde  
26 Spring Road  
Dublin, NH 03444  
USA  
603-563-0328

## Comments

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**From:** James Ridgell <reeltime27@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 11:42 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Rockfish moratorium

Moratorium on Rockfish is needed should have been done three years ago  
I have been a recreational fisherman in the Middle Bay for 30 years. Here to tell you that the rock fishery is in serious trouble.  
James Ridgell

## Comments

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**From:** Jack Reynolds <jreyn57871@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 11:23 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** comments on striped bass options

To the commission

I have been a commercial striper fisherman for 60 years. it was never for the money, I love where it took me in life. That was before the days of high powered outboard motors and center-console boats to put them on. Along with GPS technology integrated with bathymetric chart software. For decades I fished for bass with no permits, daily bag limit, and with a size requirement of 16 inches. Today we have restraints way over and above that without listing them. The only better regulated(more restricted) species on the east coast is American Lobster. There are more stripers in count presently than I've ever seen. Whether or not the majority of these fish will live to spawn at least once is not the fault of hook and line mortality unless its from released fish mishandling. The problem ,if any,is from habitat loss in the spawning and nursery waters. That does not seem to be a subject that enters this discussion because of the paramount issue of who is catching what or perceived to be catching . Option 3 is the only option that can be considered if narcissism is kept out of it. When I fish for stripers commercially , which is not often, I use methods, baits and lures that don't catch small fish for obvious reasons.

If the commission is hell bent on draconian measures. Force fishers to make a choice on whether they want to be a recreational sport catcher of stripers or a commercial catcher, but not both! They must get a permit that shows one or the other and must do one other. The commercial catch is not an issue here when it comes to science but human nature is the issue!

John D. Reynolds  
44 Pratt Ave.  
Westport, MA 02790  
508-636-5002



## Comments

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**From:** GABRIELLE SLEDZIK <gpsledzik@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 10:52 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass

I support the 35inch fish..one per person.  
We must preserve the striped Bass.

Paul Sledzik  
Sent from iPad

## Comments

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**From:** Nick Campisano <nickcamp24@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 10:33 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max Appelman, FMPCoordinator

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N Arlington, VA 22201

Max and ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

I support option 2 with sub options 2-A1 & 2-B1.

I have been a surf fisherman for 15 years who takes roughly 100 trips a year. I have also worked as a mate on party boats and private charters. As you laid out crystal clear in the "Draft Addendum for Public Comment," changes need to occur in the management of Striped Bass. The reason I support option 2 sub options 2-A1 & 2-B1 is the sheer amount of wasted resources that I have personally witnessed working the decks as a mate in the recreational industry. I also believe that size limits should be cut and dry. I think a slot fish will lead to some confusion.

I personally feel that increased size limits will not decrease participation in this particular fishery. (As it would in other fisheries of smaller fish that are more targeted for consumption. Such as Black Sea Bass or Summer Flounder.)

More times than I'd like to count, our customers would catch their limits only to decide they no longer wanted their catch once we returned to the dock. I can also only imagine how much of the catch taken home was also wasted being freezer burnt after sitting around for a year never being used. There is no reason to take a 30 pound fish home when the average person will only make one or two meals and waste the rest.

However, in the age of social media, a picture of your catch (and releasing it) has taken the place of bringing a fish to your neighbor as a way of showing off. I am seeing this trend a lot in my (under 30) age group and it's very encouraging.

I also support option B in regards to circle hooks. In my opinion this is common sense. I personally have not witnessed a decrease I catch using them. I have however, drastically reduced my rate of gut hooking.

In my opinion, Striped Bass is a trophy fish and most of my peers would agree. We need to protect our Striped Bass for future generations to come.

Thank You,  
Nick Campisano

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Pete Gaffney <peterjgaffney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 9:55 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass comments

I am a recreational fisherman.

Eliminate the trophy season. Makes no sense to kill the breeding stock. Fish that big are not good to eat either.

Eliminate fishing for striped bass from July 1 to Aug 15 to reduce throwback mortality.

Thank You

Peter J. Gaffney  
410-446-9131

## Comments

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**From:** timothy o'connor <tjoc@me.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 9:41 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum 6

Hi All,

As a life-long recreational fisherman, who is now 50 years old, I wanted to do my part to weigh-in on the addendum. As is well documented, and personally observed by me, the striped bass are being over-fished. However, unlike many other recreational anglers, I do not blame the commercial fishery. It is the casual, recreational angler that is causing the most harm, in my opinion. I might also add, it has taken me a lifetime to admit this fact. I believe this is true based upon my observations fishing nearly every summer on the ocean in Hull (where I live) and Cape Cod Massachusetts.

The primary reason the recreational angler is causing so much damage to the fishery is due to the fact that relatively inexperienced anglers have become very proficient at catching and killing fish due to the use of social media and technology. Over my life, I have personally witnessed all-out massacres of fish on Cape Cod Bay, the Cape Cod Canal, Boston Harbor, as well as the Merrimack River in Newburyport. This is why I support an amendment to protect the fish. The use of cell-phones, social media, and most importantly, GPS and fish finding sonar, has tipped the balance of the scale too much on the side of the fishermen. Once a biomass of fish is found, everyone tells his best friend, and before the week is out, those fish have been hammered. As I mentioned earlier, it has become very easy to catch fish today, compared to what it was even as little as 20 years ago, when you had to work hard to really understand where the fish were, and how to catch them. That is simply no longer the case.

We must change in order for the resource to thrive.

Therefore, I fully support the use of circle hooks while bait fishing, and I fully support increasing the size limit to 35-36" with a 1 fish/day limit, as was done in the past.

In the future, I would support the idea of eliminating treble hooks, which is what they did in the Great Lakes Region to protect the salmon and steelhead decades ago.

Finally, due to the ever-increasing demands on large striped bass and the current social environment in which we live, I believe that we will eventually have to follow Florida's lead and protect our very valuable resource. Florida eliminated the harvest of Tarpon, Sailfish, and Snook as well as other fish such as Grouper, in order to protect the resource, which was under constant pressure from fishermen. WE ARE HEADING in the SAME DIRECTION with STRIPED BASS. Measures must be taken to ensure a healthy biomass of fish for future generations.

This email has not been easy for me to write, or to admit, as a recreational fisherman who enjoys having a striper for dinner, but I would be willing to give it up for the sake of the future. The times have changed, and we must all sacrifice for the good of the whole, and no longer continue with the selfish attitudes of the past.

I believe the "good ole' days" are ahead, not behind us. I long for the day when catching a 40lb. fish no longer raises an eyebrow, but rather, a fish that size is considered a "normal" catch.

Thank you for your good work! I wish you well in your decision.

Sincerely,

Tim O'Connor  
8 Seaview Avenue  
Hull, MA 02045

## Comments

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**From:** Brad Greenwood <cbradgreenwood@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 8:40 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hi,

I would like to encourage you to go with Option 2 on this, an equal 18% reduction in catch for BOTH Rec and Commercial fisheries. We need to let this stock heal and grow.

Thank you,

Brad Greenwood  
Territory Manager

Helly Hansen - Outdoor Apparel and More  
Alp-N-Rock - Globally Conscious Sportswear  
Armor Lux - Iconic French Maritime Fashion  
SockGuy - Performance + Personality - Comfort + Style

207-451-9413  
[brad@greenwoodbiz.com](mailto:brad@greenwoodbiz.com)  
[www.GreenwoodBiz.com](http://www.GreenwoodBiz.com)

## Comments

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**From:** Jim Jaques <jim.jaques@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 8:29 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC,  
I fully support Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions to protect what's left of the Striped Bass population. It is imperative that we conserve this very special resource for everyone.

Jim Jaques  
[jim.jaques@icloud.com](mailto:jim.jaques@icloud.com)



## Comments

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**From:** James Buchok <seafarer0520@att.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 8:05 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern, I am supporting Option 2 of the proposed Striped Bass management plan. Although in my opinion, this plan is not aggressive enough it is the best option presented.

Capt. James Buchok  
347-491-9301  
Watch Hill, R.I.

Sent from my iPhone



## Comments

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**From:** Raymond Lawrence <rplfishing@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 7:01 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I agree with option #2  
why not increase the length to 36 inches lets get this going before we have a real problem on our hands. and  
Stop commercial altogether

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*Ray Lawrence*

## Comments

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**From:** Ed & Sandra Burke <thornburkes@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2019 5:03 AM  
**To:** Comments; Rep. Sarah K. Peake; savethestripers@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My name is Ed Burke and I am a Cape Cod recreational fisherman. A healthy striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors. The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI: **Option 2**

Massachusetts is a very lax state when it comes to punishing poachers. The fines are like a slap on the wrist, They don't even take the fishing gear as part of the fine. Maybe go after their vehicle as part of the fine. Licenses aren't even being revoked.

- #1 Raise the amount of the fines
- #2 More policing of the common fishing spots - Canal, on the cape
- #3 Raise the size of the fish to 35 inches
- #4 Restrict the commercial quota, and size of the fish to 37 inches and 1 day a week for fishing
- #5 Every state has to do their part,

These are my thoughts on the subject,

I appreciate your time and attention.  
Sincerely,

Ed Burke  
44 Douglas Drive  
Bridgewater, Ma. 02324

## Comments

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**From:** Herb Floyd <storyteller56@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:12 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Comments for Draft Addendum VI for Atlantic Striped Bass

Max Appleman, et al,

My wife Rhonda and I attended the Striped Bass Management Meeting on Oct 3rd in Cambridge. It was largely attended by commercial watermen and a few recreational anglers like myself. I'm a very passionate fisherman and practice extreme conservation measures both on and off the water. My wife and I are very concerned about the health of our precious Chesapeake Bay and its wildlife. We volunteer and are members of CBF, CCA, Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, and Shore Rivers (formerly Mid-Shore River Keepers). We live on a tributary of the Choptank River which is one of the rivers the Striped Bass spawn in each year. I have been a Maryland tidal and non-tidal license holder since my 16th birthday back in 1972. With all that said, you know a little bit about my/our background and passions, below are my comments.

1. I support Option 2 and Sub-Options 2-A2 and 2-B4 but recommend the slot be increased to 20"-26"

2. Conservation Equivalencies (CE)

a. Strongly consider eliminating the Trophy Season or at least delay it until May 1st with the hope that most female striped bass have already spawned. (if we had a shortage of humans, we wouldn't kill our pregnant women!)

b. Enforce no catch and release after a fish limit has been achieved

c. Consider a closed season when water temps reach a dangerous level for fish release mortality (July/August)

d. Consider temporarily closing the Susquehanna Flats Catch & Release season

3. Circle Hook Provision:

I support Option B. All States/jurisdictions require Mandatory use of Non-Offset Circle Hooks for all bait fishing (live-lining, chumming, etc.)

4. Promote and educate proper Catch & Release methods such as:

- a. use of single hooks (such a VMC In-Line Single hooks) vs. treble hooks that are found on many artificial lures
- b. use barbless hooks
- c. cut the line on a gut hooked fish instead of trying to remove the hook
- d. Don't hold a fish with a towel which removes the protective slime coating
- e. Don't weigh a fish by a scale attached to the fish's mouth (boga grip, etc.) that will be released
- f. Keep the fish in the water while unhooking if possible or take a quick picture before releasing it
- g. Ensure to revive a stressed fish before releasing it

5. Require/encourage recreational anglers to self report their catch data by creating a user friendly on-line app. This will allow for more accurate data for recreational anglers.

6. Promote invasive species (northern snakeheads, blue catfish, etc.) fishing

Thank You,

Herb Floyd

## Comments

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**From:** Brian <brianpaulmuller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 6:55 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Regulations

I was not able to attend the recent meeting to discuss the future of striped bass. However, I would like to comment on the issue.

I am hoping a slot limit could be put into place for the harvesting of this species. I have heard rumors that the size limit alone would be increased, to possibly 35", which would limit the overall amount of fish taken. I believe this would help but I strongly believe that imposing a slot limit would be more beneficial for the long term because these larger fish are most responsible for breeding and improving the overall population in the long run.

If I had a vote in this matter, it would be: 1 fish between 28"-32". I know I am only 1 person but I hope this email could at least add more weight to the slot limit option.

Thank you very much for reading,

Brian Muller

## Comments

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**From:** JAMES Macdonall PhD <jmacdonall@fordham.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 6:43 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support option 2, 18% reduction for recreational and commercial fisherman.  
Further, I support a 36" minimum for 1 fish taken per day. It is easiest to follow - slot limits require two thresholds that can cause errors - taking fish just under the minimum or just over the maximum.

--

Jim MacDonall, PhD  
Professor Emeritus of Psychology  
Fordham University  
[jmacdonall@fordham.edu](mailto:jmacdonall@fordham.edu)

## Comments

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**From:** Tom Hughes <capttomhughes@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 6:45 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** I Support Addendum VI Option 2 Striped Bass

I support Addendum VI Option 2 because it fairly distributes catch reductions across all user groups for the overfished striped bass.

Tight Lines,

Capt. Tom Hughes  
[Fly & Light Tackle Guiding on the Chesapeake Bay](#)  
Full Time Guiding-Weekdays & Weekends  
Full Day Trips are 7 Hours  
Half Day Trips are 4 Hours

2110 Oak Lodge Rd.  
Catonsville, MD 21228

Call or TEXT: 443-690-3164

## Comments

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**From:** Levi Opsatnic <ldo5028@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 4:19 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** savethestripers@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners and Staff Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass. Making solid efforts to rebuild the striped bass population along the Atlantic coast is absolutely critical and this needs to happen as soon as possible.

Striped bass is an overfished species. Overfishing is currently happening and has been for many years. As someone who has spent about the last decade of their life chasing striped bass in various states along the Atlantic coastline, (in a relatively short period of time) I've seen this species dwindle in size and abundance annually and also speak to many recreational anglers who experience the same. Also, current stock reports echo that the striped bass population is in trouble and needs immediate attention.

The current relaxed form of regulation that is imposed on the Commission has lead to a large decrease in striped bass population and this is unacceptable for America's most iconic fish. If more strict regulations with a clear focus on rebuilding this species and sustaining healthy populations were created and the Commission was not allowed to operate so flexibly, the striped bass may not be in such trouble. Currently, in the best-case scenario, the striped bass population will not be restored until the year 2033, which lies in direct contradiction to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass stock to be rebuilt within a ten year period. This clear and dangerous representation shows just how minor the Commission's current level of accountability is; continuing on this path simply cannot do anything but perpetuate the negative impacts on this important species.

It is worth noting that I am in full support of an immediate measure made to make the striped bass a catch-and-release only species, mandate the use of circle and barbless, single hooks on all artificial lures and flies, and impose a moratorium on live bait fishing at least until female spawning stocks recover--though unlikely, I'd like this practice to continue beyond that point as well. I am also in full support of all states increasing enforcement for both commercial and recreational angler laws surrounding striped bass with a heavy increase in fines and punishment for those who are found to break these laws; also, repeat offenders should face increasingly worse consequences.

### **Option 2**

18% equal reduction for both commercial and recreational stakeholders; equal responsibility for every stakeholder participating in the striped bass fishery is necessary. However, in my opinion, I would also support that percentage being raised to a higher figure.

### **Option 2A-1**

#### **1 Fish at 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery**

There is clear proof that this method has a successful history. Conservation equivalency places a limit on the effectiveness of a slot limit and should not be allowed. Also, all states should be required to adhere to the same set of rules and limits here.



**Option 2B-1****1 fish at 18" for the Chesapeake Bay**

Inaccurate assessment of Maryland's conservation equivalency proposal by the Technical Committee lead to overfishing by the recreational sector. This is the most restrictive and quantifiable option for the Chesapeake Bay's harvest reductions and would also handle a lot of the concerns about catch and release mortality.

**Circle Hook Provision****Option B**

Making all states adhere to a circle hook rule would go great distances to help rebuild the striped bass populations. Peer-reviewed scientific studies show that using circle hooks improve catch and release mortality and that this is something that should immediately be adopted by the Commission across all states.

As a recreational fisherman who has and does rely heavily on the striped bass resource, it truly saddens me to see its population in such poor conditions that have been met with years of mismanagement. The most iconic fish on the Atlantic coast deserves much more than to be reduced to a dollar sign, and it is a vital resource that I hope can live on for centuries to come and all future generations will be able to enjoy--only through more strict regulations will this occur, and I'm hoping that this change happens much sooner than later.

Sincerely,

Levi Opsatnic

## Comments

---

**From:** Levi Opsatnic <lido5028@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 4:19 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** savethestripers@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum VI

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There is clear proof that this method has a successful history. Conservation equivalency places a limit on the effectiveness of a slot limit and should not be allowed. Also, all states should be required to adhere to the same set of rules and limits here.

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Sincerely,

Levi Opsatnic

## Comments

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**From:** Mike Burns <jburns@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 2:22 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Comment on Striped Bass Proposal

Yes I think the 35" minimum size is necessary for both recreational and commercial fishermen.

## Comments

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**From:** David Lloyd <dllloyd1940@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 2:06 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Endorse Option 2 re striped bass future!!

David Lloyd  
St. Michaels, MD

## Comments

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**From:** Brad Burns <bigbass@maine.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 1:59 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Of the three available I support option 2 that equally reduces commercial and recreational fishing mortality. Circle hooks should be mandatory for bait fishing.

Striped bass recovered in the late 1980s with a high minimum sized that meant almost all recreationally caught striped bass were released. Despite some conclusions I do not believe that recreational c/r mortality has caused this decline. The smallest size slot should be used and additional restrictions should come from closed seasons. All commercial harvest of striped bass should end.

Brad Burns  
Falmouth, Maine

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Joan And Greg <jngerisman@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 1:23 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass regulation

I support addendum VI option 2 because it fairly distributes catch reduction across all user groups .

## Comments

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**From:** Tony <tony1z@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 12:49 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striper draft addendum VI

"Dear Mr Appelman  
In regards to Striper draft addendum VI

I am a retired school teacher that lived to fish. Every weekend and opportunity I had I would go fishing. A boat was my preferred method to get to fish. If it was not conducive to go by boat I would surf fish. I loved fishing so much I got a USCG licence and worked and ran charter boats. My family lived on the boat all summer. We fished or crabbed almost daily. Over the last twenty or thirty years, the fishing regulations have gotten so lop-sided that it is no longer feasible for me to justify spending money on , gas,tackle, ice and food and not have an opportunity to bring home dinner for family. My kids are very upset that they and their kids my grand kids cannot take home a 17 1/2 Fluke or a 27 inch Striper, of which we catch many, for dinner. It is difficult to teach young people about the environment and conservation when all they see is that they can't bring any fish home because the regulation are so out of wack.

My family is asking for the support of the A2 28 - 35 inch fish and maintain our bonus slot. This option seems the best for Families and all fisherman and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration

Anthony Zdanowski and family  
207 Cartagens Dr  
Brick, NJ 08723  
7324771096



## Comments

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**From:** Tony <tony1z@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 12:49 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striper draft addendum VI

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In regards to Striper draft addendum VI

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My family is asking for the support of the A2 28 - 35 inch fish and maintain our bonus slot. This option seems the best for Families and all fisherman and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration

Anthony Zdanowski and family  
207 Cartagens Dr  
Brick, NJ 08723  
7324771096

## Comments

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**From:** Abodeon <abodeon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 12:48 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass regs.

Dear ASMFC,

I'm 69 years old. Been fishing since 3. Caught my first striped bass many decades ago at Plum Island.

Seems that balancing commercial and recreational regulations is the most difficult challenge. If you were to change the commercial regulations gradually over time so that the people who make their living fishing, then the fishermen would have time to adjust and they'd know what was coming in the future.

For recreational fisherman like myself a one fish daily limit is easy to explain. It works only if there's enough enforcement to deter poachers.

What would help and be easy: crushed barbs on all hooks-that's number one. Hopefully manufacturers would catch on and make good barbless hooks.

Secondly, only one hook of any kind on any lure-easy.

No trebles? Reduce the catch but you'd have a lot of frustrated fisherman who might be inclined to cheat due to the frustration.

Circle hooks: one circle hook on a lure also leads to frustration and maybe cheating. Crushing barbs I believe would suffice.

Having a plan with a defined goal is key. Let fishermen know if a certain goal is reached and sustainable, the regulations might be loosened in some way. We all hate the unknown.

Thank you for your consideration, and your work making a difficult decision.

Tight lines,

Dale Anderson

249 Park Lane

Concord, Ma. 01742

617-510-5322

Abodeon LLC

1731 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge MA 02138

617-497-0137

[www.abodeon.com](http://www.abodeon.com)

## Comments

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**From:** martyoflodi@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 12:42 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI I support option 2

Dear asmfc,

I support option 2 because striped bass are over fished and it is the fairest option.

Thank You,  
Martin Adamkiewicz

## Comments

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**From:** Joe Macari <jmacari1@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 12:28 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** Nicole Lengyel  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I have been commercially rod and reel fishing for striped bass in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts since 1972. I have held both state commercial licenses since mandatory issuance was instituted. I am VERY aware of the historical biomass which has existed on our coastlines.

- Status Quo is working. There are millions of small fish in the “pipeline”. Leave the regulations alone and let the stock do its thing. This up and down cycle of striped bass biomass has been fluctuating for as long as I can remember. The health of the fishery has always rebounded from low spawn, water conditions, yearly climate variations, etc.
- Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic **Striped Bass** (1981) and **Amendments 1 and 2** (1984) has made it impossible for the fishery to ever approach the low numbers of the pre-1980's, i.e., checks and balances are in place to create plans to sustain the fishery.
- The largest amount of dead fish comes from releasing recreationally caught fish. The commercial fishery is based on a HARD QUOTA—commercially caught fish are accounted for, and STAY within our allotted set aside quota.
- All of the options in the document except status quo will increase release mortality and that is wasting an overfished resource.

Please opt with the right decision that WILL benefit all present and future INCLUSIVE user groups. Please decide that Option 1, Status Quo, will achieve those goals.

Sincerely,

Joe Macari

Jmacari1@cox.net

Cranston, RI

## Comments

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**From:** Diane Baumgartner <dianeb@riversideboats.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 11:43 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass REgulation

I would like to voice my opinion on the striped bass regulation, I am in support of Addendum VI Option 2 because it fairly distributes catch reductions across all user groups. This is how we can all work together to bring the stiped bass back to the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries. We must not allow the commercial industry to over-harvest this resource.

Thank-you,  
Diane Baumgartner

## Comments

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**From:** Michael Toole <toolemf@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 11:38 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Michael Toole  
16 Raeder Drive  
Stratham, NH 03885  
603-765-6299

Max Appelman

I sent earlier comments as a representative of the Plum Island Surfcasters. These are comments on my personal beliefs.

I support option 2-A with sub-option 2-A1 and option 2-B with sub-option 2-B4. For circle hooks I support option 3.

I find options 1 unacceptable in that option 1 does not meet the reduction required to meet f target by 2020 and we can not continue on the current path counting on good young of the year classes to address current status.

I find option 3 unacceptable because at a minimum the commercial sector needs to share in the reduction. While I understand they account for only around 10% of the harvest due to size limits their harvest is on the key breeder population. Then there is their much smaller economic impact of only 3% as compared to 97% for recreational fishing. Last being that early indications are the they will not meet the 2019 quotas by about 20%, further indication on current striper status.

The selection of sub-option 2-A1 was more difficult and was based on personal experience. As someone who practices catch and release and only keeps fish I can't revive, which is 3 in the last 5 years. All were over 40" which is due mainly to longer fight time. I think this is even more of an issue when fighting fish in rough surf and the current at the cape cod canal. Just hate to throw back large dead fish.

For circle hooks I support requiring use of them when fishing dead bait but not for fishing live bait. Personal experience when fishing live eels I have had issues with deep hooking when using circle hooks but not with J hooks. The other issue is enforcement since people can just say they are fishing for blue fish. I do feel that education is the most important factor in decreasing the release mortality.

Thank you for your effort  
Mike Toole

## Comments

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**From:** Gary Bogli <glbogli36@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 11:25 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Option 2 The striper fishing is so bad I will no longer spend my time and money to fish for them.  
Gary Bogli

Sent from my iPad

## Comments

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**From:** Michael Tero <tero.michael269@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:57 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

please adopt option 2 , we need action to save this important fishery.  
we should have world class fishing , yet what we have is something far from that .  
please make the right decision, thank you , michael tero



## Comments

---

**From:** George Little <gpatlittle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:31 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6

As an active Striped Bass fisherman, I strongly support OPTION 2 on the above. Thank you for your efforts on this important subject.

George P. Little, Topsham, Maine

## Comments

---

**From:** Jerry Williamson <jerrywilliamson50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:23 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please support option 2 ,let's have a future and not be selfish. Our children and grandchildren may want to enjoy fishing.  
As we all know when it's gone it's gone

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

---

**From:** William Corrigan <seafoxent@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:04 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Cut the crap and save all the big stripers-killing the females is long range stupid.

## Comments

---

**From:** Thomas Melville <tm16may@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:54 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum 6

I support Option Two of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Thank you

Thomas Melville

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Get the new AOL app: [mail.mobile.aol.com](mailto:mail.mobile.aol.com)

## Comments

---

**From:** Jeff Amberson <kja270@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:53 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Folks

I would urge the committee to implement Option2 in order to have the best chance o saving our striped bass fishery

Thank you  
Jeff Amberson

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Dennis Beauchene <dbeauche@maine.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:43 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it May Concern;

Please consider the 18% reduction in commercial Atlantic striped bass harvest. I would prefer a complete ban on harvesting these fish and give them a game fish status.

Thank You,  
Dennis Beauchene

## Comments

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**From:** Mike Shepherd <ffmickshep@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:44 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Mr Appelman I am a recreational fisherman in Newport Rhode Island and I would like for the Board to support Option 2 of the ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 in it s striped bass allocation assessment. This Option seems to be the fairest to all.

Thank you for reading my opinion, Mike Shepherd Newport, RI,, 401-477-2968

## Comments

---

**From:** Brendan Richards <brendan.richards1138@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:32 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing you to advocate what I believe is your best course of action on Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

I am an avid saltwater fisherman with 21 years of experience targeting striped bass from the shores of Rhode Island. Within that 21 years, eight of them were also spent working the deck of one of Point Judith's busiest charter fishing vessels.

I have devoted many hours of my life in pursuit of this fish, and have met many others who have done the same. The striped bass is a striking and charismatic fish. There is no doubt that they are an economically and culturally vital species to the Northeast states.

A collapsed bass stock would be a tragedy. We are currently in the midst of an overfished bass stock, a stark placard indicating that that tragedy very well may come to fruition unless action is taken. This is why I write urging you to execute the options most in line with conservation, simplicity, practicality of enforcement, and rebuilding the striped bass stock in the shortest period of time.

**I am in favor of, and urge you to adopt, the following options:**

### **Option 2:**

#### **Equal Percent Reductions**

The striped bass is valued tremendously by both the recreational and commercial fishing sectors. A robust, healthy stock, is in the best interest of both. Also, to be blunt, a dead fish is a dead fish, and both recreational and commercial sectors are responsible for the stock's current predicament. With the all the aforementioned considered, it makes the most sense for both sectors to shoulder equal reductions.

#### **Sub-option 2A-1**

##### **1 Fish at 35" for Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery**

The striped bass stock was once saved from obliteration with a similar size and bag limit. It is common knowledge that this regulation has a history of effectiveness. Slot limits can prove confusing to the casual angler and would be difficult to enforce for already stretched thin environmental police agencies. A simple one fish limit, at a fixed size, is best.

#### **Sub-option 2B-1**

##### **1 Fish at 18" for the Chesapeake Bay**

The Maryland recreational sector has been egregiously overfishing the striped bass under a poorly assessed conservation equivalency. Therefore, the most restrictive regulation is in order to dampen the effects of this ongoing mismanagement.

### **Circle Hook Provision**

#### **Option B**



More stringent regulation in harvest is not the only measure that must be taken to rebuild the striped bass stock. With stricter size and bag limits, there will be an increase in catch and release fishing. As such, measures must be taken to help ensure more responsible angling practices that reduce catch and release mortality. The requirement of circle hooks while fishing bait would be an excellent measure conducive to these ends.

In closing, I reiterate a point made earlier in this letter: the striped bass is a culturally and economically vital species, and a collapsed bass stock would be a tragedy.

The stock is currently overfished, meaning the current trajectory achieves that grim terminus. This is not a time for dithering, half measures, or playing games with statistics. This is a time for adoption of clear sighted, effective options, that are supported by history, and frankly, common sense. These are the options above, and these are the options that I implore you to elect. An overfished striped bass stock is detrimental to all user groups, and as such, we should collectively do the right thing and adapt our fishing practices to rebuild it. For 21 years there has been an ebb and flow of tides, my life, and the striped bass stock, but they have always been there. Let us ensure that they always will be.

Thank you and sincerely,

Brendan Richards  
4 Bratt Lane  
West Warwick RI

## Comments

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**From:** david waldo <dwaldo1409@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:09 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass

I support the 28-35" slot limit. I fish a fair amount and I have not caught a fish over 33" in 5+ years. I too would like to eat striped bass occasionally.

Thank you  
David Waldo

## Comments

---

**From:** gene Makitra <genes43@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:06 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I don't know how you can say the striped bass are over fish when we have boats from Virginia off NJ taking millions of Bunker.

No food for striped bass here will make them go off shore for food.

So we see fewer striped bass here...

Not over fished...

Gene Makitra

105 Clifton Rd.

Barnegat, NJ

## Comments

---

**From:** David Rey <daverey328@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:03 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass

As an avid recreational fisherman, I strongly urge you to support addendum 6- option 2.  
This is the only fair option for all user groups concerned. Thank you in advance.  
Sent from my iPad

## Comments

---

**From:** Borg, Tom [DPYUS] <TBorg@its.jnj.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 8:44 AM  
**To:** Comments

I favor option #2 - have witnessed the demise of wild Pacific Salmon stocks – an avoidable disaster very mismanaged/misunderstood – also lived through the near extinction of stiped bass in New England during the late 70s/early 80s – would be a shame to relive that –

Good luck/thanks

*Tom Borg*  
*Director, Global Market Development*  
*Mitek Sports Medicine, Shoulder Arthroplasty*

*DePuy Synthes Mitek Sports Medicine a Johnson & Johnson Co.*  
*325 Paramount Drive, Raynham, MA 02767*  
*Office - (508) 977-3837 Cell - (508) 801-3004 Email - [tborg@its.jnj.com](mailto:tborg@its.jnj.com)*



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## Comments

---

**From:** blown65289 <blown65289@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 8:38 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass

I support addendum VI, option 2. To equally share an 18% reduction for all fishing categories both recreational and commercial.

Edward Narizzano  
1120 Jade Dr  
Bek Air, MD 11014

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Comments

---

**From:** stevcabana@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 8:31 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I think option 2 is the best choice. We need to increase the numbers of strippers and put less stress on the fish in the context of climate change, and give this a greater chance to be a viable, self replicating sustainable population.

Steven Cabana  
281 Oak Lane  
West Tisbury, MA

and 60 Summer St.  
Leominster, MA.

## Comments

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**From:** Jacob Gorke <jmg1113@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 8:12 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To the Striped Bass Management board,  
In regards to the Wild Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan, I support a fair and equitable harvest reduction. Option two: "Equitable Percent Reductions," is by far the most reasonable choice for moving forward. Still, we must legislate more stringent regulations. While the overall biomass of the fishery would suggest an 18% harvest reduction is enough to curb population decline, we are missing the forest for the trees. Breeding fish need protection. There are fewer and fewer of these reproducers each year due to the depletion of large forage fish and over harvesting. The decline in forage fish is due to lack of adequate protections, and a lack of coordinated efforts between states. You must find a way to enforce stronger punishments for over harvesting of these fish, such as menhaden, and you must implement and enforce state seasons that take into account these fishes migration patterns. In addition, we must reduce catch and release mortality of striped bass, we must protect breeding fish, and we must make sure that a large enough percentage of developing fish reach breeding size. The solution to number one is to educate the public; If one wishes to fish for striped bass, then require an exam on regulations before one is able to purchase a licence! One solution to number two is to place a maximum size limit on striped bass; force all striped bass over 40" to be released in all states. Keep the minimum size 30". And lastly, one solution to number three is to reduce the maximum charter boat limit. Boats that need a cooler full of fish can always pick at northern migrating sea bass that are growing more plentiful.

I am 26 years old. I used to be a fisherman, but seldom find any fulfillment in getting out now days. I have been forced to effectively give up fishing thanks to the inadequate protections of our natural resources. Driving a species to extinction is not in my game plan.

Now, lets all get along and do this. Save the striped bass.

Thanks for listening,  
Jacob Gorke

Jacob Gorke  
[jmg1113@gmail.com](mailto:jmg1113@gmail.com)  
Providence Rhode Island



## Comments

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**From:** RANDY WETZEL <randywet@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 8:09 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I urge you to do the right thing to protect our valuable natural resource the Atlantic Striped Bass. Vote for option 2 of the draft addendum VI to amendment 6 to reduce the allocation of Striped bass equally from the commercial and recreational sectors by 18%. I am an avid saltwater fisherman and conservationist. I have purchased 3 boats in the past 30 years pursuing the elusive striped bass. I can testify to my experiences that the catch rate has dramatically dropped since 2007. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please protect the Atlantic Striped Bass for future generations of fisherman.

## Comments

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**From:** keith schriefer <schrieferkeith@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 8:05 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Stripped Bass Reduction

I am in support of option 2. 18% reduction across the board.

## Comments

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**From:** Eric Packard <ericp669@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 7:50 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** MICHAEL LUISI  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to start by saying that I commend ASMFC for taking immediate action to end overfishing of striped bass. I believe it is imperative that we protect the fishery and it's breeding stock.

Therefore I support Option 2, the equal percent reductions for all sectors. I support options that will meet or exceed the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI.

I would also support any additional proposals that would reduce the mortality of the striped bass fishery. Up to and including the targeting of the breeding fish.

I want to be sure that any plan (s) truly mean reducing removals on the water and not just on paper. Meaning, any measures that decrease effort for days when mortality is highest for discards instead of just cutting days when discard mortality rates are low. Eg. heat of summer days as to catch and release season days.

I also support the mandatory use of circle hooks when using natural bait. And I feel thought should be put into and consider the mandatory use of inline single hooks for artificial baits too.

All said I feel that the science used for the management of the fishery may be flawed. I would support any effort made to improve the collection of better data used by ASMFC for the fisheries within is jurisdiction.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions etc.

Eric Packard  
Artist (I fish sometimes, too)  
[www.etsy.com/shop/AppleGreenArts](http://www.etsy.com/shop/AppleGreenArts)

## Comments

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**From:** Steve Heinz <heinz@maine.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 7:37 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I live in Maine and fish for striped bass. Maine is on the northern edge of the range of the East Coast migratory stock, so maintaining their abundance is key to ensuring that their range extends into Maine. The best and most equitable way to do that is clearly by the ASMFC adopting Option Two (18% reduction in recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass) and requiring the use of circle hooks for both recreational and hook-and-line commercial fishermen using bait.

Maine recovered from its seven-year striper drought during this decade. Please act to ensure that we do not experience another extended period when striped bass do not return to our waters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Stephen G. Heinz  
Cumberland Foreside, Maine  
207 781-4762

## Comments

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**From:** Bob Campbell <bobcampbell2010@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 7:28 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I am writing you to voice my strong support for Option Two of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Mandating an 18% cut in harvesting for both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers is, if anything, far too small a step toward protecting what should be an East Coast-wide gamefish, catches of which should be released back to the water.

I remember clearly what happened to stripers in the 1980's, and it's quite apparent we're heading for worse now. Stripers are a natural treasure we should all be protecting. In addition, it's been clearly documented that they are an important economic resource for all the states under ASMFC jurisdiction, overwhelmingly because of the taxable dollars spent in recreational striper fishing (or that used to be spent when stripers were plentiful) not because of commercial revenues.

I ask you as FMP Coordinator to please consider and convey my opinion and thank you for considering my voice in this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Robert Campbell  
Holmdel, New Jersey

## Comments

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**From:** Mike Connelley <connelleym@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 7:12 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support option-2 and recommend you vote for option 2.

James M. Connelley  
36 Harriman Rd.  
Hudson, MA 01749

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** g i <garyi2003@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 5:49 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Addendum VI Option 2

I support this measure in the upcoming vote! Thanks. Gary from EMRFC 2019.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Comments

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**From:** nunzio Incremona <nunziofishman@att.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 5:38 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** STRIPED BASS REDUCTION

***As a Licensed Fly Fishing Guide, 12 months a year, I support the resolution for Equal Percent Reductions.***

***I further urge all States Involved and at Federal Levels to Make a NO HARVEST NO KILL Law of any Striped Bass from Maine to the Chesapeake Bay, That are a any sizes up to and including 38 inches.***

***If these Sizing parameters are not put in place, the fishery as we know it, will be not worth the time and energy to fish for any for commercial use or for recreational use.***

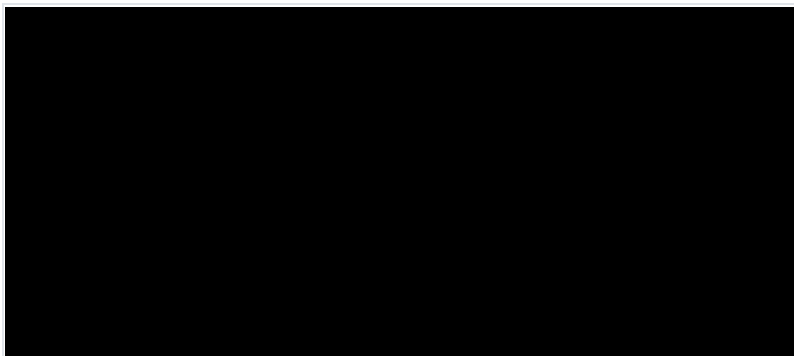
***Catch and Release MUST happen for all fish, and Circle Hooks Must be a Requirement for all Fisheries, Commercial and Recreational, If we Believe we can release these Fish back to the wild, without any harm.***

***This is Now an Imminent task that will help the entire fishery. I believe that a time Frame of 6 years, will have to be maintained at these levels before we can determine if any fisheries, have since been brought back from the realms of Death.***

***I hope all involved will do there best to achieve this goal and SAVE THE FISHERY, both in the OCEAN's and the Rivers and Estuaries where these Fish Spawn.***

***Capt. Nunzio J. Incremona***

***[www.yourweekendangler.com](http://www.yourweekendangler.com)***



### **Fly Fishing Guide/Instructor**

FocusMX.com

I am a Fly Fishing Guide, Fly Casting Instructor and Educator in Water Safety Techniques, Reading the water, Fin...



**Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions**

*An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.*

## Comments

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**From:** John Rainone <liltootcharter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 4:49 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** STB

I want to voice my opinion of option #1. Status Quo.

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L'il Toot Charters

## Comments

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**From:** Ron <hookedonfishing\_1999@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 3:14 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Regulations

I support Addendum V1 equal reduction all user groups.

Thanks

To Crabbe  
Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Dave Strelitz <davestrelitz@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 2:39 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please vote for option 2 regarding limiting catch limits for striped by 18% for both recreational and commercial fisherman as well as mandating the use of circle hooks for all bait fishing targeting striped bass. I live on the coast of Maine and have witnessed this precious resource diminish dramatically for many years. We can not afford to wait and must act quickly before the biomass drops below recoverable limits.

Please also consider reducing the harvest of menhaden, the critical forage fish for striped bass as well as a significant natural means of filtering and cleaning the coastal waters. This fish species is too valuable to grind up for animal feed. Thank you for acting environmentally responsible.

Sincerely, Dave Strelitz, Harpswell, ME.

Sent from my iPad

## Comments

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**From:** Dylan Locklin <dylanlocklin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 1:45 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** savethestripers@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Comments on Addendum VI

Hello,

I'm commenting in favor of option 3 under addendum VI. To me, option 3 seems to be the most pragmatic choice. With the commercial sectors removing a relatively consistent and small portion of the stock in comparison to the recreational sector it seems to be the most fair option. Under the sub options, I'm in favor of either 3-A1 or 3-A2. I am a recreational fisherman from New York, I have seen striped bass stocks sliding over the past 5-10 years and I am in favor of action that would help to return striped bass to a level as a stock where we, both as anglers and the fish, are flourishing. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Dylan Locklin

## Comments

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**From:** Kerin Delaney <delaneyk@sprynet.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 10:57 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** For the Striped Bass Ammendment

To whom it may concern:

I prefer the option that is 18% reduction for commercial & 18% reduction for recreational.

I would really prefer that Striped Bass be declared a game fish and thus no commercial fishing.

As you know, the economic benefits are hugely in favor of recreational fishing.

I live on Cape Cod I am will aware of the issues.

There is massive poaching going on by commercial anglers, and you know this, but you do not build it into your sustainability models. Why? The methods that you are using are not statistically valid for this reason, and you know this. But you ignore it. The science you use is a sham. And you know this. Not sure how you people can call yourself professionals.

## Comments

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**From:** william martin <williamhmartin341@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 10:50 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Management Proposals

I have fished for striped bass for over Fifty five years. I have lived through a prior period of severe overfishing. Most years I travel to Block Island and Martha's Vineyard where I fish for striped bass. The decline in large fish, the most effective spawners, is specially evident.

We must take material action for the benefit of my grandchildren's generation.

If we are faced with only two proposals, I favor Option 2. However, I think that both current proposals are less restraint than what is needed. My understanding is that this proposal at best may only prevent further decline in the population. We would be wise to further restrict the harvest more than the proposed 18 percent reduction. We must commit now to rebuilding the stock, not just stabilizing it. I favor greater reduction, and would be happy to reduce my personal fishing harvest in order to rebuild stock for my grandchildren and their grandchildren.

Dr. William Martin  
Towson MD

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Robert Erb <erbbd@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 10:13 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** strip bass

I support addendum vi option 2

Thank you  
Robert Erb



## Comments

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**From:** deceiver64 <deceiver64@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 10:08 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI, I would like to see at least option #2, as for N.J. regs: 1 fish @ 35" per WEEK, all spring pre spawn waters catch and release only, keep the striped bass bonus tag, but make that season from Nov. 1 to Dec 31. As for com...

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Comments

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**From:** derek.j.williams <derek.j.williams@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 9:25 PM  
**To:** Comments; derek.j.williams  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

### Option 2

As Connecticut's current striped bass C&R length record holder (54"), I support the 18% reduction. A slot limit seems the most logical to me, preserving larger, more productive fish.

Derek Williams  
East Hampton, CT  
203 804 6070

## Comments

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**From:** David Zanardelli <dzanrun@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 9:02 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

. The recently released benchmark stock assessment paints a concerning picture for the current status of the striped bass population, one that requires decisive action in order to restore this important resource along the Atlantic Coast.

First, I would like to thank ASMFC's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board for its swift action in initiating this Addendum to end overfishing during the 2020 fishing season. No matter which option is chosen, this action must ensure at least an 18% reduction in removals for each state.

On the issues presented in draft Addendum VI, I urge the Board to support the following:

Proposed Management Scenarios: Option 2

The striped bass catch is split nearly evenly between the recreational and commercial sectors. Because both sectors benefit equally, they should share the responsibility for needed management action. Both sectors need to conserve now in order to reap the rewards of a restored population later.

Circle Hook Provision: Option B

Reducing release mortality of striped bass is one way anglers can help positively influence the current status of the population. Circle hooks are a proven method to reduce release mortality in the recreational fishery. Mandatory regulations have already been implemented in Maryland with high levels of compliance; the other Atlantic states should follow suit.

Compliance Schedule

All states must ensure necessary regulations are in place by April 1, 2020 in order for conservation measures to be fully adopted prior to the start of the striped bass fishing season along the coast.

Conservation Equivalency

I commend the ASMFC Technical Committee for taking the initiative to develop conservation equivalency guidelines to support the implementation of Addendum VI. I urge the Technical Committee to support only those measures that are quantifiable and verifiable. Additionally, I urge the Board to reject any conservancy equivalency proposal whose objective is to circumvent the consensus of the Commission. Conservation equivalency should be reserved only for those instances in which the biology of the species, the statutory or procedural requirements of the state, or a desire to enact stricter conservation measures preclude the implementation of the ASMFC fishery management plan.

Thank you for consideration of these comments. I hope the swift, meaningful action of the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board will help reverse the trajectory of striped bass decline and start to rebuild this iconic species.

## Comments

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**From:** Mickey Baumgartner <mbaumgartnerjr@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 8:58 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass

i support Addendum VI Option 2.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

## Comments

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**From:** Andrew Dangelo <maridee2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 8:50 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped bass comment

I am Capt Andy Dangelo from Maridee II sportfishing charters I am also on the executive board of the RI party and charter boat association and also on the Rhode Island marine fisheries council. My opinion for the striped bass addendum is to remain status quo and keep conservation equivalency in the document. I agree with using circle hooks while using bait, look for more enforcement and find a better way to cut down on release mortality

Thank you  
Capt Andy Dangelo  
Maridee II sportfishing

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Frank Holden <flholden@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 8:47 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** I support Option 2

I urge the ASMFC to adopt Addendum VI Option 2 because it fairly distributes catch reductions across all user groups.

Frank Holden

## Comments

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**From:** john rowley <johncrowley123@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 8:23 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** savethestripers@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern,

As a long time angler it has been incredibly alarming and disappointing to see the fishing for striped bass decline the way it has. Every person I talk to feels the same about the state of the fishery.

After reading all the information I believe option 2 is the best option. The reduction should be shared by recreational and commercial anglers alike. Please make a change so my daughter can grow up and enjoy fishing for striped bass.

Sincerely,  
John Rowley

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

## Comments

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**From:** JEFFREY PALMER <stratfocus4001@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 7:55 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am an frequent striper fisherman and I strongly favor Option 2.

Jeff Palmer  
Sag Harbor, NY

Sent from my iPhone



## Comments

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**From:** Frank <slowstasz@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 7:20 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My vote is for add.#two  
Thank you  
FRank Stasz  
Westhampton M,a,  
E mail slowstasz@yahoo.com

## Comments

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**From:** DAVID TARDITI <drtarditi@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 7:11 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Option # 2 seems to be the most effective and equitable for all who fish for the striped bass. And I only use lures and only fish off the beach on Island Beach and Brigantine NJ.

So cast my vote for Option # 2.

Thank you,

David R.

Tarditi

75 of my 77 years living as a resident of New Jersey C 609-437-6347

64 Linden Avenue

Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Peter <peterfuj@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 7:09 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

We should support option two, but monitor it's effect on increasing the stripers population. I would support even more stringent changes. Save our fish!

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** prreck <prreck@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 7:01 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support Option 2.

Phil Reck  
York Pa

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Comments

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**From:** Heidi Shea <chezsheas@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 6:48 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear members of ASMFC,

While I would prefer that even more be done to protect the stock of striped bass, I certainly support option 2 as the most fair way to make tangible changes. Please choose to implement option 2.

Thank you,  
Heidi Shea

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** william owens <wowens@maine.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 6:07 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in support of Option Two. As a multi-decade recreational striper fisherman, I am concerned over the past decade's decline in the bass population. Although Maine doesn't have a commercial quota, I am confident my fellow recreational fishermen support a reduced harvest.

Thanks for your hard work

Tony Owens, MD  
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

## Comments

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**From:** Chris Bogden <cbogden@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:58 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I am urging you to please support Option Two of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. I also hope you will support mandating the use of “circle hooks” for both recreational and hook-and-line commercial fishermen using bait.

Sincerely,

Chris Bogden  
7 Alden Rd.  
W. Yarmouth, MA 02673

## Comments

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**From:** Mark Ellis <mark.reed.ellis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 6:00 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please recognize and note my request to support

**Option Two** requires changes to current regulations resulting in an equitable 18% reduction in recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass

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Best,

Mark Ellis  
Cell: 508-561-1983  
[mark.reed.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:mark.reed.ellis@gmail.com)

[\[+\] Add me to your address book](#)



## Comments

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**From:** Warren Perry <WAP1000@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:49 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I have read the the 3 proposals. And while th are not aggressive enough the third seems to be the best.

I have been fishingfor many years and reading all of the regulations being proposed is a step in the right direction. More stringent regulations need to be applied. While the industry is a serious business and many people make their living from striped bass industry. Every state should have the same regulations.

Warren Perry

## Comments

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**From:** Tim Nolan <timnolan99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:47 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please register my support of option two of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Nolan  
171 Journeys End Road  
South Salem, NY . 10590

## Comments

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**From:** C. J. Frankiewicz <cjfrankie@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:42 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

ASMFC:

Although I am disappointed that the proposed changes to striped bass regulations are not more aggressive, I believe that the changes described in Option Two are the fairest.

Long term, I remain committed to seeing wild Atlantic striped bass designated as game fish along the entire Eastern Seaboard.

Thanks in advance.

C. J. Frankiewicz

*You May Say I'm a Dreamer But I'm Not the Only One.*

## Comments

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**From:** Todd Collins <pitchfork15@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:39 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am in support of Option 2 that would allow the reduction in harvest of striped bass be shared with commercial and recreational as well as make circle hooks mandatory for live bait.

Todd Collins  
64 Mill Brook Ave  
Walpole MA 02081

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Steve Di Pillo <sdipillo@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:23 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I am a recreational angler in Massachusetts and I support **OPTION 2** of the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

I am sure you understand that action now will preserve the striped bass population for years to come. The implications of a significant decline in the striped bass population is far more than that felt by the striper population. This has a profound impact on the whole fishery economy. Tackle and fishing gear manufacturers, tackle shops, marinas, boat builders and dealers, fishing guides and countless businesses that support these industries and more would feel a profound impact if our favorite target fish were to suffer a population crash.

As a recreational angler I and all my friends would gladly keep less fish if it means strengthening the population and allowing us all to continue to enjoying this natural resource.

Please act now to prevent all these negative effects.

Thank you for taking my opinion into account.

Steve DiPillo

Sent from my iPad

## Comments

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**From:** william martin <williamhmartin341@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:16 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I have fished for striped bass for 55 years. During that time, I have seen the fishery overfished before. It is today. I favor Option Two if one and two are the only choices. We THINK that will stop a decline. Actually, it would be preferable to reduce both recreational and commercial take by more than the proposed 18 o/o.

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Paul Richards <striper239@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:14 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support Option 2

Paul Richards  
Centerville, MA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Comments

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**From:** matt abronze <bottomfeedin74@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:17 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Option 2

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



## Comments

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**From:** Kevin Blinkoff <kevin@onthewater.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 5:14 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

ASMFC Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

### **Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI**

Dear ASMFC Commissioners and Staff:

I am a recreational striped bass fisherman. I am also employed as the Executive Editor at On The Water Media, which includes On The Water Magazine, On The Water TV, The Striper Cup tournament, and the StriperFest celebration.

On The Water magazine launched on Cape Cod in 1996, not coincidentally at the same time that the striped fishery was declared rebuilt. There is no doubt that the striped bass is the iconic sportfish of the Northeast, and our business, like so many-other fishing- and tourism-related businesses in our region, depends upon the existence of the world-class striped fishery we have enjoyed for the past two-plus decades.

The success of our Striper Cup tournament and StriperFest celebration is proof that there is a huge community of Northeast fishermen who care deeply about the future of striped bass. More recreational striped fishermen are choosing to release “keeper” striped bass and supporting striped conservation. For proof, participation in our Striper Cup tournament **grew 20% in 2019 when we transitioned to a “no weigh-ins” format.**

The season-end celebration of the Striper Cup, the 2019 StriperFest, was held on Cape Cod on September 28. Over 5,000 striped-obsessed fishermen and their families came together to celebrate striped bass fishing in a festival atmosphere while checking out displays and demos by our sponsors, which included Yamaha, NorthCoast Boats, Shimano rods and reels, Lowrance/Simrad electronics, Columbia Sportswear, West Marine, Costa Del Mar sunglasses and others.

The StriperFest is a tangible example of the undeniable value and economic power of a healthy and viable recreational striped bass fishery. I hope the Striped Bass Management Board is considering the economic importance of an abundant striped bass stock.

The fact that the striped bass population has steadily declined over the past decade is not news to most striped fishermen. We have been hearing from our readers for years about the decline in the quality of the fishery, and most striped bass fishermen support a reduction in the striped harvest for both commercial and recreational anglers to help reverse this decline.

I support ending overfishing as a critical first step to rebuilding the striped bass population and offer the following management recommendations to ASMFC.

### **3.1 Proposed Management Scenario**

#### **I support Scenario 2: equal percent reductions between the recreational and commercial sectors.**

Conservation efforts should be shared equally between the recreational and commercial sectors because everyone that uses the resource has a shared interest in its future. 97% of total economic contribution came from the recreational sector in 2016, and that amounted to expenditures totaling \$6.3 billion dollars.

Therefore, placing more economic burden on the recreational fishery by taking a smaller reduction on the commercial fishery is not supported.

### **Recreational Fishery Management Options**

#### **I support sub-option 2-A1. 1 fish @ 35"**

I think this will be easiest for states to enforce and for the public to understand, and I think it is the most likely to achieve the desired reduction in mortality. While I like the idea of a slot limit that allows harvest of smaller fish while preserving larger fish and hope that managers revisit it in the future, there is too much uncertainty when it comes to how a narrow slot would affect the striped stock. I am concerned about starting this experiment when overfishing needs to be stopped immediately.

#### **I support sub-option 2-B1. 1 fish @ 18" for Chesapeake Bay**

This is the most restrictive option for Chesapeake Bay and will help conserve strong year-classes of striped bass by limiting harvest and release mortality.

### **Conservation Equivalency**

I recommend ASMFC strive for coastwide consistency in management measures. If conservation equivalency programs are allowed, the Board must follow up to hold states accountable through the fishery performance review process.

### **3.2 Circle Hook Provision Recommendation**

#### **I Support option 2: require the use of non-offset circle hooks when fishing with bait.**

Science supports the use of circle hooks to reduce discard mortality. I believe that any circle hook requirement should apply to both recreational fishermen AND commercial hook-and-line fishermen. Educational campaigns to teach anglers the various techniques of using circle hooks should be employed by all the states to support effective implementation of this option.

Sincerely,

Kevin Blinkoff

Kevin Blinkoff

Executive Editor  
On The Water Media  
Group  
508-548-4705 x227  
[onthewater.com](http://onthewater.com)

**On The Water**  
THE ANGLER'S GUIDE



## Comments

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**From:** Eric Dammeyer <ericjrickd@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:46 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please support an equal reduction in both recreational and commercial striped bass harvests.

Thank you  
Rick Dammeyer  
Lewes, Delaware

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Jim Mize <jim@automartusedcars.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:44 PM  
**To:** Comments; Douglas Grout; G. RITCHIE WHITE; dhw@cisunix.unh.edu; Raymond Kane; Sarah.Peake@mahouse.gov  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing you today to state that I am in favor of OPTION TWO of the current Draft Addendum regarding the Atlantic Striped Bass.

As a long time recreational angler of Atlantic Striped Bass, I having witnessed its decline over the last decade.

I believe option two would help preserve the current stock and also help the stock rebound.

Respectfully submitted,

*James Mize*  
*Hampstead NH 03841*

## Comments

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**From:** DCREAMER@maine.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:35 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Attention Max Appelman

I attended the ASMFC meeting in Yarmouth, Maine Wednesday night and wish to make comments about the meeting and the proposed changes to the Striped Bass regulations.

First I was unable to determine the name and credentials for the woman who moderated the meeting.

Second I was disappointed that none of the three members of the Maine Atlantic Striped Bass Management board attended the meeting.

Third I do not understand how the commission determines the recreational catch for a given year. Apparently the recreational harvest is determined by some type of computer model. Perhaps a better guide could be a creel census or by requiring guides to keep records of what their sports catch, release and keep. The commercial catch appears to be monitored by a tagging system allowing commercial catch numbers to be more accurately monitored.

Fourth none of the recreational catch reduction options that the commission has proposed meets my personal preference however option 2A2 would come the closest. I believe that targeting the larger “trophy” brood stock is detrimental to the fishery. It has been suggested that a preponderance of the large fish are female. If we allowed a shorter length slot more male fish would be taken instead of mostly female fish. Also the Maine Dept of Marine Fisheries (MeDMR) has issued an advisory warning about PCB contamination in Striped Bass and Bluefish. We can infer that the larger, older fish will accumulate higher concentrations of contaminants suggesting that harvesting smaller fish might be safer.

Fifth the Maine MeDMR has mandated use of inline circle hooks for fishermen angling for Striped Bass (and Bluefish) with live and cut bait. Support for the use of circle hooks has been controversial but I am upset by the fact that none of the other states in the ASMFS have required the use of circle hooks. Gear restrictions should be required universally across all states both recreational and commercial. It doesn't make sense for Maine “leading” if no one follows.

Six. As a seafood technologist I can also suggest that the commercial fisheries use of gill nets be prohibited. Gill nets are too indiscriminate and produce a poor quality product. Wild fish resources are too precious to be wasted on poor quality practices. Additionally requiring fish that are harvested to be iced/refrigerated immediately is not unreasonable.

Finally I believe that if we want to rebuild the striped bass resource quickly that a moratorium on the use of bait to catch Stripped Bass (and Bluefish) should be imposed on all states in the ASMFC. If over-fishing is the leading cause for the stocks downturn, stopping the use of bait (live or cut) will give us the most benefit. The moratorium could be implemented with a sunset clause to allow the use of bait after the stocks recover.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Donn Creamer

## Comments

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**From:** Bernie&Bev Rubalcaba <bernieandbev@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:33 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

As an avid Stripe Bass fly fisherman I practice 100% catch and release. The incredible value of this beautiful fish is again being threaten by over fishing by commercial fisherman and sports Fisher that keep their catch and do not use Circle hooks. We sports fisherman have noticed a decline in our catches. A Stripe Bass must reach a mature age of many years before it spawns (5 to 6). The larger females produce the majority of eggs. Please at least implement at least option 2. I am retired and if Stripe Bass become evermore difficult to find I will take my fishing adventures else where. Please save our Stripe Bass resource.

Sent from Bernie Rubalcaba's iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Mike Baker <mike@kayakfishnewengland.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:31 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Option 2 needs to be the choice on the table. If I could I would shut it down completely for a couple seasons and I'm a guide . The drastic decline I have witnessed over the couple years is disgusting. Thank you for reading Mike

Sent from my iPhone



## Comments

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**From:** Sue Paffrath <s.paffrath2@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:30 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Members of the Committee,

As a lifelong resident of New England, and avid fisher woman, mother of two enthusiastic fisher women and advocate of preservation of diverse species native to our waters, I urge you to adopt Option Two.

***Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions***

*An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.*

What we do today will determine the future for my daughter's grandchildren and bolster the economies of all states for whom sport fishing's economic impact reaches more people collectively than commercial fishing. It will help preserve a quality of life for many of our residents and help combat the southern exodus of our working population.

Sincerely,  
Susan Paffrath  
33 Slater Ave  
Providence, RI 02906

## Comments

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**From:** M&J Leavitt <raffle5@maine.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:24 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I hope you support Option #2. Thank you, Michael Leavitt, Saco, Me

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** calcarolyn@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:23 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I strongly recommend Option 2 as the most equitable way to reduce the stripe bass harvest.

calcarolyn@verizon.net  
calcarolyn@verizon.net

## Comments

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**From:** Robert Frisbie Sr. <rnf@frisbiegroup.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:23 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom It May Concern:

We favor Option Two - an equitable 18% reduction in commercial and recreational harvest of striped bass.  
Thank you.

Robert Frisbie  
42 Easton St  
Nantucket Ma 02554

## Comments

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**From:** Dave <dsnyder45@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:26 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped rules

please do not change the regulation's on striped bass as I believe it is unnecessary to do so

## Comments

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**From:** Peter <pemojo@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:22 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I believe Option Two is the most equitable option for both interests. However, I think a 20 to 25 percent reduction in landings would be a good place to start. Circle hooks are a no brainer for bait fishermen and really ought to be for pluggers and jiggers. It isn't that difficult to rig artificial lures with circle hooks, so why not? I would really like to see manufacturers sell lures without hooks and leave the option to the angler as to rig with circle or J hooks. Treble hooks need to go. Also, enact a ban on ALL yo-yo fishing. Yes, it catches fish, there is no question. But it also kills fish. It also leaves lost fish with the junk associated with rigging yo-yo baits in their bellies. The hammer needs to fall hard on violators. I have seen the same commercial rod and reel guys yo-yoing, culling catch and squirreling away fish in their boats to sell for cash at the back door of local restaurants. I am sick of seeing the resource depleted and abused and want to see the striped bass designated as a game fish!

Regards,

Peter Jannitto  
Warren, RI 02885

Sent from my Sprint Phone.

## Comments

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**From:** Francis Wnek <wnek\_fm@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:20 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** stripers@stripersforever.org  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

As a dedicated catch and release recreational Striped Bass fisherman in Maine I am adding my voice in favor of the Option 2 18 percent harvest reduction for the 2020 season. My observations from my time on the water here in Mid COast Maine is that Stripers are just STARTING to recover from over harvesting in the recent past. Let's let this important game fish continue to recover by reducing the harvest of breeding sized fish. Thank you.

Frank Wnek  
Harpwell, ME

## Comments

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**From:** John Kaufmann <john.kaufmann21@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:22 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

While I would have preferred a larger reduction in the mortality allowed for striped bass I support for Option #2

Sent from my iPad



## Comments

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**From:** dpmcgarvie@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:15 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support option 2 for the Atlantic wild striped bass management plan. DP McGarvie, Medford, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

## Comments

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**From:** Robert Snow <bobsnow3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 4:03 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I'm in favor of Option 2.

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Comments

From: robert <fordrr@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 4:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I vote for option #2.
Thank you!

Robert Ford

Comments

From: WalT Keller <brigandwalt@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Comments
Cc: pfesta17@gmail.com; doug.stang@dec.ny.gov; steve.hurst@dec.ny.gov; chris.vanmaaren@dec.ny.gov; mjflahe@msn.com; GREGG KENNEY; jessica.best@dec.ny.gov; vdubois@hvc.rr.com; kiralyfarm@frontiernet.net; brigandwalt@verizon.net
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum V1

To Whom It May Concern:

I have read the Draft Addendum V1 To Amendment 6 To The Interstate Fishery Management Plan For Atlantic Striped Bass and am offering my comments below.

This draft plan addendum V1 reports that Striped Bass have been over fished, allowing more fish to be taken than targeted in the plan. Your mismanagement of our public resource will continue unless it is changed. Consequently management of the fishery needs to mandate regulations that allow an escapement of enough spawners to provide future target populations including catch and release. Such regulations specify method of take, size limits, seasons, and creel limits or pounds of commercial take. The fact that over fishing has occurred proves that the coinciding existing regulations have not worked to limit take against coinciding target populations.

The use of inline circle hooks has been known to diminish the kill of released bait caught Striped Bass for almost 20 years as noted in the references cited in the draft addendum. Data are available to estimate an additional survival of bait fished Striped Bass caught on inline circle hooks after release against those caught on j hooks, at least for recent years of data for the Hudson Estuary. Why does the draft plan not mandate inline circle hooks for bait fished Striped Bass in the Estuary? Enforcement of such a regulation would be no more onerous than enforcement of any other regulation now being used to manage the Striped Bass fishery, no matter what the regulations are. Additionally, state have the authority to mandate inline circle hooks just as they have the authority to impose seasons, size and creel limits including slot limits or gill net mesh size.

Straight line circle hooks should also be mandated for all other bait fishing where the bait angler has a chance to catch other fishes than target species. Those other non-target fishes also managed with size limits, creel limits and seasons, helping to insure the survival of those released fishes caught coincidentally with Striped Bass.

Page 16 of the Draft, 3.2 Circle Hook Provision should be rewritten to read:

This section proposes that inline circle hooks are mandated for use when fishing with bait to reduce mortality of released Striped Bass and all other fishes in recreational and commercial fisheries.

Education of fishers relating to the use and value of inline circle hooks for attaining management goals is notable but should in no circumstances be mandatory coincidental to or in advance of establishing inline circle hook regulations. And the final amendment if clearly written and in understandable lay terms could serve as a basis for any education should any state wish to provide its citizens with such materials.

In summary, mandate inline circle hooks for commercial and recreational bait fishing for Striped Bass in all waters managed by parties of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Sincerely,

Walter T. Keller

Comments

From: Steve Culton <swculton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Justin Davis; WILLIAM HYATT; Sen. Craig A. Miner
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My name is Steve Culton. I am a resident of Middletown. I am a fly fishing guide, instructor, outdoor writer, and I run a website, currentseams.com, which has over 700 followers. Most of all, I'm a guy who loves fishing for striped bass.

Along with the ASGA, I endorse the following options:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the sectors

Option 2-A1: 1@35". There are major cons to every option listed. It's hard to support ANY option that allows the wholesale slaughter of the large breeding female bass off of Block Island or in the Cape Cod Canal to continue. Ultimately, it's difficult to ignore past history, and we've seen the positive effect of 1@36", which helped with the successful rebuilding of the striped bass fishery last time around.

For the Chesapeake Bay, Option 2-B1: 1@18". For the record, I'm not favor of any of the options listed for the Chesapeake Bay. Exploiting fish before they have a chance to spawn makes no sense. But Option 2-B1 is expected to achieve the greatest harvest reduction.

Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of circle hooks. This must be accompanied by an effective education and awareness program.

Some additional comments: While we've got to start somewhere, none of this good enough. ASMFC has got to do better.

Perception is reality, and the public perception of the ASMFC is that it is **at best ineffective; and at worst, it is incompetent and beholden to corporate interests rather than conservation.** ASMFC has the power to do tremendous good; yet year after year, decade after decade, it fails to live up to its mission statement. **Why?**

Let's start here: Why is Maryland allowed to do what they damn well please? Maryland's harvest reduction in this Draft Addendum is based on their 2017 harvest when they were severely over their total. Why would you reward a state for overharvesting by 200%? There must be consequences when states do not live up to their harvest reduction goals. ASMFC must

tighten up how you analyze and manage conservation equivalency proposals. Please make sure this gets fixed.

Finally, I recognize the ASMFC has a number of diverse constituencies that need to be considered. However, you must manage striped bass for the benefit of the greater good. You must manage for the benefit of our children, and for their children. Ultimately, the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few – or the one.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Culton

Comments

From: Suriano, Michael <michael.suriano@honeywell.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 2:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I would like to provide the following comments to the proposed options included in the draft striped bass Addendum VI:

- I support Sub-Option 2-A2 as most striped bass over 35” are females that should be given the maximum number of opportunities to reproduce. Having a minimum size of 35” (Sub-Option 2-A1) or a slot limit that include fish up to 38” (Sub-Option 2-A3) or 40” (Sub-Option 2A-4) will unnecessarily result in the killing of larger breeding females.
- I also support either Sub-Options 2-B3 or 2-B4 without a trophy fish season which again results in the killing of larger breeding females. States should not be given the ability to reinstate a trophy fish season within the Bay.
- I do not support the status quo (Option1) given the sharp decline in the female SSB over the last 15 years.
- I similarly do not support Option 3 given the much greater socioeconomic impact of the recreational fishery when compared to the commercial fishery. In order to have majority public support for the reduction in harvest, the public needs to see that both fisheries are equally sacrificing.
- I also support the mandatory use of circle hooks in both the recreational and commercial fisheries (Option B).

Michael Suriano
30 Alexandria Road
Morristown NJ 07960

Comments

From: Raymond Berlin <ray920@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 1:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: stripers

There is no sense in going to a 35" minimum sized striper. We should retain the slot fish and have a 2nd fish available under 35". Pick a max size number. All we want is a bass for the dinner table, happy to play catch and release when the fish are there. Additionally the 3 mile limit has long outlived its usefulness other than to be an annoyance. Yes lets pay the Coast Guard to patrol the 3 mile line and protect the fish . due to storms and beach replenishment the coastline has changed so what maybe at one time made sense doesn't make sense today. I realize there are different areas of responsibility involved but the proposals I am reading about at 35" min are just plain foolish.

Ray Berlin

1 jefferson Court

Monroe township, NJ 08831



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Comments

From: Brad Weil <bradweil@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 1:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: NJ Striper Regulations

I am a NJ fisherman for decades, 48 years old and my son also fishes.

I also fish all over the country, most often in FL, who use slot limits to protect the large breeder fish and it has been very successful.

I have a small boat where I fishing in the back bays and rivers in NJ and I also have friends with larger boats and fish the ocean.

I feel there is an abundance of small striped bass, I have seen the numbers grow significantly over the last 15 years. This spring I had days in the back bay catching 10 - 20 fish less than 28".

My educated opinion would to be have a slot fish at 20 - 28" and another larger slot fish at 28 - 33". There is no reason to keep a striped bass over 33", the are not as good table fair as the smaller fish, and produce thousands of more eggs in the spring.

Brad Weil
856-912-6251

Comments

From: Chris Lido <leedz49@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 1:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Appelman, please acknowledge my public comment on this very sensitive issue. I want to reiterate the comment of Capt. Bob Bogan of the Gambler. In studying Young-of the Year Indexes for Hudson River, Delaware river and Chesapeake Bay striper stocks there appears to be wild fluctuations.

The truth is that we are not seeing great numbers of striped bass near shore --due to beach replenishment, not poor recruitment. Beach replenishment has done a lot of damage, not just to the animals that live near the surf, but has devastated fish habitat where the sand was dredged from -what were once hills are now holes! If this practice was done in a forest, there would be public outcry.

Striper stocks are not in trouble. Striped bass have been seen, in numbers, outside of our Exclusive Economic Zone, along with great pods of menhaden -where surveys for striped bass are not being considered.

The points about the beach replenishment and the large schools offshore are not anecdotal. Both can be substantiated.

At the Manahawkin meeting I heard a comment by one gentleman who submitted that redfish and snook in Florida have a slot limit size and the biomass of both these fish have been doing well. It's something that NJ should look into.

Our for-hire industry cannot lose its bonus program. From what I understand, our industry has only utilized 9% of that quota.

We also do not agree with the mandatory circle hook option due to the fact that we often snag bunkers and let that bait immediately back into the drift. And I do not believe that most of our patrons would know how to set the hook with a circle hook.

I would opt for the 28 - 35 inch fish and maintain our bonus slot fish in both the spring and fall seasons, thusly utilizing the commercial quota more effectively.

Chris Lido
Former Editor -The Fisherman Magazine
NJDFW

Comments

From: George Cross <gtcross@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 12:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum V1

I am in favor of option 2.
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 4, 2019, at 12:08 PM, jerryboy <jerryboy@optonline.net> wrote:

Thank you for the reminder Bret!

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Bret McGowan <bret.mcgowan@gmail.com>

Date: 10/3/19 4:52 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: tmarchisotto@yahoo.com

Cc: buzzzzbomb@aol.com, joynmad@aol.com, fishbear13@yahoo.com,
jerryboy@optonline.net, aalbano@lirr.org, falcon.networks3@gmail.com,
adamsotiryadis@yahoo.com, bowhnr11757@yahoo.com, jnrsto@aol.com, boggie10@wp.pl,
boggiefish29@gmail.com, christianskypeters@gmail.com, wavebtr@aol.com,
ezarins@optonline.net, garrym@optonline.net, gtcross@verizon.net, gloryhorse78@gmail.com,
jaj613@optonline.net, nashjc@icloud.com, jdgti@optonline.net, jmogavero77@gmail.com,
julienfrank@gmail.com, lloydkee@gmail.com, marcmichael@optonline.net,
markmcgowan80@yahoo.com, mattypie@aol.com, smellsfishy@verizon.net,
mmilillo20@aim.com, n.m.antonelli50@gmail.com, nvourkas@aol.com,
surfrat4@optonline.net, jordan78619@yahoo.com, bigperpl7@aol.com, robvila@optonline.net,
rogmartin@optonline.net, bronh22@yahoo.com, mcdonald@optonline.net,
sbsw7881@yahoo.com, corrigan1974@hotmail.com, zzebrowski@aol.com,
zhromin@verizon.net, zenohromin@gmail.com

Subject: ASMFC Comments Deadline Oct 7th

All

Just a reminder that the deadline for send in public comments to ASMFC is coming up. If you've not done so, It's easy enough and the contact information on how and where to send your comments is as follows:

Email: comments@asmfc.org (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

or

Mail: Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Phone: (703) 842-0740 Arlington, VA 22201 Fax: (703) 842-0741

If you don't want to draft your own personal email and agree with his recommendations, you can paste the outline below, written by Ross, into an email and send. (That would take about 2 mins to do). I sent mine in and got an immediate automated response thanking me for submitting comments.

Ross's recommendations are as follows:

ASMFC Draft Addendum 6 Recommendations and Talking Points

ASMFC Draft Addendum 6 Recommendations and Talking Points

RECOMMENDATION: Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector

Talking points:

- All sectors contribute to the wellness or depletion of a fishery. Given that striped bass are overfished with overfishing occurring our belief is that all sectors should share equally in the reduction.
- This opinion is supported by the realization that the commercial sector was handed a gift with Addendum 6. Their harvest reductions are based on the Addendum IV quotas and not their 2017 harvest. We have no understanding of why the Management Board would not apply the same standard of the 2017 harvest that is being used for the recreational sector. When you look at the new the new quota of 4,871,182 pounds in Addendum 6 that applies the 18% reduction, it is actually an INCREASE from the commercial harvest of 4,796,395 in 2017. When the 1.8% option is applied to the commercial sector the quota balloons to 5,833,537 pounds, an increase of 22% above their 2017 harvest.
- We long for the day when the ASMFC is consistent with the criteria that they use when computing the recreational and commercial sector harvest reductions.

RECOMMENDATION: Option 2-A1: 1@35"; anticipated total removal reduction of 18%

Talking points:

- There are valid pros and cons to all of the options listed.
- We have concerns about proposals that target small fish and also concerns about options that target specific year classes.
- While our initial reaction is to favor the option with the highest anticipated total removals, we are worried about the lack of data on the impact a slot will have on the overall fishery. We are worried when we read in the Draft Addendum that the long term conservation benefits of implementing slot limits may not be realized if effort is concentrated on fish within the slot limit.
- Ultimately, there is no way that we can ignore or discount past history. We have seen the effect of 1@36" as that was the regulation that was adopted that led to the rebuilding of the striped bass fishery.
- We are opting to trust that history will repeat itself with 1@35".
- There are a significant number of smaller fish in the fishery. Strong year classes from 2014 and 2015 need to be protected. Option 2-A1 will allow these fish the largest number of spawning years before they become exploitable. This is critical to the rebuilding of the striped bass fishery.
- We recognize that there will be some within the recreational sector that favor a 28"-35" slot. We believe that it is important to permit smaller fish as many years as possible to spawn before making them exploitable.
- The option is the easiest to enforce.
- The option will result in more caught fish being kept out of water for the least amount of time.
- While this option will exploit the larger fish, the impact will be spread out over a number of year classes.

RECOMMENDATION: Option 2-B1 1@18"; anticipated total removal reduction of 20%

Talking points:

- We are deeply concerned about the impact of all of the Chesapeake Bay options on the critically important younger year classes. Addendum IV was unsuccessful in its efforts to protect the critical 2011 year class, which was, and continues to be, overexploited by Maryland anglers.
- In total 2,500,000 more fish were harvested by Chesapeake Bay anglers than were expected to be harvested in Addendum IV; many of these fish were part of the 2011 year class that Addendum IV was intended to protect.
- While we are not in favor of any of the options listed for the Chesapeake Bay, Option 2-B1 is expected to achieve the greatest harvest reduction. It is for this reason that we recommend Option 2-B1.
- We are deeply disappointed that the Draft Addendum 6 harvest reductions are based on the overage that Maryland achieved and not the Addendum IV harvest levels that they should have been achieving. The options presented in this draft addendum reward Maryland for the gross overharvesting that occurred.

RECOMMENDATION: Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

Talking points:

- All efforts should be taken to reduce dead releases. Circle hooks have been proven in multiple studies to reduce fish mortality and should be required when fishing live and dead bait.
- Option 3.2.B must be accompanied by an aggressive education and awareness campaign. Different angling methods are used when using non-offset circle hooks. If these methods are not used when fishing with circle hooks, anglers will become frustrated at their difficulty in landing striped bass. This could lead to issues of compliance and participation. Education and awareness programs will be critical to ensuring adoption of the circle hooks. The Rhode Island Saltwater Angler's Association's and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's CRANK, DON'T YANK education program can be used as a model.

ADDITIONAL TAKING POINTS:

- We have no confidence in the ASMFC's ability to accurately assess conservation equivalency proposals and even less confidence in their ability to manage conservation equivalency proposals when they do not achieve the anticipated harvest reductions.
- As a result, we are adamantly opposed to the consideration of conservation equivalency proposals when the striped bass fishery is overfished or overfishing is occurring.
- States have used conservation equivalency to game the system and jeopardize the success of the Addendums.
- Our demand is that the ASMFC and Technical Committee incorporate the lessons learned from Addendum IV and that they improve their assessment methods. Being off by 200% in the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery is not a rounding error. It is a process error.
- The management board should be required to take corrective action in instances where the conservation equivalency is not meeting the intended harvest reduction (variance of 25% or more).
- For the years 2014-2018, combined, the large majority of all recreational trips that primarily targeted striped bass were made by shore-based anglers and by anglers in private or rental boats. The management measures ultimately included in Addendum VI should be primarily designed to address the needs and preferences of the anglers who make the overwhelming majority of the trips, and not the very small minority of anglers who utilize other modes to access the fishery.
- Segments of the recreational sector seeking a smaller slot size can apply for conservation equivalency exceptions. To be considered, any conservation equivalency proposal should be required to at least meet the State's adopted harvest reduction percentage.

Comments

From: Ronald Onorato <captron1@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 12:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it may concern:

I am a commercial striped bass fishermen living in New York. I am requesting the commission adopt Option 3 as it pertains to the commercial sector. It is the only fair and reasonable option. In the last 16 years, NY has under harvested its commercial quota in all but one year(2011). In 2014, NY only harvested 64.2% of its quota. Since NY continually under harvests, option 3 is the only fair option.

Thank you,
Ronald Onorato

Comments

From: John Lapenta <john.lapenta@polarisalpha.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 12:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass stocks

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

I am a recreational angler in New Jersey, and have been fishing catch and release for striped bass throughout New England for the last decade. I have witnessed first hand the decrease in striper population. It's time to take strong action to preserve the stock.

Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for striped bass mandates rebuilding stocks with a ten-year time frame. Given that your proposed amendment won't rebuild striper stocks until 2033, I fully support the American Saltwater Guides Association position and echo their concerns as to the glaring lack of accountability at the ASMFC.

The perilous state of the striped bass fishery should require an immediate shift to a more rigid framework like that governing Federal fishery management councils.

While we await more decisive action, I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the following options to end over-fishing and rebuild striper stocks:

- Option 2: Equal percent reduction across all sectors
- Sub-Option 2A-1: 1 fish limit with a minimum size of 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery
- Sub-Option 2-B-1: 1 fish limit with a minimum size of 18" for the Chesapeake Bay
- Option B: Mandatory circle hooks for the whole fishery

The Draft Amendment states that the Atlantic striped bass is...“the most iconic finfish on the Atlantic coast and has supported valuable fisheries for centuries.” We trust that you will now take these minimum steps to safeguard even the short term future of this invaluable resource.

Sincerely,

John Lapenta
Software Engineer Senior Principal
Mission Solutions Division
4 Industrial Way West, Eatontown, NJ 07724

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Comments

From: Mike Wissel <mwissel25@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 12:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum VI Striped Bass

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC),

As a lifelong fisherman of the Chesapeake Bay, I am extremely saddened by the loss of abundance in our striped bass stocks coastwide, and especially the larger spawning stock, I am grateful that the commission has recognized that the stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. I am also grateful that the commission has released addendum VI to help remediate these conditions in a timely manner. I understand this is not as easy as it sounds, especially with numerous stakeholder groups and various states involved.

I am writing today to urge the ASMFC to support reducing fishing mortality to provide for greater abundance and to give the stock a chance to recover. Basically, I support any option that meets or exceeds the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI. Therefore, I strongly support Option 2 - Equal Percent Reductions for all sectors. Other measures being proposed (and specifically option 3) reallocate harvest from the recreational sector to the commercial sector and are only based on one year's data rather than a comprehensive study taking into account the socio-economic impacts of such an option. Any reductions MUST BE equal. This is a SHARED public resource, not one owned by the commercial sector or their lobbyists. It is also my hope that any state submitting reduction based upon conservation equivalency will have said plans thoroughly reviewed by the technical committee in order to assure their intended goal of reducing mortality.

We should strive to manage for abundance rather than the maximum amount we can take out of the system without a crash. Thank you for your kind attention to this letter.

Sincerely,
Michael Wissel
Maryland

Comments

From: kris magnotti <gloryhorse78@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 12:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum 6

Hello I'm a Long Island resident and long time Surfcaster. My opinions on the new regulations are as follows

Option 2: 18%
.Option 2-A1: 1@35"

Option 2-B1 1@18"

Option 3.2.B

I have watched this fishery's downfall for several years and want desperately for it to bounce back for the current fisherman and women and for our children and their children.

Thank for your time.

Kristopher Magnotti

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Brewer, Mika <mbrewer@massdevelopment.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 12:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support Option 2-A2 for managing the populations of Striped Bass for commercial and recreational fishermen.

Comments

From: David Poe <davidrussellpoe@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 11:11 AM
To: Max Appelman
Cc: David Poe
Subject: Comment on Draft Addendum VI for Atlantic Striped Bass

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sir:

Please accept this email as my comment on Draft Addendum VI for Atlantic Striped Bass ("Addendum VI").

I have read the online materials relating Addendum VI and attended a meeting in Cambridge, MD on October 3 in which the Addendum was explained and discussed. My specific comments are as follows:

- (1) It is apparent from the April 2019 Assessment with respect to the Atlantic Striped Bass fishery that the major challenge to management is recreational fishing and the fish mortality associated with it. In general, estimated data with respect to recreational fishing appears to be highly suspect as to accuracy in its depiction of effects on the fishery. This is borne out by the changes in the Marine Recreational Information Program survey methodology change in 2018 that suggested that recreational removals are 2.3 times higher than previously estimated. Given that indicated difference, it suggests that considerable conservatism is necessary in placing any reliance upon the MRIP in making fish management decisions.
- (2) The assumed mortality for recreational fishing is little better than an educated guess, as the ASMFC Stock Assessment Overview for the Striped Bass admitted. Moreover, Addendum VI concedes that it cannot account for what effects changes in effort, bag and size limits will have on fish stocks.
- (3) The foregoing data deficiencies and uncertainties demonstrate that "Conservation Equivalency", while perhaps sound as a concept, cannot be implemented with any certainty as to its effects on fish stocks going forward. Thus, the ASMFC cannot responsibly rely upon any Conservation Equivalencies to produce desired management outcomes.
- (4) The mandatory circle hook requirement for recreational fishing with live bait would represent a reasonable proposal if there were a way to actually enforce it with respect to striped bass fishing. However, recreational anglers often do not know what sort of fish they are liable to reel in, so effective implementation would require anglers to only use circle hooks with live bait anywhere on the Chesapeake. I suspect that sufficient resources to actually enforce such a circle hook requirement are lacking, so probably the best that could be hoped for would be an effective public communications effort. Moreover, there are factors other than hook shape that affect mortality such as water temperature and dissolved oxygen, both of which conditions have worsened in recent years. All of the foregoing suggests that ASMFC should have little confidence that a circle hook requirement would significantly improve mortality relating to recreational fishing.
- (5) In general, the foregoing demonstrates that ASMFC needs to employ greater conservatism in its fish management decisions. This indicates that, of the three options, presented, Option 3 has the greatest chance of actually operating to improve the stock of Atlantic Striped Bass.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments with respect to Addendum VI.

David R. Poe
301 N. Morris Street
P.O. Box 163
Oxford, MD 21654
Ph: (703) 786-5555
davidrussellpoe@gmail.com

Comments

From: Michael Schlaker <mschlaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Attn: Mr Max Appleman

My 16-year old son and I are avid recreational surfcasters in Rhode Island. Fishing - especially surfcasting for stripers - is the #1 activity that he and I share together (it's a HUGE of our lives and relationship). We primarily target striped bass on a pure catch-and-release basis and are well aware of the diminishing population. We have witnessed many violations to the current regulations just from our little swath of the coastline, so it makes sense the that the problem gets exponentially larger as you zoom out of the Ocean State. Like ALL of our recreational fishing friends, we're deeply concerned about the continued survival of Morone saxatilis in the face of increased pressure, and are 100% behind smart, sustainable and actionable solutions to save the species from becoming further threatened.

That being said, I strongly support the following Options in your Draft Addendum:

Option 2 - Equal Percent Reductions (18% applied equally)
Sub-Option 2A - 1 (1@35")
Sub-Option 2B - 1 (1@18" Chesapeake)
Circle Hook Provision - Option B (Circle hooks mandatory when fishing with bait)

We are happy to see these items are being addressed and sincerely hope they are included in the next Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Michael and Louis Schlaker
Providence, RI

Comments

From: KC Lee <kclee113@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

I just wanted to voice my support for the proposed regulation change for the striped bass fishery. The increase in legal size to 35" and the mandatory use of circle hooks while bait fishing are both welcome by myself and the recreational surf community in and around Plum Island, MA.

That said, there is also a strong appetite for regulations that protect larger breeder sized fish, the end of commercial harvest, and the adjustment of the Cape Cod Canal to a catch and release only area. I understand it is too late in the process to adjust the proposal, but these measures should be considered while moving forward.

Once again, thank you for the proposed regulations and working to protect a world class fishery.

Best,
Kenneth Lee

Comments

From: Jesse Gordon <jesse@gordonpetkos.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 7:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Commissioner and Officers of the ASMFC,

I am writing you this letter to inform you of my position and concerns regarding the Striped Bass resource. I have grown up with a great appreciation of the natural world and the creatures that I share it with. I spend a significant amount of my free time ‘outside’. Usually, that means fishing, and generally means fishing for Striped Bass. I am 50 years old and have been fishing almost all of that time. Over the last 30 years I have spent countless hours pursuing Striped Bass along the East Coast. Historically, I have averaged over 50 trips per year doing so. Unfortunately, that number has declined in recent years due to the decline in the fishery. It’s is glaringly obvious that there is a problem and has been so for quite some time. Below, please find my comments regarding Addendum VI and general comments about the fishery as well.

I support *Option 2*: Equal percent reductions for both recreational and commercial fisheries

I support *Sub Option 2A-1*: 1 fish @35” for the coastal recreational fishery

I support *Sub Option 2B-1*: 1 fish @18” for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishing.

Circle Hook Provision Option B: I support mandatory circle hook usage for the recreational fishery.

I do not support any ‘conservationally’ equivalent options for *any* state for *any* reason. Striped bass should have the same regulations from state to state.

Please note, my support for the above is based only Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass. In reality I am not satisfied with any of the above options. They are all insufficient to rebuild the stock per Amendment 6, Section 2.6.2 Stock Schedules. I quote from page 22:

“If at anytime the Atlantic striped bass population is declared overfished and rebuilding needs to occur, the Management Board will determine the rebuilding schedule at that time. The only limitation imposed under Amendment 6 is that the rebuilding schedule is not to exceed 10 years. “

The stock has been declared to be overfished and overfishing is currently occurring. Addendum VI fails to address this section – the stock will not be rebuilt within a 10 year period. It only attempts to end overfishing and unfortunately it has a 50% likelihood of failing to even do that. How this is acceptable, I do not know.

ASMFC at this very moment is failing to do what is necessary in order to properly and effectively manage the Striped Bass Resource. At this point ASMFC is failing to abide by the conditions stated clearly in Amendment 6.

Do the right thing!

Sincerely,
Jesse Gordon

Jesse Gordon
Gordon & Petkos LLP
1790 Broadway
Suite 710
New York, NY 10019

Telephone: (212) 765-8600
Facsimile: (212) 765-7887

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Comments

From: Jesse Gordon <jesse@gordonpetkos.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 7:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Commissioner and Officers of the ASMFC,

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I support *Option 2*: Equal percent reductions for both recreational and commercial fisheries

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I support *Sub Option 2B-1*: 1 fish @18" for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishing.

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Please note, my support for the above is based only Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass. In reality I am not satisfied with any of the above options. They are all insufficient to rebuild the stock per Amendment 6, Section 2.6.2 Stock Schedules. I quote from page 22:

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The stock has been declared to be overfished and overfishing is currently occurring. Addendum VI fails to address this section – the stock will not be rebuilt within a 10 year period. It only attempts to end overfishing and unfortunately it has a 50% likelihood of failing to even do that. How this is acceptable, I do not know.

ASMFC at this very moment is failing to do what is necessary in order to properly and effectively manage the Striped Bass Resource. At this point ASMFC is failing to abide by the conditions stated clearly in Amendment 6.

Do the right thing!

Sincerely,
Jesse Gordon

Jesse Gordon
Gordon & Petkos LLP
1790 Broadway
Suite 710
New York, NY 10019

Telephone: (212) 765-8600
Facsimile: (212) 765-7887

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Comments

From: Dave Goyette <davegoyette16@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 6:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripers,

Definitely circle hooks,mandatory crushing of barbs on all plugs,jigs,lures.not just Massachusetts but all coastal states.do this for recreational,charters,and commercial fishermen.more game wardens presents at boat ramps,higher fines for violating laws.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Tyler Fey <tyler.fey84@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 6:05 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum VI

I am a recreational fisherman who targets striped bass and I support any measure taken to reduce sport harvest. I have noticed a change in the fishing over a short period of time and I am not alone. On first glance I would agree with the limit of 1 fish 35" and up as a best option. However, based on the behavior I see on the water, I doubt that this will be enough to achieve the desired reduction in mortality. There is a culture of harvest that is pervasive so I hope there are enough game wardens at the ready to enforce the new changes. Personally I would like to see the fishery go to catch and release in the near term. While this will be far less popular with the many interest groups, it will have the most impact on harvest in the near term and still allow some fishing. Then down the road, when the female biomass has rebounded somewhat, a more restrictive bag limit can be issued. Think about it, 1 party boat can chase down a school of bass over 35" and fill all the limits which is like 30-50 dead bass in one day. That's one party boat in how many across 5 states? The 35" and up limit definitely has an impact on the harvest of people who cannot target the big fish as regularly however it has less of an impact on the "big guns". When those bigger fish school up during the migration, it is not uncommon to see a bunch of boats feverishly hammering them. In essence this action does not limit the bulk of the harvest of large breeder female fish. That being said I fully support this action if taken and urge you to implement it as soon as possible. Let's get the ball rolling as quickly as possible, I can tell you it's a blood bath out there. I love stripers and fishing these days fills me with a great sadness.

Thank you
Tyler Fey
206 931-7263
tyler.fey84@gmail.com
Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Albert Sergio <Flatwing@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 3:54 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Mr. Appelman:

Please accept this e-mail as my comment supporting Option2, Sub Option 2-A4, Sub Option 2-B4, and the requirement for use of non-offset Circle hooks for all bait fishing, be it live or chunk, to include a prohibition on “snag and drop” fishing with weighted treble hooks.

Regards,

Albert R. Sergio
1705 Tall Oak Lane
Toms River, NJ 08755

Comments

From: Brendan Dunphy <bvdunphy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 1:34 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Michael Armstrong; Rep. Sarah K. Peake; Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us; Raymond Kane; Sherry White
Subject: Morone saxatilis management

Dear Max,

I am a recreational fisherman who is incredibly concerned in regards to the current grim status of our beloved Morone saxatilis. Truthfully I feel the measures listed in the recent Draft Addendum VI will not be enough to restore our once great fishery to what it was. However, with that being said, I am grateful the powers at be are acknowledging there is a problem and are willing to make improvements to better the state of our fishery. We must tackle this issue on a joint front and put personal gains aside and do what is best for the species not our bank accounts.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector (more would be great too!)

Option 2-A1: 1 @35"

Option 2-B1: 1 @18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks with using bait to help reduce mortality

Overall I think one of the biggest issues facing our fishery is the lack of enforcement from EPO across the board. This is a direct result of not having enough officers to carry out the job. We need more officials who can hold poachers accountable especially in high traffic areas like the Canal. Why not have a designated EPO 24/7 at the Canal? Increase the cost of a saltwater license in order to account for the additional expenses needed to staff a position like this.

I appreciate your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Brendan Dunphy

492 Elliott St Beverly MA, 01915

Comments

From: Michael Cowley <Michael-Cowley@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 11:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good Evening,

First of all, it is very encouraging to see the regulation changes coming to the Striped Bass fishery as they are very important to anglers both commercially and recreationally along the east coast. Personally, I believe that option 3A-2 (28-34 inches) makes the most sense. Anglers will be able to harvest good eating sized fish while protecting the breeder fish and trophy genetics. A similar slot limit at 28-32 inches has worked wonders for the once depleted Snook stock down in Florida. I don't see how it wouldn't do the same for our beloved Striped Bass. Imposing anything other than a slot limit is simply not enough. For example, raising the minimum keeper length to 35 inches does nothing to protect those all important breeding females. All of the trophy sized fish will continue to get harvested leading to the demise of this fishery. A slot limit is a must.

Also, the use of circle hooks is a great idea while using bait. This will help protect illegal sized fish from being gut hooked. The use of single hooks for fisherman using plugs would be a good idea as well. Treble hooks are efficient but do too much damage to the fish. I am excited to see what the outcome of these regulations will be and thank you for taking our opinions into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Cowey

Comments

From: Pat Patrick <pat@oldtownrepair.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 11:07 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Pat Patrick
Subject: Striped Bass Comments

Dear Mr. Appleman,

My name is James Patrick and I am a recreational fisherman that fishes all along the east coast principally for striped bass. An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of both the recreational and commercial fishing sectors. The following are my preferred options as presented in draft addendum VI:

Option 2 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector,
Option 2-A1: 1@35",
Option 2-B1 1@18" for the Chesapeake Bay,
Option 3.2.B mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

James M "Pat" Patrick
2 Pleasant Court
Marblehead, MA 01945
781-631-5145 (Cell/Text)
patpatrick@comcast.net

Comments

From: Alyssa Pereira <alyssa.pereira@salve.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:48 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Sen. Craig A. Miner
Subject: Draft Amendment VI

Dear Max,

My name is Alyssa Pereira and I am a recreational fisherman. I support the 1@35 option. We need to do something about the striped bass fishery. There is a significant drop in my striped bass catches this season and I am starting to give up on the fishery. I believe we are in serious trouble with the population and believe something should be done. I also believe a reduction to the commercial fishery should also be done. Thank you for your time. Commercial guys should also be mandated to use circle hooks.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Pereira
48 Daniels Ave
Waterford, CT

Comments

From: Owen McKenna <odogm3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass addendum VI

To whom it may concern,

I was introduced to striped bass fishing 20 years ago. Since i caught my first fish i was obsessed. I am a recreational fisherman and have always believed in catch and release. We must protect this species from over fishing. It would be an absolute disgrace to lose these game fish. I support the new regulation sizes and agree with the new slot and single size of 35" keeper option. The 35" would be easier to regulate and so on. My 6 year old son caught his first keeper when he was 5 and released it healthy to swim another day. This year I purchased my first boat and have caught over 600 bass from 10" to over 44", releasing all but one. Hopefully setting an example for my son to protect the survival of these fish. I hope he can fish for stripers when he is older and take his children fishing as well. We need to do our part and save these fish from over fishing. I firmly support the new keeper regulations proposed. Appreciate your time.

Thank you, tight lines.

Owen McKenna

Comments

From: Sean Hughes <shughes@hughesandcronin.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I believe that the 1 fish @ 35 is the best option. I personally believe that a few inches bigger would be appropriate, but I understand that you have to weight everyone's stake in this issue. If you could also shrink the commercial quota slightly, I think that would also have a positive impact on the fishery. Thank you for doing something regarding the fishery. I have never encountered such few big fish in my life. I am fish 5 nights a week In the surf, and I have yet to connect with a fish over 30lbs this fall.

Sean Hughes

--

Sean Hughes Hughes & Cronin 700 Plaza Middlesex Middletown, CT 06457 shughes@HughesAndCronin.com
Tel: 860-347-9955 Sean P Hughes

Comments

From: Shane Yellin <shaneyellin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

I grew up fishing striped bass all over New England and witnessed an amazing recovery when I cut my teeth in saltwater fishing, a critical industry my career now depends on. Since my youth, I have watched it fizzle to a shadow of what it once was while short term benefits took priority over the long term health of the fishery. A few years ago, a quota reduction was implemented that had a 50% chance of working was implemented and here we are a few years later with no improvement. I have submitted comments, spoken at hearings and yet we continued to gamble with the future of the northeast's most iconic and valuable fish. The regulations overseen by the Commission have allowed striped bass populations to plummet to dangerous levels and have not taken into account the devastating potential of ocean acidification or warming seas. Striped Bass continue to be over harvested and it is critical that you now institute strong conservation policies to prevent further loss.

I urgently ask that you move forward on addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass and adopt the following options though I fear they are not enough:

- Option 2: Equal percent reduction across all sectors
- Sub-Option 2A-1: 1 fish limit with a minimum size of 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery
- Sub-Option 2-B-1: 1 fish limit with a minimum size of 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

- Option B: Mandatory circle hooks for the whole fishery

Finally, I beg you to act. I dream of one day taking my nephew striper fishing and as I did when I was in my teens, actually catching.

Sincerely,
Shane Yellin
Fishing Engineer
617-256-4728

Comments

From: Susan Bertoline <suebert2@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:09 PM
To: Comments
Cc: James Gilmore; Maureen Davidson; Emerson Hasbrouck; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Max,

My name is Sue Bertoline. I am a LI resident and a recreational fisherman.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you concerning the striped bass fishery.

I am afraid that unless something is done, and quickly, the future generations of fishing enthusiasts will only be able to hear stories of great striper blitzes and incredible fall runs "back in the day" and not be able to participate. Similar to what I hear about the great days of weakfish and flounder fisheries on Long Island when "they used fill garbage cans of them on every trip". I believe we can all agree that the stripe bass are in trouble and if something isn't done and done quickly, we will be back to square one with rebuilding the stock.

I support the following options:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the sectors

I believe that if all parties want to reap the rewards, then they must also share the responsibility of protection, management and rebuilding with the best possible regulations to insure the future of the fishery.

Sub Option 2-A1: 1@35"

It is known that 1@36" worked the last time the fishery collapsed. Since there are some different circumstances already in the latest situation, why risk trying something new? The odds are only 50/50 that even a proven method is going to stop the over fishing and rebuild the stock this time around (but that is a discussion for a different time.) This will still allow those who want to put food on the table the opportunity to do so while giving the fishery a chance to recover. Once the over-fishing is stopped and the stock is rebuilt, maybe a slot limit can be reviewed by the technical committee to see if option might stop future collapses in the fishery.

For the Chesapeake Bay, Sub-Option 2-B1: 1@18"

While none of the options really do much to protect the fishery, and this is an area a majority of the over-fishing occurred, they should at least have to follow the same 1 fish regulation as everyone else.

Option 3.2.B: Mandatory use of circle hooks

Circle hooks have been proven in multiple studies to reduce fish mortality and should be required when fishing bait.

In addition, I request there be no conservation equivalency granted until overfishing is stopped and the stocks rebuilt.

Thank you.

Susan Bertoline

Comments

From: Doug Dearie <ddearie@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments on striped bass management actions

Couldn't make the meeting but wanted to weigh in as follows. I am a recreational angler and I totally favor (1) equal sharing of catch reductions for commercial AND recreational anglers; and (2) a catch reduction that meets or exceeds the proposed 18%.

Thanks,
Doug Dearie
Bowie, MD

Comments

From: James Jewkes <bigjim121165@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:24 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Michael Armstrong; Rep. Sarah K. Peake; Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us; Raymond Kane; Sherry White
Subject: Striped bass Addendum

Dear Mr Appleman

My name is James Jewkes and I am a recreational fisherman that fishes all along the coast for striped bass. An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors. The following are my preferred options as presented in draft addendum VI: option 2 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector.

Option 2-A1: 1@35"

Option 2-B1 1@18" for the Chesapeake Bay Option 3.2.B mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

I appreciate your time and attention

Sincerely,

James Jewkes

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Nelson Sigelman <nelson.sigelman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass draft addendum VI

ASMFC:

Too often the story of fisheries management is too-little-too-late.

Fisheries researchers make recommendations. Fishermen scream and cry. Feckless politicians show up at the dock for a live shot with Captain Courageous. And bowing to political pressure the recommendations are watered down until the next assessment shows the situation worsening. Cod is the perfect example of this spiral. The striped bass has represented a success story in fisheries management. And at this moment, I think there is widespread support among all user groups for strong action. Please seize the opportunity.

I support 2A-1. One fish at 35 inches would allow larger fish to breed.

I do think there should be another option on the table: A total moratorium.

I appreciate the thought and work that goes into these efforts. I know it takes time. The overriding question is how much time do we have to reverse this trend.

Sincerely,

Nelson Sigelman

--

[Martha's Vineyard Fish Tales](#): *How to catch fish, rake clams, and jig squid, with entertaining tales about the sometimes crazy pursuit of fish*

Martha's Vineyard Outdoors, Fishing, Hunting and Avoiding Divorce on a Small Island

MV Times Review, Jan. 2, 2018, "[Good Sports](#)"

Vineyard Gazette, May 25, 2018, "[Front Row Seat to the Natural World](#)"

marthasvineyardoutdoors.com

Comments

From: Travis Keon <keontc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Management Addendum IV comment

Good evening,

As an avid striped bass angler fishing in Maryland and Virginia for striped bass I strongly support Option 2 with equal Percent Reductions for all sectors. including commercial. All sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector and equal percentages should be used. Also, I feel that while release mortality is a problem, the ASMFC should strongly consider the scientific evidence that supports very low catch and release mortality in the time of year where salinity is high and water temperature is low, and support catch in release in this time period.

Thank you

Travis Keon

Comments

From: Nick Beltramini <nbeltram@oberlin.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 7:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

My name is Nick Beltramini. I am eighteen years old and attend Oberlin College in Ohio to study Environmental Studies. Living in Massachusetts, for 5 years I have pursued Striped Bass recreationally and have already observed a major decline in the stock of the Striped Bass. It's time for change. I write to inform you that I support Sub-Option 2-A2. Let's bring the Striped Bass stock back again.

Thanks,
Nick

Comments

From: Jesse Kirk <jesse.r.kirk@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 7:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum VI for Striped B

I support option 2A-1, which would establish a 1-fish bag limit at a minimum size of 35 inches. I think this will be easiest for states to enforce and for the public to understand, and I think it is the most likely to achieve the desired reduction in mortality.

Thanks,
Jesse Kirk
703-999-9120

--
Sincerely,

Jesse Kirk
703-999-9120

Comments

From: Gary & Debbie George <sparrowlane16@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 7:00 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

To whom it may concern,

As a lifelong recreational angler and current OUPV license holder, I would like to support Sub option 2A-1 (1 fish @35" coastwide) and Sub option 2B-1 (1 fish @ 18" for Chesapeake).

Sincerely
Gary George
16 Sparrow Lane Ext
Peabody Ma 01960

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Donald Dicostanzo <buzzzzbomb@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 5:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: ASMFC Comments Deadline Oct 7th

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bret McGowan <bret.mcgowan@gmail.com>
Date: October 3, 2019 at 4:54:07 PM EDT
To: "tmarchisotto@yahoo.com" <Tmarchisotto@yahoo.com>
Cc: "buzzzzbomb@aol.com" <buzzzzbomb@aol.com>, "joynlenmad@aol.com" <Joynlenmad@aol.com>, "fishbear13@yahoo.com" <fishbear13@yahoo.com>, "jerryboy@optonline.net" <jerryboy@optonline.net>, "aalbano@lirr.org" <aalbano@lirr.org>, "falcon.networks3@gmail.com" <falcon.networks3@gmail.com>, "adamsotiryadis@yahoo.com" <adamsotiryadis@yahoo.com>, "bowhnr11757@yahoo.com" <bowhnr11757@yahoo.com>, "jnrsto@aol.com" <jnrsto@aol.com>, "boggie10@wp.pl" <boggie10@wp.pl>, "boggiefish29@gmail.com" <boggiefish29@gmail.com>, "christianskypeters@gmail.com" <christianskypeters@gmail.com>, "wavebtr@aol.com" <wavebtr@aol.com>, "ezarins@optonline.net" <ezarins@optonline.net>, "garrym@optonline.net" <garrym@optonline.net>, "gtcross@verizon.net" <gtcross@verizon.net>, "gloryhorse78@gmail.com" <gloryhorse78@gmail.com>, "jaj613@optonline.net" <jaj613@optonline.net>, "nashjc@icloud.com" <nashjc@icloud.com>, "jdgti@optonline.net" <jdgti@optonline.net>, "jmogavero77@gmail.com" <jmogavero77@gmail.com>, "julienfrank@gmail.com" <julienfrank@gmail.com>, "lloydkee@gmail.com" <lloydkee@gmail.com>, "marcmichael@optonline.net" <marcmichael@optonline.net>, "markmcgowan80@yahoo.com" <markmcgowan80@yahoo.com>, "mattypie@aol.com" <mattypie@aol.com>, "smellsfishy@verizon.net" <smellsfishy@verizon.net>, "mmilillo20@aim.com" <mmilillo20@aim.com>, "n.m.antonelli50@gmail.com" <n.m.antonelli50@gmail.com>, "nvourkas@aol.com" <NVourkas@aol.com>, "surfrat4@optonline.net" <surfrat4@optonline.net>, "jordan78619@yahoo.com" <jordan78619@yahoo.com>, "bigperpl7@aol.com" <bigperpl7@aol.com>, "robvila@optonline.net" <robvila@optonline.net>, "rogmartin@optonline.net" <rogmartin@optonline.net>, "bronh22@yahoo.com" <bronh22@yahoo.com>, "mcdonald@optonline.net" <mcdonald@optonline.net>, "sbsw7881@yahoo.com" <sbsw7881@yahoo.com>, "corrigan1974@hotmail.com" <corrigan1974@hotmail.com>, "ztzebrowski@aol.com" <ztzebrowski@aol.com>, "zhromin@verizon.net" <ZHROMIN@verizon.net>, "zenohromin@gmail.com" <zenohromin@gmail.com>
Subject: ASMFC Comments Deadline Oct 7th

ASMFC Draft Addendum 6 Recommendations and Talking Points

ASMFC Draft Addendum 6 Recommendations and Talking Points

RECOMMENDATION: Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector

Talking points:

- All sectors contribute to the wellness or depletion of a fishery. Given that striped bass are overfished with overfishing occurring our belief is that all sectors should share equally in the reduction.
- This opinion is supported by the realization that the commercial sector was handed a gift with Addendum 6. Their harvest reductions are based on the Addendum IV quotas and not their 2017 harvest. We have no understanding of why the Management Board would not apply the same standard of the 2017 harvest that is being used for the recreational sector. When you look at the new the new quota of 4,871,182 pounds in Addendum 6 that applies the 18% reduction, it is actually an INCREASE from the commercial harvest of 4,796,395 in 2017. When the 1.8% option is applied to the commercial sector the quota balloons to 5,833,537 pounds, an increase of 22% above their 2017 harvest.
- We long for the day when the ASMFC is consistent with the criteria that they use when computing the recreational and commercial sector harvest reductions.

RECOMMENDATION: Option 2-A1: 1@35"; anticipated total removal reduction of 18%

Talking points:

- There are valid pros and cons to all of the options listed.
- We have concerns about proposals that target small fish and also concerns about options that target specific year classes.
- While our initial reaction is to favor the option with the highest anticipated total removals, we are worried about the lack of data on the impact a slot will have on the overall fishery. We are worried when we read in the Draft Addendum that the long term conservation benefits of implementing slot limits may not be realized if effort is concentrated on fish within the slot limit.
- Ultimately, there is no way that we can ignore or discount past history. We have seen the effect of 1@36" as that was the regulation that was adopted that led to the rebuilding of the striped bass fishery.
- We are opting to trust that history will repeat itself with 1@35".
- There are a significant number of smaller fish in the fishery. Strong year classes from 2014 and 2015 need to be protected. Option 2-A1 will allow these fish the largest number of spawning years before they become exploitable. This is critical to the rebuilding of the striped bass fishery.
- We recognize that there will be some within the recreational sector that favor a 28"-35" slot. We believe that it is important to permit smaller fish as many years as possible to spawn before making them exploitable.
- The option is the easiest to enforce.
- The option will result in more caught fish being kept out of water for the least amount of time.
- While this option will exploit the larger fish, the impact will be spread out over a number of year classes.

RECOMMENDATION: Option 2-B1 1@18"; anticipated total removal reduction of 20%

Talking points:

- We are deeply concerned about the impact of all of the Chesapeake Bay options on the critically important younger year classes. Addendum IV was unsuccessful in its efforts to protect the critical 2011 year class, which was, and continues to be, overexploited by Maryland anglers.
- In total 2,500,000 more fish were harvested by Chesapeake Bay anglers than were expected to be harvested in Addendum IV; many of these fish were part of the 2011 year class that Addendum IV was intended to protect.
- While we are not in favor of any of the options listed for the Chesapeake Bay, Option 2-B1 is expected to achieve the greatest harvest reduction. It is for this reason that we recommend Option 2-B1.
- We are deeply disappointed that the Draft Addendum 6 harvest reductions are based on the overage that Maryland achieved and not the Addendum IV harvest levels that they should have been achieving. The options presented in this draft addendum reward Maryland for the gross overharvesting that occurred.

RECOMMENDATION: Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

Talking points:

- All efforts should be taken to reduce dead releases. Circle hooks have been proven in multiple studies to reduce fish mortality and should be required when fishing live and dead bait.
- Option 3.2.B must be accompanied by an aggressive education and awareness campaign. Different angling methods are used when using non-offset circle hooks. If these methods are not used when fishing with circle hooks, anglers will become frustrated at their difficulty in landing striped bass. This could lead to issues of compliance and participation. Education and awareness programs will be critical to ensuring adoption of the circle hooks. The Rhode Island Saltwater Angler's Association's and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's CRANK, DON'T YANK education program can be used as a model.

ADDITIONAL TAKING POINTS:

- We have no confidence in the ASMFC's ability to accurately assess conservation equivalency proposals and even less confidence in their ability to manage conservation equivalency proposals when they do not achieve the anticipated harvest reductions.
- As a result, we are adamantly opposed to the consideration of conservation equivalency proposals when the striped bass fishery is overfished or overfishing is occurring.
- States have used conservation equivalency to game the system and jeopardize the success of the Addendums.
- Our demand is that the ASMFC and Technical Committee incorporate the lessons learned from Addendum IV and that they improve their assessment methods. Being off by 200% in the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery is not a rounding error. It is a process error.
- The management board should be required to take corrective action in instances where the conservation equivalency is not meeting the intended harvest reduction (variance of 25% or more).
- For the years 2014-2018, combined, the large majority of all recreational trips that primarily targeted striped bass were made by shore-based anglers and by anglers in private or rental boats. The management measures ultimately included in Addendum VI should be primarily designed to address the needs and preferences of the anglers who make the overwhelming majority of the trips, and not the very small minority of anglers who utilize other modes to access the fishery.
- Segments of the recreational sector seeking a smaller slot size can apply for conservation equivalency exceptions. To be considered, any conservation equivalency proposal should be required to at least meet the State's adopted harvest reduction percentage.

Comments

From: Carothers, Matt (Right Management) <Matt.Carothers@right.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 5:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please support Option 2-A4

Thank you

Matt Carothers
Vice President, Business Development
Right Management

617.372.6403
matt.carothers@right.com
www.right.com

[ALM Vanguard Leader | Top Talent Management Consulting Firm | Right Management](#)



8x
Winner

Comments

From: Maya Drzewicki
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 4:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: FW: Striped bass

From: Robert Beal
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Max Appelman <mappelman@asmfc.org>; Maya Drzewicki <MDrzewicki@asmfc.org>
Subject: FW: Striped bass

Max and Maya,

The following striped bass comments were sent directly to me.

Bob

From: Drew Ciok [<mailto:drewciok@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 7:59 PM
To: Robert Beal <Rbeal@asmfc.org>
Subject: Striped bass

Mr. Robert Beal:

I am writing you this letter to inform you of my position and concerns regarding the Striped Bass resource. I have grown up with a great appreciation for the natural world and the creatures that I share it with. I spend a significant amount of my free time 'outside'. Usually that means fishing, and generally means fishing for Striped Bass. I am 50 years old and have been fishing almost all of that time. Over the last 30 years I have spent countless hours pursuing Striped Bass along the East Coast. Historically, I have averaged over 50 trips per year doing so. Unfortunately, that number has declined in recent years due to the decline in the fishery. It's is glaringly obvious that there is a problem and has been so for quite some time. Below, please find my comments regarding Addendum VI and general comments about the fishery as well.

I support *Option 2*: Equal percent reductions for both recreational and commercial fisheries

I support *Sub Option 2A-1*: 1 fish @35" for the coastal recreational fishery

I support *Sub Option 2B-1*: 1 fish @18" for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishing.

Circle Hook Provision Option B: I support mandatory circle hook usage for the recreational fishery.

I do not support any ‘conservationally’ equivalent options for *any* state for *any* reason. Striped bass should have the same regulations from state to state.

Please note, my support for the above is based only Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass. In reality I am not satisfied with any of the above options. They are all insufficient to rebuild the stock per Amendment 6, Section 2.6.2 Stock Schedules. I quote from page 22:

“If at anytime the Atlantic striped bass population is declared overfished and rebuilding needs to occur, the Management Board will determine the rebuilding schedule at that time. The only limitation imposed under Amendment 6 is that the rebuilding schedule is not to exceed 10 years. “

The stock has been declared to be overfished and overfishing is currently occurring. Addendum VI fails to address this section – the stock will not be rebuilt within a 10 year period. It only attempts to end overfishing and unfortunately it has a 50% likelihood of failing to even do that. How this is acceptable, I do not know.

ASMFC at this very moment is failing to do what is necessary in order to properly and effectively manage the Striped Bass Resource. At this point ASMFC is failing to abide by the conditions stated clearly in Amendment 6.

Individually, I am sure the members of the ASMFC, the Technical Committee, the Advisory Panel, the various state representatives and their proxies are good, hard working men and women that desire to do the right thing. Unfortunately, collectively, you are all failing the resource and the people the depend upon it and enjoy it. Addendum VI is not adequate and will not rebuild this stock. We are watching, in real time, the second crash of the Striped Bass stock in the last 40 years. How so many people have failed to prevent this from happening yet again is beyond disappointing. I pray that I am wrong, but I fear that I am write.

I hope in the future you will do the right thing.

Respectfully yours,

Andrew Ciok, VMD

Comments

From: Matthew Srebnik <matthew.srebnik@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 4:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Matt Srebnik: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern;

My name is Matt Srebnik and I am an avid Striped Bass fly fisherman from Portsmouth, NH. I grew up from a very young age fishing Cape Cod and the islands for striped bass. Over the past 25 years or so, I have had the unfortunate privilege of observing the discouraging and unsustainable changes that have taken place in the fishery/striped bass population. Saltwater fisherman in the northeast have been very lucky in that we are able to live in a place with such a unique fishery and experience the best striped bass fishing in the world. However the ability to say the same about our future fishery may not be guaranteed. If the population continues on its current path, discussions with our children about striped bass fishing will be of pure reminiscence on “how it used to be” without them ever being able to experience it for themselves.

With our unique fishery, we are presented with a unique opportunity. An opportunity to either be the generation of anglers who put forth legislation and revived/secured the striped bass population for the future. Or to be the generation who ignored scientific evidence, failed to act responsibly and allowed this incredible species of fish to disappear. The time is now. At this point, every hour that passes without appropriate action could mean detrimental and irreversible repercussions. As anglers, we should be the foremost stewards in protecting our natural resources that we rely so much upon recreationally and economically. The onus is on the fishing community, and groups like the ASMFC, to do what is right for the sustainability of the striped bass population and the world class fishing opportunities they present. My opinions on the addendum option proposals are as follows. Thank you very much for your time and I hope you take these thoughts into consideration in protecting our fishery for current and future generations!

Option 1: I am opposed to this and could likely result in the fatal destruction of the population.

Option 2: **I am in favor of this option**, as I believe this option proposes the greatest opportunity to reduce total number of removals, harvesting and overall mortality from both commercial and recreational fishing.

Option 2-A1: **I am in favor of this option**. I support one fish at a 35” minimum. One fish taken at 35” should allow that individual fish to spawn 5 times before they can be harvested. With previous population crashes similar to this one, this tactic has been implemented and proved fruitful in helping overall numbers rebound.

Option 2-B1: **I am in favor of this option** as it provides greatest reduction in mortality.

Option 3: I am not in support of this option.

Option B under 3.2: **I am in favor of mandatory use of circle hooks.**

Sincerely,

Matt Srebnik

Comments

From: Bret McGowan <bmcgowan@vicon-security.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 4:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments on DRAFT ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE

To; ASMFC committee on Striped Bass:

Below please find my recommendation of the options offered in Addendum VI.

I. RECOMMENDATION: Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector

a. Reasons:

- i. All sectors contribute to the wellness or depletion of a fishery. Given that striped bass are overfished with overfishing occurring our belief is that all sectors should share equally in the reduction.
- ii. This opinion is supported by the realization that the commercial sector was handed a gift with Addendum 6. Their harvest reductions are based on the Addendum IV quotas and not their 2017 harvest. We have no understanding of why the Management Board would not apply the same standard of the 2017 harvest that is being used for the recreational sector. When you look at the new the new quota of 4,871,182 pounds in Addendum 6 that applies the 18% reduction, it is actually an INCREASE from the commercial harvest of 4,796,395 in 2017. When the 1.8% option is applied to the commercial sector the quota balloons to 5,833,537 pounds, an increase of 22% above their 2017 harvest.
- iii. We long for the day when the ASMFC is consistent with the criteria that they use when computing the recreational and commercial sector harvest reductions.

II. RECOMMENDATION: Option 2-A1: 1@35"; anticipated total removal reduction of 18%

a. Reasons:

- i. There are valid pros and cons to all of the options listed.
- ii. I have concerns about proposals that target small fish and also concerns about options that target specific year classes.
- iii. While our initial reaction is to favor the option with the highest anticipated total removals, we are worried about the lack of data on the impact a slot will have on the overall fishery. We are worried when we read in the Draft Addendum that the long term conservation benefits of implementing slot limits may not be realized if effort is concentrated on fish within the slot limit.
- iv. Ultimately, there is no way that we can ignore or discount past history. We have seen the effect of 1@36" as that was the regulation that was adopted that led to the rebuilding of the striped bass fishery.
- v. I am opting to trust that history will repeat itself with 1@35".
- vi. There are a significant number of smaller fish in the fishery. Strong year classes from 2014 and 2015 need to be protected. Option 2-A1 will allow these fish the largest number of spawning years before they become exploitable. This is critical to the rebuilding of the striped bass fishery.
- vii. We recognize that there will be some within the recreational sector that favor a 28"-35" slot. We believe that it is important to permit smaller fish as many years as possible to spawn before making them exploitable.
- viii. The option is the easiest to enforce.
- ix. The option will result in more caught fish being kept out of water for the least amount of time.

- x. While this option will exploit the larger fish, the impact will be spread out over a number of year classes.

III. RECOMMENDATION: Option 2-B1 1@18"; anticipated total removal reduction of 20%

a. Reasons:

- i. I am deeply concerned about the impact of all of the Chesapeake Bay options on the critically important younger year classes. Addendum IV was unsuccessful in its efforts to protect the critical 2011 year class, which was, and continues to be, overexploited by Maryland anglers.
- ii. In total 2,500,000 more fish were harvested by Chesapeake Bay anglers than were expected to be harvested in Addendum IV; many of these fish were part of the 2011 year class that Addendum IV was intended to protect.
- iii. While we are not in favor of any of the options listed for the Chesapeake Bay, Option 2-B1 is expected to achieve the greatest harvest reduction. It is for this reason that we recommend Option 2-B1.
- iv. I am disappointed that the Draft Addendum 6 harvest reductions are based on the overage that Maryland achieved and not the Addendum IV harvest levels that they should have been achieving. The options presented in this draft addendum reward Maryland for the gross overharvesting that occurred.

IV. RECOMMENDATION: Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

a. Reasons:

- i. All efforts should be taken to reduce dead releases. Circle hooks have been proven in multiple studies to reduce fish mortality and should be required when fishing live and dead bait.
- ii. Option 3.2.B must be accompanied by an aggressive education and awareness campaign. Different angling methods are used when using non-offset circle hooks. If these methods are not used when fishing with circle hooks, anglers will become frustrated at their difficulty in landing striped bass. This could lead to issues of compliance and participation. Education and awareness programs will be critical to ensuring adoption of the circle hooks. The Rhode Island Saltwater Angler's Association's and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's CRANK, DON'T YANK education program can be used as a model.

Thanks you for reviewing the above

Regards,

Bret McGowan
Stony Brook, NY 11790
(516) 650-5569

Comments

From: Bret McGowan <bmcgowan@vicon-security.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 4:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments on DRAFT ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE

To; ASMFC committee on Striped Bass:

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Thanks you for reviewing the above

Regards,

Bret McGowan
Stony Brook, NY 11790
(516) 650-5569

Comments

From: Ken <kmcrae09390@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 4:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Regulations

I'm 78 yrs. old and have seen the Bass in trouble twice and this decline is noticeably worse than the 70's and 80's. I support the 35" option so my grandchildren will have the opportunity to experience this once great fishery in the future. I don't want the striped Bass to go the way of the Atlantic Cod.

Respectfully
Kenneth McRae
Wayland, Mass.

Comments

From: Leif Gobel <leif.gobel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: 1@ 35"

I've been surfcasting for striped bass for 50+ years and still do so. I've seen the ups and downs of bass stocks during my life. The greatest comeback was when the fishery was closed down in 1986 and after it was reopened the size limit was 1 fish at 36inches. This allowed the fish to spawn several times before it was harvested and I watched the abundance of fish grow like I'd never seen before. Short of closing down the fishery again, making it 1 fish at 35inches is the best choice in saving the fish. In the long run this will be beneficial to the for hire industry also. Having a slot limit will just allow the whole year classes of fish to be removed sooner and less chance to spawn multiple times.

Please make it 1@35!

Thank you

Leif Gobel
1100 N. Sea Dr.
Orient NY 11957
leif.gobel@gmail.com
Cell: 631-252-1134

Comments

From: Benjamin Masse <bmasse10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

As a lifelong avid recreational angler, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass. Rebuilding the striped bass population is extremely important to me as an outdoors enthusiast, conservationist and angler. I want to one day be able to bring my children fishing on healthy waters and not simply tell stories of what once was and how I watched it meet it's demise.

Striped bass are overfished and overfishing is occurring at an alarming rate. The striped bass stock has been overfished eleven of the past 13 years. The stock assessment clearly shows this effect and yet the problem continues to be ignored in exchange for more money in the pocket of commercial fishermen. It is as if they simply do not understand that their very livelihood depends on a healthy fishery. It is time for all stakeholders to give back to the resource.

Lack of accountability with the ASMFC and poorly enforced, inadequate regulations have led to the demise of the once healthy striped bass population. Lenient enforcement of insignificant penalties severely undermines the purpose of having more strict regulations in the first place. Apparently, we just don't learn our lessons. We are right back in the same decimated striped bass population situation we had in the 90's. Action that is more decisive is required, but I also understand the parameters of the comments for this addendum. If it is all we can work with then I am committed to do my part.

I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the following options to end overfishing and rebuild the stock.

Option 2:

Equal Percent Reductions

We are all stakeholders in this fishery. We all benefit from an abundant population of striped bass and we should all shoulder the responsibility of rebuilding the stock equally.

Sub-Option 2A-1

1 fish @ 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery

We rebuilt the stock with a similar size and creel limit before. We know that this approach has a history of success. Furthermore, conservation equivalency severely limits the potential effectiveness of a slot limit. If all states are not REQUIRED to adhere to the same slot size, how can a slot limit possibly work?

Sub-Option 2B-1

1 fish @ 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

As you are well aware, the recreational sector in Maryland was allowed to grossly overfish because their conservation equivalency proposal was not accurately assessed by the Technical Committee. This is the most restrictive and quantifiable option for harvest reductions in the Chesapeake Bay. One fish would also address many of the concerns regarding catch and release mortality.

Circle Hook Provision

Option B

If we are truly concerned about catch and release mortality, and it is not a “red herring” to take the focus away from overharvest, then we must adopt mandatory circle hook regulations. Peer reviewed science shows us that circle hooks greatly improve catch and release mortality numbers. I urge the Commission to adopt this measure.

While this addendum addresses overharvest I hope that sooner rather than later we will also begin to address pollution, climate change and overharvest of the baitfish populations (Atlantic Menhaden) all of which threaten the entire ecosystem. Responsible stewardship of this incredible resource is something that everyone should and needs to participate in if we want to continue to enjoy it for years to come.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment,

Ben Masse

Comments

From: Mike Snapp <mike.snapp@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 3:15 PM
To: Comments
Cc: davidsikorski@ccamd.org
Subject: ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS

I strongly support either Option 2-B3 or 2-B4 of Addendum VI. We must start doing something to preserve the striper fisheries, and it should be shared equally by both commercial and recreational sectors. We should also suspend the trophy seasons until the stock recovers. Thanks for your efforts to preserve this important asset.

Mike Snapp
Lusby MD

Comments

From: EJM <ejmerullo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 2:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this submission as my preferred management scenario and measures within such.

I respectfully submit in support of option 2 with sub-option 2-A1 but would like to see a 36" minimum. For circle hooks, option C.

Thank You
Edward J Merullo
Marblehead, Mass 01945

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Bob Lewis <bonds7@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 1:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am an avid recreational angler living year round on Cape Cod, MA. Over the past decade I have served 2 years as the President of the Osterville Anglers Club and 3 years as the President of the Cape Cod Flyrodders. Both clubs have members that have fished our local waters for 40-50 years. Many have commented that 2019 has been a terrible year for catching striped bass. In fact, the Osterville Anglers Club hosted 10 club tournaments this year and for the first year ever, many annual awards will not be given out. The reason is simple, there are not many stripers to be found. In 10 tournaments there was not one legal size striped bass caught by a women or youth angler. We are talking 8-20 boats out fishing with 2-6 anglers on each boat for 10 tournaments and NOT 1 striped bass.

We have seen the decline happening for many years...slow year, followed by a slower year, followed by an even slower year and now an outright crash. I have read through the proposed addendum and would like to see option 2...equal percent reductions, sub option 2A-1 with one fish at 35" and sub option 2B-1 with one fish at 18" (min) in the Chesapeake.

The commercial fleet has also struggled. Most anglers report Cape Cod Bay fishery has completely dead for striped bass. It is time for some serious efforts to help rebuild the stock.

Regards,

Bob Lewis

Comments

From: Edward Janiga <edward.janiga@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 1:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

I am strongly in favor of Option2 A! 1 at 35 inches. We need to do something and this has worked to bring the bass back before and its the logical choice to do it again with the hope we can bring back the striped bass to healthy levels

-Edward Janiga

Comments

From: spencer.hopkins@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 12:34 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum Vi

Chairpersons,
This is to express my support for option 2 for the Striped Bass Management Plan.
Regards,
Julie Coyer

Comments

From: Jim Tryforos <jimtryforos@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 12:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please see my comments below about the Striped Bass Management Plan. I am a recreational fisherman who lives in Glen Rock, NJ. I do most of my striped bass fishing on Long Island, NY, with some fishing in NJ, MA and RI.

It is very clear from your studies and from all other available information that striped bass are in trouble. It's late and time is running out. We all need to stand up and do the right thing. I would wholeheartedly support a 5 year moratorium, however that's not in the cards at this time. Therefore I support the following Options in your Draft Addendum:

Option 2 - Equal Percent Reductions - 18% applied equally
Sub-Option 2-A1 - 1@35"
Sub-Option 2-B1 - 1@18" Chesapeake
3.2 Circle Hook Provision - Option B - Circle hooks mandatory when fishing with bait.

Thank you for accepting my comments.

James Tryforos
11 Forest Rd, Glen Rock, NJ 07452
201-835-3831

--

Jim Tryforos
jimtryforos@gmail.com
201-835-3831

Comments

From: Spencer Hopkins <spencer.hopkins@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 12:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Rockfish

Please let me voice my support for Option 2 of the management techniques put forward by the committee.
Respectfully,
Spencer Hopkins

Comments

From: Peter Mohlin <pmohlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom It May Concern,

I support Sub-Option 2-A1. 1 fish at 35" will give the younger, smaller breeders a chance at multiple spawning events. It worked in the past and it will work again. I am a recreational angler in Maine fishing both bait and artificial, and 2019 year to date I have not caught any striped bass over 26". Many local anglers and friends reported similar catches all season. To me, protecting this sub 30" population is paramount to raise the SSB back to healthy levels.

People argue large striped bass do not come to Maine because it is the northern limit of the migration. False. Maine is not seeing large striped bass because fisherman south of us are killing them all.

All states within the management unit should require circle hooks when fishing with bait. Both recreational and commercial. Maine has required circle hooks for several years despite having the shortest window to catch these fish compared to our southern neighbors.

Striped bass are a public resource and their numbers are declining. The striped bass fisherman and their elected officials from Massachusetts south must be held accountable for the damage they are causing. Sub-Option 2-A1 is the best option within Addendum VI's sad attempt to save this fishery.

Peter Mohlin
Recreational Angler
Portland, Maine

--

Peter Mohlin
pmohlin@gmail.com
207.294.2251

Comments

From: Will Pinkus <whaler137@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 10:54 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Michael Armstrong
Subject: *Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI*

Dear Max,

My name is Will Pinkus and I am a recreational fisherman. An abundant striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors. The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between the recreational and commercial sector Option 2-A1: 1@35"

Option 2-B1 1@18" for the Chesapeake Bay Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks when using bait to help reduce mortality.

.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

William Pinkus

475 beechwood st

Cohasset, MA 02025

Comments

From: Nicholas Fox <nickfox45@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 10:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Thoughts on Addendum VI

Hello,

I am not able to make tonight's meeting but very much want to share my thoughts on this important issue. I fully support the equal sharing of catch reductions among commercial AND recreational anglers, and I also favor the 18% catch reduction across the board.

Striped bass are a finite resource, and I want to enjoy them for the rest of my life, not for the next few years before we overfish them and their population crashes out beyond repair.

Thank you,

Nick Fox

Comments

From: Mark DeHoff <mcdehoff@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments Regarding Addendum VI,

Commissioners,

I wanted to voice my support for Option 2:

i believe that equal percentage reductions from all sectors is the correct way to move forward.
All sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity.
Equal percentages take into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector.

thank you for your efforts.

Captain Mark DeHoff

-

Comments

From: Tom Heath <capecodah@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:08 AM
To: stephenmadden@yahoo.com
Cc: Comments; Buzzards Bay Anglers Club; JIM O'dowd; JEAN AMARO; Mike Daroza; Dick Harding; William Prodouz
Subject: Re: My comment for ASMFC Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Kim and I will be at the meeting. Leaning to option 2a1 I see too many shorts walking g off the Canal and this would make it visible.

Realizing g that this is breeder size I don't think that most of the illegally taken fish are of this size

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 2, 2019, at 4:48 PM, Stephen Madden <stephenmadden@yahoo.com> wrote:

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission(ASMFC) is seeking public comment on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Striped Bass.

My comment and choice for the Draft Addendum V1 which proposes management options for both commercial and recreational sectors in the ocean and in Chesapeake Bay in order to reduce total fishery removals by 18% relative to 2017 levels. The proposed measures include reduced quotas for commercial fisheries, and changes in bag limits, minimum sizes, and slot size limits for the recreational sector. Since catch and release practices represent a significant component of overall fishing mortality, the Draft Addendum also explores the mandatory use of circle hooks when fishing with bait to reduce release mortality in recreational striped bass fisheries.

Option 2: 18% mortality reduction applied equally between recreation and commercial sectors.

Option 2-A1: 1 fish per day @ 35" minimum for the coastal migrating striped bass fishery.

Option 2-B1: 1 fish per day @ 18 " minimum size for the Chesapeake Bay fishery.

Option 3.2.B: Requires mandatory use of non offset Circle Hooks.

Thank you for your attention.

Stephen Madden
7 Susan Circle
Carver Massachusetts
02330

508-631-3616

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Comments

From: Matt Roach <mattr1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Management - Support for Option 2

Dear sir/madam - I wanted to relay by support for option 2 as detailed by ASMFC. I believe strongly that commercial and recreational fishermen should equally share reductions in catch/landings of striped bass.

In addition, I am in favor of a reduction in catch of greater than 18%, as does my family and friends. These fish should be managed much more conservatively.

Matt Roach
Washington DC

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Richard Knox <hardknox5151@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Rockfish options

I am a recreational angler and support what is being stated as option 2. I am disturbed by floating dead fish that are killed by anglers continuing to fish after limits have been caught or fishing by means that typically Target the smaller fish. I also believe that the Trophy season takes too many valuable spawning fish and should be limited or shut down. Richard Knox

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Comments

From: Dean Schaefer <dean.l.schaefer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Base Regulations.

My recommendation is to adopt a slot limit - (28 - 35 inches) this provide anglers to keep one fish per day for te table and protects larger fish for breeding. When the limit was 36 inches in the 1980's never caught a keeper fish.

Dean Schaefer

Comments

From: Russell Glen <tdsb6078@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 8:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Amendment VI

My input is to implement Option 3, Sub-Option 3-A1 (36" min. size). I am a long time recreational angler, concerned about the future of the fishery. Option 3 makes sense to me as I can see that commercial harvest is far exceeded by recreational. The 36" min. size will also reduce harvest of spawning females between 28"-35" which are unnecessarily taken now by recreational.

Also, when I'm on a charter, the crew will keep 2 fish per day, even counting the sports bag limit. I would like to see this change to only their own limits.

Thank you
-Russell Glen Easton, MA
-Crossroads Anglers Flyfishing Club member since 2002

Comments

From: Drew Ciok <drewciok@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 7:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

I am writing you this letter to inform you of my position and concerns regarding the Striped Bass resource. I have grown up with a great appreciation for the natural world and the creatures that I share it with. I spend a significant amount of my free time 'outside'. Usually, that means fishing, and generally means fishing for Striped Bass. I am 50 years old and have been fishing almost all of that time. Over the last 30 years I have spent countless hours pursuing Striped Bass along the East Coast. Historically, I have averaged over 50 trips per year doing so. Unfortunately, that number has declined in recent years due to the decline in the fishery. It's is glaringly obvious that there is a problem and has been so for quite some time. Below, please find my comments regarding Addendum VI and general comments about the fishery as well.

I support *Option 2*: Equal percent reductions for both recreational and commercial fisheries

I support *Sub Option 2A-1*: 1 fish @35" for the coastal recreational fishery

I support *Sub Option 2B-1*: 1 fish @18" for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishing.

Circle Hook Provision Option B: I support mandatory circle hook usage for the recreational fishery.

I do not support any 'conservationally' equivalent options for *any* state for *any* reason. Striped bass should have the same regulations from state to state.

Please note, my support for the above is based only Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass. In reality I am not satisfied with any of the above options. They are all insufficient to rebuild the stock per Amendment 6, Section 2.6.2 Stock Schedules. I quote from page 22:

"If at anytime the Atlantic striped bass population is declared overfished and rebuilding needs to occur, the Management Board will determine the rebuilding schedule at that time. The only limitation imposed under Amendment 6 is that the rebuilding schedule is not to exceed 10 years. "

The stock has been declared to be overfished and overfishing is currently occurring. Addendum VI fails to address this section – the stock will not be rebuilt within a 10 year period. It only attempts to end overfishing and unfortunately it has a 50% likelihood of failing to even do that. How this is acceptable, I do not know.

ASMFC at this very moment is failing to do what is necessary in order to properly and effectively manage the Striped Bass Resource. At this point ASMFC is failing to abide by the conditions stated clearly in Amendment 6.

Individually, I am sure the members of the ASMFC, the Technical Committee, the Advisory Panel, the various state representatives and their proxies are good, hard working men and women that desire to do the right thing. Unfortunately, collectively, you are all failing the resource and the people the depend upon it and enjoy it. Addendum VI is not adequate and will not rebuild this stock. We are watching, in real time, the second crash of the Striped Bass stock in the last 40 years. How so many people have failed to prevent this from happening yet again is beyond disappointing. I pray that I am wrong, but I fear that I am write.

I hope in the future you will do the right thing.

Respectfully yours,

Andrew Ciok, VMD

62 Cedarcroft Drive

Madison, CT 06443

Comments

From: Matt Bacchi <mbacchi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to implore you to act to protect striped bass. You have historically only taken any meaningful action when it was long past due, and this is no different. You must now act to reduce mortality as the benchmark stock assessment has determined striped bass are overfished, and overfishing is occurring. This cannot continue.

Please take my recommendations to be the barest minimum of action. I would request more drastic and extreme measures but these are the current options on the table.

The options you must are:

Option 2: Equal percent reductions

Sub-option 2-A4: 1 fish at 32"-40" slot

Sub-option 2-B1: 1 fish at 18" minimum

Thank you,

Matt Bacchi
Amagansett, New York

Comments

From: Matt Bacchi <mbacchi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to implore you to act to protect striped bass. You have historically only taken any meaningful action when it was long past due, and this is no different. You must now act to reduce mortality as the benchmark stock assessment has determined striped bass are overfished, and overfishing is occurring. This cannot continue.

Please take my recommendations to be the barest minimum of action. I would request more drastic and extreme measures but these are the current options on the table.

The options you must are:

Option 2: Equal percent reductions

Sub-option 2-A4: 1 fish at 32"-40" slot

Sub-option 2-B1: 1 fish at 18" minimum

Thank you,

Matt Bacchi
Amagansett, New York

Comments

From: Bobby Kramer <bkramer7089@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:08 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Help our striped bass

Dear Commissioner and Officers of the ASMFC,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments concerning the Addendum for the Striped Bass Resource in 2019.

Our striped bass fishery needs to be protected. As a recreational fisherman I have seen a decline in the overall number and size of fish in recent years. Drastic and immediate action is necessary.

I support an immediate move to make striped bass a catch-and-release only species, mandate the use of barbless, single hook lures on artificial lures, and impose a moratorium on live bait fishing until such time as female spawning stocks recover.

With respect to the proposals open for comment, I support and encourage the following:

Option 2

18% equal reduction for both commercial and recreational stakeholders

Option 2A-1

1 fish at 35" applicable to all states

Option 2B-1

1 fish at 18"

Option B

Circle hooks to be made mandatory for use when fishing with live bait, no exceptions.

We are at the tipping point! Decisive action, taken not in the interest of the commercial or recreational anglers, but in the interest of the "most iconic" fish on our Atlantic coast, is necessary to preserve this fishery for our future generations. We have but one chance to protect this great natural resource.

Respectfully,
Bobby Kramer

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Stuart Mason <stuartmasonmusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioner and Officers of the ASMFC,

I support an immediate move to make striped bass a catch-and-release only species, mandate the use of barbless, single hook lures on artificial lures, and impose a moratorium on live bait fishing until such time as female spawning stocks recover.

With respect to the proposals open for comment, I support and encourage the following:

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18% equal reduction for both commercial and recreational stakeholders

Option 2A-1

1 fish at 35" applicable to all states

Option 2B-1

1 fish at 18"

Option B

Circle hooks to be made mandatory for use when fishing with live bait, no exceptions.

Decisive action, in the interest of the most iconic fish on our Atlantic coast, is necessary to preserve this fishery for our future generations. We have but one chance to protect this great natural resource.

Respectfully,

Stuart Mason Helmtoller
Los Osos, CA, USA

Comments

From: Stuart Mason <stuartmasonmusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioner and Officers of the ASMFC,

I support an immediate move to make striped bass a catch-and-release only species, mandate the use of barbless, single hook lures on artificial lures, and impose a moratorium on live bait fishing until such time as female spawning stocks recover.

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Option 2A-1

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Option 2B-1

1 fish at 18"

Option B

Circle hooks to be made mandatory for use when fishing with live bait, no exceptions.

Decisive action, in the interest of the most iconic fish on our Atlantic coast, is necessary to preserve this fishery for our future generations. We have but one chance to protect this great natural resource.

Respectfully,

Stuart Mason Helmtoller
Los Osos, CA, USA

Comments

From: Robin Calitri <csicagain@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:20 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

When one is fishing for striped bass in New England at least 3 days a week from April to November and has yet to see one fish over 35inches drastic action is needed. I have tagged over 40 Stripers for the American Littoral Society and fin clipped another 140 for a UNH DNA study, all of which are between 14 and 27 inches. Perhaps I am poor angler, but I suspect what you already know. Stripers which are a shared, incredible resource are in trouble. Your immediate action is warranted.

Please adopt Amendment VI with the additional regulations. Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.

Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".

Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.

Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

Thank you for your hard work, Robin Calitri, Seacoast Fly Fishing

Comments

From: Stuart Homcy <shomcy07@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:07 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioner and Officers of the ASMFC,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments concerning the Addendum for the Striped Bass Resource in 2019.

Our striped bass fishery needs to be protected. As a recreational fisherman I have seen a decline in the overall number and size of fish in recent years. Drastic and immediate action is necessary.

I support an immediate move to make striped bass a catch-and-release only species, mandate the use of barbless, single hook lures on artificial lures, and impose a moratorium on live bait fishing until such time as female spawning stocks recover.

With respect to the proposals open for comment, I support and encourage the following:

Option 2

18% equal reduction for both commercial and recreational stakeholders

Option 2A-1

1 fish at 35" applicable to all states

Option 2B-1

1 fish at 18"

Option B

Circle hooks to be made mandatory for use when fishing with live bait, no exceptions.

We are at the tipping point! Decisive action, taken not in the interest of the commercial or recreational anglers, but in the interest of the "most iconic" fish on our Atlantic coast, is necessary to preserve this fishery for our future generations. We have but one chance to protect this great natural resource.

Respectfully,
Stuart Homcy
Middle Village, NY

Comments

From: Paul Cronin <twigpc@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 7:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good Day,

I am in favor of leaving the striped bass fishery status quo for next year.

I fish recreationally from shore as well as by boat. I have been fishing striped bass for 40 years or more. I have been accustomed to their "normal migration patterns"

Here are some of the reasons I think status quo for next season is reasonable.

In the states to the south of Massachusetts big bass have showed up as usual. The bait was so heavy that several big fish did not migrate to the northern end of the range. (Why would they leave heavy amounts of forage) So they stayed in the other states.

Also, here in Massachusetts the larger fish have been in deeper water than usual. In the EEZ Zone, as you and I know we can't fish. I believe this has happened in our state due to two specific factors.

1. Seals
2. Great white sharks, as well as more blue sharks in closer to shore.

I personally don't hear people mentioning blue sharks, however my personal experience is I'm marking a lot of them on the fish finder.

The big bass area that seems to be effected the most is from Boston to the south all through Cape Cod.

Bigger fish are north of Boston up in to New Hampshire.

I have been hearing people claim things about global warming? That argument doesn't seem to hold up?

Big Fish that held back from the normal migration pattern in the southern states are in warmer water.

Over all it seems like there are still a lot of bigger fish to the south, in deeper water, and north of Boston through New Hampshire.

The bigger bass in our area have been marked or seen in 70 feet - 110 feet of water. These fish are in the EEZ Zone so you can't fish them.

It's a pretty good sight at sunrise when you see these big fish driving schools of bait to the surface.

I personally believe these fish are going to deeper water.

On the migration trail, They hit the juvenile great whites off Long Island, then the big great whites from the back of Cape Cod all through the state. (as they are tagging these sharks up in Nova Scotia now) as well as running the gauntlet of thousands of seals all along the waters of Cape Cod and the South Shore of our state.

As I'm sure you know, there have been plenty of fish under 28". With several being in the 24-27" range.

From that stand point the future looks good

Again. At this time, I think the prudent thing to do is stay status quo for next year.

Thanks for your time

Paul. Cronin

Norwell, Ma

Comments

From: Capt. Mike Faulkingham <mike@fishportlandmaine.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 5:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My name is Capt. Mike Faulkingham. During the striper season in Maine I am a full-time striped bass guide.

In protest of the WHOLE process, I vote for Option 2, Sub option 2A-1, and Sub option 2-B1 and Option B for implementation of the use of circle hooks for bait.

It is high time to stop fooling around with these fish. Do what you KNOW you need to do, and let this fishery recover. Anything less is complete and utter dereliction of your duty. Restore these fish and *then* manage for abundance. You have proven in the last 20 years you have NO idea how to do both simultaneously. Stop the charade and close the fishery to harvesting of anything less than a 40" fish until the fishery has rebounded.

Sincerely,
Mike

Capt. Mike Faulkingham
Fish Portland Maine Saltwater Charters
www.fishportlandmaine.com
207-619-1584
mike@fishportlandmaine.com

Comments

From: Stephen Madden <stephenmadden@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 4:49 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Buzzards Bay Anglers Club; JIM O'dowd; Tom Heath; JEAN AMARO; Mike Daroza; Dick Harding; William Prodouz
Subject: My comment for ASMFC Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission(ASMFC) is seeking public comment on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Striped Bass.

My comment and choice for the Draft Addendum V1 which proposes management options for both commercial and recreational sectors in the ocean and in Chesapeake Bay in order to reduce total fishery removals by 18% relative to 2017 levels. The proposed measures include reduced quotas for commercial fisheries, and changes in bag limits, minimum sizes, and slot size limits for the recreational sector. Since catch and release practices represent a significant component of overall fishing mortality, the Draft Addendum also explores the mandatory use of circle hooks when fishing with bait to reduce release mortality in recreational striped bass fisheries.

Option 2: 18% mortality reduction applied equally between recreation and commercial sectors.

Option 2-A1: 1 fish per day @ 35" minimum for the coastal migrating striped bass fishery.

Option 2-B1: 1 fish per day @ 18 " minimum size for the Chesapeake Bay fishery.

Option 3.2.B: Requires mandatory use of non offset Circle Hooks.

Thank you for your attention.

Stephen Madden
7 Susan Circle
Carver Massachusetts
02330
508-631-3616

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Comments

From: Joe GaNun <jpganun@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Attn: Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Sir

I would like to register my concern over the state of the Striped Bass fishery. In particular I feel a bit manipulated when going into the process

we are already opening the discussion of "Conservation Equivalencies" which have proven near disastrous previously. Why are we not starting from a position of protecting spawning fish and grounds ? It only seems logical that would be a good place to start. Why are we treating the Chesapeake Bay any different from everyone else when they clearly over harvested last year and the year before, and for that matter, why give the Hudson River fishery a special designation, North of The GW Bridge ?

Why are we running with a plan that gives us a 50% (coin flip) chance of success in 14 years when we should be targeting 10 and working with a plan

that would potentially give us a much greater chance of success.

Lastly, and please pardon my rant. Why are we working towards sustainability when we should be working towards abundance which would be a better result for all concerned.

I know it's not easy.

I appreciate the effort many of you put in but I am not very confident of success right now.

My selections are:

Option 2 ...18% reduction equally applied

Option 2-A1...1 @35"

Option 2 B1...1@18" for the Chesapeake

Option 3.2B...Mandatory non offset circle hooks for bait fishing.

Thanks for your efforts

Joe GaNun

Breezy Point NY 11697

908-347-6892 Cell.

Comments

From: Luis Tirado <captloutirado@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Public Comment/Regulation Changes

My name is Captain Lou Tirado, I own and operate a fishing charter business out of Southern Maine and have been doing so for the last 10 years. Aside from guiding customers for Striped Bass, I have been fishing for these precious fish for thirty years. These fish hold a special place in my heart and are a vital part of my family's bottom line. After reviewing the data and the options available to us I am in favor of Option 2.

1 fish at 35", and 1 fish at 18" for the Chesapeake. I am also in favor of an equal reduction of 18% by both the recreational and commercial sectors. I am also in favor of circle hooks for those fishing with bait.

The Striped Bass is a valuable resource and should be managed as such. We need to stop talking about maximum yield and we need to start talking about overall stock health and abundance.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Captain Lou Tirado
Diamond Pass Outfitters
207-899-5985

Comments

From: Benjamin Burns <burns.benjamin7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:24 AM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I am an avid Striped Bass fisherman from Freeport, Maine. I am very concerned at the current state of the fishery. My comments on the proposed changes are listed below. Thank you for your time and consideration in protecting this fishery for future generations!

Option 1: I am opposed to this

Option 2: I am in favor of this option as I believe that even though commercial quotas have not been exceeded those quotas are obviously un sustainable.

Option 2-A1: I am in support of a 35" minimum size.

Option 2-B1: I am in support of this as it provides greatest reduction in mortality

Option 3: I am opposed to this.

Option B under 3.2: I am in favor of mandatory use of circle hooks.

Thanks for your time,

Ben Burns
Freeport, Maine

Comments

From: Surdel, Dave <dsurdel@wiley.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max,

I am contacting you in advance of the upcoming ASMFC meeting that will likely determine the future of the striped bass fishery along the eastern seaboard. It is apparent to me that the striped bass population is crashing. As an avid recreational angler, it pains me to see this precious, public resource, enjoyed by so many people declining at this alarming rate. Something needs to be done to reduce overall mortality before it's too late (if not already). Striped bass need to be managed as a public resource, not a profit center for the commercial and charter fishing industries.

I am in favor of a catch & release ONLY fishery or complete moratorium until the stock has rebounded. I realize that ASMFC will not take that position, so I support the following options from the available choices:

- Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.
- Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".
- Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.
- Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

If striped bass are managed for abundance rather than commercial viability, everyone will reap the benefits in the long-term. The recreational fishing industry which is dying a slow death on Cape Cod will rebound. Local small businesses in the hospitality industry will benefit. The charter fleet will benefit. All of the anglers that used to travel great distances to fish cape cod will return.

I hope ASMFC does the right thing and takes immediate and meaningful (drastic, if necessary) steps to conserve stripers and manage the stock for abundance. The actions of the ASMFC over the last 8-10 years to address the declining striper population have failed, and the crash is evident to nearly everyone, including most of the charter captains and commercial fisherman I know. We should have learned from our mistakes by now. Meaningful action is long overdue and it would be tragic if the striped bass were pushed to the brink of extinction once again due to poor management practices.

Thank you,

Dave Surdel
6 Bayberry Rd.
Acton, MA 01720

Comments

From: steve rogers <rogers.steven.m@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good morning Commissioners and staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

My name is Steve Rogers, I am an angler who pursues striped bass across in CT, RI and MA and pride the northeast on its ability to host such an amazing species throughout a majority of the year.

As with many species there comes a time when humans take their inevitable toll on the stock, it saddened me to not have fished striped bass in their "prime" and to have only witnessed their decline.

Based on the available options from the Draft Addendum VI, I believe that the following are the best available.

- Option 2: Equal percent reduction across all sectors
 - Sub-Option 2A-1: 1 fish limit with a minimum size of 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery
 - Sub-Option 2-B-1: 1 fish limit with a minimum size of 18" for the Chesapeake Bay
- Option B: Mandatory circle hooks for the whole fishery

I also would like to address a few other comments regarding striped bass and the management by ASMFC. I understand all too well that poaching and mishandling of fish take their toll on numerous fish and can be extremely difficult to calculate when addressing stock assessments. But clearly that is not the number one factor contributing to this case, the fact that the striped bass stock has been over fished for 13 years to me astonishing, I find it difficult that after a few years of calculating stocks and seeing the stock was being over fished something should have been done and I stand by the American Saltwater Guides Association with their beliefs that the ASMFC should be held accountable.

Also would like to address the leniency that Maryland has been given, seeing as a majority of fish are produced there I believe they should have the strictest management to further protect the stock going forward and consequences should be applied to those states to have vastly gone over quota.

I understand the complexity of an issue like this and everything that needs to be taken into consideration for a final decision, I just hope that this is a success for sake of the fish and those who love them.

Thank you,

Steve Rogers

Comments

From: John Gans <misterjohngans@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:44 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in New York State.

I support :

Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions

Option 2-A1: Bag Limit- 1 Fish 35" in Ocean

Option 2-B1: Bag Limit- 1 Fish 18" in Chesapeake Bay

Circle Hook:

Option B: Required Use of Circle Hooks.

John Gans
#917-744-4030

Comments

From: Jonathan Woodman <jwoodman1265@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM VI

I support the following:

Option 2
Equal reduction of striped bass mortality across all fishing sectors.

Option 2A-1
Limit of one fish with a minimum size of 35".

Option 2B-1
Limit of one fish with a minimum size of 18" inside Chesapeake Bay.

Option B
Mandatory use of circle hooks in the fishery.

Jon Woodman
Connecticut

Comments

From: Kierran Broatch <kbroatch@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 10:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a lifelong recreational fisherman from the Connecticut shoreline. While I fish for many different species, I feel particularly passionate about striped bass. It's no secret that this species is in trouble, so thank you for providing me and other anglers the opportunity to make our voices heard and help fix the problem we helped create.

I almost always practice catch and release when fishing for striped bass. On occasion I will take a legal sized fish for the table if I think it will not survive. I am all for beefing up the current regulations to help in the conservation efforts. Of the proposed options, I am advocating to increase the minimum keeper size limit to 35-inches (sub option 2 A-1). I witnessed the 36-inch minimum regulation work well when I was just a kid and it can work again. I also think that a minimum length will be easier to educate anglers compared to a slot limit.

Lastly, I think mandating circle hook use when fishing for striped bass with bait is a wise idea. There is a learning curve with how to use circle hooks properly, but they are far less likely to gut-hook fish than a "J" hook. So I fully support Option B.

Thank you and best of luck in your work ahead.

Kierran Broatch
44 Long Island View Road
Milford, CT 06460
203.623.1193
kbroatch@gmail.com

Comments

From: Chad Koenig <dogdayscharters@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 9:58 PM
To: Comments; Paul Genovese
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: ASMFC striped bass addendum VI

As a recreational fisherman and light tackle guide on the Chesapeake Bay I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum VI for the Striped Bass management plan.

I fully support option 2 calling for equal reduction for both commercial and recreational sectors- We are at a place where pointing fingers and assigning blame is not going to fix the problem of over-fishing striped bass. This resource has a significant value to both parties. Both parties have contributed to the decline of the striped bass populations and share equal responsibility in rebuilding the stock.

I also support Sub-option 2-A1. 1 fish over 35" will give striped bass the opportunity to spawn before they become legal for harvest. The spawning biomass will recover much quicker with a single fish limit at 35" and lead to a faster recovery of SSB.

For the Chesapeake Bay I support Sub-option 2-B1. 1 fish 18" or greater. Catch and release mortality has been a very active topic lately. I would like to see the numbers on C&R mortality broken down to give a more accurate picture of the mortality rates in different conditions. (cold water vs warm water and live bait vs artificial) It is widely accepted that release mortality in cold water with artificial lures is significantly less than fish released in warmer water caught on bait. To agree on an estimated 9% overall C&R mortality would put summer fishing in the Chesapeake (high water temps/low dissolved O2/low salinity) at a much higher rate. Reducing the size limit to 18" and the bag limit to 1 fish would not only reduce the harvest numbers but also the release mortality on striped bass in the Chesapeake. Fewer fish will be caught and released by charterboats while trying to fill limits for their clients. This is a win for the fish and will lead to more fish avoiding coolers and becoming part of the spawning stock.

I also support the mandatory use of circle hooks and the enforcement of the regulation. Maryland accepted a reduction to 19" and mandatory use of circle hooks. Currently very few charterboats adhere to the circle hook regulation and continue to live line with treble hooks. They use the argument that they're fishing for bluefish or catfish. This is not acceptable and enforcement is crucial in order to see any impact from the regulation.

Doing what's best for the fish is also what's best for the fisherman.

Thanks again,

Captain Chad Koenig
Dog Days Charters
240-216-4439

Comments

From: MICHAEL WIKAR <mwikar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 8:31 PM
To: Comments
Cc: conments@asmfc.org
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum VI

I prefer option 2-A2, and 2-B4

These options provide for a slot limit, and protect the larger breeding females.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Michael Dean <mdean329@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 8:27 PM
To: Comments
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of Striped Bass Management Plan.

I was not an avid striped bass fisherman during the moratorium years ago but when this majestic fish rebounded from a 36' limit I reaped the rewards of the fishery returning to its glory. Fishing for striped bass has enriched my life in infinite ways. The most important of these has been teaching my 7 year old son how to fish and respect the resource we are blessed with in the Northeast. Our time together on the water and in the surf is something I can't imagine not being there in years to come

I support and respectfully request you adopt the following:

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

I'm part of one sector of this fishery. It is only logical that all parties share in the rebuilding of it.

Sub Option 2A-1. 1 Fish @35 Coastwide

This is the only option that has proven effective for striped bass from past action. There are dire circumstances if a hypothetical solution doesn't work. With effective education of anglers, captains, and crew in all sectors release mortality can be reduced and not pointed to as a reason to adopt other options. I will partake in any efforts to put an education plan into action

Sub Option 2B-1

1 Fish at 18 for Chesapeake Bay

We must protect the fragile nursery waters of the fishery

Circle Hook
Provision B

This is yet another proven method that will prevent fish mortality and with education can be implemented. Once again I am happy to participate in any efforts for this option

Thank you.

Mike Dean

Mike Dean
Founder
Manhattan to Montauk
@mnhtn2mtk

Manhattancup.com
Onthewater.com/Manhattan-cup

Sent from My iPhone

Comments

From: Bryan <bmarshall122@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 5:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Commissioners,

Having been an avid fisherman for decades now, I first and foremost would like to express my appreciation that there appears to be solid movement towards positive action in regards to protecting the longevity of the Striped Bass fishery. Unfortunately for too long certain pressures have been applied and a blind eye turned towards the proper management of the fishery as a whole.

I have talked with numerous friends and other fisherman in my area, Southern Maine to Cape Cod, over the years in regards to the dwindling stock of striped bass. And without fail, there is a common feeling that "it's not like it use to be".

There have been many ideas floated over the years as to how to help bring back the stock. And the most common topic I have heard is the "slot" for keepers and dropping the daily bag limit to one. My area has gone to the one fish a day rule now for a few years. And I can't help but think that there has been some headway made with that effort. But I believe that it has to be uniform throughout the fishery. And I realize that is not a popular sentiment further south in the fishery, however it would make it a level playing field for all of those who enjoy the sport of striper fishing.

As far as the "slot" for keepers, I have seen mostly 28"-34" or even larger 32"-40" versions floated out there. The problem is, from anything I have read or heard, those slots cover the prime breeding size. And if we plan on allowing everyone to keep nothing but breeders, we are already setting this up for failure.

Most everyone who keeps a fish does so with the intent of enjoying a few good meals from the catch. My suggestion would be for a smaller slot, closer to 22"-28" or 24"-30". As anyone who has caught a fish in that range knows, there is plenty of meat to go around from a striped bass of that size. While it is true that an angler could be catching a future breeder, by installing a smaller sized slot, you at least have a reasonable chance that the keeper is not a future breeder. But by allowing a larger slot, you are immediately guaranteeing the removal of a breeding sized female. And by going with a smaller slot, you are cutting off the access right from the get go to any breeding sized females that are in the fishery now. Thus allowing them to immediately continue in the breeding cycle. And I feel that this needs to be the intent of any management action at this point.

Nothing is keeping anglers from enjoying the sport of catching a large trophy fish, it is just ensuring that she is returned to the breeding pool. That is with the installation of an "inline circle hook" policy also.

There are numerous tournaments that raise good money for great causes that are associated with striped bass. These inevitably run on a total weight or largest fish winner system. There is a way to provide a "permit" system to clubs, organizations or whoever may be running a tournament. The fees can be put towards state wildlife organizations to help fund preservation efforts. The permit would allow for the retention of an otherwise size disqualified fish to be retained for the dates of a tournament. Two day maximum tournament length limit to avoid the obvious "season long tournaments" loop hole from being created. While this would allow for larger fish to be removed from the breeding pool, it would be limited to tournaments only and obviously have much less impact on the breeding stock then a larger "slot" or just doing business as usual.

I feel these management steps would take a solid step in the right direction of preserving the fishery immediately and for future generations to come.

Respectfully,
Bryan Marshall

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: leclair60@charter.net
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 5:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper Populations

Hi

I'm a commercial and recreational fisherman. I've fished for strippers for 50 years. I've seen the ups and downs of this fishery. Recommendations are plenty but we need to concentrate on priorities;

1. Raise minimum recreational size over 32"
2. Slot limit to include release of fish over 44". We need to promote release of larger fish to propagate that gene pool.
3. Circle hooks to be used on all bait.
4. Option to offer the purchase of a one fish per season trophy tag to be attached to the fish.

Problems are that some fisherm! an do not practice proper fish handling and release of these fish. I've seen to much showing off and picture taking for to long and then just throwing fish back!

Thanks and good luck.

Gerry Leclair

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device

Comments

From: petanto@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 4:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripped Bass Opinion

Re: Sub opt. 2A

I would support sub opt 2-A2.

Thank you

Peter

Comments

From: Mary Ann Krebs <krebsma@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 2:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass limits

I applaud you for lowering mortality rates, and am totally in agreement that we need to conserve our fisheries. I also support the use of circle hooks for bait fishermen.

Mary Ann Krebs
10 Ross Rd.
Durham, NH 03824

Comments

From: Jim Freda <jfreda42156@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 2:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Public Comment Striped Bass

I am not favor of any of the options for NJ. I would like to see 1 fish at 28-32 inches. But with that said I would choose 28-35 inch slot for NJ as proposed.

Thank You

Capt Jim Freda

Shore Catch Sportfishing

Comments

From: MATTHEW FEDDERN <mofeddern@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 9:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Fish size stripers

A slot between 28 and 35 inches is the best choice. Let the big girls reproduce.
Matt Feddern

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Comments

From: Phil Zalesak <flypax@md.metrocast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 12:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Balanced Approach to Striped Bass Conservation
Attachments: 2019-0930 Decline in Atlantic Menhaden Predators in the Chesapeake Bay.pdf

Committee Members:

First, I fully support Option 3B6 with the following modifications:

- Eliminate the slot and simply go with a 18 inch minimize to reduce catch and release
- Eliminate all striped bass fishing in July and August. That will further reduce mortality associated with catch and release

Second, enforce the Chesapeake Bay cap for Atlantic menhaden as they are critical forage fish for striped bass. See below:

From: Phil Zalesak [mailto:flypax@md.metrocast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:40 AM

To: 'FVHATTIEROSE@aol.com'; 'FVHATTIEROSE@aol.com'; 'Jay.McCreight@legislature.maine.gov'; 'cheri.patterson@wildlife.nh.gov'; 'r-dwhite@comcast.net'; 'swamper199@gmail.com'; 'dan.mckiernan@state.ma.us'; 'ray@capecodfishermen.org'; 'sarah.ferrara@mahouse.gov'; 'jason.mcnamee@dem.ri.gov'; 'lizzy.2@charter.net'; 'Ericreidri@gmail.com'; 'matthew.gates@ct.gov'; 'William.a.hyatt@snet.net'; 'melissa.ziobron@cga.ct.gov'; 'maureen.davidson@dec.ny.gov'; 'ech12@cornell.edu'; 'kaminsky@nysenate.gov'; 'Heather.corbett@dep.nj.gov'; 'allenra133@gmail.com'; 'captadam@karenannii.com'; 'ashiels@pa.gov'; 'senseofwonder@pa.net'; 'david.saveikis@state.de.us'; 'fishmaster70@comcast.net'; 'crabman31@aol.com'; 'john.clark@state.de.us'; 'bill.anderson@maryland.gov'; 'robert.t.brown@shopcove.net'; 'captphillangle@gmail.com'; 'steve.bowman@mrc.virginia.gov'; 'bplumlee@pbp-attorneys.com'; 'District01@senate.virginia.gov'; 'Chris.Batsavage@ncdenr.gov'; 'jmannen@yfmlaw.com'; 'Mblanton9394@gmail.com'; 'BELLM@DNR.SC.GOV'; 'rhodesmm@musc.edu'; 'RonnieCromer@scsenate.gov'; 'Doug.Haymans@dnr.ga.gov'; 'swoodward1957@gmail.com'; 'Trey.Rhodes@house.ga.gov'; 'jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com'; 'BillOrndorf@yahoo.com'; 'Thad.Altman@myfloridahouse.gov'; 'jim.estes@myfwc.com'

Cc: Bob Beal (rbeal@asmfc.org); Amy Widerman (amywiderman@gmail.com); Bill Bonner (bill_bonner@verizon.net); Bruno Vasta (captbruno@comcast.net); Chris (cjgoudreau@comcast.net); Cy Staniec; Dallen Hall (panasea125@gmail.com); Dave Allaire (davea494@gmail.com); Eric Packard; Jeff Lewis (jeffrey.lewis41@gmail.com); Jerry Gaff (jerrygaff@yahoo.com); Julian or Judi Tsai; Phil Zalesak (flypax@md.metrocast.net); Reed Brodnick (brodnickreed@gmail.com); Ron Smith (rsmithins@yahoo.com); Tom Meiser (tmeiser@verizon.net); Tracy Norris (tracy.norris65@gmail.com); David Sikorski (davidsikorski@ccamd.org); foragematters@aol.com; 'chesapeake@cbf.org'; Martin Gary; 'Stephen Shechtel'

Subject: Censure Omega Protein

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissioners,

I respectfully request that Commissioners censure the Canadian owned company, Omega Protein, for refusing to comply with their assigned Atlantic menhaden harvest quota for the Chesapeake Bay. What is taking place right now is nothing less than foreign exploitation of American resources.

Omega Protein's refusal to comply with ASMFC regulations puts the American commercial and recreational fishing industries in jeopardy. Why? Atlantic menhaden are a critical forage fish for 22 species of fish in the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Coast. These include striped bass, summer flounder, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, and weakfish which are important to both the commercial and recreational fishing industries. The commercial and recreational harvest for all of these fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay has declined significantly over the last 20 years based on data provided by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Virginia Maritime Resources Commission, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. See attached.

The harvest of these critical forage fish has adversely impacted all Atlantic States. For example, since 2004 the commercial harvest of striped bass is down from 7,335,116 to 4,714,661 pounds (36%) and the recreational harvest is down from 54,091,836 to 37,896,549 pounds (30%). See attached. According to the 2019 Southwick Associates report, a report referenced by the ASMFC, the total commercial revenues for 2016 were \$19.8 million dollars and \$6.3 billion dollars for the recreational sector (Maine to North Carolina). The contribution of the commercial sector to the region's gross domestic product (GDP) when attempting to account for all industries involved in harvesting, processing, distributing and retailing striped bass to consumers was \$103.2 million dollars and supported 2,664 regional jobs. In comparison, the contribution of the recreational sector to the regional's GDP was \$7.7 billion and supported 104,867 jobs (ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, page 6, August 2019).

Omega Protein's most recent press release stating that they will not comply with ASMFC regulations regarding its Chesapeake Bay quota is an insult to US taxpayers and a threat to America's commercial and recreational fishing industries.

Censure Omega Protein NOW!

Very respectfully,

Phil Zalesak /s/
President
Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization
www.smrfo.com

Comments

From: Patrick Rudman <patrudman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 9:54 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Russell Dize; Derek Orner; MICHAEL LUISI; Del. Dana Stein; PHIL LANGLEY; BILL ANDERSON; Patrick Keliher; Rep. JAY MCCREIGHT; Megan Ware; Stephen Train; Sen. Dave Miramant
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max and ASMFC representatives,

My name is Patrick Rudman and I am a recreational shore fisherman from Maine that has recently moved from Maryland. I've been fishing for striped bass most of my life. I have a deep love for these fish, which is why it is so vital that we act immediately and appropriately so we can save these amazing fish. While I truly believe that Striped bass should be a game fish up and down the coast like we have in Maine, I do understand the economic impact for commercial. But you also must understand the recreational impact for all shore communities along the east coast. People travel, vacation, purchase gear, eat at restaurants all in our local communities to seek out these fish - without them, our states will lose millions.

The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

- **Option 2:** 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector. (It's important we all share responsibility here.)
- **Option 2-A1:** 1@35" (This will give females time to spawn several times)
- **Option 2-B1** 1@18" for Chesapeake Bay (There is no need to allow people to keep more than 1 fish a day, especially not with a species in trouble. I also believe this makes poaching easier to hide)
- **Option 3.2.B** Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks (I've been using non-offset circles for some time now - they are extremely effective and rarely harm the fish.)

I feel that it is very important that the large number of small fish that we are seeing are protected and are able to spawn as many years as possible before being targeted by anglers and the commercial sector. And for all those that think these regulations will cripple their businesses - they must ask themselves, do they expect to be better off when there are no fish? Lastly - we MUST stop the excessive removal of menhaden out of the Chesapeake and beyond. We are going to great lengths to save the striped bass, we must go to those same lengths to save their food source. What will all these fish eat when their population returns to acceptable levels?

I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Patrick Rudman
26 Bellevue Ave, South Portland, ME 04106
22230 Knight Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650
207-831-2617

Comments

From: MICHAEL WIKAR <mwikar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 9:39 PM
To: Comments
Cc: conments@asmfc.org
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum VI

I prefer option 2-A2, and 2-B4

These options provide for a slot limit, and protect the larger breeding females.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Conor Sheridan <crsherid@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 9:19 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Andrew Sheridan; Bob Sheridan; Greg Smith; john.folcarelli@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern,

Based on my your report and supplemental information, I support option 2-A2. The introduction of slot limits for striped bass that would prohibit large fish from being taken. The science is pointing towards this being the best way to replenish stocks, combine this with mercury and other heavy metal accumulation in large older fish and there is a compelling case to limit the killing of large fish. Something not discussed in your report but often floated is the idea of making the cape cod canal a catch and release zone. I think the board should seriously consider some form of this proposal. I represent a cohort of fisherman cc'd here and we appreciate your consideration and hope that you will do whatever is best for the fishery.

Regards,
Conor Sheridan
Greg Smith
Jack Folcarelli
Andrew Sheridan
Robert Sheridan

Comments

From: Jon Brideau <jonbrideau1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 7:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: Draft Addendum VI

Thank you and please let me know how I can do more to help.

Thanks,

Jon Brideau

On Mon, Sep 30, 2019, 5:21 PM Comments <comments@asmfc.org> wrote:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your input on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board in October when it will review submitted public comment and consider final action on the addendum.

Max Appelman

Atlantic Striped Bass FMP Coordinator

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0740

mappelman@asmfc.org

www.asmfc.org

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

From: Jon Brideau [mailto:jonbrideau1@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:53 PM

To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>

Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I am writing to submit my comments about the over fishing of striped bass. I have lived/worked/fished in the waters of Cape Ann, Massachusetts for most of my life (35 years old). From hauling traps on commercial lobster boats as a teenager, to striped bass fishing every summer since I was about 10, I have seen my fair share of recreational and commercial fishing in our waters. With social media and internet groups, my passion has grown with the access to knowledge, trends, and insights to this fishery.

With this said, I think the problems of over fishing is happening with BOTH recreational and commercial striped bass fishing.

We see countless social media posts of commercial fisherman gaffing bass for their clients of any size. Captains boast proudly that they have landed clients large sized breeding females, and take to social media to advertise photos and videos of their business to gain client share. They have little regard for sustainability as they are driven by dollars to afford their, understandably, marginal business.

As much as I support our local commercial lobster men (after working for 5 different boats in my younger years), I am appalled to see the large sized females that they are allowed to catch and sell commercially. During one of the best weeks of the summer for stripers (July 22-26th) this year I caught several large stripers in the 40"-50" range, mostly due to the amount of pogy schools on Cape Ann, releasing them all. That week alone, a few people I know in the seafood and lobstering industry posted photos of trucks full of the same sized fish being sold back on land. I can't understand why we don't put a ceiling on the fish length for the commercial permits, or limit the quota for the season. The amount taken that week alone put a dent into the biomass.

On the other side, I have come across countless recreational fisherman in my life that not only break our keeper regulations, fail to purchase licensing, but also leave a disgusting mess behind them on the water, on the docks, piers, and parking lots where they access local fishing hot spots. Most of them are not trained to properly catch and release, so they lean on imminent mortality to keep any and all fish coming off their lines. With the amazing technology and bait advances, any recreational fisherman can find and land stripers without any real knowledge. This leads to reckless decisions and many poorly handled fish. The recreational fishery is understandably hard to manage with limited resources of local authorities and I often find myself wondering how we can help, outside of calling in suspicious activity.

I personally support a slot of 28"-34" (one keeper per fisherman), but more importantly a ceiling of 34" to keep the female breeders from being kept. I have already converted all my tackle to inline circle hooks before our change in Massachusetts for 2020. I would support further efforts to streamline tackle to be less harmful, like limited treble hooks on all baits and the size of hooks/line required.

I hope to see this fishery come back and more importantly stay healthy for lifetimes to come so my own kids can enjoy what we have with striped bass.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter and please feel free to reach out,

--

Jon Brideau

978-853-1129

Comments

From: Nicholas Kok <nickkok2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 5:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it concerns,

As an avid fisherman out of the south shore of Long Island, NY, I strongly support efforts to reduce the over-fishing of striped bass. I, and the other anglers I have spoken with, would much more restrictive bag limits now rather than a moratorium down the road.

I strongly believe that conservation efforts should be shared equally between the recreational and commercial sectors.

I support both the requirement to use non-offset circle hooks and changes to the size limit. I support option 2-A4 because it is my understanding that it would most quickly increase the fishery population.

Thank you,
Nicholas Kok

Comments

From: KEN WHITING <ken.whiting@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 2:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI- Ken Whiting Comments September 30,2019
Attachments: September 30, 2019 Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI - Ken Whiting Comments.docx

Dear Sirs,

Attached please find my comments for your use regarding the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Ken Whiting

Comments

From: Patrice Ringoot <pringoot@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper

I think a straight catch and release during a certain period of the fishing season can be great for recreational fishing and keep one fish above 28 for rest of season.

Most of sport fisherman release their fish.

I think it will help mostly during the laying of the eggs for big female since they lay the most eggs.

For commercial limit the catch and don t give extra fishing time if seasonal quota not meet.

Comments

From: David Zajano <dzajano@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Comments; Micheal.luisi@matyland.gov

Gentlemen:

I have reviewed the options being considered for amending Addendum VI, **and support option 2 because** it requires the cooperation of all stakeholders to rebuild the fishery. All sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector and equal percentages should be used. I also support options that **meet or exceed the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI**, and support any proposed action with a higher probability of reducing fishing mortality.

Thank you

avid P. Zajano
32 Glenbrook Drive
Phoenix, MD 21131
Home: 410-628-6284

Comments

From: Al Williams <al.nightshift@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 9:46 AM
To: Comments
Cc: michael.armstrong@mass.gov
Subject: Striped Bass draft addendum V1

To: ASMFC

From: Al Williams (Mass. Striper fisherman; Comm / Rec./ & charter)

Subject: Position regarding SB draft addendum V1

Dear Sirs;

I support measures contained in option 2 of draft addendum V1.

Specifically:

Adoption of a 35 inch total length for the Ocean fishery. (I am opposed to any consideration of a slot limit)

And

18% reduction for both the recreational and commercial fisheries.

Sincerely

Al Williams
5 Orchard Way
Gloucester, Mass. 01930

Tel;(978)-281-1977

Email; al.nightshift@gmail.com

Comments

From: Ketch, Chad <cketch225@g.rwu.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 8:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I believe the points included within option 2 will significantly help the striped bass stocks.

Thank you,

Chad Ketch

Comments

From: Carter Smith <carterbrucebarringtonsmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019 9:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners and Staff Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Striped Bass Addendum VI.

For many, fishing is a sport or hobby but, for me, fishing is a way of life. Like many of my fellow anglers on the Atlantic coast, I value pursuing Striped Bass over any other gamefish. My annual pilgrimage chasing these incredible fish from New Jersey to Maine and back is the highlight of my fishing calendar. And, I know this is the case with many of my fellow anglers up and down the Striper Coast. Ensuring we all can pass down the tradition of Striped Bass angling to our sons and daughters is a moral imperative. Ensuring this keystone species continues to swim in our coastal waters is an ecological necessity.

The status quo in managing this shared marine resource is unacceptable, going forward. The commissioners need to take responsibility and acknowledge their management of the Striped Bass fishery has been an unmitigated disaster. This Commission will be held solely responsible should the current collapse lead to the end of the pursuit of America's favourite gamefish.

The science tells us that Striped Bass are overfished and overfishing is occurring. Striped Bass were overfished 11 out of the last 13 years.

The flexibility allowed by the Commission has enabled Striped Bass stocks to plummet to levels not seen since the species was near extinct in the early 1990s. This is irresponsible fisheries management. Under more rigid management frameworks like those utilized by Federal Fisheries Managers under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, Striped Bass would not be in this situation. This is supported by the highest quality research generated by respected fisheries scientists. Under the best possible circumstances, the addendum drafted by the Commission would, in fact, not restore Striped Bass stocks until 2033. With this reality in mind, I'd remind the Commission that, Addendum 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass specifically mandates rebuilding of stocks within a 10-year timeframe. This is a glaring example of the lack of accountability within the ASMFC.

While it is abundantly clear that much more drastic reforms to the management of this fishery are required, I understand that there are parameters associated with comments on this Addendum.

I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the following options to reduce overfishing and start to rebuild the stock.

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

We are all stakeholders in this fishery. The notion that the commercial fishery should have a smaller percentage reduction is fallacious from a fisheries science perspective but also ridiculous using good old common sense. All stakeholders benefitting from this fishery must shoulder an equal responsibility for rebuilding stocks.

Sub-Option 2A-1

1 fish @35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery

Evidence from fisheries management research and history from rebuilding the Striped Bass stock in the past tell us this approach can be successful. Conservation equivalency makes slot limits effectively useless. If all states are not REQUIRED to adhere to the same slot size, a slot limit will never work.

Sub-Option 2B-1

1 fish @ 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

As you should be aware based on data collected for and published by the Commission, recreational anglers in Maryland were allowed to grossly overfish because their conservation equivalency was not adequately assessed by your Technical Committee. This is the only restriction that quantifiably makes sense for the Chesapeake Bay. One fish would also address the obvious issue of catch and release mortality.

Circle Hook Provision

Option B

The only way to address catch and release mortality in a systematic way is to adopt mandatory circle hook regulations. High-quality science has demonstrated the dramatic reduction in mortality associated with circle hooks in this fishery.

Striped Bass are threatened by many things; pollution, habitat loss, climate change and overharvest. This addendum only addresses overharvest. I hope that one day soon we can proactively address all the issues threatening America's favourite gamefish. Until then, I hope the Commission adopts a much more rigid management approach to address overharvest, starting with the relatively minor regulatory changes outlined in this addendum.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Carter B. Smith
Kennebunkport, Maine

--

Carter Smith

e: carterbrucebarringtonsmith@gmail.com

c: 647-262-9098

Comments

From: Frank Lecrichia <franklecrichia@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019 5:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC,

My name is Frank Lecrichia, a recreational angler of striped bass on the south shore of Long Island via Fire Island inlet. I would like to do what's necessary to help protect the fishery and increase the bass population. I believe we should have a slot limit between 28-35 inches with a 1 fish limit per angler. I also believe the use of circle hooks on all live/cut bait techniques should be mandatory.

I would also like to see a strict enforcement from the DEC on any poachers who do not follow the regulations as well as substantial fines.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

Sincerely,
Frank Lecrichia

Comments

From: Mark Harris <Mark.Harris.226897484@p2a.co>
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019 2:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: *****SPAM***** Re: Comments on Striped Bass Addendum VI
Attachments: Original message before MIMEDefang

This e-mail has been identified and tagged as Spam by the Raptor Anti-Spam filters.

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Content preview: Dear ASMFC Member,\n\nI'm writing about declining striped bass (aka rockfish) populations in the Chesapeake Bay region. \nOverfishing must be stopped, and each coastal state must reduce striped [...]

Filter Tests:

AC_FROM_MANY_DOTS,DKIM_SIGNED,DKIM_VALID,DKIM_VALID_AU,DKIM_VALID_EF,FREEMAIL_FORGED_REPLYTO,FR
EMAIL_REPLYTO_END_DIGIT,HTML_IMAGE_ONLY_12,HTML_MESSAGE,RCVD_IN_DNSWL_NONE,SPF_PASS,TXREP,T_RE
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Content analysis details: (6.3 points, 6.0 required)

-0.0 RCVD_IN_DNSWL_NONE RBL: Sender listed at <https://www.dnswl.org/>,
no trust
[149.72.205.43 listed in list.dnswl.org]
-0.0 SPF_PASS SPF: sender matches SPF record
0.2 FREEMAIL_REPLYTO_END_DIGIT Reply-To freemail username ends in
digit
[m586264[at]aol.com]
1.6 HTML_IMAGE_ONLY_12 BODY: HTML: images with 800-1200 bytes of
words
0.0 HTML_MESSAGE BODY: HTML included in message
-0.1 DKIM_VALID_AU Message has a valid DKIM or DK signature from
author's domain
0.1 DKIM_SIGNED Message has a DKIM or DK signature, not necessarily
valid
-0.1 DKIM_VALID Message has at least one valid DKIM or DK signature
-0.1 DKIM_VALID_EF Message has a valid DKIM or DK signature from
envelope-from domain
2.5 FREEMAIL_FORGED_REPLYTO Freemail in Reply-To, but not From
2.5 AC_FROM_MANY_DOTS Multiple periods in From user name
0.0 T_REMOTE_IMAGE Message contains an external image

-0.4 TXREP

TXREP: TxRep reputation score

Comments

From: Fred Thiele <thielef@nyassembly.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019 2:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Sirs:

I am the New York State Assembly Member for the 1st Assembly District in the State of New York. My district includes the Towns of East Hampton, Southampton, Shelter Island and southeastern Brookhaven. The district is home to the two (2) largest commercial fishing ports in the State of New York (Shinnecock and Montauk). In addition, my Assembly District is also home to a robust recreational fishing industry, including the charter boat industry. Collectively, fishing is a major economic driver for the East End of Long Island. The Striped Bass is a critical part of our fishing economy.

Consistent with ASMFC findings relating to overfishing, I recognize that conservation measures may be necessary to the sustainability of the striped bass fishery. It is also critically important that such conservation measures be fair to all the user groups. Currently, the striped bass fishery is predominantly recreational, with that sector accounting for 90% of the total harvest weight since 2004. Conservation measures should reflect this fact.

Consequently, if the ASMFC determines that conservation measures are required to protect the striped bass fishery, I ask that the ASMFC implement Option 3. Under Option 3, the commercial sector would take a 1.8% reduction in quota, and the recreational sector would take a 20% reduction in quota.

No one wants less fish, but if conservation measures are necessary, they should be fair. Given the relative impacts from the recreational and commercial sector, Option 3 represents the fairest implementation plan.

Final, I support the use of circle hooks when targeting striped bass with bait. Circle hooks reduce the rate of mortality for the species. I have sponsored and enacted a law in the State Legislature requiring the use of circle hooks for sharks. This conservation measure has been successful in this instance and should be considered regarding the conservation of the striped bass.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Fred Thiele
1st Assembly District
New York

Comments

From: tim.mierzwicki@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019 1:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: Comments to proposed response to ASMFC stripe based stock assessment

Resending due to typo in initial ASMFC message.

Begin forwarded message:

From: tim.mierzwicki@gmail.com
Date: September 27, 2019 at 8:08:44 PM EDT
To: comments@asmfc.org, Michael.luisi@maryland.gov
Cc: Tim Mierzwicki <tim.mierzwicki@gmail.com>
Subject: **Comments to proposed response to ASMFC stripe based stock assessment**

Dear ASMFC and MD DNR Officials

I am a Maryland resident and recreational fisherman concerned about the ASMFC's stock assessment indicating that striped bass are overfished. I believe I stand with the vast majority of the recreational fishing community in saying that I support instituting whatever additional measures are necessary to protect the fishery, whether that means larger size limits, shorter seasons, slot limits, or some other regulatory measure. Similarly I also believe that we will not and should not allow for commercial and governmental entities to take advantage of this situation to shift a proportion of the striper allocated to Maryland away from recreational anglers and give it to commercial interests.

Any new catch regulations should have no bearing on how the total catch is allocated between recreational and commercial interests because they are unrelated issues.

Comments on the options to the draft addendum to amendment:

- Option 1 is more or less irrelevant, as it makes no changes and thus obviously does not meet the necessary reduction in harvest levels.
- Option 2 calls for more or less equal reductions between recreational and commercial is the only fair option of consequence. Recreational anglers must remove at least 18-percent fewer fish from the water, though the different regulation options allow for up to a 21-percent reduction. Commercial fishermen must remove 18-percent fewer fish from the water.
- The existence of "Option 3" is a folly and should be stricken / voted down immediately on principle of catch allocation being unrelated to total catch quota. There is no rationale or fairness to this option where commercial takes a 1.8-percent reduction while the recreational community takes a reduction between 20- and 29-percent depending on the regulation method chosen.
- The stated rationale for option 3 does nothing to address and fairly solve the recreational harvest levels while the regulation changes brought about by Option 2 do in fact act as a limit of recreational harvest.

- It is clear by the existence of option 3 that Commercial interest see and an have influenced the need for harvest limits to snatch a larger portion of the total fish being harvested.

Bottom line: There's is no defensible reason why the recs should take 20 to 29 % reductions, while the commercial sector takes 1.8.

Recreational anglers are not to blame for all of the dead floating fish being seen. Many of these fish come from nets and problems . ASMFC and DNR must do more to address the wasted fish from commercial gear, as well as bigger issues related to water quality and food availability.

Sincerely

Tim Mierzwicki

Crofton, MD

Comments

From: Tom Fuda <tom.fuda@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019 11:02 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments Regarding Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass

I am a recreational fisherman that targets mainly striped bass and bluefish in the Housatonic river estuary and surrounding areas. Like many of my fellow anglers in the area, about 90% of the striped bass I catch are in the 16' to 24' inch size range. I'm of the opinion it is these fish we need to protect. They represent the future of the fishery. Therefore I think the only conservation option that makes sense is to change the daily limit to 1 fish at 35 inches (Option 2, Sub-Option 2-A1). It takes about 6 to 7 years for a striped bass to reach 28 inches, and this also coincides with the time at which they reach prime spawning age. A slot limit that starts at 28 inches would target these fish just as they are reaching sexual maturity. A limit of 1 fish at 35 inches would allow these fish to spawn for several seasons before they can be harvested (legally). A slot limit would basically target these fish at the exact time in their lives when they are most critical to the rebuilding of the fishery. Also, I feel that it would only lead to increased mortality by unscrupulous fishermen that "release" dead smaller fish caught earlier in their fishing excursions, so they can keep a larger fish caught later in the same trip. Yes, I understand the arguments that a slot limit protects the larger fish that produce more eggs, but there is also strength in numbers. For every one fish above 36 inches, there are probably 1000 smaller fish that are capable of spawning future generations.

Regarding the Chesapeake Bay fishery, I'm in favor of Sub-Option 2-B1 (1 @ 18" minimum) since this results in the greatest reduction in harvest.

Regarding release mortality, I think it is important to implement mandatory circle hook usage when targeting stripers (either directly or indirectly) with bait. I also feel that it is important to provide education regarding other ways of reducing mortality. Specifically, things like crushing barbs on treble hooks and/or removing all but one treble hook from lures out of the box. Alternatively, switching out trebles for single hooks. I've seen instances where a fish will sustain serious injury to its eyes when the 2nd (or 3rd) treble hook swings around as the fish struggles. Another benefit is that it is much easier to get the hooks out when they are barbless, therefore greatly reducing the amount of time the fish is out of the water. If the minimum size is going to be raised, then the vast majority of fish caught will be undersized. Therefore we must take steps to reduce the mortality of these fish to be released.

Lastly, I think a seasonal closure of the fishery from December through March is warranted. Over the past few years, I've seen a winter fishery pop up in the Housatonic and other Connecticut rivers. This targets winter hold-over fish that are mostly under the current 28 inch limit. These fish are concentrated in a relatively small area, and are therefore subject to intense fishing pressure and high probability of release mortality, as the same fish may be caught multiple times during the winter months.

Thank you for your efforts,
Tom Fuda

Comments

From: Kevin Henault <kevinhenault@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 7:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: saving the striped bass

I am in favor of a 35 inch minimum for one fish per day. The slot choice would just let too many 28 inch fish taken away. A 35 inch rule gives reproductive opportunities to many more fish over the next 2-3 years. And circle hooks, yes a no-brainer they are proven to work well. Do you have any thoughts on banning treble hooks? I use two hooks with crushed barbs fishing out of my kayak and fins it's quicker when releasing fish (esp. bluefish!) You lose some stripers that free themselves but nothing is worse than a fish reeled in with three hooks in its mouth. Thanks for your time and please make the right decision for these great hard-fighting fish.

Kevin

Comments

From: DENNIS PRZEKOP <dennispz@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 11:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: I agree except mandatory circle hooks

Dear FMP Coordinator Appelman,

As an angler that loves sportfishing, I understand the responsibility of making tough management decisions to ensure the striped bass resource returns to a healthy status. Therefore, I support ending overfishing as a critical first step to rebuilding the striped bass population and offer the following management recommendations to ASMFC.

3.1 Proposed Management Scenario Recommendation

I support scenario 2: equal percent reductions between the recreational and commercial sectors. Rationale is detailed in the bullets below:

- Conservation efforts should be shared equally between the recreational and commercial sectors because everyone that uses the resource has a shared interest in its future.
- In both management scenarios (i.e., 2 and 3), the reductions for the commercial sector are based on Addendum IV quotas instead of 2017 harvest potentially allowing for an increase in removals if the quotas are fully utilized. This contradicts the intent of the Addendum.
- Scenario 3 would disproportionately punish states that only have a recreational fishery or convert their commercial quota to a recreational bonus fish program (e.g., ME, NH, CT, NJ, PA, DC).
- 97% of total economic contribution came from the recreational sector in 2016, and that amounted to expenditures totaling \$6.3 billion dollars. Therefore, placing more economic burden on the recreational fishery by taking a smaller reduction on the commercial fishery is not supported.

Conservation Equivalency

I recommend ASMFC strive for coastwide consistency in management measures but support the use of conservation equivalency programs if the proposed alternative measures quantifiably achieve the required reduction, and the Board follows up to hold states accountable for those reductions through the fishery performance review process.

3.2 Circle Hook Provision Recommendation

I support option 2: require the use of non-offset circle hooks when fishing with bait.

- Currently, circle hook requirements for the striped bass fishery vary across the states even though science supports the use of circle hooks reduces discard mortality.
- 90% of recreational catch is released alive so any efforts to reduce discard mortality will help the resource.
- Educational campaigns to teach anglers the various techniques of using circle hooks should be employed by all the states to support effective implementation of this option.

Thank you for taking the necessary action to end overfishing and start rebuilding the striped bass resource to a healthy stock status.

Sincerely,

DENNIS PRZEKOP

25 Pratte Ave
Taftville, CT 06380
dennispz@live.com

Comments

From: Chip Bates <chip@angleradventures.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 11:25 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Yes to Option 2

I've watched the quantity and size of striped bass decline over the past 30 years. 2019 was an all time low. We're about to lose this fishery. We need another Moritorium! Short of that, we must enact Option 2 of the ASMFC Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the interstate fishery management plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

I vote for Option 2.

Chip Bates ><(((((*>
16 4th Ave, Old Saybrook, CT 06475, USA
Cell: 860-304-1702
Home: 860-339-5528

Email: Chip@angleradventures.com

Comments

From: George Whitehead <georgebwhitehead@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 11:11 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Fish limit

One fish only. Per day, per person minimum 35 inch

George Whitehead
617 240 5000

Comments

From: KEITH SALISBURY <captkeith@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 8:47 AM
To: Comments
Subject: StripedBass Draft Addendum VI.

I feel that one fish at 28 inches per person per day is acceptable. Unless Your findings show the stock is way below historical averages. If that is the case then I am in favor of shutting it down completely. I personally do not like slot limits because most times You are killing a fish to catch a fish. I do know a solution to this problem. I remember the first collapse in the early 80"s when the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation put out their award winning video Striper Restoring Coastal Striped Bass. I am sure that video is available to you anyways My suggestion would be to copy what worked then. Also I firmly believe that a donation of at least 20 dollars per person [and I know every fisherman on the east coast would contribute, plus commercial fisherman would also be contributing. It shouldn't cost the government anything. We restored it once, We overfished it again, time to do the right thing and bring the mighty Striped Bass back again!.....OH YEA, When are You going to do something about the over population of cormorants they have depleted the flounder stocks the American EEL stocks and any and every small fish available to them. Now I see them trying to eat whole bunker. Thanks for allowing the public to comment. Good luck!

Comments

From: Avon Void <kuroookamiakuma@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 10:52 PM
To: Comments; CHRIS GUAY
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

To the Staff and Commissioners of the ASFMC

I thank you for all the hard work you have put into achieving a goal so terribly difficult to reach. Especially when attempting to find a balance among fields of the fishery of Strippers.

However in my opinion there are issues at hand with the groups accountability in terms of Addendum VI and the time it will take for the ASFMC's plans to come to fruition. Where as the Addendum calls for no more than ten years, current plans on the committee's end appears to be gearing for 2033 This I find unacceptable when the issue is so terribly glaring.

Because of this I find that the management efforts to Striped Bass to be governed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. It has a more thorough basis or framework that will guide us in avoiding the position we find ourselves in currently.

As an angler who desires to see the aforementioned aquatic life thrive, I stand with the Atlantic Saltwater Guides Association. They have my support on this matter completely. In my opinion this association has the ability to guide and the amount of expertise needed in order to assist us in helping the Striped Bass population bloom once more.

I plead that the Commission adopt the list of options below in order to rebuild the stocks and end the curse that is over fishing. Options are as follows:

OPTION 2:

Equal percent reductions.

Everyone that takes part in this fishery is responsible for its health and prosperity, and we all must make sacrifices to rebuild it.

Sub-Option 2A-1:

1 fish @ 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery

Because the stocks have been crippled before, and have been rebuilt with this regulation, it can be done again. Where as other methods have failed in their attempt to better the fishery. Here, ALL states MUST adhere to the above rule. If there are those permitted to go astray, there is no way to reasonably expect any measure of improvement to happen.

Sub-Option 2B-1

1 fish at 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

One should be able to note that Maryland's conservation equivalency proposal was not assessed accurately. Due to this the recreational sector was allowed to grossly over fish. This was permitted to happen in the breeding grounds of seventy-five percent of the ENTIRE population. This is absolutely unacceptable.

CIRCLE HOOK PROVISION

Option B

Circle hooks NEED to be a must for use in all state when fishing with bait. Proven by science, circle hooks greatly improve catch and release mortality. Many of the anglers I am associated with have turned to bait to catch the increasingly small numbers of Striped Bass they have access to. This has made lures or flies almost wholly ineffective. This is certain to continue while the stocks are rebuilt. Because of this I insist the Commission to make it mandatory in ALL states that any bait fishing must use circle hooks. Doing anything else would be, in my opinion, taking multiple steps backward as opposed to the desire to move forward and improve the fishery and its stocks.

While incredibly restrictive compared to other possibilities, these options are also the most appropriate for Addendum VI in my opinion. They must be adopted in its final draft. As a recreational angler, a hefty amount of my money is spent investing in gear, fishing trips and networking with fellow fishermen and women on the East Coast fishing for Striped Bass. AS it stands 2020 will likely be the last time to fish for these beautiful creatures until the stocks come back to life. That is, if we succeed in rebuilding them at all. Much to my dismay, many of the mentioned friends have already given up on Strippers due to the dire situation. It is unavoidable that a total collapse is immanent, and we all know it will result in the loss of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in income in the states under the Commission's jurisdiction. I'm certain you have both seen and felt these effects already. This brings sorrow to me, because these beautiful fish I have come to admire and love suffer. Because those friends and likely many more to come, will no longer have a chance to fish for them, and nor will I. We will not be able to plan out trips together just in hopes of catching one of these creatures, and release it once our wonder has passed, only to continue the hunt. With the loss of this fishery, I could never see some of these friends ever again.

Regardless of what may happen, I will strive forward and fight for alignment with the ASGA. I hope that one day this wonderful, broadly adored and admired, fishery will one day return to the glory it had once known.

Thank you for taking the time to read, and allowing me to comment on the situation.

Breanna Wellheuser

Striped Bass angler

ASGA supporter

Comments

From: Glynn, John <John.Glynn@aecom.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

In order to address the overfishing and the drastic reduction in striped bass stocks I recommend a full moratorium be put in place for 3 years. In the absence of a full moratorium I recommend the following options as outlined in Addendum VI:

- * Equal reductions across all sectors (Option 2)
- * 1 Fish @ 35" or above for the ocean (Option 2A-1)
- * 1 fish @ 18" or above for the Chesapeake (Option 2B-1)
- * Mandatory Circle Hooks for bait

Regards

John Glynn

Comments

From: Gary King <gking5090@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 2:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Vote

Voting for—3— keep that

Cobia. That should be a one fish per boat size has to be 32 inches range Strikers are a true game fish like cobia Game fish
Please don't let those fishing for

Sword fish catch release same way with small dolphin and tuna in Maryland Virginia taking any thing. If they keep going
like it is there won't be any left We must stop this in Maryland this how how is it to release a big fish. Plus half these
people Sale the fish became they make money

Please please note this please I'm for

Opt—3— keep it been fishing in Delaware for 58 years and only take what my belly can eat

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Barbara Ireland <irlnd6@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 10:21 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Barbara Ireland
Subject: Striped Bass Management

I believe that there should be three sets of rules for the management of striped bass.

1: Recreational fishermen whether from shore or on private boats should should abide by the current rules and use circle hooks when using bait.

Keep the minimum size at 28 inches and allow an additional fish of 42 inches. The mandatory use of circle hooks will cut down the mortality rate

but it will be a tough rule to enforce.

2: Party boats should also abide by the same rule with the use of circle hooks while using bait.

3: Lower the amount of weight but not enough to put them out of business.

The use of circle hooks should cut down the mortality rate of undersized fish.

Ed Ireland

Comments

From: pavia@frontiernet.net
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 10:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass survey

I suggest that the recreational fishing and commercial fishing be shut down until the striped bass fully recover to acceptable levels.

Jeff Pavia

Comments

From: Slayer T <seabassslayerny@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello to whoever is reading, my name is Robert Coonan and I would like to put my desired selection of the options stated in the email referring to the 2020 striped bass fishery. A little background on myself, I've worked on fishing boats for the last nine years, mostly and currently, aboard the Laura Lee Fleet. I co-own a small fishing tackle company that specializes in teasers for the northeast. I'm a part of another DEC Striped Bass Fishing Survey that collects information on every bass outing as well. I'm also an avid fisherman since I was two years old, fishing for quite literally anything at anytime in any form across the northeast and speckled in a variety of other states across the US. Personal fishing records and recollection show no need for reduction of the striped bass fishery, there has been consistent action the same year after year for myself and my fishing vessel. I would like to choose the following option therefore:

Option 1: Status Quo

- Current regulations in the Marine and Coastal District (south of the George Washington Bridge) are a 1 fish bag limit; a 28" total length minimum size limit; and an open season from April 15 through December 15.
- In the Hudson River region (north of the George Washington Bridge) current regulations are a 1 fish bag limit; a size limit of either an 18"-28" total length slot, or greater than 40" total length; and an open season from April 1 through November 30.
- Note: Status quo will not help to address the recent decline in the striped bass resource.

Comments

From: Jay Bernstein <jsbchaser@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 7:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Rockfish sport fish

The time is now. Rockfish game fish.
Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Steve Pitts <stevejpitts@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 4:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: ASMFC (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

For the attention of the Commissioners and officers of the ASMFC

Dear Sirs

I welcome chance to participate and comment on Addendum VI to be implemented for the 2019 Striped Bass season and going forwards.

My background

I am a 63 year old recreational angler from the UK and have been fishing since the age of 9. For the past 25 years I have been travelling abroad to fish as many as four times a year and the USA has regularly featured in my travel itinerary, mainly because of the USA's forward-thinking fisheries management which has ensured thriving recreational and commercial fisheries, which in many cases are the envy of the world.

I am one of a group of UK anglers who have collectively visited the East coast to fish for striped bass for the past 20 years, totalling dozens of transatlantic trips, hundreds of days and many weeks and months chasing stripers and spending many, many thousands of \$s in New York, Maine and Mass states.

We have taken 'the striped bass story' back to the UK and held the recovery of the striped bass fishery up as a beacon of fisheries stewardship and a model which could and should be implemented for the European bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) which is now below Blim and has been for several years due to overfishing and unregulated landings - a situation not unlike that facing the striper stocks before, and again now.

My concerns

It is extremely worrying that your (dare I suggest our joint) striper fishery is heading in a similar direction as evidenced in our catches over the past half-dozen years. I, and most of my compatriots, practice 100% catch and release, but have noticed the numbers of 'keeper' sized fish dropping and not stabilizing.

Not for the first time has scientific advice been put aside in deference to those with a vested financial interest in the fishery, both recreational and commercial and some of the half-hearted proposals suggests a 10 to 15 year recovery period, when we all know that this is far too long and a more robust strategy is urgently required.

Regrettably, this looks like history repeating itself and lessons have not been learned from the previous stock crash, when over-harvesting contributed to the demise of this once super-abundant species.

My preferred options from those given are:

Option 2

Equal Percent Reductions..

Every Stake Holder who participates in the Striped Bass fishery is equally responsible for its health and future continuation. Every stakeholder should share the burden ... and future success ... in any recovery plan.

Sub- Option 2A-1

1 fish at 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery.

A similar size was used in the past with some historical success when the resource was previously at historically low levels.

It would be prudent to implement any recovery measures across all States along the migratory routes of the striped bass.

Sub- Option 2- B-1

1 fish at 18" for Chesapeake Bay.

Option B

Circle hooks must be mandatory for use when fishing with bait in all states.

Circle hooks have been proven to offer increased survival rates for released fish.

Of the options put forward these are likely to be the most effective and in the shortest timescale.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Pitts

Comments

From: Greg Shute <ifishmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 6:08 PM
To: Comments; Greg Shute
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am a licensed Maryland fishing guide and independent sales representative for a sport fishing boat manufacturer. A significant portion of my income is based on a healthy striped bass fishery. Our recreational fishing is nearly solely dependent upon striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay unlike coastal fisheries. Therefore, I support option 2 that would attempt to manage mortality for target and implement an equal 18% reduction to both the commercial and recreational fisheries. **To have a lesser reduction for one sector over another would have the commission picking which industries are winners and losers in these necessary reductions.** There are many more jobs on the recreational sector and our incomes are just as important to our families as the commercial fishing jobs are to them.

I also want to caution the commission against the use of conservation equivalency. While I believe the states should have input on what the regulations should be to achieve the necessary mortality reduction, they seem to have been used to not take the effective mortality reductions. I believe the TC has put forth a number of effective options that would result in maintaining participation in the recreational fishery while reducing mortality. States should be pushed to select one of these options without very compelling reasons to not do so.

I also support the requirement of in-line circle hooks for the striped bass fishery. We have had the regulation on the Chesapeake Bay for two years now and it has reduced deep hooking significantly when the current is running. Studies on the Chesapeake Bay also show them to be effective in reducing release mortality. **Release morality rates should also be re-evaluated based better scientific study.**

I also desire a more effective methods for gathering data on recreational fishing. I believe MRIP has done a poor job, especially at effectively measuring dead discards.

Sincerely,

--

Capt. Greg Shute
410-533-1435

www.iFishMD.com

Independent sales rep for www.JudgeYachts.com

Comments

From: Dan King <danking49@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 5:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Proposals

I primarily fish from the beaches of Rhode Island and support option 2-A2 1 28"-35" slot. Status quo is unacceptable. I most often fish to fillet for dinner, and rarely participate in fishing contests. The vast majority of fish I catch from the sand in southern RI are 28"-30". Any minimum size above 28" will pretty much end the fishery for me, with little chance of catching dinner and too much of an increased number of fish killed (9% release mortality).

I also support option B to require the use of circle hooks for bait (as described). While there is an argument for option C because enforcement of this rule would be difficult, I believe this requirement would be grounds to urge the State of Rhode Island to increase funding for our Department of Environmental Management for law enforcement; which is woefully underfunded now.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposals.

Dan King
20 North Capalbo Drive
Bradford, RI 02808
401-932-6290
Danking49@live.com

Comments

From: Thomas Falco <thomasfalco68@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 4:51 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Hello,

My name is Capt. Tom Falco, and I am the owner/operator of Jenny E Charters, a six-pack out of Fire Island Inlet, Long Island, NY. I have fished the waters surrounding Long Island for over 40 years, and thereby feel I have an informed opinion about these matters.

Although I fish for most of the inshore species, my "specialty" (and my favorite) is Striped Bass. I have witnessed the decline of the fishery, and I am encouraged that New York (along with ASMFC) has decided to do something about it. The health of this fishery is of the utmost importance to my business and my lifestyle!

Regarding the Addendum:

—I feel the recreational and commercial sectors should share the burden equally (Option 2).

—It's my belief that Option 2A, the 35" min, is the best way to go at this point. Perhaps this will be a slight hardship for my colleagues in the for-hire sector, but it's necessary to rebuild the stock. It has worked in the past, let's just tough it out get it done again.

—Regarding circle hooks, we should do whatever makes the most sense to get folks to use them! I'll leave it to your discretion whether or not to make it a law; I would support either decision.

Although it's not part of this addendum, I strongly believe we need to curtail the use of treble hooks, especially bunker snags. A fish caught using a bunker snag is almost always gut hooked, making a successful release near impossible.

Thank you for your time and attention to my comment....

Regards,
Capt Tom Falco
Jenny E Charters
www.jennyecharters.com

Comments

From: Vincent Aquilino <vinlino@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 4:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass

One fish 28+ and NO fish over 40

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Steve Unsworth <ccunsworth@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass

To Whom it May Concern,

It has been more than frustrating watching the striped bass population decline over the last 10 years. Mr. Diodati about 8 years ago proposed reducing the recreation catch from 2 to 1 fish per day and the commercial catch by 40%. He said if nothing was done then that more severe steps would be necessary in the future. The current plan to reduce mortality by 18% is inadequate and has less than a 50% chance of producing the desired results.

A moratorium on keeping striped bass should be implemented for both recreation and commercial fishermen until the stock rebounds.

An opinion of a frustrated and angry fisherman.

Steve Unsworth

Comments

From: Scott Dorn <Scott.Dorn.238409806@p2a.co>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: *****SPAM***** Re: Comments on Striped Bass Addendum VI
Attachments: Original message before MIMEDefang

This e-mail has been identified and tagged as Spam by the Raptor Anti-Spam filters.

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Content preview: Dear ASMFC Member,\n\nIn the Chesapeake Bay region, striped bass catch is split nearly evenly between the recreational and commercial sectors. Because both sectors benefit equally, they should share t [...]

Filter Tests:

AC_FROM_MANY_DOTS,DKIM_SIGNED,DKIM_VALID,DKIM_VALID_AU,DKIM_VALID_EF,FREEMAIL_FORGED_REPLYTO,HTML_IMAGE_ONLY_12,HTML_MESSAGE,RCVD_IN_DNSWL_NONE,SPF_PASS,TXREP,T_REMOTE_IMAGE

URI Tests: p2a.co phone2action.com

Content analysis details: (6.1 points, 6.0 required)

-0.0 RCVD_IN_DNSWL_NONE RBL: Sender listed at <https://www.dnswl.org/>,
no trust
[149.72.205.43 listed in list.dnswl.org]
-0.0 SPF_PASS SPF: sender matches SPF record
1.6 HTML_IMAGE_ONLY_12 BODY: HTML: images with 800-1200 bytes of
words
0.0 HTML_MESSAGE BODY: HTML included in message
-0.1 DKIM_VALID_AU Message has a valid DKIM or DK signature from
author's domain
0.1 DKIM_SIGNED Message has a DKIM or DK signature, not necessarily
valid
-0.1 DKIM_VALID Message has at least one valid DKIM or DK signature
-0.1 DKIM_VALID_EF Message has a valid DKIM or DK signature from
envelope-from domain
2.5 FREEMAIL_FORGED_REPLYTO Freemail in Reply-To, but not From
2.5 AC_FROM_MANY_DOTS Multiple periods in From user name
0.0 T_REMOTE_IMAGE Message contains an external image
-0.4 TXREP TXREP: TxRep reputation score

Comments

From: kenbonnyl@verizon.net
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 3:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please accept my comments for the record on the above referenced issue:

* I strongly support OPTION 2 that requires an equal percent reduction for all user groups.

* I strongly oppose OPTION 3 that would essentially reallocate harvest from recreational fishermen to the commercial sector based on estimates from a single years harvest data.

* I also support conservation equivalency measures that are equal to or exceed the 18% reduction for all sectors that are approved by the Technical Committee and the Striped Bass Board.

Thank you.

Kenneth B. Lewis, M.D.
13801 York Road, G-6
Cockeysville, MD 21030
443-578-8277

Comments

From: Thomas Koerber <thkroccus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 1:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

We need to act now before its to late , one fish at 35".
Tom Koerber

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Sea Hunter <sea.hunter@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 1:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper regs

A2-2

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Richard Ward <wardofthestates@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 1:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: ward2u Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I prefer Option 3

Comments

From: Louis Maglione <lmaglione@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 11:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: STRIPED BASS Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr Appelman,

First off, thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinions, comments and concerns regarding the new proposed rules and regulations set forth in Addendum VI.

It is my opinion that the current regulations stay as status quo, a single fish 28" or over, (option 1). I agree something needs to be done and I will address this as I continue.

I believe the New England states have been treated unfairly for quite some time as far a recreational limits are concerned, especially when we take into account Maryland with a 2 fish limit.

Any proposal that can be considered viable has to have everyone on board and adhering to the same regulations.

My second choice would be option 2-A4^ a 32 to 40" slot limit.

I would also like to see a proposal for Seniors, say 70 and older have the same current regulations as now with the possibility of a bonus fish added to their limits.

These are the individuals who have supported our sport, our legislators, and legislative decisions for many years.

I believe a proposal of this nature would have minimal if any impact at all and I think other states would be anxious to follow suite.

To bring the Striped Bass population back to sustainable levels, Gill netting should be eliminated everywhere entirely. It's nearly non - selective and has a significant impact to other species as well.

The other thing that should be done away with across the board is commercial rod and reel or pin hooking. This does little to support our fishery where as a single fisherman that's allowed 1 fish will bring more dollars in to support our fisheries, our states, and our economy.

I've been a dedicated fisherman for almost 60 years, and truly enjoy the sport which has been an important part of my life.

Again, thank you for your time concerning this matter. Its truly appreciated!

Respectfully, Lou Maglione, US Army retired, Wallingford CT.

Comments

From: Luke Mess <messluke@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 11:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Adopt Option Two

Hello,

I'm writing to express my desire for you to adopt Option Two. Also, please protect Recreational Striper fishing forever by making The Wild Striped Bass a sport game fish only. Science shows that the oceans have much stress on them these days with climate change. The commercial fishing industry need not take these wild gift of a fish for profit. If industrial fishing needs to sell Striper they are welcome to invest in sustainable farming. Protect the ocean. Protect the environment. Protect our earth. Protect the Striper. Thank you.

-Luke Mess

--

-Luke Mess

Comments

From: Matthew P. Hare <mph75@cornell.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 10:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

To Whom it May Concern,

After reviewing the ASMFC striped bass management plan proposals, I favor Option 3, coupled with circle hook option B. This seems more fair to the commercial industry and puts the pressure on states to implement a simple and important change to recreational gear that can reduce take and release mortality.

If there is no appetite for regulating recreational fishing hooks then I prefer Option 2, because Option 3 would subject the population to even more catch and release mortality.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hare
120 Homestead Circle
Ithaca, NY 14850

Comments

From: Gene Geld <bridesburg47@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 7:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

I attended the meeting on September 12, 2019. My evaluation of the data lead me to conclude that the best way to proceed is to maintain the status quo and visit this again when we have more information.

Very truly yours,

Gene Geld

Comments

From: Gene Geld <bridesburg47@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 7:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

I attended the meeting on September 12, 2019. My evaluation of the data lead me to conclude that the best way to proceed is to maintain the status quo and visit this again when we have more information.

Very truly yours,

Gene Geld

Comments

From: Tom Hollensshade <tomhollensshade@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 10:58 PM
To: Comments; Mike.luisi@maryland.gov
Subject: Addendum VI options

Gentlemen,

I have reviewed the options being considered for Addendum VI regarding the rockfish fishery and support Option 2 . Option 2 requires the cooperation of all sectors to rebuild the fishery by taking equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector and equal percentages should be used. I also support options that meet or exceed the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI, and support any proposed action with a higher probability of reducing fishing mortality.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Hollensshade
2315 Turkey Point Rd
Baltimore, MD 21221
410-686-5344
410-937-9895
Tomhollensshade@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: RM Lytle <brwntroutangler@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 10:39 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My name is Rowan Lytle. I'm a 22 year old fish addict that never had to see the striped bass population at its worst, but never got to see it at its best either. I've not been striper fishing long. I won't pretend to know all the ins and outs of the fishery. But I do pay as much attention as I can. I talk to people who have been watching far longer than I. And even in the short time I have partaken in this fishery, I have seen the quality diminish. The data supports what I've seen and what the most experienced people I've met say. And I think I can speak for a lot of us in saying that the measures proposed in this draft addendum fall well short of what this fishery need.

Any measure that only results in a 50/50 chance of success is frustrating for us to see. We need to have a much higher standard than that. This commission's only real tangible success was restoring the striped bass stocks after the last big crash. I'd think it wouldn't want to drag its only successfully saved fishery down by implementing measures that are as apt to fail as they are to succeed when the opportunity was there to implement stronger measures.

The only measures proposed by Addendum VI that I support are as follows:

Option 2: Equal 18% percent Reductions of quota on recreational and commercial sectors
Sub-Option 2A-1 -1 fish at 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery
Sub-Option 2B-1- 1 Fish at 18" for the Chesapeake Bay
Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

These measures should go a long way to protecting the strong 2015 year class, but should not be maintained so long that once that year class reaches legal size they then get decimated. With such poor reproductive yields some years and great yields others, keeping the size and limits the same can shift fishing pressure on and off the most important and at-risk stocks within fairly short time spans. I know it's a lot to ask of this extremely slow moving commission, but if regulations don't consistently change in accordance to strong and weak year classes and spawning stock biomass, there will be no way of getting out of this population crash without another moratorium. Because fishing pressure is far from the only pressure impacting this species, I don't foresee a way to properly manage these fish for many years to come without changing the regulations periodically.

Also, it is my concern that new regulations will do very little when so many doesn't pay attention to them. Without strong penalties and enforcement, a fish that tastes good and costs a lot at market is going to be severely poached. A state can even go drastically over quota in a given year and not get any sort of push-back whatsoever. That is unfair to us and unfair to the fish, and shows that this commission may as well just be for show.

Finally, since the mortality of released fish is a clear concern, mandatory circle hooks will help but are not enough. States should at least be strongly encouraged, if not required, to advocate for good, scientifically based fish handling and release practices. Encouraging use of single barbless hooks would also be a very good idea, and I wouldn't be opposed to an outright ban of barbed treble hooks for use on striped bass. Closing mid winter and mid summer seasons would also decrease the number of bass that would expire after being released. Seeing as a number of states already have closed seasons to protect bass at their most vulnerable, this has precedence.

If I ever have children and even grandchildren, I would very much like to be able to take them to places I've fished for striped bass over the last four years. And I'd very much like to be able to point out a big striper blitz and say "See that? See how beautiful that is? This is better than it was when I was a kid. This is the healthiest this fishery has ever been."

My confidence that I will be able to do that, to see that, wanes every day.

This is not enough. **DO YOUR JOB.** Protect this fishery.

Thank you for allowing an avenue to comment on this addendum.

Rowan Lytle,
8 Barton Hill Rd. East Hampton CT 06424

Comments

From: Barry Woods <barrywoods@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 9:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman:

I have been an avid recreational striped bass fisherman since I was a teenager in the 1970's and have borne witness to this stock's mismanagement in the 80's, it's resurrection in the 90's, and now it's impending crash (yet again) in the late 2000's. As a middle-aged male with an abiding love for fishing and for this great sport fish, I am deeply disturbed by the current state of the stock and the ASFMC inability to maintain a sustainable fishery for recreation users, who provide the greatest economic value relating to this fishery. I am not sure if my generation will live long enough to see mature female striped bass in any significant numbers, nor am I certain what the impact of climate change will have on this specie and its availability for my children and grandchildren's enjoyment.

I urge you to act aggressively and to select the option that is most likely to result in the quickest and most long lasting recovery for this fish. Female brood stock should be allowed to grow and have multiple breeding seasons. I believe you should select option 2, equal reductions recreational and commercial users. Within this option I would prefer you select Sub Option 2-A1, which mimics the earlier 36" minimum that resulted in recovery and allows the largest fish to continue to breed. I am concerned that a slot limit would result in further pressure on the YOY 2011 class fish which was the last strong breeding year. I would urge Sub Option 2-B3, a slot limit that also preserves the largest breeding females. Only if we preserve the largest fish (with demonstrably the healthiest genes) will we maintain the strongest attributes of the species. These options appear to provide that opportunity, although I am not a fisheries biologist. My suggestion is that you preserve the largest fish and strive to reduce harvest rates immediately to rebuild the stock.

I thank you for this opportunity to respond to Addendum VI.

Sincerely,
Barry Woods

Comments

From: Jon Brideau <jonbrideau1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I am writing to submit my comments about the over fishing of striped bass. I have lived/worked/fished in the waters of Cape Ann, Massachusetts for most of my life (35 years old). From hauling traps on commercial lobster boats as a teenager, to striped bass fishing every summer since I was about 10, I have seen my fair share of recreational and commercial fishing in our waters. With social media and internet groups, my passion has grown with the access to knowledge, trends, and insights to this fishery.

With this said, I think the problems of over fishing is happening with BOTH recreational and commercial striped bass fishing.

We see countless social media posts of commercial fisherman gaffing bass for their clients of any size. Captains boast proudly that they have landed clients large sized breeding females, and take to social media to advertise photos and videos of their business to gain client share. They have little regard for sustainability as they are driven by dollars to afford their, understandably, marginal business.

As much as I support our local commercial lobster men (after working for 5 different boats in my younger years), I am appalled to see the large sized females that they are allowed to catch and sell commercially. During one of the best weeks of the summer for stripers (July 22-26th) this year I caught several large stripers in the 40"-50" range, mostly due to the amount of pogy schools on Cape Ann, releasing them all. That week alone, a few people I know in the seafood and lobstering industry posted photos of trucks full of the same sized fish being sold back on land. I can't understand why we don't put a ceiling on the fish length for the commercial permits, or limit the quota for the season. The amount taken that week alone put a dent into the biomass.

On the other side, I have come across countless recreational fisherman in my life that not only break our keeper regulations, fail to purchase licensing, but also leave a disgusting mess behind them on the water, on the docks, piers, and parking lots where they access local fishing hot spots. Most of them are not trained to properly catch and release, so they lean on imminent mortality to keep any and all fish coming off their lines. With the amazing technology and bait advances, any recreational fisherman can find and land stripers without any real knowledge. This leads to reckless decisions and many poorly handled fish. The recreational fishery is understandably hard to manage with limited resources of local authorities and I often find myself wondering how we can help, outside of calling in suspicious activity.

I personally support a slot of 28"-34" (one keeper per fisherman), but more importantly a ceiling of 34" to keep the female breeders from being kept. I have already converted all my tackle to inline circle hooks before our change in Massachusetts for 2020. I would support further efforts to streamline tackle to be less harmful, like limited treble hooks on all baits and the size of hooks/line required.

I hope to see this fishery come back and more importantly stay healthy for lifetimes to come so my own kids can enjoy what we have with striped bass.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter and please feel free to reach out,

--

Jon Brideau
978-853-1129

Comments

From: Neil Stoff <nstoff8@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:11 PM
To: Comments
Cc: maureen.davidson@ncdenr.gov; Emerson Hasbrouck; James Gilmore; Sen. TODD KAMINSKY
Subject: striped bass draft addenedum VI

Dear Max,

My name is Neil Stoff and I'm an avid striped bass fisherman from all platforms (surf,kayak & boat) All I want is for a healthy fishery by any means necessary

18% reduction applied equally

-I would ideally like to see a minimum limit at 1@ 35 or a slot limit with a range of 35-40"

-i also think its imperative to open the season after May1 when all the Hudson bay spawners make it out of rartain bay !!!

-option 2b1- 1@18 for the Chesapeake bay (with serious repercussions over fishing)

Thank you for the consideration
Neil

Comments

From: Natalie Menage <fmenage@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Comments
Cc: MICHAEL LUISI
Subject: Addendum VI Options

Gentlemen,

I have reviewed the options being considered for amending Addendum VI and support Option 2 because it requires the cooperation of all the stakeholders to rebuild the fishery. All sectors should take should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equality. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector and equal percentages should be used. I also support options that meets or exceeds the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI and I support any proposed action with a higher probability of reducing fishing mortality. I also support the idea that a fish caught below the minimum size limit that has swallowed the hook be kept by the angler after cutting the line and counted as one fish toward his daily limit. Should any questions or comments arise concerning this subject, please feel free to contact me. Thank You, Frederick C. Menage, Jr, Pasadena Sportfishing Group's Public Relations Director

Frederick C. Menage, Jr
1260 Beach Road,
Edgewater, MD 21037
Mobile: 410-212-0198
Home: 410-798-5868

Comments

From: Paul <paul@bostonfishing.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 10:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman

Based on what I see as a charter boat operator, the bass fishing in my area Boston Ma, The fishing has been very good. The bait fish is usually plentiful I have observed in my fishing that the stripers are plentiful in federal waters when we are fishing for sharks and tuna I have concerns about the seal populations on Cape Cod that must be addressed. I have caught many stripers with wounds on there belly section I recommend option 1 status quo Let the states set their size limits and use of circle hooks Thanks Paul Diggins Reel Pursuit Charters Charlestown Ma 02129

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Edgar Kalb <ed@kalb.us>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Comments; mighael.luisi@maryland.gov
Subject: Addendum VI Option

Gentlemen,

Of the options being considered for amending Addendum VI, option 1, status quo, won't help improve rockfish stocks; option 3 is not fair to all citizens of Maryland; so, option 2 gets my logical support. Mutual corporation is achieved when all stakeholders are affected by fair & equal take reductions.

Best regards,

Edgar Kalb, PD
ProCruz Fishing Charter Services
361 Friar Trail
Annapolis, MD 21401
ekalb@procruz.us
410-212-2014

Comments

From: smallie68@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 10:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I am writing you to discuss how important a healthy striped bass fishery is to me and my family. As a father of three and an avid fisherman, our striped bass stocks have dipped to dangerously low levels. We have an opportunity now to protect the smaller fish we are seeing and allow them an opportunity to spawn to rebuild our fishery. The following are my preferred options as presented in draft addendum VI:

- Option 2 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sectors
- Option 2-A1 1 fish at 35"
- Option 2-B1 1 fish at 18" for the Chesapeake Bay
- Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks.

Protection of these fish and allowing them to breed will give our children a chance at catching these amazing game fish in the future. Thank you for your time and I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Small

16 Kingfisher Dr. Smithtown NY 11787

Comments

From: Jeff Marsh <plumwat1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 8:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I'm a New Yorker who surf fishes for stripers every year in the Newburyport MA area. In view of the recent proposal to mitigate overfishing of this precious resource, I would like to comment that I favor a slot limit. In my view this would protect robust larger breeding stock (who have survived that long for a reason!) and also reduce pressure on young stock to help beef up overall numbers that would eventually enter the slot size range. Obviously, even with a slot limit, there should also be a per day limit, perhaps one or two per person. Thank you for accepting public comment from those who are highly invested in keeping striped bass populations healthy! Jeff Marsh

Watertown, NY
plumwat1@gmail.com

Comments

From: Jay Bernstein <jsbchaser@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 6:01 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Rockfish Game Fish

Time to give it a try for 2 years. But to resolve the issue Option 2 is acceptable. Thanks, Jay S. Bernstein, POTOMAC, Maryland.

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Mark Broome <mbroome@optonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 6:31 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Sen. TODD KAMINSKY
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My name is Mark Broome. I am a surf fisherman and was a guide for several years.

A healthy striped bass fishery is important on a recreational level as well as an economic level. I don't keep fish. The last fish I kept was about 12 years ago.

The small bass need to be protected in order to spawn before targeted by the recreational and commercial sector.

I am in support of Option 2-A1B.

Thanks for your time.

Mark Broome
95 Valley Drive
South Beach NY 11789
Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Steve Winters <swinters41059@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 6:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max, my name is Steve Winters and I am 60 years old and have actively fished for Stripers since I was a small child. I grew up in Attleboro MA. My father was Bass man and good friends with the legendary fisherman and conservationist Bob Pond of Atom lures. I moved to Block Island R.I. in 1982 to live my dream of being a fisherman and live there still today. I have seen it all, to put it lightly. I guided beach beach fisherman for Stripers for Orvis for several years. I also commercially fished for ground fish and Striped Bass and made a fair living at it back then. My goal is to keep these fish around for my grandchildren. I am in favor of option 2: 18% reduction applied equally. I feel strongly that we need to preserve the abundant numbers of small fish we are seeing now as it may be the last hope for the future. They must be left to spawn and grow and not be targeted from states that don't value these great fish. I would also ask to close Block Island's Southwest ledge as it is the premier staging grounds to the North East corridor. Day after day these grounds are pounded by recreational and Charter boats leaving port from 4 states, NY CT R.I. and MA. Stop the carnage I beg you. I do appreciate your time and effort on this matter.

Sincerely, Steve Winters P.O. Box 41 Block Island, R.I. 02807 Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Ron Hoff <bronh22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 6:17 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Sen. TODD KAMINSKY
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Max,

My name is Ronald Hoff and i am a surf caster. A healthy Striped Bass fishery is of major importance to the recreational and commercial sector. Many businesses that cater to fisherman need a healthy fishery to stay in business.

The following are my preferred options as presented in draft addendum VI:

Sub-Option 2A- 1 Fish @35"

Sub-Option 2B-1- 1 Fish @ 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

Sincerely,

Ronald Hoff

806 East Chester Street

Long Beach, NY 11561-2703

Comments

From: Adam Cavanagh <adampc@optonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 5:36 PM
To: Comments
Cc: James Gilmore
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max Appelman
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Max,

My name is Adam P. Cavanagh and I am the membership chairman of The Traditional Surfcasters . A healthy striped bass fishery is vital to the recreational and economic interests of the recreational and commercial sectors. The following are my preferred options as presented in Draft Addendum VI:

- Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector
- Option 2-A1: 1@35"
- Option 2-B1 1@18" for Chesapeake Bay
- Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks

I feel that it is very important that the large number of small fish that we are seeing are protected and are able to spawn as many years as possible before being targeted by anglers and the commercial sector.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Adam P. Cavanagh
5 Salt Hay Way
Smithtown, NY 11787

Comments

From: John Bonanno <jbonanno51@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 2:59 PM
To: Comments; MICHAEL LUISI
Subject: Addendum VI Options

Gentlemen

I have reviewed the options being considered for amending Addendum VI, and SUPPORT Option 2! It requires all stakeholders to rebuild the fishery. All sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector.

I support options that meet or exceed the 18% minimum reduction as provided in Addendum VI, and support any proposed action with a higher probability of reducing mortality.

Best Regards

John Bonanno
7925 River Rock Way
Stoney Beach, MD 21226

410-241-3529

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: K D <kcd2214@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 11:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am in favor of a 1 fish bag limit with a larger minimum size of 35".

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Comments

From: Jack Westermeyer <coachjackw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Comments; mike.luisi@maryland.gov; Jack Westermeyer
Subject: Addendum VI options

Gentlemen:

I have reviewed the options being considered for amending Addendum VI, **and support option 2 because** it requires the cooperation of all stakeholders to rebuild the fishery. All sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector and equal percentages should be used. I also support options that **meet or exceed the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI**, and support any proposed action with a higher probability of reducing fishing mortality.

Thank you
John E. Westermeyer
310 Wilmont Way
Bel Air, Maryland 21015
443-271-1234

Comments

From: Joe Giafaglione <Joeg@identimetrics.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 11:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I vote for the status quo, second option would be 1 at 35".

Thanks,

Joe Giafaglione
Vice President, Sales

identiMetrics Biometric ID Management™
Simplify Your School Day

(215).836.5640 ext. 106 Direct
(609).781.0506 Cell
identiMetrics.net

Comments

From: Tim Campbell <tb515@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 10:25 AM
To: Comments; Mike.luisi@maryland.gov
Cc: davidsikorski@ccamd.org; frank.bonanno@gmail.com; capttomhughes@verizon.net; jbonanno51@gmail.com; Dr. Kenneth Lewis; Maggie@ccamd.org; dzajano@verizon.net; newdaysmist@gmail.com; alansfeikin@gmail.com; luckyduff@gmail.com; flholden@msn.com; glengerhuis@yahoo.com; coachjackw@gmail.com; mchassy46@aol.com; fishbone5166@gmail.com; tackleboxtim@verizon.net
Subject: Addendum VI options

Gentlemen:

I have reviewed the options being considered for amending Addendum VI, **and support option 2 because** it requires the cooperation of all stakeholders to rebuild the fishery. All sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector and equal percentages should be used. I also support options that **meet or exceed the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI**, and support any proposed action with a higher probability of reducing fishing mortality.

Thank you

Timothy B. Campbell
24005 Loch Raven Drive
Phoenix, MD 21131

Home: 410-817-4471

Comments

From: M Kelley <hoopskel321@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 9:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

My name is Michael Kelley, I am a recreational angler and passionate striped bass angler. As we all know something must be done to help save the striped bass. I would like to see the Striped Bass become a Sport-fish requiring all fish to be released, similar to the tarpon fishery in Florida. I know this is not a option but should be.

I am in favor of Option 2 Equal Percentage Reductions. Sub-option 2-A4 32"-40" slot limit. And Sub-option 2-B1 a bag limit of 1 18" fish for the Chesapeake Bay. I am also in favor of mandatory use of circle hooks.

Also, I feel more law enforcement officials are needed to enforce these regulations and stricter penalties for poachers are a MUST!

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Ralph Roth <rbroth@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 9:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum vi

I would like to support sub option 2A in the striped bass draft addendum vi Capt Ralph Roth

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Tom_Donna <tom.walsh4@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 7:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripers

Option 2 is the only fair and reasonable option. Anything else would result in the demise of the stripers. The reestablishment of these fish and the bait fish that support them is important to the whole east coast fishery. Thanks

Comments

From: Tom_Donna <tom.walsh4@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 7:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Option 2 is the only fair and reasonable option. Anything else would result in the demise of the stripers. The reestablishment of these fish and the bait fish that support them is important to the whole east coast fishery.
Thanks

Comments

From: todd corayer <tcorayer@fishwrapwriter.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 5:20 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appleman,

Please accept my comments regarding the Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI. It is my belief that for Section 3.1 Proposed Management Scenarios, Equal Percent Reductions for Commercial and Recreational Fisheries. For Ocean Fisheries I support Sub Option 2-A3. For Chesapeake Bay fisheries, I support Sub Option 2-B1. For 3.2 Circle Hook Provision, I support Option C. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Todd Corayer

todd corayer
fishwrapwriter.com
[facebook.com/fish wrap writer](https://facebook.com/fishwrapwriter)
twitter.com/fishwrapwriter
www.ricentral.com/timeout

Comments

From: Charles Devens <CDevens@GWKINVEST.COM>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC,

I am a concerned recreational striped bass fisherman who fishes from Block Island all the way up to Scarborough, ME. From my experience the population of breeding fish is in serious decline over the past 3-4 years, with each year the population shrinking exponentially. I blame this on over-harvesting by both recreational as well as commercial fisherman.

I personally practice catch and release in the hopes that my children and their children may have the experience of catching striped bass in the future.

In any case I support Proposed Management Scenario (2) *an 18% reduction in total removals where the desired percent reductions are applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors.*

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charlie Devens
45 Deerpath Rd
Dedham, MA 02026
(c)617-901-4485

Charles Devens III | GW&K Investment Management
Principal, Head Trader - Municipals

t:617.236.8900
f:617.236.1815
cdevens@gwkinvest.com
www.gwkinvest.com

Comments

From: Atherton, Jon <jon.atherton@yale.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 2:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

I am a recreational angler living in Connecticut, and have been fishing catch and release for striped bass throughout New England for the last decade.

The paucity of the current regulations overseen by the Commission has allowed striped bass populations to plummet to dangerous levels. Striped Bass continue to be over harvested and it is critical that you now institute strong conservation policies to prevent further loss.

Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for striped bass mandates rebuilding stocks with a ten-year time frame. Given that your proposed amendment won't rebuild striper stocks until 2033, I fully support the American Saltwater Guides Association position and echo their concerns as to the glaring lack of accountability at the ASMFC.

The perilous state of the striped bass fishery should require an immediate shift to a more rigid framework like that governing Federal fishery management councils. My preference would be for immediate mandatory catch and release only; barb-less single hook artificial lures; no bait fishing; and a reduced open season for the striped bass.

While we await more decisive action, I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the following options to end over-fishing and rebuild striper stocks:

Option 2: Equal percent reduction across all sectors

Sub-Option 2A-1: 1 fish limit with a minimum size of 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery

Sub-Option 2-B-1: 1 fish limit with a minimum size of 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

Option B: Mandatory circle hooks for the fishery

The Draft Amendment states that the Atlantic striped bass is...“the most iconic finfish on the Atlantic coast and has supported valuable fisheries for centuries.” We trust that you will now take these minimum steps to safeguard even the short term future of this invaluable resource.

Sincerely,

Jon Atherton
1944 Durham Road
Guilford,
Connecticut 06437

Comments

From: Zshawn Sullivan <zshawn.sullivan@highlands.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 1:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

September 23, 2019

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I'm responding to the proposed changes of the DRAFT ADDENDUM VI TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS. I am a fisherman who fishes for striped bass exclusively in the Hudson River estuary north of the Tappan Zee Bridge. More specifically from West Point, NY to Kingston, NY. I have personally witnessed a decline in the striped bass fishery in the Hudson River over the last 7 or 8 years even with the adoption of the most recent regulatory changes. Our effective season for stripers in the Hudson is relatively short. Depending on how quickly the river warms up, the stripers leave the river by Memorial Day and the striper fishing is over. Lately, with warmer than usual May temperatures the stripers have left the river even earlier than Memorial Day. The striper season opens on April 1st upriver from the George Washington Bridge now which gives me a possible 8-week season to fish. If the season opening was moved to May 1st as rumored, that would remove over 50% of our effective striper season in the Hudson River estuary by the loss of those 4 weeks. I am firmly opposed to this change at least for the Hudson River. I propose an opening date in mid-March and a closing of the season on June 30th for the Hudson River north of the George Washington Bridge. I also would like to see the size for keeper stripers kept at the 18" to 28" slot with the removal of the over 40" keeper option. I realize that striper tournaments are economic drivers in the Hudson Valley, but they also drive the taking of large breeders from the biomass which are usually females. The elimination of the 40" or larger fish could possibly reduce the number of tournaments or at least promote a catch and release format. Additionally, I would like to see the use of circle hooks for all bait fishing. This

requirement could start as a recommendation along with an educational effort with mandatory use required in the future. I would also like to see an effort to educate the fishing public on the proper handling and proper release techniques to promote the survivability of landed fish.

As far as the coastal proposals, I prefer:

Option 2

Sub Option 2-A2

Sub Option 2-B4

Circle Hook Provision Option B

As a final thought, I would like the Striped Bass attain game fish designation.

Respectfully,

Owen J Sullivan
8 Hudson River Lane
Garrison, NY 10524

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Brooks Patterson <bpatterson@silpro.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 12:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: (703) 842-0740
Fax: (703) 842-0741

Mr. Appelman,

I am contacting you to express my support for Option 2 that requires changes to current regulations resulting in an equitable 18% reduction in recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brooks Patterson | SILPRO LLC
2 New England Way, Ayer MA 01432-1514
O: 978 772-4444 ext. 116 | F: 978 772-7456
M: 978 764-4703 | bpatterson@silpro.com

Comments

From: kavester@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good Day People, I am recommending Option 2-A2 as the most sensible option for the Striped Bass Management Plan. Please consider using that option.

Arnold Ulrich
164 Jefferson St., Wood-Ridge, NJ, 07075
201-304-4691
kavester@aol.com

Comments

From: Bran Dougherty-Johnson <bran@brandoughertyjohnson.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 9:59 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To the ASFMC Commissioners:

I am a surfcaster from Long Island, NY. I urge you to adopt the following options to end overfishing of the striped bass and rebuild the stock.

- Option 2 Equal reduction across all sectors.
- Option 2A-1 One fish limit with a minimum size of 35".
- Option 2B-1 One fish limit with and 18" minimum for the Chesapeake Bay.
- Option B for mandatory circle hooks for the fishery.

I believe these choices are the best available options for rebuilding the stock of striped bass in order to have a sustainable fishery.

Thanks you for taking my comments into consideration.

Bran Dougherty-Johnson
North Fork Anglers
NY Striped Bass Cooperative Angler #1220

Comments

From: Leslie Francis <llfesq@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 9:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: 1@35"

Good Morning Mr. Appelman,

As the founding member of the Atlantic Surf Club on Long Island, I am troubled by the state of the Striped Bass fishery and believe the only recourse is the proposed 1@35" solution. I've been a surffisherman since the 70's so I am acutely familiar with the dismal history of the fishery. I believe that if something is not done soon, Striped Bass could reach a point of no return and the economic effects of that would be devastating to many local economies.

Short of a complete moratorium on Striped Bass fishing of any sort, I believe the 1@35" is the most logical solution. It would give the fish a chance to mature, spawn on a wider scale, and recover over a protracted period of time. I also believe that 1@35" should remain in place until there is identifiable evidence that the fishery stock has reached a healthy level.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this crisis in the Striped Bass fishery and I sincerely hope that 1@35" is adopted before it's too late for the fish we all love and respect.

Regards,

Les Francis

Comments

From: Aubrey Parker <aubreyjp@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 8:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am an East Coast striped bass fisherman and the news of Omega Protein exceeding the menhaden harvest cap, especially with intention, is of great concern to me. Omega Protein must be stopped from committing these illegal activities and sport fishermen should not have to suffer while a foreign-owned entity depletes our waters of this critical food source.

Thank you,

Aubrey Parker

--

"The society that separates its scholars from its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools."

Comments

From: Jon McGrath <jrmcgrath@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 11:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Sir/madam:

I strongly support implementation of stricter limit on harvesting striped bass to mitigate the rapid depletion, especially in large breeder stock contributed to by recreational and commercial anglers alike.

I favor option 2 or a similar sharing of limitation to reach a total of 18%. The use of circle hooks should be mandated now.

I believe a slot limit makes sense for recreational anglers. It would have an effect of decreasing the depletion of the best breeders.

Thanks for considering this.

Jon McGrath
Duxbury bay management commission
Committed fly angler
781) 706 5397
16 Bayberry Lane
Duxbury, MA 02332

Comments

From: Chris Aubut <chris@aubutrods.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello all,

I am writing to show my support for option 2. In today's world of technology, instant communication and instant information the angler for the first time in history truly has the advantage of catching in all conditions and at all skill levels, novice to accomplished angler.

Option 2 appears to allow for commercial and recreational harvest while imposing an 18 percent reduction across the board. This should help the stock recover in a way that future generations can enjoy fishing for Striped Bass. Thanks for taking the time to read my comment.

Best Regards,

Chris Aubut

Aubut Rods
215 Elm Street
Duxbury, MA
02332
www.aubutrods.com
(305) 797-5442

--

Best Regards,

Captain Christopher J. Aubut
215 Elm Street
Duxbury, MA 02332
(305) 797-5442
[\www.aubutrods.com](http://www.aubutrods.com)

Comments

From: Chris Sherman Sr. <sherm1960@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 2:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Sirs,

I wish to place my full support developed over a lifetime as an avid fisherman and outdoorsman to your draft Addendum VI ***Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions***

"An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors."

I would also support the mandated use of circle hooks for commercial and recreational fishermen.

Respectfully,

Chris Sherman Sr.
92 Hounds Ditch Lane
Duxbury, MA 02332
(617) 417-2013

Comments

From: STANLEY WATKINS <stanleywatkins@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum V1

Dear Commission

Considering the facts, and avoiding the special interests, it is inconceivable that you will not enact a significant reduction target for Rockfish. 18% appears way too conservative.

Not to anything makes little sense.

Commercial and recreational sectors need to share in this crisis equally. Option 2

Please look at the facts. Use every means possible to stop the overfishing of our declining stock.

Stanley Watkins MD

Comments

From: Malcolm Gilbert <malcolm@nancefarm.co.uk>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 10:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am one of a growing number of overseas sportfishers who visits the east coast to fish for striped bass. I started in 1998 at Montauk and since 2005 have also made annual pilgrimages to Cape Cod, Block Island and Martha's Vineyard. Some years I travel with other anglers and other years I travel with my family combining a family holiday with a fishing vacation. Striped bass are the single most crucially important ingredient that keep me pumping between \$3500 and \$7000 into your economy twice a year.

Addendum VI is well overdue but arguably better late than never. The willingness to confront deteriorating fish stocks is at one level understandable as to arrest the decline and rebuild stocks invariably requires an increase in restrictions but there can be no gain without pain and the sooner a problem is recognised and dealt with the better for the resource and all those who depend on it. Your own Status of Stock at 2.1.2 indicates the SSB has been declining since 2003 which is now sixteen years ago. It really shouldn't take sixteen years to react.

Catch & Release mortality. In my opinion from observation, there is a significant need for education amongst anglers on how to care for fish during the unhooking/release process. Too many anglers fail to carry suitable pliers to remove hooks swiftly and a growing trend of weighing large fish by their jaws (boga style fish grippers with weighing scales incorporated) cannot be good for fish welfare. Holding fish upright in the water until they recover is also insufficiently carried out. The use of hard plugs with 3 treble hooks is also questionable, especially when an aggregation is found and numerous fish are being landed. The rear hook should be a single hook and I believe there is a case for using barbless hooks to further aid a speedy recovery.

Regulations are only as effective as their enforcement. As a non resident I would be perfectly willing to pay an annual fee in order to retain striped bass (as per regulations) providing the money collected was ring fenced for education and enforcement purposes. I also visit Florida to sportfish and happily pay \$47 non resident licence fee, confident that all monies are ring fenced for fisheries.

I prefer Option 2 with sub option 2-4A for the ocean fishery and option 2-B1 for the Chesapeake fishery.

On the issue of Circle hooks for bait fishing I prefer Option B.

Malcolm Gilbert,
Nance Farm House
Trink
St Ives
TR26 3JF
UK



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Comments

From: Fred Mott <signlhil4315@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 8:20 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My preferred option for the future management of Atlantic Striped Bass is Option 2. Furthermore, my preferred management measures are those identified in sub-option 2-A4.

Thank- you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals.

Seth Mott
5708 Wood Creek Lane
Centreville, VA 20120

Comments

From: Rich <richredler@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Comments
Cc: DAVID SIKORSKI (REC)
Subject: Striped Bass, Addendum VI

Gentlemen:

- I have reviewed the options being considered for amending Addendum VI, **and support Option 2** because it requires the cooperation of all stakeholders to rebuild the fishery. All sectors should take equal reductions as a matter of fairness and equity. An equal percentage reduction takes into account the different harvest proportions taken by each sector and equal percentages should be used. I also support options that **meet or exceed the 18% minimum reduction as provided for in Addendum VI**, and support any proposed action with a higher probability of reducing fishing mortality.

Best Regards,

Richard A. Redler

2801 Mansway Drive

Oak Hill, Virginia 20171

richredler@verizon.net

C. 703-980-7532

H. 703-709-1493

Comments

From: Mike <mikeroliver@virginmedia.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 4:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners and officers of the ASMFC,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum VI to be implemented for the 2019 season and onwards for Striped Bass.

I am a British Recreational Sports Fisher and have been coming to the USA since 1997 solely for the purpose to fish for Striped Bass. I have not missed a single year and my trips vary between three and five weeks duration.

During this time it is abundantly clear based on my own catches and other British Fishers that our catches have declined sharply in both numbers and in the individual size of the Bass. The numbers of legal size Bass has simply crashed over the past five years with the decline setting in five years before that.

This is anecdotal evidence but we feel it is still of value and enhanced by the length of time we have been active in this fishery.

It is abundantly clear to me that the Striped Bass has been hugely over harvested when that could and should have been prevented by better fisheries management well before now.

The available science has been ignored. The current plan puts the stock recovery around 2033 some fourteen years from now. This is disappointing when amendment 6 called for a recovery in ten years.

This can only have occurred due to a lack of accountability within the ASMFC.

Even more stringent controls are needed to bring about a more likely recovery of the resource and sooner than fourteen years which is pretty woeful.

The plan for an 18% reduction in harvest is way too small. I would be very surprised if you did not share the same view. Addressing the list of options in Addendum VI for Striped Bass here are my choices.

Option 2

Equal Percent Reductions..

Every Stake Holder who participates in the Striped Bass fishery is equally responsible for its health and future continuation.

Sub- Option 2A-1

1 fish at 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery.

A similar size was used in the past with some historical success when the resource was in dire straights.

Conservation equivalency must not be permitted. All states must adhere to this rule if there is to be a reasonable chance of a recovery of the resource.

Sub- Option 2- B-1

1 fish at 18" for Chesapeake Bay.

Option B

Circle hooks must be mandatory for use when fishing with bait in all states.

Circle hooks have been proven to offer increased survival rates for fish returned alive to the ocean.

Of the options put to us these are the most restrictive and therefore the most appropriate ones from Addendum VI. I urge you most strongly to adopt them in the final draft.

The Striped Bass was so close to being lost previously and to allow that situation to be repeated would be nothing short of a disaster for the Striped Bass and all the interested Stake Holders and communities which lies on their migratory path.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Oliver.

Castle Bromwich
Birmingham,
U.K.

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Capt. David Showell <tackle@abseconbay.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 8:39 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200A-N

Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

For over thirty four years I have been owner, operator of the Marina, Bait and Tackle Shop, Absecon bay Sportsman Center. Since the re-opening of the Striped Bass Season after the moratorium of the 1990s, Striped Bass has been the primary target of my customers and I have targeted striped bass almost exclusively with my charter business, Absecon Bay Fishing Safaris.

My customer base primarily fishes in the back bay waters around Atlantic City, New Jersey. The only time that we encounter fishable numbers of large stripers is late November thru December during the southern migration. When the weather cooperates and the bait stays inside the 3 mile EEZ there can be an amazing amount of these fish available. With storms and bad weather, these fish migrate far outside of the legal area. The Spring Migration tends to bypass Southern New Jersey every year.

Personally I feel that a smaller slot limit should be instituted to maintain and expand the Striped bass population. My personal recommendation would be 24" to 34" which would allow everyone to harvest a good sized fish perfect for eating and spare the vast majority of prime breeding age stripers.

Since this smaller size slot is not one of your options, I would have to go with the most appropriate. 2-A2 which would be 1 slot fish from 28" to 35" would give the local Back Bay and inlet Anglers a reasonable chance to harvest a fish.

I realize nothing is perfect, but to go to a larger minimum size would almost eliminate my customers,(both from the bait and tackle and the charter fishing aspects of my business), from a reasonable chance to harvest a Striped Bass.

I greatly appreciate your attention,

Capt. David Showell , Owner
Absecon Bay Sportsman Center
Absecon Bay Fishing Safaris
81 Natalie Terrace
Absecon, NJ 08201
609-484-0409, private cell 609-513-1568
Email: tackle@abseconbay.com
www.abseconbay.com
www.facebook.com/abseconbay

Comments

From: Robin Folger <buildingitbetter@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 3:59 AM
To: Comments
Cc: josh.smigelski@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

On legal catch requirements I support Options 2-A4 and 2-B4

I support Option B on requiring circle hooks for bait practices.

It makes no sense to allow the industrialized harvest of menhaden—the stripers’ primary food source—to increase. A single foreign-owned industrialized harvester sucking up more than 70 percent of the coast wide menhaden catch, and much of that in the Chesapeake Bay, makes no sense. The purpose for the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone is to prevent just this issue. The vessels may no longer be foreign registered but the profits are stollen from this country’s pocket. Allowing this practice of pillaging this crumbling resource steals from every taxpayer, not just the millions of coastwise fisherman, recreational or commercial. Research suggests localized depletion of menhaden in the bay could be responsible for as much as a 30-percent decline in striped bass up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

Best Regards,
Robin W. Folger

For more information please read attachment:

http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassDraftAddVI_PublicComment_Aug2019.pdf

Comments

From: twin pines archery <archerytwinpines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 4:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

“I support Options 2-A1 and 2-B1.”

“I support Option B on circle hooks.”

Comments

From: John Weber <jtweber86@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 1:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Proposed striped bass regulations

Please note as a sportsman, boat-owner and waterfront property owner I support the following options depending on how the commercial allocation is impacted.

2-B3 or 3- B4

Thank you

John Weber
371 Driftwood La
Solomons, MD

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Robert Matthews <bob.matthews@optimum.net>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 12:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION STRIPED BASS DRAFT
AMMENDMENT VI

MY VOTE IS FOR 1 FISH 28 INCH TO 35 INCH
BOB MATTHEWS 609 16TH AVE BELMAR N J 07719

Comments

From: Robert Groskin <rgroskin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 11:27 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

As a recreational fly fisherman, I am in total support of option 2 of Addendum VI with the suboption of 2-A1. I have personally experienced the decline of the striped bass population along the East Coast and hope this addendum will work to bring the species back to a sustainable level. To accomplish this it will take an equal reduction in the harvest by both commercial and recreational fisheries. I am also opposed to the conservation equivalency and see this as a loop hole in the management of fisheries. In addition I feel the percentage of success in achieving a healthy population should not be based on a 50% likelihood but at least an 80% chance. If I were an employee of a company and I told my supervisor I had a 50% chance of doing a good job, I doubt I would be an employee for long.

Thank you

Robert Groskin
344 Vandelinda Ave
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Comments

From: Randy Sigler <randy@striper.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 8:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC,

It is my pleasure to submit comment regarding draft addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the interstate fishery management plan for Atlantic Striped Bass .

As some background, for 25 years I have owned and operated Sigler Guide Service in Marblehead, MA. I believe we are the largest & busiest charter/guide service in the northeast. I have eight other captains working for me, and last season we ran over 800 charters (we are on track to equal that number this season). When factoring in the charters that my guides ran outside of my business, we run over 1,000 charters per season. The vast majority (90+%) of our trips target striped bass.

In addition to charters with adults and families, we also run a kids fishing camp where we have the great fortune to impress young anglers with the concepts of marine conservation, proper fishing ethics, and good stewardship of our oceans. This past summer, we had over 500 kids (age 8 – 15yrs) participate in our camp.

I have participated in the commercial striped bass fishery here in MA for most of that 25 years.

I am a MA licensed seafood and authorized striped bass dealer, and have the pleasure of providing fresh striped bass to a client list who recognize and appreciate the profound difference that “fresh out of the water” seafood offers.

Finally, my BS is in Natural Resource Studies from UMASS Amherst, and I sat on the MA MFAC for a number of years where I was intimately involved in helping craft both recreational and commercial regulations for striped bass in MA waters.

I bring all of this up to lend some perspective to my comments:

- I have witnessed first hand the decline, collapse, and recovery of the striped bass population over the last 40 years.
- I run a business that generates a significant economic footprint thanks to the abundance and availability of striped bass.
- I understand the economics of the fishery from both the recreational side and the commercial side.
- I have seen/fished with a WIDE swath of the public, and feel that I have a good sense of what the various “profiles” of recreational anglers are looking for, as well as who the average commercial fisherman is and what they are looking for from the fishery.

I have read, fully accept, and greatly appreciate the background given, and the data provided based on the recent benchmark stock assessment.

With all of that as a backdrop, and taking into account all aspects of my involvement in the fishery, I will say that **I have a strong preference for Management Scenario Option 2.**

I feel that for both sectors (Recreational and Commercial) a small decrease in harvest will have a negligible impact on profitability, and the long term benefits of reducing harvest now, far outweigh any short term pain.

In terms of reducing commercial quota ... the profitability of my commercial fishing is directly related to having a longer fishing season with lower daily harvest. Several years ago, MA changed the commercial regulations from 4 days @ 30 fish to 2 days @ 15 fish. Since that change, my harvest has declined, yet my profitability has soared. Consequently, I do not see a negative impact of reducing commercial harvest.

Within Option 2, **I have a strong preference for sub-option 2-A2**

Various thoughts to support this approach:

- In our business, **we have had a self-imposed maximum harvest size of 36” for many years.** We tell our clients that we release all striped bass 36” or larger. The premise is that these fish are virtually all female, have great fecundity, and excellent genetics that we want passed on. This approach of implementing a voluntary maximum size limit has not had any negative impact on our business ... I would argue and it has informed and changed the habits of many recreational fishermen who charter with us, and who then apply that concept to their own personal fishing habits.
- We prefer to harvest smaller fish because they have a greater likelihood of being male, and feel that harvesting male fish is a lower burden on the population than harvesting female fish.
- Most of our clients are chartering with us for the experience ... not to fill their cooler. If they want to keep a fish, it is typically for dinner that night, and one fish at 28” – 35” provides more than enough fish for their needs. **There would be zero negative impact on our business by having a max size limit of 35”.**

Finally, **I strongly support the circle hook requirement while fishing natural baits.** We have been using circle hooks only in our charter business for many years, and have had great success releasing healthy, jaw-hooked striped bass of all sizes. There would be zero negative impact on our business by having a circle hook requirement.

Thank you very much for allowing this comment to be submitted ... and for making it through the entire letter.

In summary, Option 2-2A is a strongly preferred approach, and would have no negative consequences on our charter business, our kids fishing camp, my commercial fishing business, or my seafood dealer profitability.

Sincerely,

Randy Sigler

Randy Sigler
Sigler Guide Service
1 Peabody Ln
Marblehead, MA 01945

www.Striper.com
randy@striper.com
617-459-1798

Comments

From: John Moy <jmoy@ospf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 4:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Given that the latest striped bass stock assessment indicated that stripers are overfished, I think that we must reduce the number of fish that are removed through fishing. I prefer Option 2, where the reduction is spread evenly between the commercial and recreational sectors. However, I could live with Option 3, where the recreational sector takes more of a hit. As long as the overall reduction in fishing is 18%.

In any case, I strongly favor a requirement for circle hooks when bait fishing, given the studies that indicate a high mortality in released fish.

Thank you for your attention,
John Moy
25 Eel Point Road
Nantucket, MA 02554
jmoy@ospf.org
617-784-1872

Comments

From: Justin Cordonnier <Justin.Cordonnier@BFIM.COM>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 12:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hi,

I am writing in support of Option 2, equal percent reductions, in the striped bass harvest.

Thank you for your consideration,
Justin Cordonnier
Needham, MA

Comments

From: W. Brice Contessa <wbricecontessa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 7:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

September 2019

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Striped Bass Management Board:

I'm writing you today to endorse the "equal percent reductions" option in regard Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Stripers have been getting a lot of ink lately, they should. It's clear there's a problem. Striped bass management is an incredibly complex and multi-faceted issue that is almost insurmountably difficult for legislators, scientists and anglers alike to fully comprehend.

It is, however, glaringly apparent that there was a collective err in judgement in the late 90s shortly after the striped bass population rebounded following measures taken (lest we forget via an act of congress) over the preceding decade to rebuild stocks. Regulations on commercial and recreational fishing started conservatively but got looser and looser leading up to a point nearing 15 years ago when it became apparent that the number of fish was again dwindling. Sadly, most state regulatory bodies and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission neglected to act.

There's plenty of blame to go around. Initially, many assumed that commercial fishing was the culprit. New data has emerged in recent years that seems to indicate that recreational fishing is responsible for the lion's share of striped bass mortality. It doesn't matter. The Atlantic wild striped bass stock is now once again overfished, and something needs to be done about it.

In the modern era, as anyone who fished much this spring and early summer can attest to, there is a relative abundance of small stripers and very few large ones. I would argue that is a direct result of the fact that the current regulatory structure in most of the ASMFC member states select for small fish. Use Massachusetts as an example. Here, recreational anglers are granted one 28 inch bass per day and commercial fishermen are allowed to harvest thirty 34 inch fish per week. I don't think it should surprise anyone that there's a dearth of large fish; very few of them are able to grow to proper size. This is also why I would advise against a slot limit at this time. The purposed slots are too low and there's too many fish in that size class available. As the state of the fishery stands today, a slot limit would likely increase mortality rather than reduce it.

The path of least resistance to a healthier population of striped bass with better size distribution across the biomass is to increase the minimum harvest size for recreational and commercial fisherman alike. This blanket increase to size limits is the quickest and most effective way to reduce mortality and allow the stocks to begin to rebuild. This is why the “equal percent reduction” option is the best choice that the ASMFC can make at the current juncture.

Regardless of many conservation minded angler’s opinion on the matter, it’s clear that gamefish status for striped bass is not likely to become a reality any time in the near future. Having said that, I am of the opinion that we can all enjoy a robust fishery that allows for limited, sensible commercial harvest if we regulate it properly. The “equal percent reductions” option calls for an 18% reduction in mortality across the board. If this is what the current science dictates needs to happen, so be it. And whatever strategy the commission conceives to achieve this end I would find acceptable.

Here in Massachusetts I would advocate for a one fish per day bag limit with a minimum allowable size of 36 inches for recreational anglers and a 10 fish per day bag limit with a minimum allowable size of 40 inches for commercial fishermen with the same two fishing days per week structure that is in place currently. Although I agree that shrinking the commercial quota is in order as part of the overall management strategy to accomplish target mortality reduction, I’m fearful it won’t be relevant for some time as the quota here in Massachusetts was not reached last year and will probably not again this year as it currently stands only around half full whilst fishing days wane.

Although it falls outside the direct purview of ASMFC I’d be remiss if I didn’t state that what we need above all is better enforcement. All the regulations in the world will never curtail the rampant poaching that occurs coast wide. It’s no secret that commercial fisherman from Massachusetts and New York regularly fish in Rhode Island waters where many of the last big schools of adult striped bass spend the summer. These schools of fish are akin to the last herds of buffalo on the plains of the American west in the late 19th century and they’re being slaughtered with equally reckless abandon. This problem is in no way limited to the commercial sector. One needn’t look further than the numerous law enforcement actions along the Cape Cod Canal over the past few years to see what the recreational community is capable of in terms of illegal harvest. Furthermore, many otherwise reputable and compliant anglers and guides seem to have no problem targeting striped bass in the Exclusive Economic Zone which is illegal and unethical.

Although striped bass are clearly in dire straits it’s not too late for the ASMFC to do something about it. I implore you to take the necessary actions to reduce mortality coast wide and restore the stock to target levels or above. To do nothing would be the nail in the coffin for America’s great gamefish. Your chance to act is now. I’m hopeful you’ll make the right decision. Thank you for your consideration in this most crucial matter.

Respectfully yours,

W. Brice Contessa
Edgartown, Massachusetts

Comments

From: robert <fordrr@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 2:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum VI

Gentlemen,
I favor Option 2

Thank you,
Robert Ford

Comments

From: tiderun1@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 10:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Personally I believe you are doing too little too late as I have watched the steady decline of striped bass over the last 12 years in the Cape May NJ area. We use to have a good fishery and I ran fly fishing charters. We always had a decent spring and fall run of stripers and plenty of resident fish during the not so prime times of the year. Fish did not have to be huge. My customers were 95 percent catch and release. Fish in the 20 to keeper size 28 inches satisfied my clients and there were good numbers around, so action was good and clients were happy. Over the years both the numbers of fish and the quality of fish gone down. To the point that rarely would I ever see a keeper size fish and those resident fish were in the 15 to 18 inch size and very few around. It got to the point that I finally shut my business down as I could no longer get a reasonable amount or a decent size fish once in awhile. It was sad as the demand for fishing is there, it is just that the fish are not.

Stripers are hammered throughout their migratory paths. Allowing an open season for them when they breed is totally stupid and then allowing huge breeder size fish to be harvested year after year has made no sense at all.

I do believe that if you are going to have a reduction in harvest it should be shared equally by commercial and recreational anglers.

As for slot sizes all the ones that are set forth are still way too big and will kill way too many breeder fish. All I can see is how successful the redfish regs have worked and think we should do something similar.

I believe your proposed regulations are a start but they should be much more restrictive if you are going to get the job done in a reasonable amount of time..

Capt. Ray Szulczewski
3 Strawberry Lane
Cape May, New Jersey 08204
609 884 6440

Comments

From: dec.sm.FW.Marine <FW.Marine@dec.ny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 8:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please see comment below on Striped Bass Draft Addendum..

-----Original Message-----

From: kholmes9290@gmail.com <kholmes9290@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 12:53 PM
To: dec.sm.FW.Marine <FW.Marine@dec.ny.gov>
Subject: 2020 Striped Bass Comments

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Director Gilmore,

Of the available options, I would like to throw my support for the 28"-35" slot size (1 fish per angler) option.

Reasoning:

1. After reviewing the data, it is clear that discard mortality is a big issue. As a charter boat captain, my goal is to harvest what we need to satisfy our anglers as quickly as possible and get off the fish, thus reducing fishing effort on the stock. We can then finish our trips harvesting healthy stocks such as scup or bluefish. Raising the size limit would force us to fish for striped bass longer, releasing fish to catch bigger fish, thus increasing fishing effort and increasing discard mortality. Makes no sense for the bass stock or our user group. Currently, the majority of striped bass in our area are in the 24"-30" size range. Even a rise to a 30" minimum would result in much more effort striped bass fishing from the charter fleet with increased release mortality numbers guaranteed.

2. The proposed slot cap at 35" protects the largest percentage of successful breeders within the stock of which the majority are females. The cap at 35" will deter the direct targeting of these larger bass by many anglers, reducing effort and discard mortality. The targeting of large striped bass often involves the use a live baits which decreases the chance for a successful release of the fish. Often this occurs in the summer months when water temperatures are warmest which also increases discard mortality.

Other thoughts:

The conservation equivalent proposal of 1 fish@ 30" would increase discard mortality in the abundant 28-30" size range while doing nothing to protect the larger most productive breeders.

Large striped bass generally do not make for the best table fare. There is no reason to harvest them. Take a photo and release properly. I would be in support of catch and release training as part of renewing your fishing license. A simple video tutorial with quiz could suffice.

I would be in support of mandatory use of circle hooks for all bait fishing for striped bass.

I would be in support of shortening the season a little on each end if deemed necessary.

Would there be any support for returning to a separate party/charter category for striped bass as was once in place?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Capt. Ken Holmes
Vessel "Brooklyn Girl," Orient Pt, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Jeff Barker <jbarker4588@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 6:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripped bass draft addendum VI

I strongly recommend option 2 (equal reduction, option 2A-1 (one fish 35" minimum), option 2B-1 (for Chesapeake Bay), option B (for circle hooks. Thank you, Jeff Barker Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Jeff Barker <jbarker4588@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 6:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripped bass draft addendum VI

I strongly recommend option 2 (equal reduction, option 2A-1 (one fish 35" minimum), option 2B-1 (for Chesapeake Bay), option B (for circle hooks. Thank you, Jeff Barker Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Adam Cooperstock <adam.cooperstock@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 11:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I'd like to slightly revise the options I am in favor of as follows:

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

- Sub-Option 2-A4
- Sub-Option 2-B1

Circle Hook Provision: Option B mandating usage of circle hooks.

Thank you,
Adam Cooperstock

On Tue, Sep 10, 2019 at 2:14 PM Adam Cooperstock <adam.cooperstock@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I have reviewed Draft Addendum VI and wanted to provide my thoughts and comments in advance of the October 7 deadline.

I'm in favor of implementing Option 2 which pursues equal reductions on harvest for both recreational and commercial fisherman, and specifically, Sub-Option 2-A4 and 2-B4 respectively for each of the ocean and Chesapeake Bay recreational fisheries. Inasmuch as both commercial and recreational fisherman are responsible for the drawdown of the biomass in recent years, I think it is most appropriate that each share relatively equally in the reductions necessary to restore the fishery to sustainable levels. I do not find it to be overly productive or worthwhile to go down the rabbit hole of who is more or less at fault, and given the material declines in fish populations and poor prospects for future classes, think that significant action is required sooner than later, with this route representing the best way to achieve lasting success.

I fish for stripers plenty and keep in touch with a variety of commercial and recreational fisherman in the NY/NJ area. Some are full-time charter captains, others simply passionate anglers, but all of whom care about the long-term viability of this fishery. The near-unanimous feedback is that catch levels across our area are down from those of a decade or two ago - in other words, the science is right, and something needs to be done. The ASMFC is perfectly positioned to act, and should act, based upon what the science shows is pretty clear at this point.

This decision is sure to result in short-term sacrifice, as any sort of restrictive bag limits surely would. That said, much of the angling public is old enough to remember the days of higher keeper limits and the striped bass moratoriums - both in terms of how punitive they were, and the unfortunate fact that they were necessary for a variety of reasons, but more importantly, how meaningful they were in allowing the species to repopulate and ultimately thrive. And while it is unfortunate that restrictions seem to be obviously necessary, acting now will hopefully prevent the need for even more drastic measures to be taken in the future. Additional measures

including increased usage of circle hooks, crackdown on poaching and illegal harvest, and otherwise would only be helpful in these efforts to restore the fishery.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,
Adam Cooperstock

Comments

From: wandermann@nyc.rr.com
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 7:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Proposals

The striped bass population is on the decline. I have witnessed this first hand. In the past, breeding Striped Bass would be in large numbers in the Hutchinson River in the Bronx. In the last two years, there were none. Proposal 2 would effectively reduce the impact on the Striped Bass population and would do so in an equitable manner.

Comments

From: John Isdanavage <coastalanglerflyfishing@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 5:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Good afternoon Mr. Applemen,

First I would like to thank you for filtering through all these emails on this very important issues. My name is Capt John Isdanavage owner of Coastal Angler Fly Fishing & Light Tackle Charters, member of the American Saltwater Guides Association, and President of the Atlantic Saltwater Flyrodders club. I am commenting on my own behalf as a concerned fisherman and business owner.

I am in favor for the use of circle hooks and for Option 2 equal reduction of 18% for both the recreational and the commercial quotas.

I am pro conservation and all for rebuilding the stock of Striped Bass since it has a direct impact on my business, no Striped Bass means the amount of charters I run in a season will definitely decrease resulting in loss of revenue. Slot Limits all though look attractive potentially allowing anglers a wider size range of bass to catch and keep, also could have very negative impacts on the amount of younger female bass harvested in their early spawning years. They could potentially spawn 5 or 6 times before they reach a 35" size limit. History shows us that after the moratorium the Bass size limit was 36" and guess what it worked and the stock came back. Now here we are again with Striped Bass in trouble.

I choose Option 2A-1, 1 fish bag limit @ 35"

My main concern is for NJ at the point so if I may. I feel NJ does the Striped Bass fishery a huge injustice allowing its anglers to keep more then one fish at the present time and the bonus tag program is complete joke, it is absolutely wrong to keep 3 Bass we are the only state that does that and you wonder why stripers are in trouble. Get rid of the free bonus tag program !!! If you want to keep a trophy bass you should have to pay for a permit to do so.

Other areas you may want to address are seasonal closures in places like Raritain Bays, Sandy Hook area where in the spring the big females are trying to get up river to the spawning grounds that are protected. But yet have to run through the gauntlet of boats that are there waiting to pick them off just so a fisherman can get his picture taken with a trophy size Bass. Mind you a lot of those big breeders end up in dumpsters at boat docks and other places because of their size the meat from those fish isn't that good anyway.
LET THE BIG GIRLS do what they do and reproduce to save the stock.

Tight Lines,
Capt John Isdanavage

Coastal Angler Fly Fishing &
Light Tackle Charters
59 Shell Street
Beachwood NJ 08722-3828
908-783-1935
coastalanglerflyfishing@gmail.com
coastalanglerflyfishing.com

Comments

From: Michael Hertz <michael.hertz@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

AS an avid recreational angler I support Option 2 to reduce both commercial and recreational catch by (at least) 18%
I would also support Option 2-A2 slot limits
I also support a regulation requiring circle hooks for bait fishing and would further support a ban on all treble hooks.

Mike Hertz
michael.hertz@comcast.net

Comments

From: Emmit Hoyl <emmithoyl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 10:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as an avid recreational fisherman who is deeply concerned about the health of the striped bass population. Every year I travel to Massachusetts to fish for striped bass and bluefish. During each trip I spend several thousand dollars on flights, accommodation, food, family activities, as well as fishing equipment and charter fishing trips. Sometime this number exceeds \$10,000 per trip. This considerable expenditure occurs primarily because of my desire to go fishing for striped bass. If my fishing experience continues to worsen, I would likely go somewhere else to vacation.

Given that the status quo has resulted in overfishing according to the 2018 benchmark stock assessment, I am very concerned about preserving my families tradition and considerable investment in the local economy during my stay. Recreational fisherman represent 97% of the total fishing economy (Southwick Associates, your report), yet are underrepresented at the table when making decisions regarding the population health of species they pursue. This needs to change. Our seat at the table should be heard loud and clear, and the ASMFC should adopt policies which benefit recreational fisherman proportionate to their economic impact! This should also apply to the prey species that the ASMFC regulates such as the Menhaden, where in 2018, the ASMFC made the wrong decision in managing that fishery benefiting solely the commercial fishing sector. If we are not improving the populations of prey fish for the striped bass to eat, how can we expect bass populations to improve?

My recommendation is that the ASFMC adopts sub option 2-A1 and 2-1B for recreational angling. I also recommend that the ASFMC revisit their menhaden ruling from 2018 which the commercial fishing company Omega Protein is openly and blatantly disregarding. The ASFMC needs to pursue Omega Protein to the fullest extent and enforce their regulation! Otherwise what is the purpose of the ASFMC???

Respectfully,

Emmit Hoyl

Comments

From: Jay Bonanno <birddogmv2003@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 3:59 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am totally in favor of option 2

I AM AGAINST OPTION 1

Option 3 only continues the destruction of the stripper bass population,& I am against that Thank you Jay Bonanno

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Jim Simms <simmsonthecape@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass addendum Vi

Striped bass are overfished and overfishing is occurring. We have overfished the stock for 11 of the past 13 years. It is time we rebuild the stock of this important recreational fishery for future generations.

The following are recommended to end overfishing and rebuild the stock:

Option 2

Equal 18 per cent reductions for both recreational and commercial participants. We both share equally in the harvest and rebuilding cycles.

Sub-Option 2A-1

1 fish @35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery. We rebuilt the stock with a similar creel and size limit in the past. We know that it works. Please no conservation equivalency. Let's all sing from the same hymnal.

Sub-Option 2B-1

1 fish @18" for the Chesapeake Bay

In the past the stock was excessively overfished because the conservation equivalency was not accurately assessed by the Technical Committee.

Circle Hook Provision

Option B

Peer reviewed science tells us that the use of circle hooks for cut or live bait reduced release mortality. A related venue would be the elimination of treble hooks for lure fishing with single inline hooks. I'm not aware of peer reviewed science on this topic, but personal experience supports this as a means of reducing release mortality.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the above views to start the rebuilding process. While Addendum VI requires the stock to be rebuilt within 10 years, this is a positive first step.

Jim Simms

Comments

From: Aaron Perlmutter <aperlmutter2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 10:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Option 2 is the Fairest

Hello,

I am a Massachusetts resident and striped bass fisherman. I support option 2 because it only seems fair that both commercial and recreational fisherman share in the effort to save the striped bass population.

Thank You,

Aaron Perlmutter
111 Allyn Lane
Barnstable MA 02630

Comments

From: Robert Gartside <capeflyfish35@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 8:08 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern:

I support the option 2- reducing the harvest for both recreational and commercial fishing by 18 %. My preferred route for the recreational reduction would be to institute a slot limit allowing one fish from 28 to 34". For party boat type fishing, I would further restrict the harvest to one or two fish per family. I see many many shots of family party boat patrons taking 5 fish between them. For the most part, these fish will be discarded since ti represents much more fish than can be used.

Rob Gartside
Cape Cod Flyrodders
35 Daisy Lane
Brewster, MA 02631

Comments

From: Ryan T <rtouhy@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 8:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello, my name is Ryan and I've been an avid saltwater fisherman since I was just a little boy fishing with my grandfather. The current striped bass population is at its lowest point since the fishery was closed altogether in the 80's. It is normal to see the number of fish caught in a season fluctuate, but these last ten years or so, there have been record low catches of striped bass and bluefish (another issue that needs addressing). I believe that option 2A1 is going to be the best course of action on the striped bass we all love. A 35 inch minimum size may seem large compared to the 28 inch current minimum, but those extra 7 inches allows the fish to reproduce for an extra 5 years. This fishery used to have a 36 inch minimum and that worked great for a long time in helping the recruitment of new fish to the population. Many people opt for option 2A2 which would continue to take spawning class fish out of the population before they get many chances to spawn. This option would also increase discard mortality of larger fish that most people aren't educated on how to properly release. Also, the party boat industry and commercial fisherman do the most damage every season by keeping more fish than they're limit, keeping undersized fish, and targeting striped bass outside the three mile mark. The rules are loosely enforced at best, and there needs to be changes to how the rules are enforced to ensure they are being followed. I could go on and on, but a 35 inch minimum is what this fishery needs to come back to where it was in previous years. Thank you for you time and please take my option into account when deciding on the new regulations.

Comments

From: Jonathan Mess <mess@artmess.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 2:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Greetings from Maine,

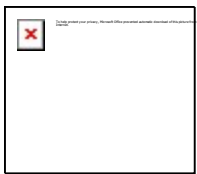
I am writing to urge you to choose: **Option Two** which requires changes to current regulations resulting in an equitable 18% reduction in recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass. According to the Draft Addendum:

Up here in Midcoast Maine we are at the end of the line for Migrating Striped bass, The canary in the coal mine if you will. I have heard, seen pictures and read about the good ol' days for fishing up here. Its been tough to catch a striper the past 10 years since I moved to this area. Last year some beautiful fish showed up in my river and we had a ball. I was like a kid again, catching and releasing schoolies all summer into fall, I caught many many fish but not one above 23 inches. However this summer Its' hard if not impossible again to find fish again up this way. I can see 1st hand the striped bass struggling to thrive let alone survive. I am a steward for the species, I teach people how to handle fish when I see that they don't know how, I practice and preach how to properly catch and release, I modify my tackle for successful release. I try to stay informed by reading, watching and listening to everything and everyone. I invest in rods, reels, lures, bait, my boat, my gear and invite family and friends from away to come catch a fish with me. I am a fisherman.

I believe the **Striped Bass should be declared a Game Fish** up and down the entire eastern seaboard just like it is in Maine. Commercial fisherman should seriously look into inland farm raising stripers as a more sustainable business model. Catching and killing the larger 34+ inch fish, many if not most which are mostly breeding females seems like a really bad idea. Their \$100 dollar fish at market is worth \$1000 to a recreational fisherman after all the bait, tackle, gear, boats, gas, hotels, travel, restaurants, guides, etc. etc. People from away will flock to places like Maine to catch this fish if the stock is allowed to grow to be what it once was. Please help save the future of this amazing wild fish. I would love to show my kids and their kids one day what life and fishing is all about. I am worried this is just a dream... Please Save the Striper and end All Commercial Fishing. Invest in research, planning and create sustainable business models for Farm Raising fish for millions of people to eat. Our Ocean can not handle the pressure any longer.

Thank You, -jMess

...
JONATHAN MESS
Fisherman, Artist & Educator
www.jonathanmess.com



Comments

From: NORMAN HYETT <flyingfishcharters@mac.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 2:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I highly recommend option 2, an 18 percent reduction
Captain Norman Hyett
238 Winthrop Shore Dr.
Winthrop, MA 02152

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Chris McMahon <jackandmax43@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 1:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support option 2 in it's entirety.

I would love to see Striped Bass elevated to Gamefish status but any significant action to protect the fishery is a win in my book.

Please make every effort to select option 2

Respectfully submitted
Chris McMahon

Comments

From: acirmb@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Sirs: I know you have some difficult decisions to make regarding "Draft Addendum V1 but they have to be made and made with substantial cuts to both commercial and recreational stripped bass fishermen. You waited to long to recognize the problem. I have been fishing bass for over 55 years and the fishing has never been worse. Please take drastic action to reduce the catch and bring back the numbers. Thank you.

Richard M Brown
18432 Harbor Light Blvd.
.Cornelius, N.C. 28031

Comments

From: capt.tom02 <capt.tom02@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 5:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Option. Number 2 is ok with me for now.

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Comments

From: dwm4750@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 5:29 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Since commercial fishing removes mostly breeding females from the population that are needed to replenish the stock and since this is the worst season I have seen in 20 years of fishing , I support option 2 of the addendum. I also support the requirement of circle hook use when bait fishing. Dennis MORRIS Brewster Mass.

Sent from my Verizon LG Smartphone

Comments

From: Cheryl Ziegenfuss <dziegenf@ptd.net>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 6:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Option 2 is a reasonable compromise. I support it. I would prefer a moratorium.

Comments

From: Tom McCoy <tfm97@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 2:40 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Stripers Foreverstripers##; 'Fred Golofaro'
Subject: Striped Bass regulation changes

I believe the changes described in **Option Two, an 18% reduction in both commercial and recreational catches** is the best of the three options in the proposed regulations. In truth I would prefer further reductions. I lived through the decline, the moratorium and the return of striped bass and here we are again at a critical juncture in how we maintain this amazing resource. I am a catcher, not a keeper although I understand the desire to eat fresh fish you catch. However, breeders need to be off the table, so to speak. I suggest an education program for all fishers and captains to help them understand that the tug is the drug and not the blood. Too much blood and there will be no tug. Captains of private and for hire boats need to feel comfortable asking friends and clients to put her back to catch another day. Thanks for listening.

Tom McCoy
(631) 327 1201

Want to come fish with me? – go to: <http://tomsfishingstories.com/toms-books/>

Comments

From: Greenleaf Garrison <greenleafgarrison@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 1:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am writing urging the adoption of option 2. The reduction in harvest should be shared by both commercial and recreational sectors. Please vote in this regard.

Best,

--

M. Greenleaf Garrison, MA, CFP®
508-367-1960

Comments

From: Frank Pitzi <n1gdo@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 1:11 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I agree with the ASMFC to vote for Option 2

Comments

From: defonteny <ldefonteny@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 12:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass draft addendum VI

Greetings,

As a long time NJ striped bass surf fisherman (50+ years) I urge you to save our striped bass.

After studying the addendum VI I would like to see option 2 equal reduction for recreational and commercial and sub option 2-A4 slot limit 32" - 40" for the following reasons.

- > minimum size 32" would allow several years of spawning for the small fish we have today.
- > maximum size 40" would protect our current large fish and allow them to spawn for years to come.
- > this slot would spread the harvest over multiple year classes not just one or two years.

I would also like to see seasonal and regional closures during hot summer warm water conditions as well as closing all striped bass fishing in and around spawning areas. The Raritan bay in NJ, NY receives very heavy pressure on egg laden fish in the spring, these are fish heading into the Hudson river to spawn.

I'm 73 years young and have seen this down fall before. We brought the bass back only to kill them off again. Let's not blow it again this time.

Sincerely,

Lou deFonteny

South Seaside Park, NJ 08752

Comments

From: dpmcgarvie@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 12:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My name is Paul Mcgarvie and I support option 2 for striped bass management plan.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Gary M <garym03053@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

As a recreational fisherman I support Option 2 of equal reductions for commercial and recreational harvesting of Striped Bass. HOWEVER, I DO NOT agree that states should have flexibility to develop alternative regulations. Due to their migratory nature, there should be rules and laws that are consistent with all eastern states related to Striped Bass.

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.

Gary Morrissette

Comments

From: Bernie&Bev Rubalcaba <bernieandbev@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:38 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am a Stripe Bass fly fisherman. I practice 100% catch and release with barbless hook flies. Stripe Bass bring in millions of dollars of recreational tourism. Using Circle hooks for bait fishing and reducing commercial fishing quotas is vital to preserve this precious resource. Option 2 is a start.

Sent from Bernie Rubalcaba's iPhone

Comments

From: Ian Fawthrop <ian@lpsnet.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support option 2 and sub option 2-A2
Mandatory circle hooks.

Respectfully,

Ian Fawthrop
4 Gristmill Ct
Medford, NJ 08055
609-217-9075

Comments

From: Mac McKeever <emckeeper@llbean.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appleman,

For over a decade, I have been completely immersed in conservation matters and consider myself adequately educated with regard to all of the nuances related to fisheries management issues--as a member of the CCA-National Executive Board, a board member with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, board member with the Maine Tourism Association, former president of CCA-Maine, former CCA Atlantic States Fisheries Committee member, former council member with the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (a federal committee that directly advises the Sec. of the Interior on matters related to aquatic conservation), former advisory board member with the American Fly Fishing Trade Association and someone who has seen the declination of the striped bass population have an immeasurable negative impact on the socioeconomics of tourism, guides, tackle and many other ancillaries (gas, meals, lodging, taxes, miscellaneous), I implore you to make the right decision and vote to endorse Option Two of the ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The recent assessments, striped bass are overfished and overfishing is occurring, plus anecdotal evidence (being in Maine, we're the canary in the coal mine) are undeniable. A poor decision on this addendum could very well instigate a collapse.

Sincerely,

Mac McKeever

Comments

From: Paul Richards <striper239@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support Option 2

Paul Richards (Ret Certified Fisheries Scientist/AFS)
Centerville, MA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Donald Roberts <modonrob@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator

Mr. Appelman,

First let me thank you and your staff for taking the time to hear public opinion on this very important matter . As a surf fisher for 30+ years here in NJ I have witnessed a steady decline in my catches of striped bass. While I personally release 99% of my catch, I am willing to concede that a take home fish for some is very important. Although I would prefer the slot size be reduced to say 26"- 32", my preference of the options presented is:

Option 2-A2: 1 fish 28"- 35" slot.

Again, thank you for your time and effort.

Donald Roberts
Ship Bottom, NJ

Comments

From: Matthew <mattmorris76@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 8:12 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI
Attachments: IMG_3300.JPG; IMG_3298.JPG; IMG_3299.JPG

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support option 2, an 18% reduction for commercial and recreational.
I also strongly support the use of circle hooks. i switched over to them 4 years ago and what a difference! 99% of my fish get hooked in the corner of the mouth and are released to live another day. please see attached two 38s and a 39 i caught last weekend with circle hooks that were released unharmed. thank you

Comments

From: Keith Goodman <floridadryflyguy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 7:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Sirs

Please know that in the eyes of the public in the long term best interest of the resource, "Option 2" is the only option worthy of consideration for Atlantic states striped bass management. This is a resource that has profound economic impact as a sport fish and the impact of commercial over harvesting is too long lasting to risk the implications to the long term population Thank you Keith Goodman

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Michael Cargill <weasnj@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 2:43 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

As a striped bass fisherman I favor option 2

Michael Cargill
290 Spencer Pl
Paramus NJ
07652

Comments

From: frank gissi <fg1123@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 10:24 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I catch and release all my bass unless they do not revive then I will harvest it. My avg. is one harvested every 150 -250 caught.

I Would like to see a slot 28'' to 32'' but the only one in draft close to that Is

3-A2 28'' to 34''

Option A on circle hooks which work fine on boats but from beach fish get off when it reaches the troft by rubbing its face in the sand along the wall of the troft and the hook gets wiped off the fish as circle hooks get caught in the corner of the mouth and hang out on the outside of the fish any contact with anything and the hook is knocked loose.. Lost many big fish right at my feet in the surf with circle hooks and swore to never use them again from the beach.

Comments

From: DENNIS <denboo56@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 9:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please select option two for implementation since all previous efforts have proven to be ineffective, all recreational fishing for striped bass in the northeast is almost nonexistent. Thank you

Sent from my iPad. Dennis O' Driscoll

Comments

From: C. J. Frankiewicz <cjfrankie@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 7:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

ASMFC: Please choose Option 2 with regard to managing the striped bass fishery. Option 2 is the best choice to increase the striped bass population to a sustainable level.

C. J. Frankiewicz

You May Say I'm a Dreamer But I'm Not the Only One.

Comments

From: Michael Sullivan <bluefish60657@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 7:03 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Along with supporting Option 2, I also support mandating the use of “circle hooks” for both recreational and hook-and-line commercial fishermen using bait.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Sullivan <bluefish60657@yahoo.com>
Date: September 12, 2019 at 6:55:57 PM EDT
To: comments@asmfc.org
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please pass option 2 immediately!
Mike Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Murray Rapoport <murrayrapoport@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 7:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I'm unable to attend any of the hearings but I would prefer Option #2 which as I understand it would be equal percentage reductions for both the commercial and recreational fisheries .

Thank you,

Murray Rapoport

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Comments

From: Michael Sullivan <bluefish60657@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 6:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Please pass option 2 immediately!
Mike Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Harvey Wheeler <maven@maine.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 6:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Max,

I believe that option #2 is the best of the three options.

Harvey Wheeler

25 Powell Rd.
Cumberland Foreside, ME 04110

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Donald Ives <dpives248@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 5:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I do not think any of your options are enough to protect Wild Stripers but if I have to choose Option 2 would be my choice Thank you Don Ives,

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Benny <benny.mondello@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 5:27 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

To whom it may concern,

As a member of the Gateway Striper Club I have enjoyed many years of catching Striped Bass from shore. It would be heartbreaking to not be able to fish for this beautiful fish that has given so many joy and wonderful memories. That's why I support one (1) fish @ 35".

Sincerely,

Ben Mondello

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Louis Van Bergen <captlvb@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:57 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am writing to express support for option #2 of the striped bass addendum.

I would love to see a slot limit coastwise to protect the breeding class fish, while still allowing the public to retain fish. Please do not mismanage the fishery due to economic issues caused by loss of pounds across a scale for commercial fishermen or for loss of patrons on for hire boats. This fishery has a roller coaster history that we should all have learned from. I am a for hire captain, but feel the value in the fishery needs to be viewed from the fish in the water rather than those in a cooler. I want the next generation of anglers to experience the sight of massive schools of striped bass feeding heavily during the fall run. This is a special fishery for all, one that should never be on jeopardy of disappearing.

Thank you,
Captain Louis Van Bergen

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Robert Frisbie <rnfrisbie@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern:

I've been fishing the waters around Nantucket Island since the early 70's. Needless to say, as you already know, the fishery is in decline. I am writing you to recommend that you vote for option number two to reduce the taking of striped bass by 18% by both recreational and commercial fishermen. Because of the depleted resource we maybe should reduce the catch percentage by 50%. Thank you for helping to preserve the striped bass species.

Robert Frisbie
215-327-0444

Comments

From: Fletch1951 <fletch1951@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support option #2 for equal 18% catch reduction on both recreational and commercial harvests. Thank you.
Gordon Fletcher

Comments

From: Donald Dicostanzo <buzzzzbomb@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:49 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello Gentlemen

My name is Donald Dicostanzo I am a member of a extremely conservation minded surf club.

I'm for option 2-A1 one at 35"

No slot and no trophy season at all.

The trophy season is just a slaughter and for what. A picture, bragging rights.

Also I don't feel the slot limit is effective way to rebuild this species.

Thank you Don...

HHSC

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: PETER HUGHES <phtrout@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

OPTION 2!

Comments

From: Patricia Viella <pviella@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I favor option 2
R. Viella

Comments

From: Tom Kelly <bellyboatk@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I strongly support option two

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Chris Galvin <cgalvin@blythebourne.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:12 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Bev Landstreet (bevlanstreet@gmail.com); jgans@trcp.org
Subject: Comments on striped bass catch reductions

As a 25 year fly fishman for striped bass on the East Coast of the US (primarily in Rhode Island), I advocate for:

Overall reductions:

Option 2: Equal percent catch reductions to commercial and recreational Striped bass fisheries

Choose your Minimum size or Slot Limit.

Option 2A1: 35" minimum (It allows important year classes to enter spawning age intact)

Circle Hook Provision

Option B: Circle Hooks required when fishing with bait

Other thoughts:

Encourage barbless treble hooks and barbless fly fishing hooks to reduce mortality rates of stripers released.

Thank you for your efforts. Chris Galvin

Dictated from Chris Galvin's iPad
'Sound Alike' words may be substituted mistakenly,
'after' SEND is pushed, using Siri.

Comments

From: Stuart Math <stumath@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 10:07 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

I am a recreational angler living and fishing in New York State. I have been fishing for over 40 years. The health of the Striped Bass resource is very important to me, both as an angler and as a concerned citizen.

I have read the draft addendum and support the following options:

I support Option 2 – Equal percent reductions

I support sub-option 2A-1 – 1 fish @ 35” for the coast ocean recreational fishery

I support sub-option 2B-1 – 1 fish @ 18” for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery

I support Option B – the circle hook provision

Respectfully,

Stuart Math

32 Cooper Sq, #6

New York, NY 10003

Comments

From: Mike Piper <eaglesdare111@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 2:09 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing you as a recreational angler who is concerned about the state of the Striped Bass stocks. I've read over the assessment and the current Draft Addendum VI and am worried that the Options do not go far enough to ensure the long term health of this amazing fish. There are obviously many factors at play, and the assessments are based on many non-scientific variables, but I think anyone who fishes for stripers in Massachusetts or Rhode Island would agree that the population is in decline. This year in particular we've really seen it, with recreational anglers getting skunked often and commercial landings way off the pace.

My main concern is that the options presented are designed with only a 50% chance of achieving a 0.20 F target by 2020. And even if this achieved, it takes until 2037 before the biomass reaches Target levels. Reaching SSB Threshold should not be the goal here if we want to retain this species for our kids and grandkids to enjoy. Instead, we should aim to achieve the Target level in under 10 years, and should adopt a plan that has at least a 2/3 chance of reaching it. No one would run a business with a projected 50% success rate, and neither should the ASMFC.

That being said, of the limited options presented I think it's necessary to ask all stakeholders to bear the responsibility of rebuilding the stocks so I prefer Option 2. Within that, I prefer the simplicity of a single 1 fish limit (2A-1) versus the slot limits. I believe the slots would be harder to enforce.

Regarding the Chesapeake, we all know they did not adhere to the promised reductions in the last amendment, so they must quickly move to 1 at 18" (2B-1). Also, there is too much leeway in conservation equivalency, so that should be right out.

Finally, I am in favor of the Option B on Circle Hooks. As many of the lost fish are from catch and release, we need to do all we can to decrease mortality numbers there.

Let's rescue this great fish before another moratorium has to be imposed, and preserve its viability for future generations to come.

Sincerely,

Mike Piper

Marblehead, MA

Comments

From: joe pinto <JENSPEED610@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: Striped bass draft addendum

Option 2

> On Sep 10, 2019, at 9:37 PM, joe pinto <JENSPEED610@outlook.com> wrote:

>

> Save the striped bass with a moratorium and make them a game fish they are going under if we don't stop it.

Comments

From: Joe Pinto <joehshot@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:45 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Re: Striped bass draft addendum

Option 2

> On Sep 10, 2019, at 9:36 PM, Joe Pinto <joehshot@aol.com> wrote:
>
> Moratorium for the striped bass fishery.
> The fishery is being depleted and we need to put a stop to it.

Comments

From: joe pinto <JENSPEED610@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:37 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum

Save the striped bass with a moratorium and make them a game fish they are going under if we don't stop it.

Comments

From: Joe Pinto <joehshot@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:36 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum

Moratorium for the striped bass fishery.
The fishery is being depleted and we need to put a stop to it.

Comments

From: John Cloyd <jcloyd55@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 8:46 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Considering the options contained in Addendum VI here are my choices;

Option 2
Equal Percent Reductions.

Every Stakeholder who participates in the Striped Bass fishery is equally responsible for its health and future continuation.

Sub-Option 2A-1

1 fish at 35 inches for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery.

A similar size was used in the past with some historical success.
Conservation Equivalency must not be permitted. All states must adhere to this rule if there is to be a reasonable chance of a recovery to happen with the resource.

Sub-Option 2-B-1

1 fish at 18 inches for Chesapeake Bay.

Option B

Circle Hooks must be mandatory for use when fishing with bait in all states.

Circle hooks have been proven to offer increased survival rates for fish returned alive to the ocean.

I am somewhat disappointed that the emphasis seems more on preventing overfishing than on rebuilding the fishery. I'm an older person and lived through the dismal years, it is sad to see us heading back in that direction. Thanks you for allowing us to comment.

John Cloyd
28 Finn Ave.
Newfields, NH 03856
(603)501-8840

Comments

From: Brandon Weber <weber2886@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 2:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Option 2. Sub 2-A2

Comments

From: Adam Cooperstock <adam.cooperstock@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 2:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I have reviewed Draft Addendum VI and wanted to provide my thoughts and comments in advance of the October 7 deadline.

I'm in favor of implementing Option 2 which pursues equal reductions on harvest for both recreational and commercial fisherman, and specifically, Sub-Option 2-A4 and 2-B4 respectively for each of the ocean and Chesapeake Bay recreational fisheries. Inasmuch as both commercial and recreational fisherman are responsible for the drawdown of the biomass in recent years, I think it is most appropriate that each share relatively equally in the reductions necessary to restore the fishery to sustainable levels. I do not find it to be overly productive or worthwhile to go down the rabbit hole of who is more or less at fault, and given the material declines in fish populations and poor prospects for future classes, think that significant action is required sooner than later, with this route representing the best way to achieve lasting success.

I fish for stripers plenty and keep in touch with a variety of commercial and recreational fisherman in the NY/NJ area. Some are full-time charter captains, others simply passionate anglers, but all of whom care about the long-term viability of this fishery. The near-unanimous feedback is that catch levels across our area are down from those of a decade or two ago - in other words, the science is right, and something needs to be done. The ASMFC is perfectly positioned to act, and should act, based upon what the science shows is pretty clear at this point.

This decision is sure to result in short-term sacrifice, as any sort of restrictive bag limits surely would. That said, much of the angling public is old enough to remember the days of higher keeper limits and the striped bass moratoriums - both in terms of how punitive they were, and the unfortunate fact that they were necessary for a variety of reasons, but more importantly, how meaningful they were in allowing the species to repopulate and ultimately thrive. And while it is unfortunate that restrictions seem to be obviously necessary, acting now will hopefully prevent the need for even more drastic measures to be taken in the future. Additional measures including increased usage of circle hooks, crackdown on poaching and illegal harvest, and otherwise would only be helpful in these efforts to restore the fishery.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,
Adam Cooperstock

Comments

From: Andrew shelhorse <ajshelhorse@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 7:49 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI comments

Dear Commissioners and officers of the ASMFC,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the options on the Addendum for the Striped Bass Resource In 2019. As someone who has fished Long Island beaches for Striped Bass for the last 15 years I have experienced the Striped Bass decline first hand and fear that without immediate and drastic changes, the fishery will disappear. I typically fish over 100 trips per season and almost exclusively practice catch and release. Ten years ago, there were many days and nights that we caught and released multiple Striped Bass over 30". Now we are lucky to get a couple of 30" fish for the whole season. I've never objected to those taking legal limit of Striped Bass, but we are in a state of emergency and must make changes now. I commented on the options below but I personally believe that the changes should be more aggressive.

Ideally I would like to see Striped Bass elevated to gamefish status, like many of the species in Florida for example. The fishery would be catch and release only and allow the fishery to recover fully before changing.

The Striped Bass fishery should be treated like a protected trout stream. Catch and release only with barbless single hook artificial lures. No bait fishing, proper fish handling and reduced open season.

Although I do not believe the options in Addendum VI are strict enough to help rebuild the Striped Bass fishery quickly enough, I do believe they will help. Below are my choices of options in Addendum VI:

Option 2
Equal Percent Reductions.

Sub-Option 2A-1

1 fish at 35 inches for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery.

Sub-Option 2-B-1

1 fish at 18 inches for Chesapeake Bay.

Option B

Circle Hooks must be mandatory for use when fishing with bait in all states.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to comment and hope that changes will be made to bring the Striped Bass back.

Sincerely,

Andrew Shelhorse

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: Robert Giordano <funbobbydesign@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass Management Plan

Furthermore:

The one thing to consider is yes Charter Boats (six pack/anglers) can catch there limit and move on. On the other hand party boats running 4-5 hour trips will stay on Striped Bass until the fares reach their limit. I do not believe they will "move onto" other species as fares have paid for bass, not porgies or fluke, etc. Plus paid fares might not have the tackle available to switch gears and go for a different species. That being said, perhaps "For Hire" can be given their own set of regulations.

It's a shame one fish at 32" isn't an option as it might be a middle ground in between those that can't seem to get on the same page regarding what should be done.

Thank you.
Bob Giordano

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Giordano <funbobbydesign@optonline.net>
Date: September 4, 2019 4:17:03 PM EDT
To: comments@asmfc.org
Subject: Striped Bass Management Plan

To Whom it may Concern,

Having fished Long Island waters since the mid 1970's and during the moratorium on striped bass, I feel we're on a down trend in regard to the Striped Bass biomass and how it's currently being managed as a fishery.

Although here in Long Island Sound where the fishery seems to be stable, in other areas of the island, it's a shadow of what it was just ten years ago. Gone are the hordes of fish that use to stop over Montauk in the fall to the delight of both boat and shore bound fisherman.

That being said I'd like to voice my vote to proceed with Sub-Option 2A-1 (1 fish @ 35") for all coastal areas. I think this is a size that can please both the recreational and the for hire fleet who rely on Striped Bass during parts of the fishing year. Mandating the use of Circle Hooks when fishing bait for Striped Bass should also be made into regulation and law.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Bob Giordano

210 Bay Ave.
Huntington, NY 11743
641-423-6593

Comments

From: Richard A. Noll <rnoll@sipindustries.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 9:38 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Enact the circle hook mandate immediately and do another study on released fish mortality

Enact circle hook requirement for bait immediately—for the entire striped fishery What are you waiting for????

Commission another released fish study
There is no possible way that 90% of released fish die

Thank you

Rich Noll
SIP Industries NE ,NJ, NY
518-935-7438

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: koslow21@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft Addendum

Option 2.

Everyone provided helped for the decline and everyone should provide help for incline

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Brennan Thompson <brennanthompson@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 10:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Regulation Change

I want to express my opinion that of the three proposed options for the striped bass regulations I am in favor of option two which is an 18% reduction in harvest for both commercial and recreational. It is very evident that the fishery is in trouble and the stricter we are in regulating the fishery today the healthier it will be in the future. A reduction in the allowed harvest of the striped bass is a good start. I would like to see more than an 18% reduction but I feel that this is at least a good starting point. Thank you.

-Brennan Thompson

Comments

From: ryan wasielewski <hurley2301@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 9:35 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft Addendum

Option 2: Place an 18% reduction on the commercial quota and an 18% reduction on the recreational catch.

This is a step in the right direction, but it needs to be flipped for it to make the most sense. one fish UNDER 35 inches. This way we are not taking the breeding females out of the population. Our communities fear is that by the time this regulation comes into effect, and by the time another survey on the breeding stock is done, IT WILL BE TO LATE. We have a chance to actually fix this before a moratorium. Please lets see if we can flip to to 1 fish UNDER 35 inches.

Thank you.
- Ryan Wasielewski

Comments

From: Sergio Radossi <sradossi@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 8:54 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Dan Harrison; Aram Setian; 'Joe Albanese'
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Regarding the proposed Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI, I support option 2A-2.

Note, It is important to include the Hudson River in MRIP analysis as the Hudson is a significant contributor to the Striped Bass biomass.

Further, While I understand that comments outside the proposed addendum will not be considered, I would still take this opportunity to request a moratorium during spawning seasons as they occur in the Chesapeake, Delaware, Hudson and other spawning areas. Protecting the spawning process would be the best and fast way to increase the biomass... as least in my opinion.

Thank
You
Sergio Radossi

Comments

From: Gary King <gking5090@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Vote

Yes I can see that there is a problem. But your team has to realize. That there are some states don't see this as a problem. So I asked do All States on the Atlantic Side Follow this. Or is it only Delaware. Now I have been fishing here for years. More then 60 years. I seem fishing declines people where taking any size of fish clams crabs. Trout fishing was wiped out. Blow fish gone. Flounder are a fair size. But i hate went these Big Big Nets Comes in and Wipe out ever thing. There's the Problem Big Big Net Fishing Wipeout Soon Big Eyed Tuna Gone then What same with sail fish Marilin tag release stores throw more away then they Sell stop it there i vote number 2 thank u k
Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: John Moran <moranjohn39@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 6:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass addendum VI

Close the raritan bay and Delaware River to all striped bass fishing during the spawning period

Circle hooks mandatory for all bait fishing for striped bass

Set the limit with a 1 fish 24-28 inches per day with more patrols on the jetties , piers etc for poaching

Give the striped bass gamefish status

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: George Watson <kwakr1942@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:32 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass regulations

Folks,

I have fished for striped bass for over 60 years and have witnessed the ups and downs over that time. My personal experience has been that the numbers of large fish has declined precipitously in the past few years and fishing in general has steadily gotten worse in the past few years. I've always believed that previous stock assessments were unreliable and that little credence was given by the ASMFC to anecdotal reports from all along the striper coast was given. Obviously commercial fishers want either no change to the current regs or they favor Option 3. That's a no brainer. But the commercial fishery impact is a economic pittance compared to the enormous economic impact of a healthy recreational fishery.

I know and you know that Option 2 is the only solution that makes any sense at all. You have acknowledge that even an 18% reduction has only an even chance of turning the striper population around. Another critical change that must be made is to end the recreational and commercial targets of large (over 28" fish, as these are the most threatened and important of all.) Some sort of slot limit must be made to keep those breeders.

Also, pay more attention to the so-called conservation equivalents that seem to be handed out the the states who whine the loudest.

George Watson
Falmouth Maine

Comments

From: jdsmith@gtel.net
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 10:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I fish, primarily during the spring spawning run in the Hudson River near Catskill, NY. Steps I would like to see taken to reduce mortality include mandatory use of circle hooks for all bait fishing and a prohibition on the use of double or treble hooks on lures used for trolling or casting. More education for anglers regarding the handling of fish prior to release would also be helpful.

Comments

From: David Doebley <david.nevermoor@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 5:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum 6

After attending the information session held at the Ocean City NJ Public Library and considering all options, I recommend that the board adopt option 3 of Draft Addendum 6.

A proportional reduction is the fairest even though it is against my own self-interest as a recreational fisherman.

Under option 3 I prefer sub-option 3-A2 a slot fish of 28" to 34" for ocean fish.
I prefer sub-option 3-B5 for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery.

In the event that the board chooses option 2 then 2-A2 and 2-B4 are my choices.

My reasoning is that we must eliminate the harvest of the largest breeding females. Large females lay many more eggs and those eggs are just as fecund as the smaller, younger bass.

I support the requirement for mandatory circle hooks.

Thank you,

David Doebley
405 Delaware ave
Egg Harbor Township
NJ 08234

Comments

From: Gene Doebley <gdoebley@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 2:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum 6

After attending the information session held at the Ocean City NJ Public Library and considering all options, I recommend that the board adopt option 3 of Draft Addendum 6.

A proportional reduction is the fairest even though it is against my own self-interest as a recreational fisherman.

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I prefer sub-option 3-B5 for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery.

In the event that the board chooses option 2 then 2-A2 and 2-B4 are my choices.

My reasoning is that we must eliminate the harvest of the largest breeding females. Large females lay many more eggs and those eggs are just as fecund as the smaller, younger bass.

I support the requirement for mandatory circle hooks.

Thank you,

Gene Doebley
2 Somers Ave
Somers Point, NJ 08244

Comments

From: Vetcraft <vetcraft@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 6:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass comments

I strongly recommend the reductions in quotas apply equally to the rec and c= omm sectors. Doing otherwise would set a dangerous precedent and cause much m= anagement problems in the future. =20

Dr Harvey Yenkinson
MAFMC advisor

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: David Aguiar <weehooker@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 6:40 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments on VI

We all need to bite the bullet and go hard right on striper regulations this time around. (Otherwise the impacts to the resource and economy will be felt 10 fold down the road. I've been fishing stripers since 1993 and have yet to see the population come completely out of trouble . I doubt that I ever will in my lifetime now. Meanwhile, here is my input.

-Equal Percentage drop for all. No exceptions. Consider going to higher % numbers until we get this turned around..

-Circle hooks should be a MUST! There is no logical reason to resist /delay there use.

-One 35" fish is still too much in my opinion. If it is allowed, please consider making it a slot limit that forces the release of stripers over 40". It's well known that 10% of the recreation guys are killing 90% of the fish in order to justify boat payments.

- Enforce the laws we have. We don't need \$100 /fish fines applied every now andthen, we need \$500/fish and loss of licence, truck, boat etc to get the point home.

It's too late for this go around but for future consideration, how about issuing fish tags at the time of licence purchase. If you want to kill a striper, you must use a tag. Everybody gets X amount of tags.

(Much like most states do with deer hunting.) Adjust the tag limit as data dictates.

Thanks for hearing me out,
Dave Aguiar, Westport Ma.

Comments

From: richard west <rcwest7@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 4:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM VI

My recommendation is

sub option / 3-A2

bag limit 1 fish

size 28"- 34"slot

their should not be any trophy fish

Richard West , rcwest7@msn.com

Comments

From: Dan Jacobson <danielelliotjacobson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 4:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

“ I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in New York, along the Long Island sound I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

Comments

From: Evan Keller <evan.keller@fmc.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 4:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [Ext] Draft addendum VI

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide my input as a recreational angler in the NJ/DE area. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute and would like to see this fishery properly managed to provide an American pastime for future generations to enjoy while there is still time. As far as my supported options, I am in favor of Option 2 – Equal percent reductions (specifically 2-A2 and 2-B3 sub options). Also, I am in favor of Option 2 for circle hooks. I personally use them, and have seen what a difference it makes in reduction of gut-hooking and quick removal for a speedy revival and release of quality fish.

The change to a slot limit I think greatly help the stock by keeping breeding quality fish around while still allowing for harvest, if wanted, of smaller fish. The removal of big 40+ in breeding class fish from the fishery is a shame and through social media promotion has become a ritual habit in both the rec/commercial industry.

I also think a trophy season is highly detrimental to the population, as they typically occur early when females are egg-laden. Keeping of a trophy class fish is a travesty and needs to be stopped.

As a rec angler, I will not feel the economic impact however in this case I think we need to see the long term goal to forgo the short term discomfort.

Thank you,
Evan

Evan Keller
Associate Investigator Formulations | FMC Stine Research Center
1090 Elkton Rd. | Newark, DE 19711
Office – 302.318.9198
Cell - 302.442.3786



Comments

From: Evan Keller <evan.keller@fmc.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 4:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [Ext] Draft addendum VI

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide my input as a recreational angler in the NJ/DE area. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute and would like to see this fishery properly managed to provide an American pastime for future generations to enjoy while there is still time. As far as my supported options, I am in favor of Option 2 – Equal percent reductions (specifically 2-A2 and 2-B3 sub options). Also, I am in favor of Option 2 for circle hooks. I personally use them, and have seen what a difference it makes in reduction of gut-hooking and quick removal for a speedy revival and release of quality fish.

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I also think a trophy season is highly detrimental to the population, as they typically occur early when females are egg-laden. Keeping of a trophy class fish is a travesty and needs to be stopped.

As a rec angler, I will not feel the economic impact however in this case I think we need to see the long term goal to forgo the short term discomfort.

Thank you,
Evan

Evan Keller
Associate Investigator Formulations | FMC Stine Research Center
1090 Elkton Rd. | Newark, DE 19711
Office – 302.318.9198
Cell - 302.442.3786



Comments

From: Stanley Pruskowski <stanleypruskowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 1:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

I attended the seminar that Max Appelman gave to the DRFA last week. My opinion is to protect the large brood stock of female striped bass to build the striped bass population. My individual comments are for ASMFC to recommend:

Reduction in Release Mortality: Only circle hooks allowed.

Ocean Recreation Fishery: Sub-Option 3-A2 of 28-34inch slot only.

Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery: a modified 3-B1 19 inch minimum with 1 bag limit, ***and no trophy season***

Commercial Fishery: A 20% reduction

Sincerely,

Stanley J. Pruskowski, Jr.

Comments

From: troyeggie <troyeggie@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: FW: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [troyeggie](#)
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:41 PM
To: comments@asmfc.org
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am in favor of option 2, A4, and B4. I am also in favor of option B for the 3.2 circle hook provision.

I have been fishing for Striped Bass for over 55 years. I remember the collapse of the fishery prior to the moratorium. Even went several years without even seeing a single bass caught. In the "off" chance someone accidentally caught one, it was like seeing a dinosaur. I don't want to ever see such a collapse again. It's prudent to err on the side of caution, rather than take chances. After the moratorium, there were bass everywhere, I mean everywhere. We even caught tons in the surf in Barnegat light in mid August, during the day. If you're a bass fisherman, you know that is unbelievably rare. Why not implement some periodic "mini" moratoriums in order to give the fishery a break from harvesting pressure. It would take some of the guesswork out of the model predictions. In addition to the above conservation changes, I would be in favor of further protection of the large female breeders. How can they ever be expected to spawn if they are dead? It's all about greed and bragging rights, not what is best for the fishery. There is no need to keep the very large bass. Also a slot limit for the large bass, as well as closed spawning seasons would be a start. Lastly, I would be in favor of eliminating commercial fishing today. It's insane that the practices of a few can be so detrimental to so many!

Troy Eggie

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Christian Peters <christianskypeters@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:53 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

My name is Christian Peters

I live in center Moriches , Suffolk county Long Island New York, I am an avid striped bass fisherman. I fish from New Jersey up to Massachusetts and am a member of a high hill striper club here on Long Island (est. 1952). I would like to strongly voice my support for option 2A an equal reduction of 18% between recreation and commercial sectors and sub option 2-A1 for 1 fish at 35" minimum. If there was an option for a Moratorium that would be the wisest move.

I am also for :

Option 2-B1 1@18"; anticipated total removal reduction of 20% as the Chesapeake is a hugely important part of the striped bass fishery

And Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks. As this is an obvious advantage to preventing unwanted mortality

It has be come frightening in the surf and in the boats how few striped bass are around. Every year is getting worse. Please do something before it's too late.

Thank you
Christian Peters

Comments

From: troyeggie <troyeggie@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:50 PM
To: Comments
Subject: FW: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [troyeggie](#)
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:41 PM
To: comments@asmfc.org
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am in favor of option 2, A4, and B4. I am also in favor of option B for the 3.2 circle hook provision.

I have been fishing for Striped Bass for over 55 years. I remember the collapse of the fishery prior to the moratorium. Even went several years without even seeing a single bass caught. In the "off" chance someone accidentally caught one, it was like seeing a dinosaur. I don't want to ever see such a collapse again. It's prudent to err on the side of caution, rather than take chances. After the moratorium, there were bass everywhere, I mean everywhere. We even caught tons in the surf in Barnegat light in mid August, during the day. If you're a bass fisherman, you know that is unbelievably rare. Why not implement some periodic "mini" moratoriums in order to give the fishery a break from harvesting pressure. It would take some of the guesswork out of the model predictions. In addition to the above conservation changes, I would be in favor of further protection of the large female breeders. How can they ever be expected to spawn if they are dead? It's all about greed and bragging rights, not what is best for the fishery. There is no need to keep the very large bass. Also a slot limit for the large bass, as well as closed spawning seasons would be a start. Lastly, I would be in favor of eliminating commercial fishing today. It's insane that the practices of a few can be so detrimental to so many!

Troyeggie

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: troyeggie <troyeggie@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am in favor of option 2, A4, and B4. I am also in favor of option B for the 3.2 circle hook provision.

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Tony Kemper <tk@butlercap.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 10:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am an avid recreational fisherman and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in New York State. I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

Sincerely,
Tony Kemper

Tony Kemper
Chief Operating Officer
Chief Compliance Officer
Butler Capital Partners
Member: FINRA, SIPC, NFA
151 Post Road
Old Westbury, NY 11568
Telephone: (516) 333-2100
Email: tk@butlercap.com
Website: www.butlercap.com

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Comments

From: Bruce Hashinger <deyakfisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 9:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board,

As a recreational angler who has pursued striped bass since the mid 90's and witnessed their dramatic decline since then, I would support at least a 20% reduction in recreational and commercial harvest.

I would also be in favor of circle hooks for all striper fishing using natural baits.

The "Trophy" spring catch and keep seasons should be eliminated; catch and release only at that time.

Sincerely,
Bruce Hashinger

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments

From: Katzenstein, Mike <Mike.Katzenstein@fticonsulting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 6:20 PM
To: Comments
Cc: John Gans
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in New York and Connecticut . I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

Respectfully
Michael Katzenstein

214 384 4909

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Comments

From: Jimmy <jps0886@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 5:12 PM
To: Comments
Subject: RE: Draft Addendum VI

Thank you.

One item I forgot to include is Option 2: 18% reductions applied equally between recreational and commercial sector. This is a shared resource which I believe to be the responsibility of all the stakeholders to maintain a healthy fishery for all to enjoy. Please include this in with my comments below.

James

From: Comments [mailto:comments@asmfc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 11:16 AM
To: Jimmy
Subject: RE: Draft Addendum VI

Thank you for taking the time to submit your input on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board in October when it will review submitted public comment and consider final action on the addendum.

Max Appelman
Atlantic Striped Bass FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740
mappelman@asmfc.org
www.asmfc.org

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

From: Jimmy [mailto:jps0886@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 12:30 PM
To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>
Cc: Max Appelman <mappelman@asmfc.org>; Tina Berger <tberger@asmfc.org>
Subject: Re: Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been contacting those responsible about this for years but here we are once again. To say I am disappointed and lost faith in those responsible for this process is an understatement. I don't really fish that much anymore because there

are literally no blues or bass of any size in my local waters to speak of. I will submit my comments and hope in a number of years this actually improves.

- **Option 2-A1: 1@35"; anticipated total removal reduction of 18%**
 - I grew up fishing in the 80s and the 1 @ 36" was successful. It gives the bass a chance to breed. We don't need to recreate the wheel when this has proven to work.
- **Option 2-B1 1@1"; anticipated total removal reduction of 20%**
 - I am not in favor of this at all but I believe this may be the lesser of the other evils. It makes zero sense to me that the largest nursery on the east coast allows bass to be harvested before they get a chance to spawn. The case that these are predominantly males reminds me the of the argument the fish are staying offshore. We all know how accurate that statement was. This size limit should mirror the 1 @ 35."
- **Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks**
 - This is a no brainer and how this wasn't imposed sooner is a head scratcher for me.

I also vehemently oppose the conservation equivalency. Under this plan there was been a number of instances where more fish were actually harvested instead of less. Therefore, I strongly urge 1 @35" up and down the coast even those this is not an option. It should be.

Thanks,
James Sabatelli

Comments

From: Jimmy <jps0886@gmail.com>
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To: Comments
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Thank you.

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Max Appelman
Atlantic Striped Bass FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740
mappelman@asmfc.org
www.asmfc.org

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

From: Jimmy [mailto:jps0886@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 12:30 PM
To: Comments <comments@asmfc.org>
Cc: Max Appelman <mappelman@asmfc.org>; Tina Berger <tberger@asmfc.org>
Subject: Re: Draft Addendum VI

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Thanks,
James Sabatelli

Comments

From: Robert Giordano <funbobbydesign@optonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 4:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Management Plan

To Whom it may Concern,

Having fished Long Island waters since the mid 1970's and during the moratorium on striped bass, I feel we're on a down trend in regard to the Striped Bass biomass and how it's currently being managed as a fishery. Although here in Long Island Sound where the fishery seems to be stable, in other areas of the island, it's a shadow of what it was just ten years ago. Gone are the hordes of fish that use to stop over Montauk in the fall to the delight of both boat and shore bound fisherman.

That being said I'd like to voice my vote to proceed with Sub-Option 2A-1 (1 fish @ 35") for all coastal areas. I think this is a size that can please both the recreational and the for hire fleet who rely on Striped Bass during parts of the fishing year. Mandating the use of Circle Hooks when fishing bait for Striped Bass should also be made into regulation and law.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Bob Giordano

210 Bay Ave.
Huntington, NY 11743
641-423-6593

Comments

From: Rick Drew <rpdrew@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI
Attachments: McGraw-Striped-Bass-Report-FINAL.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am an avid recreational fishermen (I am on the water approximately 150 days a year) and strongly support ending the over fishing of Striped Bass. I live in East Hampton, New York, and have witnessed a rather steep decline in the Striped Bass population, particularly with respect to mature, breeding sized fish over the past few seasons. The over harvesting of Striped Bass in Montauk, NY. by recreational fishermen during the summer months, and expanded Gill Netting practices along the south shore of the south fork of Long Island during the fall migration, are two areas of concern in my particular geographic area. (Eastern Long Island)

It is clear that we need to reduce the take of Striped Bass and protect upcoming young of year classes of fish, and rebuild our invaluable stock of Striped Bass. (Please see the attached McGraw economic study on Striped Bass)

There is a fair amount of science that supports my concerns. (Please see the embedded chart on the Striped Bass Breeder Bio Mass, below, as one example of such science).

As a result of my personal observations and supporting science:

I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions for both commercial and recreational fishermen. There is important work to be done in each sector in order to protect our Striped Bass fishery.

I also support Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks when fishing with bait for Striped Bass. We need to reduce Striped Bass Mortality in every state.

I also, support option 2 A1 - 1 fish at a 35" size minimum. We need to protect young fish and let them breed at least twice before harvest.

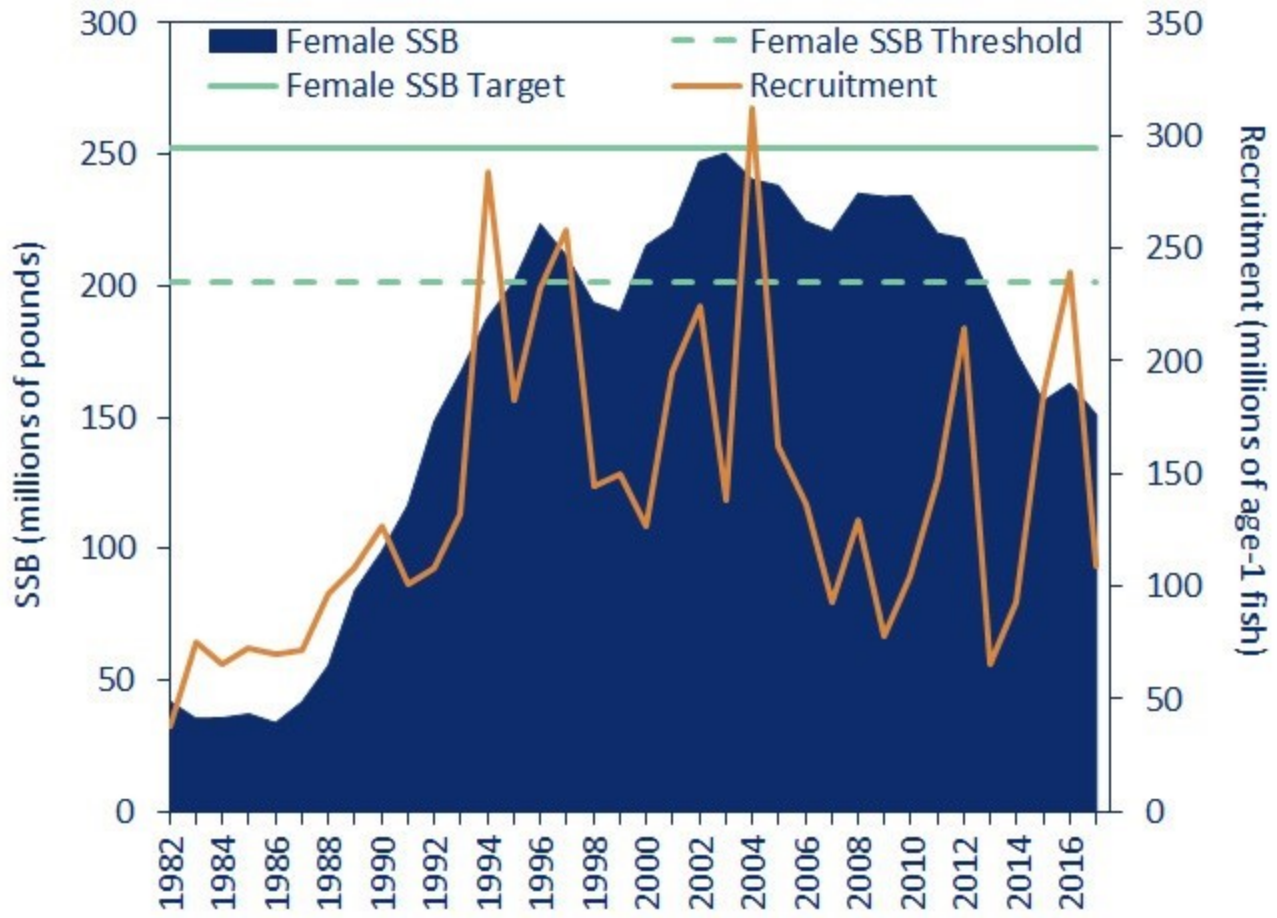
Please contact me at any time to discuss this important matter further.

Thank you,

Rick Drew
2 Powder Hill Lane
East Hampton, New York 11937
631.903.0751 (cell)

Atlantic Striped Bass Female Spawning Stock Biomass & Recruitment

Source: Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment, 2018



Comments

From: romanaround5246 <romanaround5246@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hi,

My name is Roman Dudus and I will be unable to attend either meeting concerning the Striped Bass Ammendment. I am disappointed that there aren't more options available to us that would make more of an impact.

I believe that the options given to us could be better. I am for Option 2-A4, but it doesn't go far enough. In addition to this, I would love to see a seasonal closure of January 1st until April 1st. If you have ever taken a walk along the Housatonic River, you would see the countless people fishing there for Striped Bass and then count how many of those fish are foul hooked, thrown back without being revived and seeing the float away and how many illegally kept fish are thrown in trunks of cars.

Also, the Bonus Striper Program should be done away with because that total should cover the number of illegal fish being taken. And since we don't know what that number is, we should assume it is the total number of fish that is given back as the commercial quota. There should be no sharing of quota either. And if not, then we should let those fish live for the following year which will start to rebuild the population. How many of those undersized fish(22"-28") are kept by people not applying those tags because no one is there to enforce them and using them for a later date when someone is there to enforce it. Remember, we don't have to kill all the fish allotted to us!! We can let some fish live for the following year and those would be extra in the population.

We also need to mandate the use of circle hooks. They really do work when they are used correctly. There needs to be demonstration around the state on how to use them correctly. A lot of anglers attend the fishing, hunting and boat shows in addition to tackle selling stores. DEEP is at all the shows so they would be able to instruct and answer any questions about their use. Have a class for people who sell fishing equipment so they too can be a teaching aid to get the word out and demonstrate how to use them correctly.

Another mandate would be to eliminate treble hooks on fishing plugs. They do more damage to fish and people than anything else. I figure that would decrease the price of plugs because the hook prices are cheaper for the singles and reduce the chance and price of having to make a trip to the emergency room.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,

Roman Dudus

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Comments

From: Bradley Cuddeback <bradcuddeback@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 2:56 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in NY. I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

Comments

From: Edward Bonczar <Edward.Bonczar@se.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 2:35 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

To Max Appelman,
Concerning the 2020 proposal for new striped bass regulations with slot limits, I am against the proposal. I fish in Massachusetts as a surfcaster where we are allowed 1 fish at 28 inch or larger. I would like it to stay that way. Any new regulations that would regulated the commercial sizes of striped bass I would favor and support.
Regards,
Edward Bonczar

Comments

From: Chris Schoen <jcschoen2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 2:01 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in New York.

I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

Comments

From: sam.hovey@nm.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 12:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

" I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in (Massachusetts - Cape Cod). I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

Regards,

/ sf hovey

Samuel F. Hovey | Financial Representative | **Northwestern Mutual** | 707-17th Street #3700
Denver, CO 80202 | T:303.390.5801 | F:303.293.6668 | C:303.478.8210 | sam.hovey@nm.com

For on-line account access and customer service, visit my internet site: www.samhovey.com

For Insurance Service (internet access, change of name/address, billing, loans, beneficiary changes, etc.): **800-388-8123**

For Investment Service (internet access, balances, mutual fund trading, general inquiries, etc.): **866-664-7737**



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Northwestern Mutual
720 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4797.

Comments

From: Vincent Catalano <fishin4777@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 7:34 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

I am a full time fishing guide and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. Over the course of the last 5-7 years its very disheartening to see the fishery collapse while people are filling there coolers...

I live in LONG ISLAND NY and support :
Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions
Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

We owe to the fish to end overfishing now and start rebuilding the stock

Thank you

--

Capt Vinny Catalano

631-766-1695

www.longislandflyfishing.com

www.joeyccharters.blogspot.com

IG : @JCCHARTERS

Comments

From: Lara McLanahan <lara.mclanahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 6:24 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it may concern:

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in Southampton, NY, and I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

Lara McLanahan

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Charles Ruffel <cruffel@kuduinvestment.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in Connecticut. I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.
Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Ned Pierrepont <Ned.Pierrepont@transwestern.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

To whom it may concern,

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in New York. I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

Thanks,
Ned

Ned Pierrepont
Senior Associate

TRANSWESTERN
600 Lexington Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10022
Direct: 212.537.7689
Mobile: 516.319.4133

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Comments

From: Gregg Beldock <gregg@bullrockcorp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:14 PM
To: Comments

Subject Line: *Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.*

“ I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in Vermont and Massachusetts. I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

Sincerely,

Gregg Beldock

Gregg Beldock
Bullrock Corporation
145 Pine Haven Shores Rd
Shelburne, VT 05482
(C) 802-999-7000
(O) 802-985-1460

Comments

From: John Gans <johngans@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 8:47 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in New York State. I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

John Gans
#917-744-4030

Comments

From: Irwin Gelbart <igelbart@optonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 12:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Amendment

Dear Mr. Appleman,

It is of great interest to have read the information put forth on the current state of the Striped Bass Fishery. I am speaking from my perch, having fished for striped bass since my formative years as a teen ager in the beginning of the 1950's when the bass were abundant through the dark years when striped bass fishing was prohibited, and now with certain restrictions. I will cut to the chase and direct my attention to the current, which I think, is a critical time in the fishery. We have a serious problem of overfishing. I believe this is a result of poaching, killed fish from commercial discards, and the disregard of regulations by some recreational anglers. All these problems add to the overfishing which must come to an end. But, which segment of the fishing public is to be penalized? The recreational will point to the commercial and vice versa. Therefore, my recommendation is what we had done in the past. CLOSE THE FISHERY, until it heals. When there is a cancer in the patient, surgery will remove the illness and hopefully there will be full recovery. We can continue to put band aids on the wound. Once again each segment will blame the other for violations and violations will continue to occur. Recovery will be very slow if recovery continues at all. The last proposals were set up to manage the fishery, and there are still decline in the bio mass. Let's not wait until there is a disaster that cannot be remedied, let's act now with a drastic attack at a dangerous situation, and resolve the problem. Commercial fisherman will use their resources in other areas and make due. Recreational anglers will manage with other species, and the tackle industry as well as the outlets will tighten their belts until the crises is resolved. I have seen a fishery in decline in my lifetime, which was almost decimated. As I come to the end of my years, I hope and pray my grandchildren and great-grandchildren will have the opportunity to enjoy the Striped Bass fishery as it was known to me.

Have a good day, and May God Bless you and Guide you in your decision,
Irwin Gelbart, President

Irwin Gelbart

Dai Ichi USA, Ltd.
P O Box 422
W. Hempstead, NY 11552
Tel: 516-505-1003 Fax: 516-505-3889 Cell: 516-903-3840
igelbart@optonline.net - irwin@daiichiusa.net

Comments

From: Max Appelman
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:33 AM
To: John Gans
Cc: Tina Berger; Kirby Rootes-Murdy
Subject: RE: Striped Bass Error Message

Hi John –

Thanks for the email.

Make sure you type the email address correctly. It should be comments@ASMFC.org (not asFMc).

Best,
Max

From: Kirby Rootes-Murdy
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:25 AM
To: Max Appelman <mappelman@asmfc.org>
Cc: Tina Berger <tberger@asmfc.org>
Subject: FW: Striped Bass Error Message

FYI- Striped Bass comments below. Sounds like there may be a few people experiencing bouncebacks

From: John Gans [<mailto:johngans@me.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 9:04 PM
To: Kirby Rootes-Murdy <krootes-murdy@asmfc.org>
Subject: Striped Bass Error Message

Not sure if you can help, but my comments to: comments@asfmc.org were bounced back - See below. I heard the same from other people who tried to send in comments.

-John Gans

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mail Delivery System <postmaster@mac.com>
Subject: Undelivered Mail Returned to Sender
Date: September 2, 2019 at 8:54:45 PM EDT
To: johngans@me.com

I'm sorry to have to inform you that your message could not be delivered to one or more recipients.

<comments@asfmc.org>: host asfmc.org[178.32.99.236] said: 554 5.7.1
<comments@asfmc.org>: Relay access denied (in reply to RCPT TO command)

Reporting-MTA: dns; st43p00im-ztfb10061701.me.com
X-Postfix-Queue-ID: 59E46AC0568
X-Postfix-Sender: rfc822; johngans@me.com
Arrival-Date: Tue, 3 Sep 2019 00:54:43 +0000 (UTC)

Final-Recipient: rfc822; comments@asfmc.org
Original-Recipient: rfc822;comments@asfmc.org
Action: failed
Status: 5.7.1
Remote-MTA: dns; asfmc.org
Diagnostic-Code: smtp; 554 5.7.1 <comments@asfmc.org>: Relay access denied

From: John Gans <johngans@me.com>
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI
Date: September 2, 2019 at 8:54:44 PM EDT
To: comments@asfmc.org

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in New York State. I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

John Gans
#917-744-4030

Comments

From: Monte Burke <monteburke13@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 8:41 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am an avid recreational fishermen and strongly support ending overfishing of Striped Bass. I live in New York. I support Option 2 : Equal Percentage Reductions and Option B, Required Use of Circle Hooks.

--

Monte Burke
646/642-2298

Comments

From: dean machado <deanmachado@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 12:43 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft addendum vl

Hi, I been fishing close to 20 years and see the striped bass fishing in a terrible decline. I would like to see the striped bass considered a game fish status. But if that's not an option then 1 fish at 35". That would give them a chance at 3-4 spawn cycles..

Thank you
Dean Machado
Marblehead MA.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Jimmy <jps0886@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 12:30 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Max Appelman; Tina Berger
Subject: Re: Draft Addendum VI

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been contacting those responsible about this for years but here we are once again. To say I am disappointed and lost faith in those responsible for this process is an understatement. I don't really fish that much anymore because there are literally no blues or bass of any size in my local waters to speak of. I will submit my comments and hope in a number of years this actually improves.

- **Option 2-A1: 1@35"; anticipated total removal reduction of 18%**
 - I grew up fishing in the 80s and the 1 @ 36" was successful. It gives the bass a chance to breed. We don't need to recreate the wheel when this has proven to work.
- **Option 2-B1 1@1"; anticipated total removal reduction of 20%**
 - I am not in favor of this at all but I believe this may be the lesser of the other evils. It makes zero sense to me that the largest nursery on the east coast allows bass to be harvested before they get a chance to spawn. The case that these are predominantly males reminds me the of the argument the fish are staying offshore. We all know how accurate that statement was. This size limit should mirror the 1 @ 35."
- **Option 3.2.B Mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks**
 - This is a no brainer and how this wasn't imposed sooner is a head scratcher for me.

I also vehemently oppose the conservation equivalency. Under this plan there was been a number of instances where more fish were actually harvested instead of less. Therefore, I strongly urge 1 @35" up and down the coast even those this is not an option. It should be.

Thanks,
James Sabatelli

Comments

From: CHRIS GUAY <cjguay1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 11:11 AM
To: Comments; Avon Void; danieldrabkin5@gmail.com; gavindowley@gmail.com; Mike
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ASFMC Commissioners and Staff,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum VI to be implemented for the 2019 season and onward.

I have been doing a lot of research lately, making phone calls and doing a lot of digging to learn more about the history of striped bass management on the east coast. I have also been listening to the recordings of meetings and have found negligence and a lack of accountability in the ASMFC on the management strategies they take. The fact that the current plan puts stock rebuild completion at 2033, 14 years from now, when Amendment 6 demands that a plan must take no more than 10 years is a glaring and offensive example of the ASMFCs lack of accountability for their actions. It is completely unacceptable. In my research I have only found one member who actively looks and holds firm to the previous motions passed in Amendment VI, while all the other members ignore or neglect these motions.

As such, it is necessary that the management efforts to striped bass to be governed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This more rigid and accountable framework would see to it that we do not find ourselves in the current offensive situation we find ourselves in today.

Many of my arguments and stances are mirrored by the Atlantic Saltwater Guides Association, and I fully align with them and their positions on this matter. I believe that their guidance and expertise is the best chance we have to rebuilding the striped bass stocks as well as ensure healthy and prosperity for the natural resources on the east coast.

I urge the Commission to adopt the following options to rebuild the stocks and end overfishing.

OPTION 2:

Equal percent reductions.

Everyone that takes part in this fishery is responsible for its health and prosperity, and we all must make sacrifices to rebuild it.

Sub-Option 2A-1

1 fish @ 35" for the Coast Ocean Recreational Fishery

The stocks have been crippled before, and have been rebuilt with this regulation as well. A history of success is something the other methods do not have. Conservation equivalency must not be allowed. ALL states must adhere to this rule. If outliers are allowed, how can you reasonably expect any measure of improvement in rebuilding the stocks?

Sub-Option 2B-1

1 fish @ 18" for the Chesapeake Bay

As you should be aware, Maryland's conservation equivalency proposal was not assessed accurately, and the recreational sector was allowed to grossly overfish. The fact that this was allowed to happen in the breeding grounds of 75% of the entire population of striped bass is simply sinful.

CIRCLE HOOK PROVISION

Option B

Circle hooks must be mandatory for use in all states when fishing with bait. Science shows that circle hooks greatly improve catch and release mortality. Many anglers I know have turned to bait to catch the increasingly small numbers of striped bass that are around, which have made lures or flies almost wholly ineffective. This is sure to continue while the stocks are rebuilt. As such, I urge the commission to make it mandatory in all states that any bait fishing must use circle hooks. To do otherwise would be taking two steps backward for every step forward. EVERY action that can be made to reduce mortality and harvests must be done.

These are the most restrictive and therefore most appropriate options for Addendum VI, and must be adopted in it's final draft. As a recreational angler, I spend a lot of time and money investing in gear, fishing trips, and networking with other anglers on the east coast fishing for striped bass. As it stands, 2020 will probably be my last year to fish for striped bass until the stocks get rebuilt, if they get rebuilt at all. Many of my friends have already abandoned the fishery because of how dire the situation has become. We all see that a total collapse is imminent, and know it will result in the loss of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in the states under the commissions jurisdiction. Surely you have felt and seen these effects already. This saddens me very much, because I no longer get to see my favorite fish in it's favorite environment, and won't see many of the friends I have made in various states and from various countries on the trips we used to organize together. Some of them feel they will never come back at all.

I will continue to fight for the striped bass in alignment with the ASGA and hope that one day the fishery will be healthy enough for me to feel it is worth it to come back.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Christopher Guay,

Striped bass angler,

Member of Stripers Forever

ASGA supporter

Comments

From: john miller <jm3812810@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 1:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum VI

Good day, here are my comments regarding the aforementioned Striped Bass Addendum VI.

- 1) I prefer option 2, proportional 18% reduction.
- 2) There should be circle hook regulations in place that include penalties for bait fishing without circle hooks. Since as mentioned in the addendum, striped bass may be encountered when targeting other species, it should be for all bait fishing which uses live or chunk bait of a certain size and type including eels. Exclusions for targeting scup, black sea bass or other smaller fish with small hooks using squid (for example) should also be considered in this regulation, and would not effect striper mortality since they are typically not caught using this type of gear.
- 3) There needs to be a close look at the regulations regarding commercial fishing of species that striped bass feed on, (ie. menhaden, spearing, mackerel, eels etc.) since it is my belief that the decrease in the striped bass population is linked with increasing commercial quotas of these fishes, particularly menhaden.

Comments

From: Arthur James <amjretired@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Vinni NAPPI; pete antonocelli
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

My vote is to go to a slot limit of 26" to 30" Larger fish are females and breeders. Since I do not see that as a choice, 3A-2 would be the best option.

A James
Massapequa Park, NY

Comments

From: mfkahney <mfkahney@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 8:19 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft addendum VI

Dear Sir,

To begin, I would like to commend you and those who you represent for taking steps to protect our vanishing Striped Bass population. And for the opportunity to give input towards this effort.

For the last 70 years I have fished for the wonderful linesiders . My catches have fallen and risen with the normal fluctuations that seemed to occur on about a seven year cycle.

However, I have never experienced such a decline as I am witnessing during the past 10 years.

This past spring season while fishing Massachusetts (the Cape and the canal), I spoke with many anglers with the same concerns. Most of those I spoke with attributed the decline to the new abundance of seals along the coast. I also spoke with boaters who shared the same opinion.

Obviously this is only one part of the problem.

An additional (and huge) problem is the commercial over harvesting of forage fish, primarily menhaden.

These two situations need to be addressed posthaste.

On a personal level

I support lowering mortality by mandating circle hooks

I support eliminating the trophy fish category.

I even support a moratorium on killing any striped bass.

In summary, I feel recreational fishing has a very low impact on the livelihood of the fishery but I'm willing to do my part to preserve the species.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion.

Sincerely

Michael Kahney
59 Douglas st.
Lambertville , NJ 08530

Mkahney1@verizon.net

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Comments

From: David Dow <ddow420@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Comments
Cc: David Dow
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum 6

I am submitting comments on the Striped Bass Addendum 6 as a retired marine scientist/grassroots environmental activist living on Cape Cod. In perusing the supporting material for the NEFSC/ASMFC stock assessment utilized to support this striped bass amendment, it doesn't appear that they included "natural mortality" in their analysis that determined that striped bass populations were both overfished and subject to overfishing. In Nantucket Sound, we have Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass plus forage fish species moving in from the Mid-Atlantic states, while in Cape Cod Bay increased "natural mortality" has diminished the catch quotas for both Gulf of Maine cod and sea herring populations. Winter flounder and lobster fisheries have migrated either northwards into the Gulf of Maine or further offshore in US jurisdictional waters. Here on Cape Cod the Coonamesset River watershed wetlands are being restored to increase river herring populations.

It doesn't appear to me that these shifting fish populations meet the steady state, equilibrium conditions of the Northeast Continental Shelf ecosystem conceptual model utilized by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center SAW/SARC process or the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office. As a retired biological oceanographer, I view this ocean ecosystem and marine food chain as being nonlinear, dynamic systems which are not at equilibrium. Thus the approach used in the North Sea by Brander et al. (Environmental Impacts- Marine Ecosystems; pp.241-273 (2016) in North Sea Region Climate Change Assessment, Regional Climate Studies) is a more appropriate modeling framework. Both bottom up (changes in plankton and forage fish) and top down (competition and predation) changes in the marine food chain should be incorporated in models to estimate the "natural mortality" in striped bass as it changing over time. This would obviously influence the recovery plans for reducing the fishing mortality and recovering the standing stock biomass.

As Halpern et al. pointed out in a recent paper in Nature Scientific Reports ("Recent pace of change in human impact on the world's oceans"; doi:10.1038/s41598-019-47201-9) there are other human stressors that have changed the ocean ecosystem baseline that is responsible for the migration of fish prey and predators in space and time. The Lenfest Ocean Program is having a workshop in Washington, DC between October 21-23, 2019 to consider the effects of fish migration on the required science to support management. They will have a webinar on September 20 to solicit input for this workshop. I suggested that they consider using a case study of the effects on the North Atlantic Oscillation and cod recruitment at the October workshop, since the NAO phases are linked to the jet stream/melting of ice and warming waters in the Arctic.

One of the consequences of a nonlinear dynamic system which is not at equilibrium are surprises. A good example would be Pershing et al, recent paper ("Challenges to natural and human communities from surprising ocean temperatures" in PNAS in 2019). The authors suggested that natural communities would shift towards generalist species which would decrease productivity or yield and biodiversity. I participated in the EMaX (Energy Modeling and Analysis Exercise) carbon modeling study on the Northeast Continental Shelf Ecosystem and we had to add the microbial food loop to the base of the food chain in order to balance primary production estimated from ocean color satellites with the observed yield of Living Marine/Protected/Natural Trust Resources. The increased community respiration from a longer food chain balanced the primary production with the secondary production on LMRs/PRs/NTRS. As the ocean waters warm the community respiration of the plankton and microbes will increase, further reducing the yield at the top of the food chain

Numerous scientists have proposed implementing ecosystems approaches for fisheries management which would include warming ocean water; hypoxia; ocean acidity; eutrophication in coastal waters; competing human uses of the ocean; etc. The paper by Gaichas et al. ("Implementing ecosystem approaches to fishery management: Risk assessment in the US Mid-Atlantic" Frontiers in Marine Science; <http://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2018.00442>) suggests an approach where fishery management councils could employ ecosystems indicator-based risk management to implement EAFM (ecosystems approach to fisheries management). The Gulf of Maine Council for the Marine Environment developed ecosystem-based fisheries indicators in 2002-2003 which might serve as a starting point for a dialog with diverse constituent groups involved in the striped bass fishery. One of the interesting socioeconomic indicators was the economic multiplier effect (eme) for commercial and recreational fishing on the economies in coastal communities

(compared investments with direct/indirect/induced economic benefits at the county level). We face loosing our working waterfront here on Cape Cod.

Given the above observations, I feel that the ASMFC may want to revisit their estimates of an 18% reduction in the catch quota split between commercial and recreational fisheries. I feel that saltwater anglers are more important to the blue economy on Cape Cod and favor the use of circle hooks to reduce catch & release mortalities. The recreational "eme" is likely larger for striped bass than that for the commercial fishery which targets other species. Given the uncertainties in the "natural mortality" component of the stock assessment models used by the ASMFC/NEFSC, I don't know if a fisheries moratorium for striped bass should be implemented. I will leave that up to state fishery management agencies to decide.

Thanks for your consideration of these comments

Dr. David D. Dow
East Falmouth, Ma.

Comments

From: Lynton Land <lsl@vabayblues.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 8:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments on Striped Bass Draft Addendum

I recommend adoption of Option 2-B4 with the following additional comments/suggestions.

1) The following statement is posted in the last two sentences at the end of the second paragraph in “Commercial & Recreational Fisheries” at <http://www.asmfc.org/species/atlantic-stripped-bass:>

"Commercial landings are consistently dominated by Chesapeake Bay fisheries. Total commercial landings were estimated at 4.6 million pounds (592,576 fish) in 2017, of which approximately 56% (by weight) came from the Chesapeake Bay (77% in terms of numbers of fish)."

Accepting that statement, it is clear that the commercial striped bass fishery within Chesapeake Bay must be further regulated, and Option 2 should be strengthened within Chesapeake Bay.

2) The catch-and-release recreational fishery should be further regulated. It should be emphasized that “Responsible recreational anglers should not practice catch-and-release fishing, which is known to cause unnecessary mortality. All anglers fishing with live bait must use circle hooks. It shall be illegal for any angler to practice catch-and-release fishing subsequent to achieving his/her catch limit.”

Dr. Lynton S. Land, PO Box 539, Ophelia VA 22530
www.VaBayBlues.org

Comments

From: Chad Rogers <cbrogers55@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Good afternoon,

Preferred management scenario: Option 2
Sub-Option 2-A4 and Sub-Option 2-B1

Circle Hook Provision: Option B

I am a recreational angler of the Potomac River. My main interest in the fishery is for catch and release light-tackle fishing. I believe that Option 2 presents a fair scenario for all stakeholders compared to Option 3, and Option 1 is not acceptable. Sub-option 2-A4 should protect the strong 2014 and 2015 year classes as they grow and join the ocean population, protects the really-large fish which are critical to the future of the species, and it results in the greatest reduction. I am typically in support of a slot limit for the Chesapeake but I believe these size ranges are too restrictive. My concern is that anglers would sift through many fish attempting to fill their limit. Sub-option 2-B1 may reduce release mortality (especially in summer), is projected to have greatest reduction overall, but still allows an angler a decent chance of harvesting a fish. Circle hooks should be mandated when fishing with bait. This would have a more immediate impact on release mortality than Option C.

Best regards,

Chad Rogers

Comments

From: Andrew Knoll <aknoll1387@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 9:13 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

My name is Andy Knoll and I live in Springfield, VA. I recreationally fish the lower Potomac for Striped Bass. I agree that the population is declining, particularly the older, more mature fish that meet or exceed the legal size limit.

I would like to see more stringent measures be taken to ensure the health of the Striped Bass population, especially slot limits and requiring the use of circle hooks. I also believe that recreational and commercial sectors should bear the burden equally.

After reading **Draft Addendum VI**, I am in support of **Option 2/Sub-Option 2-A2**.

Additionally, I would be in favor of **Option B** in regards to the **Circle Hooks Provision**.

Thank you for addressing this issue, as I believe it to be an important one.

Regards,
Andy Knoll
Springfield, VA

Comments

From: Julie Kennie <jkennie@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I am a resident of West Dennis, MA, (Cape Cod) and recently attended the public meeting on the proposed regulations in Bourne, MA.. My husband and his friends are avid fisherman in the Sound, in the Bay, and on the canal. They come home frustrated at the number of people they see gaffing undersized striper, and at the number of dead fish they see floating in the water. This is mostly being done by commercial fishermen. In addition, they see many commercial fishermen hooking and keeping undersized fish. We assume they are selling these illegally.

Also, at the canal, they regularly see people taking well beyond their limit. There needs to be more enforcement and bigger fines. Today, these law-breakers are getting a slap on the wrist, because the MA DEP leaves it to the discretion of individual officers (and has infrequent raids), as to what penalties to apply. Perhaps the states should begin to consistently apply the penalties, confiscate boats and fishing gear, and permanently revoke licenses, when the culprits are caught. The current regulations have not deterred the poachers, and the proposed rules will probably not help much, unless the States' enforcement is more rigorous.

Here are our thoughts about the proposed regulations:

First, you should require the use of circle hooks for all striper fishing.

Second, all gaffing should be banned for all sizes of fish. I see no reason for gaffs when a net can be used instead. I know you will have complaints from commercial fisherman who fish alone. I have no sympathy for this.

Third, we see recreational fisherman catching fish all day - long after they have caught their quota. This is a contributing factor to the injury and deaths of MANY under-sized fish. Some thought should be given to how this can be addressed.

Fourth, the over-fishing that is done in Maryland (small fish caught in gill nets) should be addressed. Ninety percent of the fish come from MD waters, and MD takes half the fish. This seems unfair.

Fifth, the under-funding for regulation enforcement by many states needs to be part of the discussion. It does no good to develop new regulations if there are insufficient resources to enforce them. For example, MA has 30 DEP officers to cover well over 400 miles of coast line, and this is in addition to their other duties.

Fifth, this summer, there have been many people fishing in Federal waters (especially charter boats), where the fish have moved to deeper, cooler waters. We have even seen certain sites such as Rose & Crown shoal publicized on the On the Water website. This should not be permitted. I know that these waters are the responsibility of the U.S. Coast Guard, but they are completely understaffed for anything but rescues. This is having a negative impact on striper populations too.

Finally, you should address creating controls that will prevent recreational fishermen from obtaining commercial licenses. Many people do this just so they can keep a few more fish for themselves, but their livelihoods do not depend on this. Can you require proof that people with commercial licenses are selling a certain number of pounds of fish, over a certain number of seasons, that proves they are fishing commercially and not just keep a few extras for themselves? This should be required for commercial permits.

Thank you in advance for considering this input.

Julie Kennie

Cape Cod, MA

Comments

From: Tim Hoerichs <tshoerichs@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 3:00 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum IV

As a recreational fisherman I strongly support Option 2, specifically, options 2a4 and 2b3 and support option B of the circle hook recommendations.

Sincerely,

Tim Hoerichs
804.525.0344

Comments

From: fran@fgallagher.net
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 9:51 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Hello, Thank you for allowing me to send in a comment. I am a recreational fishing angler, I fish in the spring at Cape May, NJ about three (3) times per year. I vote for option 1 Status Quo. Please leave the rules the way they are now.

Thank you
Francis Gallagher
fran@fgallagher.net

Comments

From: Russ Falardeau <russfalardeau@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2019 9:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI Striped Bass

Here are my comments on Addendum VI.

I am not a commercial fishermen, strictly recreational, and have been fishing striped bass for 60 plus years.

My recommendations are:

20 to 22 slot limit.

Limiting the number hooks on a lure to 1 treble hook and 1 single hook.

Require hooks to be barb less.

Option 1, do nothing, is the best of the three options. The other options are flawed and will NOT result in an increase of breeding females but will yield reductions.

Please do not reduce the commercial quota. Doing so will increase the price per pound of sold fish. This will increase the black market sale of striped bass, which all know is ongoing and significant.

Taking 1 fish at 35 inches, a 20lb fish or a slot limits of 28 to 34 inches or 32 to 40 inches will not produce the desired goal of increase breeding females. Presumably a person chooses to keep a bass is to eat. The above slot limits result in harvesting fish from 10 to 25 lbs, that is a lot of fish for the table, and freezer. What is really happening is that people are trading striped bass for favors or cash. The bass in the size range of the slots proposed will sell from 50 to 125 dollars, figuring 5 dollars per pound. That a lot of motivation to poach. And another breeding female killed.

If people are taking fish to eat, we know that larger the fish the more contaminants (mercury) it contains.

Encouraging harvesting and targeting fish that are 6 to 13 years old makes no sense. If wrong the time to correct the mistake is between 6 to 13 years.

None of the options solve the problem of increasing female breeders. The real problem is catch and release. A 9% mortality rate of release fish is ridiculously inaccurate when applied to 10 plus lb fish. In my opinion it is more like 50% of the fish released die. As fish size increases so does the difficulty of releasing of that a fish without taking it out of the water. If the fish is too green and is released after removing hooks out of the water then that fish is going to be very bruised as it thrashes on hard surface. If a fish is released after exhaustion then survival is questionable even after reviving. Why encourage a fisherman to target fish 28" above simply for the table.

What needs to happen to increase breeding females is encouraging targeting of small bass. A slot limit of 20 to 22 inches does this. Four to six pound is more than enough meat for the table, and safer to eat. Also harvesting smaller fish has the least impact on fish population because there are lots more small fish, and there is higher natural mortality due to being prey and starvation. Also know one the impact of abundant small bass competing with breeding females for food. The argument is that the fish should have at least one chance to spawn, but that is a failed argument. It is proven fact that the more mature fish will produce more and healthier fry.

A small fish is easier to release while the fish is in the water.

Circle hooks are clearly a step in the right direction, but don't go far enough. We need to limit the number of hooks on a lure to 1 treble hook and 1 single hook, ideally both hooks are barb-less. When fishing double treble hooks on a lure it is common for a fish to be hook in the mouth and the other hook is in an eye or gill and under the gill causing a fatal wound to the fish being released. The worst are three treble hook lures, 2 hooks are in the fish and the 3rd hook dangles making unhooking the fish very difficult.

Thanks for listening.

Russ Falardeau

6 Holly Tree lane

West Wareham MA. 02576

508 904 4306

Comments

From: Jon Cogswell <jcogswell483@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 12:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Feedback on Proposed Striper Regs

I am a recreational fisherman from Massachusetts and fish a dozen times as year from shore and from boats in both MA waters (Cape Cod) 50% of the time and NY (North Fork of LI) 50% of the time. I am a fan of consistent regs in all jurisdictions, so I like Scenario 2 and slotting for rec at 28' – 35" (2-A2). Protect the breeding stock!

Thank you for all you do to protect this important fishery.

Jonathan B. Cogswell
copperbeechassociates.com
O 508-393-0353
C 508-561-3982

Comments

From: William Johnson <bjohnson090@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 10:46 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Comments on striped bass addendum

Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

I applaud your efforts to responsibly manage the striped bass resource. I have read the proposed amendments and offer the following comments.

I support:

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

Sub-Option 2-B: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery

Option 2-B4. 20-24" slot size limit, 2 fish bag limit, **NO**
"trophy" season

3.2 Circle Hook Provision

Option B. States/jurisdictions would be **required** to implement regulations requiring the use of circle hooks,

Thanks for your attention.

Bill Johnson
Parkton, MD

Comments

From: Felipe Urquilla <felipe.urquilla@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 4:55 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Hello,

Please accept this email as my formal submission of comments for Draft Addendum VI.

I would like to convey that I am completely in favor of Option 2 as presented in the draft Addendum. I strongly support that reductions should be equally reduced across the recreational and commercial sectors.

Regarding the sub-options, I am strongly in favor of the following:

Sub-Option 2-A2 (Slot 28-35")

Sub-Option 2-B3 (Slot 18-23", No Trophy Season)

In regards to Option 1 (Status Quo), it should not be considered for any reason.

Thank you!

Comments

From: Gary Mickus <gary.mickus@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 11:00 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum Striper

Mr. Max Appelman

I endorse option 2, equal reduction rec and commercial fisherman but make it 20% across the board to increase conservation. A slot limit of 27- 32. A reduction of the upper limit preserves the large female breeders. I endorse the use of circle hooks to reduce release mortality. Recommend pinching the barbs on all hooks, to aid in quicker release and fisherman safety.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Mickus

Sent from my iPad

Comments

From: cavemansportfishing@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 5:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass off Cape May. NJ/Capt John Sowerby

Hello I am Capt John Sowerby from Caveman Sportfishing Charters. I have been fishing stripers off Pt Judith, RI (I lived in Narraganset Pier, RI back in the early to mid-70's and Cape May, NJ for the last 30 years. I know almost all the charter boats and many recreational anglers from Great Egg Inlet south and not one caught a legal striper south of Barnegat Inlet, NJ last fall and early winter. All the South Jersey charter fleet caught there stripers last season from Macrae's Shoal to the 5 fathom Bank. Not one legal striper was caught on any charter boat out of Townsend Inlet, NJ down to Indian River, DE. Because of this I am probably not going to fish for stripers this coming season as I hate breaking the law even though not one charter customer I have met in 30 years of striper fishing has ever had a problem going beyond the line as long as they catch stripers. I can honestly say never went out beyond 3 miles ever but plenty of my customers have fished on other boats and told me this so many times how they went out to chased the birds as we say in the business. I never needed to go out beyond 3 miles as we had great striper fishing on the Cape May Rips and chunking up the bay for so many years I just did not want breaking the law when there was no reason to do this. It is a real problem with no easy answer especially since the North Jersey boats have had such good fishing the last few years compared the South Jersey, DE and MD ports. Basically by the time the fish move south from points north of Barnegat the water is too cold and they move off to the warmer water offshore along with the forage food they feed on. I personally would eliminate all spring striper fishing north of the Maurice River Cove and allow one person from 27-38 inches and all others released and no trophy or commercial season any where on the East Coast for the next 5 years. Drastic measures need to be put in place and anglers need to start to enjoy striper fishing in a catch and release mode until the stocks can rebound. I would also only allow circle hooks when striper fishing to help their survival rate when they are released.

Regards

Capt John Sowerby/Owner of the 55 Hooked Up II

cavemansportfishing@comcast.net

(609) 425-1970

Comments

From: Evan Dintaman <edintaman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 4:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Draft Addendum VI

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to submit my comments for Addendum VI regarding the Striped Bass Regulations. I am joined by thousands of recreational fisherman who feel strongly about these new regulations.

I am strongly in favor of Option 2 as presented in the draft Addendum. Total removals should be equally reduced across the recreational and commercial sectors.

More specifically, I am strongly in favor of the following sub-options:

In favor of: Option 2, Sub-Option 2-A2 (Slot 28-35")

In favor of: Option 2, Sub-Option 2-B3 (Slot 18-23", No Trophy Season)

Under no circumstance should Option 1 (Status Quo) be considered.

Best Regards,
Evan Dintaman

Comments

From: John Barrett <barrett.john.d@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 1:14 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripped Bass Comments

Please fully support **Complete** (All sizes) catch and release recreational fishing similar to the Atlantic Salmon Initiative.

Implements mandatory circle hook usage for air fishermen and mandatory barbless fishing for Fly Anglers is also an excellent idea.

Public Relations Initiative and Posters at local Bait Shops/Fly Shops. Advertising on Fishing TV/ Outdoor Channel and Social Media. Seek Educational Initiative sponsors such as Stripers Forever Cheeky Fishing and Individual anglers through Stripers Forever.

Thank you

John Barrett
5 Galway RD
Windham, NH. 03087

Comments

From: mike C <Mikecliny@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Comments
Subject: End to Striped Bass surf fishing as knowen

To Whom it may concern,

For the last 8 years I have seen the fishing for Striped bass on Long Island disappear. Large fish in the bays of Long Island are near to none existence . Again this year at the Montauk Surf Classic , with hardcore Surf fishermen from all over fishing, not one legal size Striped bass was entered in the contest. Tell me again how well the Striped bass are doing? If something radical is not done, those in charge will be subject to charges of not doing their fiduciary obligation to ALL Citizens. Michael Campanelli
38 Greenbelt Lane
Levittown NY

Comments

From: Melina Hale <danielhale21580@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 7:16 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum

Something must be done about the dwindling populations of striped bass. Please impose reductions on the commercial and recreational quotas.

Daniel Hale

Comments

From: Keith Czarnecki <keithczarnecki@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 9:08 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Stripped Bass

I am writing to support the stripped bass management alternatives noted in the October 2019 On the water magazine

Keith Czarnecki
Groton Ct

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Joe Trip <maritime920@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 9:18 PM
To: Comments
Subject: STRIPED BASS AND FLUKE

DO SOMETHING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Comments

From: Helmuth, Jeffrey <HelmuthJ@dep.nyc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 9:30 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Addendum VI

- In the tables for example sub-Option 2-B Is “size limit” column in the table those that you can keep or release? Please define “size limit” , the reader is not sure if for example 18” – 23” slot means the fish in the slot are legal to keep or if it means that size range must be released.
- I would support mandatory circle hooks when fishing with bait or chunk targeting only stripers only in estuaries.

Jeffrey B. Helmuth, P.E. | Chief
BWS Source Water Operations | Dam Safety & In-House Engineering Div.
2389 Route 28A Olivebridge NY 12461
(O) (845) 657-5091 | (C) (347) 804-5849 |

Comments

From: Brian Pollock <bpollock@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 2:18 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Ken's Dock
Subject: striped bass question re draft addendum

Since we need large striped bass more as spawners than table fare, why isn't a slot limit, maybe 18 - 28 inches, for stripers as already has been done for redfish, aka channel bass? Is there a biological reason that currently allows this or is it pressure to allow killing a trophy?

Brian Pollock, Atco, NJ

From: [Orient Star Fishing](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI
Date: Saturday, September 28, 2019 7:59:21 PM

Capt. Daniel W Buckley Jr.
ORIENT STAR CHARTERS, INC.
40 South Road
Wading River, NY 11792
captdanbuckley@gmail.com
(631)747-7056

Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Sept 27, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a charter boat captain for over 25 years, fishing on the North Fork of Long Island out of Orient Point, New York.

I am vehemently opposed to the current proposed Striped Bass regulations.

Proposing a size limit of greater than 28" will not only cause such great hardship to me and others but will initiate a government created monopoly for Montauk charter businesses who will have a size limit only they alone can achieve. This will cause many or most customers of ours to flock to the one port that will have an obtainable minimum size limit.

A minimum of 28" will be sustainable, be fair and equitable to all businesses, and satisfy the proposed reductions as outlined below. It is the same proposal supported by the North Fork Captains Association and most all of the many like businesses on the North Fork and elsewhere.

Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

After reviewing all the data, it is very clear the For Hire fleet has had minimal effect on striped bass stocks.

- 1) We are asking to consider giving us back a For Hire striped bass category and let us maintain a 28" minimum at 1 per person.
- 2) We would be willing to give up April & December.
- 3) We would also consider giving up fish for crew.
- 4) We are in favor of circle hooks for bait fishing and no treble hooks for lures.

Keeping the size limit down will keep mortality down. It is very important for us to offer a fish for our customers to take home to eat. This is what our customers expect when they fish with

us, not to catch and release.

If this is not possible then we would support 28"-35" slot. The conservation equivalent 30" fish would not be good for us at all as most of the fish we have in The Long Island Sound are 26"-29", again creating more unnecessary mortality.

Capt. Dan Buckley Jr.

ORIENT STAR CHARTERS, INC.

(631) 747-7056

captanbuckley@gmail.com

From: [Andrew Connors](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI
Date: Friday, September 13, 2019 10:48:55 AM

Dear Fisheries Manager,

It's becoming quite clear striped bass are and have been in decline for the better part of the last decade. If we don't act now to fully restore stocks we risk repeating history and endangering the future of a nationally iconic species. It's no one's god given right to pillage other species for profit, and so I am writing to you to please consider the future of the fish and to vote to limit the take of both commercial and recreational fisheries to the fullest extent, even consider a moratorium for a few years.

Thank you,

Andrew Connors

From: [Mike Piper](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: savethestripers@gmail.com
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:02:06 PM

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

My name is William Piper, and I am 10 years old. I'm in 5th grade at Village School in Marblehead MA. I've been fishing for 3 years and I've been targeting Stripers and Blues. I especially like to fish from my kayak.

It's been difficult to find Stripers up here in Massachusetts this year. I even took a fishing camp with a really experienced guide, but only got 2 Stripers over the course of the week.

My recommendation is to increase the minimum size to be 36 inches. I like the idea that you should use circle hooks for live baiting so they don't get hooked in the throat.

Thank you for reading my email.

William Piper
Marblehead Massachusetts

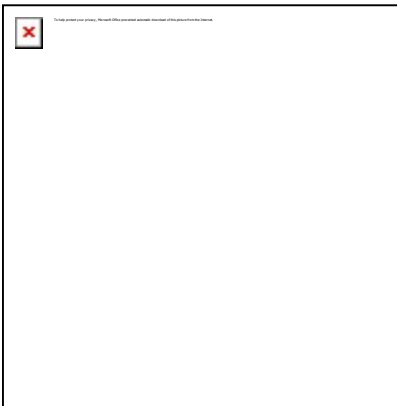
Comments

From: Carl Walsh <carl@carlwalsh.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 9:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Action Request

ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6

Posted by [sfadmin](#) on Thursday, September 12, 2019 ·

Stripers Forever Favors Equitable Harvest Reduction for Wild Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan



Option Two Mandates 18% Cut for Commercial Fishermen and Recreational Anglers

Stripers Forever, an international conservation organization fighting for the future of wild Atlantic striped bass, endorses Option Two of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (**ASMFC**) **Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6** to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Stripers Forever also supports mandating the use of "circle hooks" for both recreational and hook-and-line commercial fishermen using bait.

Stripers Forever urges its members and all others interested in protecting wild Atlantic striped bass to write the ASMFC and state delegations to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board and request they do the same. The public comment period for Addendum VI to Amendment 6 ends at 5:00pm EST on October 7, 2019.

Option Two requires changes to current regulations resulting in an equitable 18% reduction in recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass. According to the Draft Addendum:

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.

Option One would maintain the status quo. **Option Three** would cut the commercial harvest by only 1.8% and require the recreational angling community make up the difference to achieve an overall 18% reduction in total harvest.

Stripers Forever has no preference for the sub-options creating minimum/maximum length “slot limits” for recreationally caught striped bass under Option Two. However, the organization believes all states should require anglers using bait to use circle hooks, which have been proven to increase a fish’s chances of survival after release, as described under Option Three (3.2 Circle Hook Provision).

“Although we are disappointed that the proposed changes to striped bass regulations are not more aggressive, Stripers Forever believes that the changes described in Option Two are the fairest. Long term, we remain committed to seeing wild Atlantic striped bass designated as game fish along the entire Eastern Seaboard,” said Brad Burns, president, Stripers Forever.

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Raymond D Lewis <haremai1@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI.

I support Option 2, Please seriously consider this option to rebuild the Striper biomass.

Sincerely,

Captain Ray Lewis
Port Republic, NJ 08241

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.

Comments

From: Rick Hickox <rickhickox517@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:04 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

To whom it may concern,

I support the position of Stripers Forever, an international conservation organization fighting for the future of wild Atlantic striped bass, which endorses Option Two of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Stripers Forever also supports mandating the use of “circle hooks” for both recreational and hook-and-line commercial fishermen using bait.

Thank you,
Rick Hickox

Comments

From: Tom <thomaswis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 2:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6

I am a recreational fisherman and am disappointed that the options under consideration do not reduce enough or suspend Stripped Bass fishing. On the Long Island sound we have seen each summers catch of stripers get smaller and smaller. My family and I caught 0 keepers this last summer and hardly any juveniles. There is a huge problem that the industry is failing to deal with.

That said of the options offered I agree with Stripers Forever and think Option 2 does the most good.

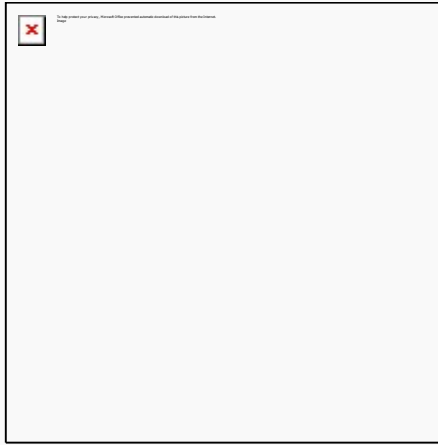
Thomas Wisniewski
917-885-2616

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stripers Forever" <stripers@stripersforever.org>
Date: October 4, 2019 at 3:57:50 PM EDT
To: "Thomas Wisniewski" <thomaswis@yahoo.com>
Subject: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6



**IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUEST
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS:
5:00PM EST OCTOBER 7, 2019
ACT NOW!**



Stripers Forever Favors Equitable Harvest Reduction for Wild Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan

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Stripers Forever urges its members and all others interested in protecting wild Atlantic striped bass to write the ASMFC and state delegations to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board and request they do the same. **DEADLINE APPROACHING!** The public comment period for Addendum VI to Amendment 6 ends at **5:00pm EST on October 7, 2019**.

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after release, as described under Option Three (3.2 Circle Hook Provision).

“Although we are disappointed that the proposed changes to striped bass regulations are not more aggressive, Stripers Forever believes that the changes described in Option Two are the fairest. Long term, we remain committed to seeing wild Atlantic striped bass designated as game fish along the entire Eastern Seaboard,” said Brad Burns, president, Stripers Forever.

**ACT NOW! DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ENDS:
5:00PM EST OCTOBER 7, 2019**

Submit your comments to the ASMFC:

Mail:

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: (703) 842-0740
Fax: (703) 842-0741

Email:

comments@asmfc.org (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

In Person:

Visit our website posting [ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6](#) for a full listing of public hearings.

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To contact [Stripers Forever](#) please email us at stripers@stripersforever.org or visit stripersforever.org

Thanks,

Stripers Forever
"Make it a Game Fish!"

209 Winn Road
Falmouth ME 04105
USA

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Comments

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To: Comments
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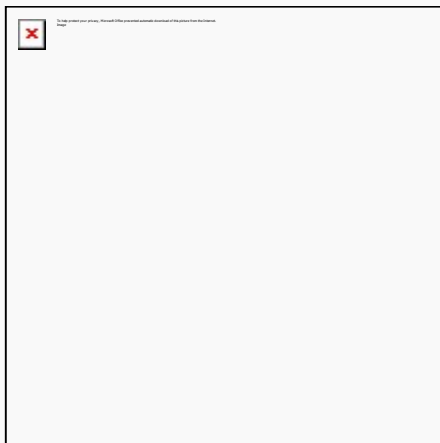
Thomas Wisniewski
917-885-2616

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stripers Forever" <stripers@stripersforever.org>
Date: October 4, 2019 at 3:57:50 PM EDT
To: "Thomas Wisniewski" <thomaswis@yahoo.com>
Subject: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6



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after release, as described under Option Three (3.2 Circle Hook Provision).

“Although we are disappointed that the proposed changes to striped bass regulations are not more aggressive, Stripers Forever believes that the changes described in Option Two are the fairest. Long term, we remain committed to seeing wild Atlantic striped bass designated as game fish along the entire Eastern Seaboard,” said Brad Burns, president, Stripers Forever.

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Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: (703) 842-0740
Fax: (703) 842-0741

Email:

comments@asmfc.org (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI)

In Person:

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To contact [Stripers Forever](#) please email us at stripers@stripersforever.org or visit stripersforever.org

Thanks,

Stripers Forever
"Make it a Game Fish!"

209 Winn Road
Falmouth ME 04105
USA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Change Subscriber Options](#)

Comments

From: Karen Hluchan <karen.hluchan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 1:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I have no preference for the sub-options creating minimum/maximum length “slot limits” for recreationally caught striped bass under Option Two. However, I believe all states should require anglers using bait to use circle hooks, which have been proven to increase a fish’s chances of survival after release, as described under Option Three (3.2 Circle Hook Provision).

“Although I am disappointed that the proposed changes to striped bass regulations are not more aggressive, I believe the changes described in Option Two are the fairest. Long term, I remain committed to seeing wild Atlantic striped bass designated as game fish along the entire Eastern Seaboard,

Karen Hluchan
Sparrow Woods, Co., President

Comments

From: Tony Vinciguerra <vinca100@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Mr. Appelman,

I support Option Two of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Thank you,

Anthony Vinciguerra
Canton, MA

Comments

From: Chris Daughters <caddiseug@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 9:09 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support Stripers Forever Option #2,

Option Two requires changes to current regulations resulting in an equitable 18% reduction in recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass. According to the Draft Addendum:

Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions

An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.

Chris Daughters

OregonFlyFishingBlog.com
Caddisflyshop.com

Comments

From: Parker Corbin <parker.corbin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 7:16 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing in support of Option 2 to reduce the striped bass quota by 18%. The fishery is in trouble and needs our stewardship for these great fish to be around for our kids. I have three young girls (10, 8, 5) and I would like to continue to fish for striped bass with them as I did with my father. I am a member of Stripers Forever and the American Saltwater Guides Association. I support their action in protecting this great fish.

Thank you,

-Parker Corbin
Greenwich, CT

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

From: Christopher Clarendon <chris.clarendon@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 10:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

As resident of Rhode Island, regularly fishing it's waters, I urge you to adopt option Two of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's ([ASMFC](#)) [Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6](#) to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Thank you.
Chris Clarendon
Tiverton, RI

Comments

From: Bob Goetz <mandysdady2003@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 9:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I support Stripers Forever position on this and urge you to include circle hooks in the provision.
Thank you.
Robert Goetz

Comments

From: Marshall White <marshalwhite@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:18 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Hello

I wanted to add my voice alongside [Stripers Forever](#), an international conservation organization fighting for the future of wild Atlantic striped bass, to endorse Option Two of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's ([ASMFC](#)) [Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6](#) to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

We also support mandating the use of "circle hooks" for both recreational and hook-and-line commercial fishermen using bait.

Comments

From: Andy Lilienthal <andy@thecamplamp.wpengine.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 7:29 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please know that I am in favor of **Option 2: Equal Percent Reductions**. Although I am disappointed that the proposed changes to striped bass regulations are not more aggressive, I believe that the changes described in Option Two are the fairest. Please know that Long term, I remain committed to seeing wild Atlantic striped bass designated as game fish along the entire Eastern Seaboard.

Many thanks,
Andy

Andy Lilienthal
Director, Camp Winnebago
(207) 767-1019

www.campwinnebago.com
<https://twitter.com/campwinnebago>

Comments

From: Grego <gregodriscoll@netscape.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 6:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass

Please adopt

Option Two requires changes to current regulations resulting in an equitable 18% reduction in recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass.



Grego
gregodriscoll@aim.com

Comments

From: mcata11@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 5:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6

I advocate for option #2

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stripers Forever" <stripers@stripersforever.org>
Date: September 12, 2019 at 4:26:35 PM EDT
To: "Mark Catalano" <mcata11@gmail.com>
Subject: ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6



STRIPERS FOREVER
"MAKE IT A GAME FISH" WWW.STRIPERSFOREVER.ORG

ACTION REQUEST



Stripers Forever Favors Equitable Harvest Reduction for Wild Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan

Option Two Mandates 18% Cut for Commercial Fishermen and Recreational Anglers

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ACT NOW! Submit your comments to the ASMFC:

Mail:

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission



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Thanks,

Stripers Forever
"Make it a Game Fish!"
209 Winn Road
Falmouth ME 04105
USA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Change Subscriber Options](#)

Comments

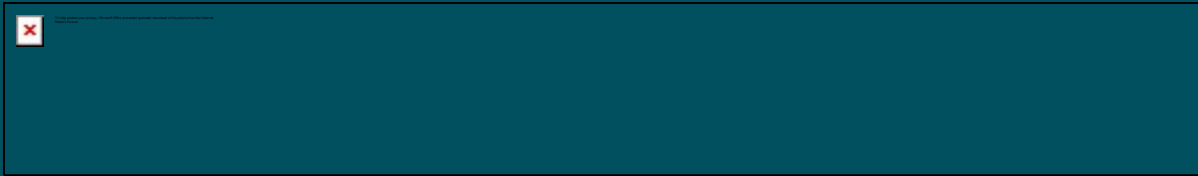
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Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 5:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Fwd: ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6

I advocate for option #2

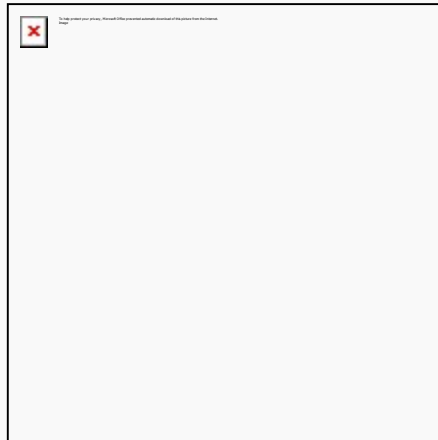
Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Stripers Forever" <stripers@stripersforever.org>
Date: September 12, 2019 at 4:26:35 PM EDT
To: "Mark Catalano" <mcata11@gmail.com>
Subject: ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6



ACTION REQUEST



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An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.

Option One would maintain the status quo. **Option Three** would cut the commercial harvest by only 1.8% and require the recreational angling community make up the difference to achieve an overall 18% reduction in total harvest.

Stripers Forever has no preference for the sub-options creating minimum/maximum length “slot limits” for recreationally caught striped bass under Option Two. However, the organization believes all states should require anglers using bait to use circle hooks, which have been proven to increase a fish’s chances of survival after release, as described under Option Three (3.2 Circle Hook Provision).

“Although we are disappointed that the proposed changes to striped bass regulations are not more aggressive, Stripers Forever believes that the changes described in Option Two are the fairest. Long term, we remain committed to seeing wild Atlantic striped bass designated as game fish along the entire Eastern Seaboard,” said Brad Burns, president, Stripers Forever.

ACT NOW! Submit your comments to the ASMFC:

Mail:

Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission



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Visit our website posting [ACTION REQUEST- ASMFC Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6](#) for a full listing of public hearings.

To contact individual state marine fisheries managers, or for information on attending local hearings, visit the [ASMFC Calendar](#).

To contact [Stripers Forever](#) please email us at stripers@stripersforever.org or visit stripersforever.org

Thanks,

Stripers Forever
"Make it a Game Fish!"
209 Winn Road
Falmouth ME 04105
USA

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Comments

From: Andrew Sweet <andrew.sweet@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:44 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

I'd like to encourage the Commission to support Option 2 (*An 18% reduction in total removals relative to 2017 levels to reduce F to the target in 2020 where the desired percent reduction is applied equally (proportionally) to both the commercial and recreational sectors; both sectors would take an 18% reduction from 2017 levels. Under all sub-options, states have the flexibility to develop alternative regulations through conservation equivalency, including the allocation of the required reductions between the commercial and recreational sectors.*)

Thank you
Andrew Sweet

Comments

From: BILL HALLMAN 215 512 9314 <capt1137@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:41 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI

“Although I am disappointed that the proposed changes to striped bass regulations are not more aggressive, I believe that the changes described in Option Two are the fairest. Long term, I remain committed to seeing wild Atlantic striped bass designated as game fish along the entire Eastern Seaboard,

From: racole53@yahoo.com
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: Stripers
Date: Friday, October 4, 2019 10:19:00 PM

Please do not listen to the “panic” of disappearing stripers. The beach replenishing is almost finished. Lets see if the fish come back within the 3 mile limit. They’re plenty of bass outside the 3 mile limit that should come back in now that the BEACH REPLENISHING is finished. One more year of study could solve the problem. Wait one more year to see if they return. They are out farther.

Rich Cole

Sent from my iPhone