



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 22, 2014

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

The Advisory Panel (AP) met in person on October 15, 2014 in Linthicum, Maryland to comment on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6. Below is a summary of their meeting.

Attendees

Arnold Leo (NY) commercial
Leonard Voss JR. (DE) commercial
Kelly Place (VA) commercial
Riley Williams (NC) commercial
David Pecci (ME) charter boat
Ed O'Brien (MD) charter boat
Al Ristori (NJ) charter
Peter Whelan (NH) charter/recreational

Kyle Douton (CT) charter/recreational
John McMurray (NY) charter/recreational
Louis Bassano (NJ) recreational
John Pedrick (PA) recreational
Ed Cook (RI) recreational
Bill Hall (VA) recreational
Rodney Gray (ME) recreational
Staff
Mike Waine, FMP Coordinator

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

- Recreational and charter boat representatives preferred option B, adoption of the new proposed reference points. Specific comments included:
 - It represents the best available science, and it is the TC recommendation.
 - There is only a 50% chance of achieving proposed F target with any option.
 - Action should be taken, the downtrend in SSB is clear and we need to reduce F.
 - Need to move towards something that is more conservative. There are fishermen that are unable to catch their quotas because there is not enough fish around.
- Commercial representatives preferred option A, status quo. Specific comments included:
 - There are two sources of conservative bias (ageing error, and retrospective bias) that make the downward trend in SSB questionable.
 - The assessment is flawed so don't impact industry without more reliable data.
 - We have had less conservative reference points that rebuilt this stock just fine.
 - There are predation concerns on menhaden, weakfish, and others if the striped bass population increases.
 - We are at the threshold, and with the juvenile recruitment that has been increasing over the last couple years will result in more SSB in future years.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options

- There was some support for option A, status quo. Specific comments included:
 - The coastwide reference points will dramatically reduce the Chesapeake Bay (CB) quota more than the coast will be reduced.
 - CB reference points have been successfully used for a couple decades.

- Should not manage CB with a model that has a retrospective bias and does not incorporate the sex ratio from the CB (predominately male).
- It's premature to take harvest reduction before CB reference points are developed.
- The reduction proposed in the CB using the coastwide reference points is too high.
- There was some support for Option B. Specific comments included,
 - It is the best available science right now.
 - It is consistent with a stated goal of Draft Addendum IV (i.e., reducing fishing mortality on striped bass)

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options

- The AP was satisfied with option B. Specific comments included:
 - North Carolina will be managing the A/R stock with a reduction to the quota.
 - The striped bass fishery is controlled as a bycatch fishery in Albemarle Sound and they have not caught the quota for many years.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

- Some members were in support of option A, do not change the management trigger to allow for a three year timeframe. Specific comments included:
 - Recreational sector is not seeing the striped bass numbers.
 - There has been enough delay already, take significant action now as required in Amendment 6. There is a cost to delaying action.
 - We should be responsible in managing to the target SSB levels.
 - There is a 50% chance of achieving the F target, and this has been an issue for a long time. Board has so many excuses for over 10 years when it comes to taking action.
 - It is troubling that disease may be creating an issue and we should control harvest.
 - There are lessons to be learned from codfish and with a 50% chance we should do it in one year.
 - SSB is going to decline a few more years before it increases even with the reductions.
 - It's easier to formulate business plans with the one year reduction. The action in terms of abundance is more important than the pounds.
 - The law enforcement is in favor of the one year timeframe because it is very challenging to educate and enforce a multi-year approach.
 - Striped bass is a public resource and it should be managed as such.
- Some members were in support of option B. Specific comments included:
 - NY commercial and for hire has had sensational good year with plenty of large bass and commercial fishery is catching quotas.
 - The assessment that is indicating a reduction is needed is based on flawed data.
 - A three year timeframe will reduce economic impacts to the industry.
 - The three year approach gives good flexibility.
 - We are not in an alarming situation, fish are in the EEZ.
 - We could easily adjust the management trigger and still achieve the goal.
 - It would be nice to get fish on the ends of the range and economically it is good for everyone and that can still be achieved in three years.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option A: Status Quo No comments.

Option B: Reduce F to the target within one year with a 25% harvest reduction

Coastal Recreational Fishery Comments

- A representative supported B1 for the recreational fishery and B7 for the charter to allow 2 fish.
- Multiple were in support of option B3. Specific comments included:
 - It is the most conservative option and we don't know the extent of poaching and all the options only have 50% of achieving F target.
 - Think about the economic impacts to the hotels, tackle stores, and other business that benefit from increased striped bass abundance.
 - Multiple charter boat representative support the most conservative option. Would rather provide a good experience than fish in the cooler.
- In contrast, a charter boat representative favored option B7 because charter boats want two fish, and this option still achieves the necessary reduction.
- Recreational harvest should be reduced by 25% and each state should be cut by that amount. Allow states to implement which option they want after working with their fisheries.
 - In contrast, an AP member cautioned that anglers from CT fish three different state's waters and so keeping the regulations equivalent across states is very important.
 - Similarly there is concern that conservation equivalency approaches that have slightly varying reductions will be exploited by neighboring states.
- When you increase the minimum size there is just going to be unnecessary discards that occur.

Option C: Reduce F to the target within three years with a 17% harvest reduction

- An AP member noted this option violates the current management trigger in Amendment 6.
- An AP member noted the three year timeframe may help with the current carrying capacity issue that is happening in the Chesapeake Bay.
 - There may be a trophic collapse if striped bass abundance increases and there is not enough food to feed them all.
 - Also, decreased nutrition from competition may cause mycobacteriosis to become a major issue.

Option D: Reduce F to the target within three years with an incremental 7+7+7% harvest reduction

- An AP member noted a 7% reduction does not achieve much and the reduction seems insignificant. It is the least conservative and most risky.
- Charter for hire representative prefers option D1. Specific comments included:
 - It is necessary to have a two fish bag limit and a gradual increase in the size limit.
- An AP member was in support of option D2.
 - It allows for a trophy fish to be caught.
- AP member commented that catch and release mortality from raising the size limit is going to result in significant mortality (e.g., charters will stay until they catch their limit).
- There are a lot of little fish in the Bay and they are not just from the 2011 year class so increasing the size would result in a lot of catch and release mortality.

- There was concern about the lower income anglers that fish from piers and bridges and a higher size limit may limit their ability to harvest fish.
- No other jurisdictions took reductions in 2013, but the Bay quota was reduced by 14%. So the Bay should not be punished for their conservative management approaches and reductions should be based on 2012 harvest not 2013.
- Multiple AP members supported option D6 because it reduces the impact on the commercial fishery. In 2017 we may see positive impact in SSB anyways from the strong 2011 year class.

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfer

- Recreational representatives were in support of option A because the purpose of addendum is to reduce F and transferring unused commercial quota would likely increase mortality.
 - It is not fair to states that only have recreational fisheries to allow commercial fisheries to transfer quota.
- Commercial representative supported option B because it provides management flexibility.
 - Quota transfer works well for bluefish. Allow flexibility, but it doesn't necessarily have to get used.
 - The stock can sustain the harvest allowed by the quota level so transferring doesn't put increased pressure on the resource.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

- Commercial representatives were in support of option B. Commercial fishermen use nets with a set mesh size and changing mesh size becomes more burdensome to the industry.
 - The more flexibility in management the more it is able to deal with realities.
 - There would be dead discards if the commercial size limit changed.
 - Bycatch mortality can be minimized if you allow that harvest until the quota is caught and then be done. States have fine-tuned their fishing to minimize bycatch mortality.

General Comments

- All reductions need to be based on the same 2013 harvest numbers and the fishery should be managed with a common denominator.
- The management board should consider triggers to revert back to similar regulations as we have now.



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MEMORANDUM

October 22, 2014

To: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
From: Michael Waine, ISFMP Coordinator
Subject: Public Comment on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6

The following pages represent a summary of all public comment received by ASMFC by September 30, 2014 at 5:00p.m. (closing deadline) on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

A total of 3,847 comments have been received. Of those comments, 2,490 comments were from form or sign on letters (13 different letters), 34 letters were from groups or organizations, and 1,323 were personalized individual comment.

Nineteen public hearings were held in all twelve states within the management unit for striped bass (Maine through North Carolina) including the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. Approximately 874 individuals attended all of the hearings combined. Public hearing summaries were distributed in the first round of Annual Meeting Materials.

There are two sets of summary tables contained within this memorandum. The first is a summary of all public comments received, including a total count from the public hearings (pages 2-6). The columns for the first set of tables are labeled as follows:

I = comments received by individuals
G = comments received by groups or organizations
F = comments received by form or sign on letters
PH = total count from all 19 public hearings

The second summary table breaks out the public hearing total count by each specific state (pages 7-14). In both sets of tables, support for an option was only indicated if the commenter specifically stated preference for one or more of the options.

Following the two sets of summary tables is a list of general, reoccurring comments that were received and did not specifically favor a management option (page 14). A list of groups and representatives who submitted comments are subsequently listed (page 15). Finally, all submitted comments are enclosed.

Individual Comments (page 16)
Groups and Organization Comments (page 1543)
Form letters (page 1607)

Summary tables of all public comments received

All Public Comment Summary Tables

2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Reference Points

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
Status quo, F reference points based on MSY	A	13	1			12
2013 benchmark stock assessment F ref pts	B	947	180	18	592	157
2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options						
Status quo, F target = 0.27	A	19	1			18
Use coastwide F reference points from section 2.5.1	B	418	89	10	308	11
2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Ref Pt Options						
Status quo, F target = 0.27	A	2	1		1	
NC will manage A/R stock at F and SSB targets	B	71	48	4	17	2
2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target						
One year timeframe	A	1,079	248	18	591	222
Three year timeframe	B	73	20	1		52

3.0 Proposed Management Program

3.0 Proposed Management Program	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
Status quo, maintain current striped bass management program	A	214	123	5	38	48
Reduce F to the target in one year. 25% harvest reduction	B	3,500	875	26	2,435	164
Reduce F to the target in three years. 17% harvest reduction	C	29	22	4		3
Reduce F to the target in three years. 7+7+7% harvest reduction	D	75	15	3		57

Summary tables of all public comments received

Option B: Reduce F to the target within one year with a 25% harvest reduction

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)

Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
1	28" min	none	31%	B1	333	110	5	191	27
1	30" min	none	> 31% ¹	B2	77	61	3	7	6
1	32" min	none	> 31% ¹	B3	2,223	343	8	1,758	114
1	28-40" slot	none	> 31% ¹	B4	139	105		17	17
2	33" min	none	29%	B5	23	12		7	4
2	28-34" slot	none	28%	B6	48	21		17	10
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-34" slot	1 fish 36" min	28% ¹	B7	317	210	3	84	20
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-36" slot	1 fish 38" min	26% ¹	B8	17	13	1	3	
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-37" slot	1 fish 40" min	26% ¹	B9	11	9			2

Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC and VA would implement)

Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
1	18" min	none	31%	B10	69	53	2	10	4
2	21" min	none	29%	B11	8	6	1		1
2	18-23" slot	none	26%	B12	6	5			1
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy or 2 slot)	1 or both 18-21" slot	1 fish 36" min	29%	B13	287	4		281	2
Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota of 2,000,915 pounds (no established bag limit, minimum size of 18")			25%	B14	0				
Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota of 1,800,740 pounds (no established bag limit, minimum size of 18"). Quota is based on a 25% reduction from 2012 harvest.			32%	B15	36	31	1	1	3

¹ The data available to estimate the percent reduction is limited because the combination of a bag limit and size limit changes simultaneously means only measured fish from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) were included in the analysis which is a small subsample of the MRIP dataset for striped bass.

Summary tables of all public comments received

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

Coastal Commercial Fishery	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
Take a 25% reduction from Amendment 6 quota	B16	141	41	5		95
Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery						
Takes a 25% reduction from 2013 commercial bay quota	B17	363	62	4	291	6
Takes a 25% reduction from 2012 commercial bay harvest	B18	19	13	2		4

Option C: Reduce F to the target within three years with a 17% harvest reduction

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)

Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
2	32" min	none	21%	C1	10	7	1		2
2	28-36" slot	none	19%	C2	2	2			
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-35" slot	1 fish 35" min	20% ²	C3	19	10	3		6

Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC and VA would implement)

Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
2	20" min	none	22%	C4	9	5	1		3
2	18-26" slot	none	18%	C5	3	3			
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy or 2 slot)	1 or both 18-23" slot	1 fish 36" min	19%	C6	2	2			
Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota of 2,214,345 pounds (no established bag limit, but a minimum size of 18")			17%	C7	0				
Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota of 1,992,819 pounds (no established bag limit, but a minimum size of 18"). Quota is based on a 17% reduction from 2012 harvest.			25%	C8	1				1

² Reduction estimate limited by data. See footnote 1 for further explanation.

Summary tables of all public comments received

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

Coastal Commercial Fishery	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
Take a 17% reduction from Amendment 6 quota	C9	4	4			
Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery						
Takes a 17% reduction from 2013 commercial bay quota	C10	1	1			
Takes a 17% reduction from 2012 commercial bay harvest	C11	7	5			2

Option D: Reduce F to the target within three years with an incremental 7+7+7% harvest reduction

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)

Option D1: Size limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.

Year	Bag Limit	Size limit	% reduction	Total	I	G	F	PH
2015	2	30" min	Approximately a 21% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	39	24	3	6	6
2016	2	31" min						
2017	2	32" min						

Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC and VA would implement)

Option D2: Size limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.

Year	Bag Limit	Size limit	% reduction	Total	I	G	F	PH
2015	2	19" min	Approximately a 22% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	2	1			1
2016	2	20" min						
2017	2	20" min						

Option D3: Slot limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.

Year	Bag Limit	Size limit	% reduction	Total	I	G	F	PH
2015	2	18-35" slot	Approximately a 19% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	2	2			
2016	2	18-28" slot						
2017	2	18-24" slot						

Option D4: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota (Baywide). Reductions applied to 2013 harvest.

Year	Quota	Size limit	% reduction	Total	I	G	F	PH
2015	2,481,134	18" min	Approximately a 20% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	0				
2016	2,307,455	18" min						
2017	2,145,933	18" min						

Summary tables of all public comments received

Option D5: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota (Baywide). Reductions applied to 2012 harvest.								
Year	Quota	Size limit	% reduction	Total	I	G	F	PH
2015	2,232,918	18" min	Approximately a 28% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	2				2
2016	2,076,614	18" min						
2017	1,931,251	18" min						

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

Coastal Commercial Fishery	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
Takes a 7+7+7% reduction from Amendment 6 quota	D6	8	6			2
Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery						
Takes a 7+7+7% reduction from 2013 commercial bay quota	D7	0				
Takes a 7+7+7% reduction from 2012 commercial bay harvest	D8	18	11			7

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers	Option	Total	I	G	F	PH
Status quo, no commercial quota transfers between states.	A	907	145	13	317	432
Commercial quota transfers may occur between states.	B	13	8			5
3.2 Commercial Size Limits						
Commercial size limits would change with a change in recreational size limits.	A	447	105	4	294	44
Commercial size limits would remain unchanged.	B	107	29			78

Public Hearing Summary Tables by State

Summary tables of public hearing comments by state

Public Hearing Summary Tables

2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Reference Points

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options	Option	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC
Status quo, F reference points based on MSY	A	12			1				7	1	2	A*		1	
2013 benchmark stock assessment F ref pts	B	157	17	40	72	2		10	12	1		1		2	
2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options															
Status quo, F target = 0.27	A	18										A*	15	3	
Use coastwide F reference points from section 2.5.1	B	11						8	1			1		1	
2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Ref Pt Options															
Status quo, F target = 0.27	A														
NC will manage A/R stock at F and SSB targets	B	2						1				1			
2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target															
One year timeframe	A	222	17	40	113	4		29	12		2	4		1	
Three year timeframe	B	52				1		2				31	15	3	

* A majority were in favor of this option, but a specific count was not obtained.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

3.0 Proposed Management Program	Option	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC
Status quo, maintain current striped bass management program	A	48			2			3	34		8	1			
Reduce F to the target in one year. 25% harvest reduction	B	164		1	78	21		34	12	1		4	12*	1	
Reduce F to the target in three years. 17% harvest reduction	C	3			1			1				1			
Reduce F to the target in three years. 7+7+7% harvest reduction	D	57			1							31	14*	11	

*At the PRFC hearing the same individuals favored a one year 25% harvest reduction timeframe for the recreational fishery, but a three year 7+7+7% harvest reduction timeframe for the commercial fishery.

Summary tables of public hearing comments by state

Option B: Reduce F to the target within one year with a 25% harvest reduction

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)

Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest	Option	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC
1	28" min	none	31%	B1	27	1		16	2		1	7						
1	30" min	none	> 31% ³	B2	6			1	1		1		2				1	
1	32" min	none	> 31% ¹	B3	114	2	7	44	11	10	20	11	9					
1	28-40" slot	none	> 31% ¹	B4	17			1			7	6	3					
2	33" min	none	29%	B5	4		1	1		1							1	
2	28-34" slot	none	28%	B6	10			2			7		1					
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-34" slot	1 fish 36" min	28% ¹	B7	20			1	6		1	4	4	2			2	
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-36" slot	1 fish 38" min	26% ¹	B8	0													
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-37" slot	1 fish 40" min	26% ¹	B9	2							2						

³ The data available to estimate the percent reduction is limited because the combination of a bag limit and size limit changes simultaneously means only measured fish from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) were included in the analysis which is a small subsample of the MRIP dataset for striped bass.

Summary tables of public hearing comments by state

Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC and VA would implement)

Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest	Option	Total	M E	N H	M A	R I	C T	N Y	N J	P A	D E	M D	PR FC	V A	N C
1	18" min	none	31%	B10	4						3						1	
2	21" min	none	29%	B11	1												1	
2	18-23" slot	none	26%	B12	1											1		
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy or 2 slot)	1 or both 18-21" slot	1 fish 36" min	29%	B13	2						2							
Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota of 2,000,915 pounds (no established bag limit, minimum size of 18")			25%	B14	0													
Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota of 1,800,740 pounds (no established bag limit, minimum size of 18"). Quota is based on a 25% reduction from 2012 harvest.			32%	B15	3						3							

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

Coastal Commercial Fishery	Option	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC
Take a 25% reduction from Amendment 6 quota	B16	95		40	53			2							
Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery															
Takes a 25% reduction from 2013 commercial bay quota	B17	6		2				4							
Takes a 25% reduction from 2012 commercial bay harvest	B18	4												4	

Summary tables of public hearing comments by state

Option C: Reduce F to the target within three years with a 17% harvest reduction

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)

Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest	Option	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PR FC	VA	NC
2	32" min	none	21%	C1	2							1					1	
2	28-36" slot	none	19%	C2	0													
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-35" slot	1 fish 35" min	20% ⁴	C3	6					2		1					3	

Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC and VA would implement)

Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest	Option	Total	M E	N H	M A	R I	C T	N Y	N J	P A	D E	M D	PR FC	V A	N C
2	20" min	none	22%	C4	3											1	2	
2	18-26" slot	none	18%	C5	0													
2 (1 slot, 1 trophy or 2 slot)	1 or both 18-23" slot	1 fish 36" min	19%	C6	0													
Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota of 2,214,345 pounds (no established bag limit, but a minimum size of 18")			17%	C7	0													
Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota of 1,992,819 pounds (no established bag limit, but a minimum size of 18"). Quota is based on a 17% reduction from 2012 harvest.			25%	C8	1												1	

⁴ Reduction estimate limited by data. See footnote 1 for further explanation.

Summary tables of public hearing comments by state

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

Coastal Commercial Fishery	Option	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC
Take a 17% reduction from Amendment 6 quota	C9	0													
Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery															
Takes a 17% reduction from 2013 commercial bay quota	C10	0													
Takes a 17% reduction from 2012 commercial bay harvest	C11	2												2	

Option D: Reduce F to the target within three years with an incremental 7+7+7% harvest reduction

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)

Option D1: Size limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.

Year	Bag Limit	Size limit	% reduction	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC
2015	2	30" min	Approximately a 21% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	6				3		3							
2016	2	31" min															
2017	2	32" min															

Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC and VA would implement)

Option D2: Size limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.

Year	Bag Limit	Size limit	% reduction	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC
2015	2	19" min	Approximately a 22% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	1											1		
2016	2	20" min															
2017	2	20" min															

Option D3: Slot limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.

Year	Bag Limit	Size limit	% reduction	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC
2015	2	18-35" slot	Approximately a 19% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	0													
2016	2	18-28" slot															
2017	2	18-24" slot															

Summary tables of public hearing comments by state

Option D4: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota (Baywide). Reductions applied to 2013 harvest.																		
Year	Quota	Size limit	% reduction	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	
2015	2,481,134	18" min	Approximately a 20% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	0														
2016	2,307,455	18" min																
2017	2,145,933	18" min																
Option D5: Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota (Baywide). Reductions applied to 2012 harvest.																		
Year	Quota	Size limit	% reduction	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	
2015	2,232,918	18" min	Approximately a 28% reduction from 2013 harvest over three years	2														
2016	2,076,614	18" min															2	
2017	1,931,251	18" min																

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

Coastal Commercial Fishery	Option	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	
Takes a 7+7+7% reduction from Amendment 6 quota	D6	2						2								
Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery																
Takes a 7+7+7% reduction from 2013 commercial bay quota	D7	0														
Takes a 7+7+7% reduction from 2012 commercial bay harvest	D8	7											3	4		

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers	Option	Total	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	
Status quo, no commercial quota transfers between states.	A	432	17	40	185	8	76	24	62	19				1		
Commercial quota transfers may occur between states.	B	5			3			2								
3.2 Commercial Size Limits																
Commercial size limits would change with a change in recreational size limits.	A	44	3		36			4	1							
Commercial size limits would remain unchanged.	B	78	1	40	1	1		17					15	3		

Additional commonalities from all comments included:

- Both commercial and recreational regulations should reduce mortality.
- Poaching is a major concern and must be addressed.
- More law enforcement is required in the form of heavy fines and more patrols.
- Require the use of circle hooks and restrict use of gear that results in high mortality.
- Do not allow, or limit, striped bass tournaments.
- A complete moratorium is necessary.
- A declining striped bass population will result in economic impacts to businesses.
- Stricter fishing regulations will result in negative economic impacts to the industry.
- Use as much restriction as necessary to save the species.
- There are issues with the data used in the model and the results should not be trust.
- Declare gamefish status coast wide, making the striped bass fishery strictly recreational.
- The resource is exploited by special interests.
- Overfishing is occurring.
- Do not allow charters to include their crew when determining the trip's possession limit.
- Less of the species are seen every year.
- Any scenario that has only a 50% probability of success is too risky.
- The fishery should be catch and release only.
- Recreational fishermen should be allowed to keep only one fish per day.
- None of the commercial scenarios achieve the necessary reduction.
- End all commercial fishing.
- Tighten commercial regulations, leave recreational regulations status quo.
- Tighten recreational regulations, leave commercial regulations status quo.
- Reduce the recreational bag limit to one fish/day and the commercial quota by 50%.
- Put a moratorium on the commercial fishery for one year.
- Charter boats (for hire) should not be regulated separately.
- Charter boats require two fish per person to encourage business.
- Establish a saltwater licensing fee to pay for additional law enforcement.
- Do not allow the transfer of commercial quota to be harvested recreationally through bonus fish programs.
- Take pressure off of large breeding females and do not allow for the take of trophy fish.
- A moratorium on netting should be established.
- Cut the coastal quota and increase the Bay quota to save the blue crab industry.
- The Chesapeake Bay should not have a more liberal bag limit
- Encourage the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of habitat.
- There is a depletion of forage species preyed upon by the striped bass.
- Manage the seal population.
- Research mycobacteriosis and its impacts on the striped bass population.
- Set policy with the goal of increasing abundance, not maximizing harvest.
- Preserve the 2011 year class.
- Reevaluate fishing seasons.
- Obtain reference points for the Chesapeake Bay.

Comments were submitted by the following groups or organizations:

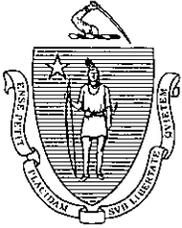
American Sportfishing Association
Anglers Conservation Network
Berkeley Striper Club
Cape Cod Charter Boat Association
Coastal Conservation Association
Coastal Conservation Association, Virginia
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Connecticut Surfcasters Association
Forked River Tuna Club
Hi-Mar Striper Club, Middletown, New Jersey
Maine Association of Charter Boat Captains
Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club
Maryland Charter Board Association
Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association
Massachusetts Striped Bass Association
Milford Striped Bass Club
Montauk Boatmen and Captains Association
Montauk Chamber of Commerce

Comments were submitted by the following representatives:

Representative James M. Cantwell, Massachusetts
Representative Vinny deMacedo, Massachusetts
Representative Tom Calter, Massachusetts
Senator Robert Hedlund, Massachusetts
Representative Brad Hill, Massachusetts
Assemblyman Fred Thiele, New York
Congressman Robert Wittman, Virginia
Delegate Margaret Ransone, Virginia

New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
New York Fishing and Tackle Trade Association
New York Sportfishing Federation
New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs
New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council
North Folk Captains Association
Peninsula Saltwater Sport Fisherman's Association
Plum Island Surfcasters
Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association
Recreational Fishing Alliance
Rhody Fly Rodders
Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
Save the Bay
Solomons Charter Captains Association
Stripers Forever
Virginia Waterman's Association
Wild Oceans

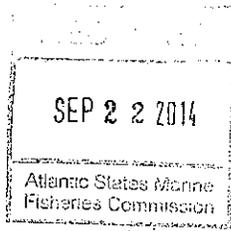
Individual Letters



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

BRADFORD R. HILL
MINORITY WHIP



ROOM 128, STATE HOUSE
TEL: (617) 722-2100

September 15, 2014

Douglas Grout
Chairman, Striped Bass Management Board
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chairman Grout,

I'm writing to share with you and other members of the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board concerns expressed by a majority of recreational striped bass fishermen who attended recent public hearings in our state about Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. There was strong consensus by over 200 people who attended these hearings to reduce fishing by 25% in 2015.

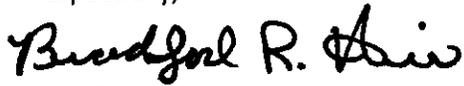
Harvest and landings figures show striped bass is much more of a recreational fishery than a commercial fishery along the eastern seaboard. I suspect it's one of (if not "the") most important recreational fisheries in the Nation. In Massachusetts and other New England states, the recreational catch of striped bass has decreased by over 70% since 2006. While this precipitous drop in catch is likely due to a number of factors, including repeated years of poor juvenile recruitment, changes in predator-prey relationships, and disease issues to name a few, a reduction in fishing effort is the only prudent management action to improve future prospects for this fishery.

It's my understanding that an immediate reduction in fishing would improve spawning potential of the existing adult population and offer some protection to young fish, particularly immature members of a strong 2011 year-class. These actions, although more modest in magnitude, are similar to those taken in the early 1980s to help restore the striped bass stocks. This strategy worked then and therefore it's quite sensible to believe this is the best strategy to follow now.

On behalf of Massachusetts recreational striped bass fishermen I've been hearing from, I urge you and your Board colleagues to adopt an approach to reduce fishing mortality by at least 25% in 2015. Coming from a state where fishing is a major economic benefit, I don't normally support reductions without having substantial reasons to do so. The high importance this fishery has to our recreational fishing economy and the enormous drop in activity we have seen since 2006 have caused severe impacts on tackle shops, for-hire fishing, local resorts, restaurants, and many other industry sectors. In terms of a

biological reduction, these cuts represent a rather reserved reaction compared to the great economic strength that may be reinstated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradford R. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'B'.

State Representative, Bradford Hill
4th Essex District

CC: Representative Sarah Peake

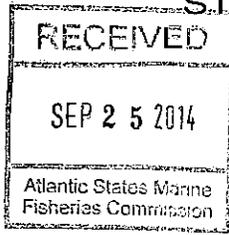


THE ASSEMBLY
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Oversight, Analysis & Investigation
Transportation
MEMBER
Assembly Majority Steering Committee

FRED W. THIELE, JR.
Assemblyman 1st District

CHAIR
Assembly Committee on
Libraries and Education Technology



September 23, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Mr. James Gilmore
Bureau of Marine Resources
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
2015 N Belle Meade Road
East Setauket, NY 11733

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fisheries Management Plan

Dear Mr. Waine and Mr. Gilmore:

Thank you for providing a mechanism, through public hearings and a public comment period, for interested parties to comment of the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fisheries Management Plan.

As an Assemblyman who represents a district that is home to New York's two largest commercial fishing ports, Montauk and Hampton Bays, I urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to consider an option that dually protects the important striped bass fish population as well as the recreational and commercial striped bass fishery.

For that reason, I would support Option D, which would achieve a 20% reduction from the 2013 total harvest through a 7% reduction each year for three consecutive years starting in 2015. I believe that this option would achieve the reduction needed from a biological stand point, while also providing for a way to lessen the potential negative economic impacts on the fishing industry.

Thank you, again, for providing the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
Member of Assembly

FWT:LT

September 3, 2014

Mike Waine
Atlantic Striped Bass Management Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Mr. Waine

I write to express my strong opposition to the newly recommended benchmark stock assessment reference points, and the proposed reduction of the Striped Bass quota for the Chesapeake Bay area of Virginia, Maryland, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

In its own 2013 benchmark assessments, the Atlantic Marine States Fisheries Commission argues that the Atlantic Striped Bass stock is not overfished or experiencing overfishing relative to the proposed new reference points. Authors of the ASMFC's updated 2013 Striped Bass Assessment Report noted a number of potential statistical errors that raise questions about the accuracy of the estimated female spawning stock biomass (SSB). According to the report, there is evidence of a retrospective bias in the SSB estimates over the last 5 years resulting in an under-estimate of the SSB by an average of 14%. Accordingly, I am very concerned that the ASMFC would consider yet *another* commercial and recreational quota reduction for the Striped Bass.

The Striped Bass is an extremely important asset to Virginia. The commercial and recreational fishing industries generate millions in economic impact for our Commonwealth and employ a number of hard-working watermen and charter boat captains. This species management decision has far reaching implications beyond the Striped Bass population. Local watermen regularly report that Striped Bass are eating large numbers of Blue Crabs, whose stock is also depleted. To base a new quota reduction, which has the potential to negatively impact the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay, on questionable SSB estimates is unnecessarily risky and short-sighted.

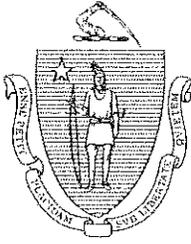
Further, instead of quota reductions, I would suggest the Commission consider a reduction in the Striped Bass catch size limit from 18 inches to 16 inches, and an increase in the harvest of 3-4 year old Striped Bass.

I understand that Striped Bass are a migratory fish, and that its habitat range must be taken into account when determining the most effective conservation efforts. That said, I believe localized management plans of coastal fisheries, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, would be a more appropriate tool for protecting the health of the Striped Bass population.

Sincerely,

Margaret B. Ransone
Member, Virginia House of Delegates
Ninety-Ninth District

CC: John M.R. Bull
Catherine W. Davenport
Senator Richard H. Stuart
Senator Mark Warner
Senator Timothy Kaine
Congressman Rob Wittman



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

General Court

State House, Boston 02113-1054

September 30, 2014

Mr. Michael Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

We write to express our concerns with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's proposed plans to reduce the total harvest of striped bass beginning in 2015. Charter boat captains relayed significant fears about the proposals' negative impacts, especially those connected to reducing bag limits to one striped bass.

Our fishermen and fishing captains continue to labor under enormous hardships, including seemingly ever increasing restrictions and strained fishery stocks. Our fishermen are struggling to maintain their businesses, earn a livelihood, and sustain this historic industry deeply infused with our regional economy. This context underscores why it is absolutely necessary conservation restrictions receive full vetting by all stakeholders including our fishermen and boat captains.

As a consequence of the fishery disaster and limited Bluefin Tuna, we understand our charter boat captains have focused more fishing activity on striped bass in recent years. For example, during bass migration periods in June and the fall, captains will sometimes run striped bass-only fishing trips. Recognizing the desires of their customers and the challenges of an all-day deep sea fishing trip, charter boat captains advise that a restriction to one fish per angler would seriously deter fishermen from taking trips, exacerbating pressures on our already heavily burdened fleet.

We understand and appreciate that ASMFC's proposals are designed to sustain the striped bass population over the long term by protecting spawning stock biomass. We also see several management options can achieve conservation goals while maintaining two fish per angler bag limits, including Options B5-B9 (estimated harvest reductions over 25%). To meet conservation targets, we urge the ASMFC to utilize a strategy that maintains two fish per angler.

We thank you for your attention to this letter and all of our fishermen's concerns and comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,


ROBERT L. HEDLUND
State Senator


JAMES M. CANTWELL
State Representative


THOMAS J. CALTER
State Representative


VINNY DEMACEDO
State Representative

cc: Paul Diodati, Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

From: [Cantwell, James - Rep. \(HOU\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Hedlund, Robert \(SEN\)](#); [deMacedo, Vinny - Rep. \(HOU\)](#); [Calter, Thomas - Rep. \(HOU\)](#); [Jue, Emily \(HOU\)](#); [DeBenedictis, Betty \(HOU\)](#); [Valanzola, Jared \(SEN\)](#); [Thomas, Benjamin \(HOU\)](#); [Langill, Ted \(SEN\)](#); [Michael Pierdinock](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:22:53 PM
Attachments: [DraftAddendumIV_Comments_MassRepsSen_9-30.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Waine:

Attached please find comments regarding Draft Addendum IV from myself, Senator Robert Hedlund, and Representatives deMacedo and Calter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. You can reach my office at 617-722-2140.

Thank you,

Jim

James M. Cantwell
State Representative, 4th Plymouth District

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, READINESS SUBCOMMITTEE
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
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RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, OCEANS, AND
INSULAR AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
SHIPBUILDING CAUCUS

Mr. Mike Waine
Atlantic Striped Bass Management Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201-2196

Dear Mr. Waine:

I am writing to share my thoughts regarding the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) proposed striped bass commercial and recreational harvest restrictions.

The recovery of the Atlantic striped bass has been a fisheries management success story. The Virginia commercial and recreational industries have continued to grow and contribute significantly to the Chesapeake Bay region's economy. ASMFC stock assessments continue to show healthy fish stocks that are not overfished or where overfishing is not occurring.

I believe there is information and reason to question the necessity for dramatic harvest reductions at this time, on account of questionable and overly precautionary assumptions highlighted by the 2013 Striped Bass Assessment Report. ASMFC should continue to carefully review and reconsider overly drastic catch reductions that if enacted could have significant negative economic and ecological impacts. Resource management decisions that propose to cut striped bass harvests should also take into consideration the socioeconomic impact to industry and weigh the potential ecological impact to other species like blue crab and herring.

Thank you for your time and consideration as you work to manage this important species.

Sincerely,



Robert Wittman
Member of Congress

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2454 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4261

DISTRICT OFFICES:
STAFFORD OFFICE
2777 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY, SUITE 105
STAFFORD, VA 22554
(540) 659-2734

PENINSULA OFFICE
401 MAIN STREET
P.O. Box 494
YORKTOWN, VA 23690
(757) 874-6687

MIDDLE PENINSULA OFFICE
508 CHURCH LANE
P.O. Box 3106
TAPPAHANNOCK, VA 22560
(804) 443-0668

WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV



ASMFC
Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine & ASMFC Commissioners:

I own and am the primary operator of One More Cast Charters, a light-tackle guide service operating out of Lower New York Harbor, Western Long Island, and Montauk. I am also a member of the Striped Bass Advisory Panel, I sit on the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council and am an outdoor writer, currently authoring a blog on Reel-Time.com.

Yet today, I am writing strictly as a small business owner who, like so many others, has come to depend on an abundant striped bass resource.

It is of course no secret that this point that most if not all of us have seen a noticeable and arguably drastic decline in striped bass abundance since 2004. Sure, 2004 to 2008 were still pretty good, but each year since then has been difficult for those of us who depend on striped bass abundance. This year in particular was horrendous. No, people can't claim this is just a bunch of bad fishermen complaining. As you are aware, the downward trend has been well documented by the science. No, we're not where we were in the 80's but it certainly appears that we're headed that way.

My striped bass fishery today, looks a lot different than it did several years ago. I've gone from a 3 boat operation which employed three guides, to a two boat operation with no other guides but myself.

April/May/June then Sept/Oct/Nov used to host a consistent striped bass fishery. Mostly fish in the 20 to 30" range with the occasional large fish in the mix to keep things interesting. I would also note that I had a fairly consistent summer small-schoolie fishery in Jamaica Bay. In fact almost all of my fishing back then was in the back-bay area. In other words, I could use my skiffs and not have to burn \$200 in fuel on an inshore trip. It was almost all light-tackle, fishing plugs, soft plastics and flies.

Now, my fishery is composed of almost all large fish. We have brief periods of good fishing that last a few days... If we're lucky a week. Then weeks of nothing. These fish are, of course, the last of the good year classes moving up and then down the coast. What we don't have is the wide geographic distribution of fish you would find from a healthy, abundant stock. What we don't have is that consistent fishery that I built my business on. The flats and back-bay fishing is pretty much non-existent. And most of my "good" striper fishing is on live-bait... at least in the spring. When these condensed bodies of fish do show up, almost all of it is ocean fishing from one to three miles out, which I'll note excludes most of the small-boat/skiff guys, or the people fishing from shore for that matter.

What we also have with these geographically isolated bodies of fish is a lot of mortality on large fish. Until they show, the striper season is usually pretty dry, so word that the fish are finally around gets out pretty quick and a lot of boats get on them... and knock the crap out of them. One just needs to peruse any of the fishing websites, and see the advertising of party/charter boats limiting out, to see what happens here. Nothing kills a good day quicker than seeing 50 to 100 boats on a school of fish, with everyone gaffing the last of the 2003s.

What I've described above are not simply observations from a single guide. From Maine to VA, anglers and fishing guides are consistently describing the same thing. Yes, there are still a small number of people who say the fishery is "okay", but these are generally the people who A.) Don't spend much time on the water, and don't have the depth of perspective that we do; or B.) Want to still be able to kill two fish, and who don't need abundance to make ends meet. Professional guides like myself, who spend 100- to 150 days a year on the water and who depend on this resource to pay our mortgages see such a decline in spades.

There is, of course, the looming threat that people will simply stop booking striped bass trips, because the odds of hitting a good day become lower and lower each year, and most days the fishing is just bad. When that happens, I will be out of luck, and out of a form of income that my family and I have come to depend on.

But forget about the guides like me for a minute. We should also really be considering the loss of income to all the businesses who have benefited from this once abundant resource. The manufacturers and retailers of plugs, soft-plastics, surf fishing gear, light tackle gear, flyfishing gear, boats that were designed and produced with striped bass in mind, not to mention all the advertising revenue such companies produce. And all the restaurants and hotels in towns such as Montauk? It's only a matter of time before people stop making such trips. Without an abundant and accessible striped bass resource you'll lose the surfcasters and the light-tackle fleet. Montauk would likely be a virtual ghost town after Labor Day.

While there's been plenty of talk about the loss of income to the commercial and the party/charter boat fleet if they have to endure a reduction in harvest, there has been very little talk about the loss of income a depleted stock has and will continue to have on the larger front. Managers need to understand that striped bass *abundance* has become so, so important to the recreational fishing community and the economy it supports.

All this said, I am aware of the fact that technically striped bass is not overfished. The Dec 2013 update showed that Spawning Stock Biomass was just above the overfished threshold. Yet, it also stated that there is a 46% probability that we were below that threshold. In other words—not quite 50-50—that the stock was already overfished in 2012. If that was the case, where are we likely to be now? I'd say there's a really darn good chance the stock was indeed technically overfished in 2013/2014. In fact I'm pretty sure of it.

Given the probability of error in the science the Commission uses, and given what I and just about every other guide and angler have seen out there on the water, I'd say the striped bass stock has been "overfished" for a while. Regardless, projections show that both fishing mortality and SSB thresholds could be exceeded as early as this year, and almost certainly next year. Thus it would seem that there is a requirement to significantly reduce fishing mortality now.

That said, I am aware that fishing mortality is not the only, or even the primary reason for the decline. I understand that we've had almost a decade of average to well-below average Chesapeake Young-of-the-Year indices, with the notable exception of 2011. However, why we'd even consider not reducing fishing mortality significantly, when there are simply less fish around, whatever the reason, is beyond

reason. Fishing mortality certainly has more of an impact on a depleted stock. It is the only thing managers can control, and they have an obligation as stewards of a public resource to control it.

In regards to the 2011s: Do we put all our chips down on the phantom 2011 year class? I've seen a few of those fish, but not many. Assuming most haven't made it out of the Chesapeake yet, you certainly don't hear too many of the Chesapeake guides talking about them. It seems like a risky bet, but that is indeed what some managers seem to be suggesting. If anything, we should be doing everything in our power to protect the 2011s.

I am greatly concerned about striped bass. Not just because I built my life around it and a substantial portion of my income depends on it, but because of my 5 year old twins. They have yet to catch a striped bass, because it's darn hard to catch a striped bass these days. I'd like to consider myself a pretty experienced striped bass guide, so it's pathetic that I can't put my own kids on a few stripers. I would note that I can easily put them on federally managed species like summer flounder and bluefish. And I suspect that striped bass might be managed with a lot more caution were they managed under federal law.

I DON'T wanna be that old guy telling my kids how great the striped bass fishery used to be. And I don't believe I have to be. With that said, below are the options I support. It's probably no surprise that they are the most conservative options. And I should note here that all of these options have only a 50% (read "coin toss") chance of meeting the mortality reduction goal.

Regarding **Section 2.5.1 Coastwide Reference Point Options**, I don't know why we'd even be considering not using the most recent and up to date science, so of course **I support Option B: Using the new 2013 Benchmark Assessment reference points.**

Regarding **Section 2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options**: Historically, because the Chesapeake fishery exploited smaller fish, they fished under a lower fishing mortality reference point, than did fishermen on the coast. Option A would reverse that relationship, and permit Chesapeake fishermen to exceed the overfishing threshold in the latest stock assessment. Thus, **I support Option B: Using coastwide fishing mortality reference points as established in section 2.5.1.**

In regard to **Section 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target**: Option A would require the reduction to occur all at once in the 2015 fishing year. Option B would allow a smaller reduction to be imposed over 3 years. We've had enough delay up to this point. Managers need to understand that there is a cost to such delay, especially for guys like me. The reduction to meet the target needs to be done all in one year. And of course Amendment 6 requires that it be done in one year, thus **I support Option A.**

Regarding **Section 3.0 Proposed Management Program**: Not only does this deal with whether or not we do the reduction in one or three years, but it breaks it down into specifics on how we'd do that reduction. **I support Option B which requires a full 25% harvest reduction to take place next year.** Options C and D achieve the reduction over the course of 3 years. The three year options are simply not viable in my mind. Just more delay, from a management entity that has developed a reputation for delay.

The rest of this section goes on to specifics, i.e. bag and size limits. Of course this all depends on whether or not the Commission chooses option A, B, C or D, so I'm not going to go into them all. However, assuming the Commission does the right thing and chooses Option B, requiring the full 25% reduction to be taken in 2015, **I support Option B3 – a one fish bag limit and a 32" size limit.** This is the most conservative and most precautionary option.

For the Chesapeake Bay Management Areas I support most conservative option here also, which appears to be **Option B 15** which sets a hard quota, and states set size and bag limits.

In regard to **Commercial Fishery Management Options**. Unfortunately there doesn't appear to be a good option here, as the Management Board voted to remove what was really the right option - a 25% reduction from the actual commercial catch, which would subject the commercial fishery to the same standard being imposed on anglers and for-hirers.

Option B16 or B17 won't necessarily achieve the needed reduction, but it's of course better than nothing. I do not really have a preferred option here.

Lastly, regarding **Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers**: Option A is Status quo, no commercial quota transfers. Option B: allows Commercial quota transfer between states. The purpose and goal of Addendum 4 is to reduce fishing mortality on striped bass. Option B would allow all those fish that aren't killed in NC because they stayed in the EEZ to be transferred to other states and killed there. This will not reduce fishing mortality, but will most likely increase it. Thus **I support Option A, status quo, no commercial transfer**.

In closing... I understand that there are competing interests, and I understand that there are stakeholders who can and will do fine fishing on a depleted striped bass stock. Commercial fishermen will almost always meet their quota whether there are a lot of fish around or not, and some of the party/charter fleet, fishing in very specific areas, will always be able to catch fish trolling wire, drifting eels etc. Yet, your average-Joe angler, your surfcaster, your light tackle enthusiasts... We all need abundance!

Shouldn't this resource be managed for the greater public good instead of special interests? Shouldn't it be managed for abundance/opportunity, and not simply managed for the most dead fish you can get out of a stock? So more of the public can have access to it? And perhaps so it can generate the most economic benefit? I think it should.

Managers need to understand the value of an abundant striped bass resource. Both the intrinsic value to us as human beings of having a healthy supply of striped bass in the water, but also the far reaching economic value that comes with abundance and opportunity. Put simply, the more fish that are in the water, the more people will fish, and the better related business like mine will do.

Sincerely,

John McMurray

Captain John McMurray
One More Cast Charters, Inc.
2887 Alfred Ct.
Oceanside, NY 11572

From: [James Welch](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: : Draft Addendum IV.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:18:51 PM

Dear, Mike,

As an avid recreational angler in New England I urge you to support the Draft Addendum IV to preserve the quality of the striped bass fishery for generations to come. We have made great progress but further steps need to be implemented. Thank you for your time and consideration

Recommended Options

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

James L Welch
Managing Director
Chatsworth Group LLC
95 East Putnam Ave.
Greenwich, CT. 06830
203-971-3840 w
347-712-2103 c
www.chatsworthgroup.com
jwelch@chatsworthgroup.com

From: [Nick](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: "Draft Addendum IV"
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:11:40 AM

Mr. Waine,

I am writing in support of draft addendum VI. I have spent a life time fishing striped bass with my father, friends and children. I have seen a drastic reduction in the size and numbers of these game fish over the last 4 or 5 years. Please support the following!

- In Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, I fully support **Option B**.
- In Section 2.6, I fully support **Option A**.
- In Section 3.0, I fully support **Option B** (and I strongly oppose any option to stretch out harvest reductions over three years--no more delay!).
- As far as size and bag limits go, I fully support **Option B3** – a one fish bag limit and a 32" size limit—on the coast, and **B15**—in Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,
Nicholas just

From: [Laurence Gensler](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 25% conservation 1st year
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:54:03 AM

My name is Laurence Gensler and I support a 25% conservation reduction in the 1st year.

Thank you,

Laurence Gensler

From: [Griffiths, Jonathan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 25% reduction striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:16:58 AM

Hello,

I am a recreational angler of striped bass in the mid Atlantic including the Chesapeake bay and support at least a 25% reduction of harvest for everyone as soon as possible.

Jonathan Griffiths
Permitting Services Inspector
DPS
240-731-1282

From: marktuttle@verizon.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 25% Reduction, Please
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:19:35 AM

Dear Mike:

My support for the conservation measures is listed below. I had hoped for a 50% reduction (or a complete moratorium) on the harvesting of striped bass, but I'll gladly take the 25% option. I can't begin to tell you about the invaluable experiences I have had with family and friends while fishing for striped bass. You can't put a price per pound on those experience. Please do everything you can to reduce to kill quota and preserve this fishery.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thank you.

-Mark E. Tuttle
12 Cleveland Road
Salem, MA 01970

From: wvsprinkel@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV Comment
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:48:20 AM

Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I believe the ASMFC should act as quickly to halt the current decline in Striped Bass Fishery. The proposals in Draft Addendum IV are all aimed at bringing fishing mortality down to the new target level and that means reducing the total recreational(controlled through bag and size limits) and commercial(regulated by quotas) catch of striped bass by 25% or more, coast-wide and in the Chesapeake Bay(striped bass chief spawning grounds). The 25% reduction in catch for recreational and commercial should occur within a one year time frame starting with 2015 season. The immediate reductions can restore striped bass to the target abundance level sooner but even then not likely before the end of the decade.

My preferences on the specific options are as follows.

2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F (Fishing Mortality) to the Target - I support Option A

3.0 Proposed Management Program - I support Option B. I see no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality. The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced the sooner abundance may begin to rebound.

-Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options - I support Option B2 for the Coastal fishery and B10 for the Chesapeake Bay.

-Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options - I support Option B16 for the Commercial Coastal Fishery and B18 for the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Woodi Sprinkel
11017 Cedar Lane
Glen Allen, Virginia 23059
(804) 380 7328

From: fsprink001@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV Comments on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:22:05 AM

Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I believe the ASMFC should act as quickly to halt the current decline in Striped Bass Fishery. The proposals in Draft Addendum IV are all aimed at bringing fishing mortality down to the new target level and that means reducing the total recreational(controlled through bag and size limits) and commercial(regulated by quotas) catch of striped bass by 25% or more, coast-wide and in the Chesapeake Bay(striped bass chief spawning grounds). The 25% reduction in catch for recreational and commercial should occur within a one year time frame starting with 2015 season. The immediate reductions can restore striped bass to the target abundance level sooner but even then not likely before the end of the decade.

My preferences on the specific options are as follows.

2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F (Fishing Mortality) to the Target - I support Option A

3.0 Proposed Management Program - I support Option B. I see no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality. The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced the sooner abundance may begin to rebound.

-Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options - I support Option B2 for the Coastal fishery and B10 for the Chesapeake Bay.

-Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options - I support Option B16 for the Commercial Coastal Fishery and B18 for the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

F. Murphy Sprinkel, Jr.
11017 Cedar Lane
Glen Allen, Virginia 23059
(804) 380 7328

From: [Matt Sprinkel](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV Comments on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:42:39 AM

Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I believe the ASMFC should act as quickly to halt the current decline in Striped Bass Fishery. The proposals in Draft Addendum IV are all aimed at bringing fishing mortality down to the new target level and that means reducing the total recreational(controlled through bag and size limits) and commercial(regulated by quotas) catch of striped bass by 25% or more, coast-wide and in the Chesapeake Bay(striped bass chief spawning grounds). The 25% reduction in catch for recreational and commercial should occur within a one year time frame starting with 2015 season. The immediate reductions can restore striped bass to the target abundance level sooner but even then not likely before the end of the decade.

My preferences on the specific options are as follows.

2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F (Fishing Mortality) to the Target - I support Option A

3.0 Proposed Management Program - I support Option B. I see no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality. The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced the sooner abundance may begin to rebound.

-Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options - I support Option B2 for the Coastal fishery and B10 for the Chesapeake Bay.

-Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options - I support Option B16 for the Commercial Coastal Fishery and B18 for the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Matt Sprinkel
1208 Windsor Ave
Richmond VA 23227
804 317-0007

From: [Mike Sjöholm](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV to Amendment 6 (Public Comment Period)
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:24:15 PM

Dear Mr. Waine -

I am writing to express my comments in regards to Addendum IV to Amendment 6
....

Regardless of the agreed upon size limit (28", 30", or 32"), I strongly support a one (1) fish limit per angler this same limit must apply to every angler whether they fish from a boat, the shore, a party boat, a charter boat, etc. and it must occur within each and every state in which striped bass migrate and/or breed.

On a side note, I also believe serious attention needs to be made to stop the illegal harvest / poaching that is occurring too frequently of striped bass if more funding for more control at the individual state level is not an option, then perhaps the ASMFC should consider "gamefish" status as a possible solution.

Sincerely,
Michael S. Sjöholm

From: [Rick Rheinberger](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:50:34 AM

Hi Mike;

I am a lifelong resident of RI. I'm 59 years old and have fished for stripers my whole life. I saw the crash of the '70s and '80s. I support the most aggressive help for the bass population. How over all these decades we haven't figured out that you can't target and kill the breeders and have a healthy population. Who wants to eat a 30lb bass any way. I support slot limits which will protect the young and the breeders and still allow people to keep and enjoy a nice fish dinner. Please support the addendum. While it doesn't do enough in my mind, anything is better than nothing.

Sincerely;

Rick Rheinberger
Sr. Vice President
Affiliated Insurance Managers, Inc.
935 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 2001
Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 352-3000 x222
(401) 352-0020

EMAIL: rick@aiminsco.com

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From: [Philip Chorney](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: ASMFC Hearings
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:07:03 AM

Please Please save the striped bass, 1 year no phased reduction

--

Phil Chorney
410-279-4754



Baltimore Management Agency
CEO
www.Baltimoremanagementagency.com

Executive Producer
Charm City Folk and Bluegrass Festival
<http://charmcitybluegrass.com/>

Hot August Music Festival
Social Media / Marketing Consultant
www.hotaugustmusicfestival.com/

Manager & Marketing
Audie Blaylock and Redline
<http://audieblaylock.com/>

Manager of Yellow Dubmarine
www.yellowdubmarine.com

Manager of Letitia VanSant
<http://www.letitiavansant.com/>

Manager of Trace Friends Mucho & Jordan August Band
<https://www.facebook.com/JordanAugustBand>

From: [Phillip Anderson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: ASMFC Striped Bass Management Plan
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:18:30 PM

Mr Waine,

I support the MAXIMUM reduction in the harvest of striped bass by all users in all States under the ASMFC umbrella.

Phillp Anderson

From: [Al Caletri](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Robert Ballou](#)
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:11:39 AM

I am a member of the charter boat industry and if I cannot offer two fish at 28" per person to my customers they will not charter my boat. Over the years the various fisheries have been made so restrictive that it has become almost impossible to survive.

The data that has been made available to us shows that the striped bass will increase in numbers over the next three years and beyond without decreasing the fish that my customers can catch and keep.

Thank you,

Capt. Al Caletri
acaletri@verizon.net
Galilee, RI

From: btpelisek@verizon.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: btpelisek@verizon.net
Subject: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan, Addendum IV to Amendment VI
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:57:18 PM

Dear Mr Waine,

Thanks for taking the time to read this email from a concerned recreational fisherman. I've been fishing the Chesapeake Bay and Mid Atlantic coast for the past 30 years. Over the past several years, it's become apparent to me that the striped bass population is in serious trouble and that the time is now to take big steps to preserve this fishery for both commercial and recreational fisherman.

I feel that the fastest way to bring back the striped bass population to acceptable levels is to take the biggest cut in the shortest amount of time.

I urge you to vote for the maximum reduction of 25% in the first year for all sectors in all management areas. We must reduce fishing mortality throughout all sectors in order to return the stock to abundant and sustainable levels.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment on addendum IV, and hope to see a reduction at the maximum level in fishing mortality.

The faster the recovery for striped bass can take place, the better it will be for all.

Sincerely,
Brian Pelisek,
CCA Member

From: [Jack](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: bass limits
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:20:51 PM

Mr Waine, My stance on the issue on striped bass amendment 6 are as follows;

1. Status quo 2 fish limit @ 28".
2. If the option B for 25% reduction within 1 year is adopted we choose B 7/.
2 fish bag limit with one fish 28-34 " and on at 36" min. This gives us better than the 25% reduction required.
3. If option C were to pass, reducing F within 3 years, we choose option C-3, 2 fish bag limit @ 28 to 35", and one fish 35" min.

Thanks, Jack Schocklin

From: themayfamily4@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: comment on striped bass management
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:03:28 PM

I am writing you today to voice my opinion on the upcoming decisions to be made regarding striped bass.

I have been fishing for striped bass for many years and it is clear to me that something needed to be done years ago. I hate it when you wait until there is a crisis to change things. Your data is 2 years old and by then drastic measures may need to be taken. I have observed fewer fish each year for the last 5 years, I fish from shore and from a small boat.

I am for the 25 % reduction immediately and 1 fish 32" per day coastwide. The sooner this is done the better.

thank you,

Bruce May
313 Wareham St
Middleboro, MA
02346

508-944-2570

From: contact@goldeneaglefishing.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comments on Striped Bass Proposals
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:47:24 PM

Mr. Waine

As the owner of a party fishing boat located in New Jersey, I have spent a considerable amount of time studying the proposals for the 2015 Striped Bass fishery.

While I am all for conservation of the Bass stocks, I think that the preferable option would be B7, which would allow for a 28" fish as well as a trophy fish. I believe this option accomplishes a 26% reduction in the catch but also will minimize the economic impact on the businesses that rely on Stripe Bass fishery.

Thank you for considering this option

Capt Rich Falcone
Golden Eagle
goldeneaglefishing.com
732-681-6144

From: [Posey, Karen](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:52:26 PM

Hi,

I believe we need 25% conservation of Striped Bass in the first year. We need to protect this resource, and particularly from commercial netters. We should limit catch to one per person until the numbers can rebound.

Thanks,

Karen

Karen Posey
IT Field Support Engineer



110 N. Royal St
Ste 200
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.ihs.com

Phone: 703-236-2434
karen.posey@ihs.com

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From: evanpriovalos@gmail.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Cut 25% for Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:21:20 AM

Please cut 25% for Striped bass the first year! Thanks.

Evan Priovolos

From: [Marcus Bonilla](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: DON'T INCREASE SIZE LIMITS FOR STRIPERS
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:33:47 AM

ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN REPORT, INCREASING THE SIZE LIMIT WONT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE STRIPED BASS POPULATION. PLEASE HELP KEEP THE RECREATIONAL FISHERY ENJOYABLE.
Thank you

From: [Karen Bradshaw](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: DRAFT AADDENDUM IV STRIPED BASS
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:40:47 AM

Dear Sir,

I am a 3rd generation head boat owner and captain, who has been fishing, carrying passengers, in the NY/NJ waters for more than 50 years and I believe my “hands on” experience is far more reliable than your “best scientific data”, especially as it relates to the Striped Bass. It is my opinion that Super Storm Sandy in October 2012 had a huge affect on all the fisheries for many reasons, the least of which is not the change in the bottom due to the storm as well as dredging and beach replenishment. For this reason, I do not believe 2013 was the correct year to do stock assessment. as I am certain it does not take the storm into account. I do not believe any reduction is necessary at this time. My first option would be STATUS QUO, but as that is not a “considered option” then I begrudgingly opt for B7, as it is the lesser of all the evils.

I expect my e-mail to be part of the public record.

Thank you

Captain Kevin Bradshaw

DOROTHY B.

Atlantic Highlands, NJ

From: [Johnson, Lawrence](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum 1V
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 7:21:23 AM

Please support draft addendum 1V , thank-you , Larry Johnson.

From: [Michael J. Treola](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - comments.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:09:42 AM

Hi Mike,

Recreational fisherman here from NJ where the stripped bass fishery is in trouble. I question validity of data and I don't understand where this is coming from because from my point of view there is not nearly the abundance of fish in years past.

In terms of new rules I am in favor of B4 option with my fallbacks of b3/b2. I am also sick of seeing the spring run of breeding stripped bass in raritan bay raped every year. It's a travesty and in addition to the B4 the season should be closed during the spawn. I don't understand how we allow fish to be kept when they invade the bays and rivers to breed.

These are my 2 cents.

Michael Treola
96 Bray Avenue
Middletown NJ, 07748
732-768-4841

From: [Matthew Spengler](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Bill Cole](#); [REP. CRAIG A.MINER](#); [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Protect Striped Bass -2015
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:14:31 AM

I strongly support the notion that we should support the most conservative option on the table: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Thanks,
Matt Spengler

From: mitchelldf
To: [Mike Waine](mailto:Mike.Waine)
Cc: finexlamps@cs.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Striped Bass conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:24:39 PM

To: Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

I am a 64 year old recreational salt water fly fisherman and support legislation to protect striped bass from over harvest and help the depleted stock to recover. I support the following and believe that the striped bass population based on my observations is in decline and threatened especially by overfishing "trophy" breeding fish.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.
Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.
Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.
Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.
Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

I fish Long Island Sound by boat since 1996 from Stony Brook, NY to Mt. Sinai, NY and Orient Point to Montauk Point, NY.

Regards,
Mitchell Fine
40 University Heights Drive
Stony Brook, NY 11790
tel: 1-631-689-2362
e-mail: finexlamps@cs.com

From: [Brad Meehan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [TOM FOTE](#); [David Chanda](#); [Adam S. Nowalsky](#); [Chris Zeman](#); [Asm. Bob Andrzejczak](#)
Cc: [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:05:20 PM

I am for option B4, 1 fish between 28" and 40".

Also, taking steps to conserve striped bass during their migration but then allowing commercial harvest in MA and southern states doesn't make sense. The commercial harvest and sale of striped bass should be stopped coast wide.

Charter captains and mates should not count toward the bag limit on charter fishing trips. Their job is to take paying customers fishing and not to create a loophole to the bag limit.

Eliminate the bonus tag. \$2 to bypass the stated regulations is not worth it for the overall harm on the fish stocks.

Thank you,
Brad Meehan

From: [srperna@aol.com](mailto:sperna@aol.com)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:23:57 AM

Mr. Waine,

I support the one year 25% reduction.

I support the B amendments looking for 1 fish @ 32".

In addition I do not support transferring of any commercial quotas.

We must act now before it is to late.

Thanks you.

Steven Perna
125 Virginia Ave
Lavallette, NJ 08735
732.221.0540

From: [Park](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:37:27 PM

I am writing to let you know that I support the 25 percent reduction in the striped bass harvest.

I am a recreational fisherman who actively practices catch and release because I recognize how important it is to protect this species. We need to make a concentrated effort through all available channels to protect striped bass.

Please consider my opinion when making your decision.

Thank you.

Park Ridill
Brookline MA

From: [Matt Hetterich](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:09:39 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Waine,

I had the pleasure of hearing you speak when I attended the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) meeting regarding proposed changes to Striped Bass regulations in 2015. Despite my age, I have the unique perspective of being one of a handful of people in the audience who have seen every corner of the fishing industry. I've spent most of my working years behind the counters of tackle shops or selling fishing rods. I've pin hooked both legally/illegally (never keeping over my limit, but selling fish on the side) and made great money doing it. I've worked on charter boats in Orient with people who have never picked up a fishing rod and helped them catch their first Striped Bass. And despite more time on boats the past few years, I will always be a salty, "Dyed in the Wool" surfcaster until the day I die.

Catching Stripers the past few years has gotten tougher, but I always managed to find fish. Even though surf fishing was slow, I never had a problem finding "boat fish" in waters off of Orient and Fishers Island. For the past 7 years, myself and a 40+ year veteran of the Striped Bass world filled his allotted commercial tags with ease. I even looked forward to one day taking over his set of tags and proudly carrying on the tradition of harvesting these magnificent fish for people to enjoy. With that said, I haven't filled a single commercial tag all season. Mind you this hasn't been for lack of trying; we stopped after 9 trips around the July and August Full Moons produced exactly 2 commercial slot bass, a 26lb bass, 3 short bass, 4 Bluefish, and 4 trips without a touch. This is in stark contrast to nights when we'd put 30, 40, or 50 slot fish in the boat and release dozens of larger fish.

With that said, my commercial Striped Bass fishing days are over; I'd rather catch these fish for the rest of my life than to keep killing them for gas and tackle money. I am in support of the following measures:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

In addition, I would also like to add that the ASMFC should very seriously consider adding additional poundage that is not currently allocated for poaching. This is a

very serious issue all over the coast that due to enforcement cuts is not being addressed.

Good luck with the upcoming management decisions, I realize it's not easy to be in your situation. I hope that the group keeps the best interest of the public for the future of the species in their decision process. Should you have any questions or like additional input, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Matt Hetterich

Eastern Rodworks

Phone - (631) 291-1576

Office - (631) 902-9756

<http://www.easternrodworks.com/>

From: [Jack Scanlon](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV etc.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:00:28 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS

I would like to see maximum reduction of harvest during the first year for striped bass. I would also like to see winter gill net fishing stopped and the spring "kill a breeder" season abolished if ASMFC is really concerned about a shortfall in breeding bass. Rockfish killing should start on or after June 1. Additionally I think the public should be made aware of widespread rockfish contamination with mycobacteria with its implications for striper reproduction and human health. Finally fishing for menhaden on the Atlantic coast and in Chesapeake Bay should be stopped. I also realize as long as "managers" care more about the fishery than about the fish, these suggestions will not occur until the Pope gets married.

Sincerely

**John Scanlon MD
5705 Morris Neck Rd
Cambridge MD 21613**

From: [Aaron Zappia](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV public comment.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:01:25 PM

Mr. Waine,

I would like to express my support for a striped bass management plan that reduces the current harvest by 25% in 2015. I support options B3 (1 fish at 32") or B4 (28" – 30" slot). I also believe that bonus tags should be completely eliminated.

I'm writing as a concerned angler who fishes for striped bass in multiple states in the northeast. There is a marked decline in the numbers of striped bass and the quality of fishing in the areas I frequently fish. While it is understandable that the commercial and charter communities will argue in favor of profits, the coast-wide movement on the part of recreational anglers to reduce striped bass harvest is ample evidence of a fishery in decline.

Striped bass are perhaps the greatest fin fish resource in the United States due to their availability to such a large population and their accessibility from surf, shore, and small craft. Their abundance means many small businesses thrive, from bait shops, convenience stores, lodging, lure manufacturers, and many lure, fly, and plug builders on the striper coast. It has been well documented that the recreational economic impact far outweighs the commercial and charter profits.

In short, please do not sacrifice a valued resource for millions for the short term profits of a few individuals. I should not have to warn the people who manage a fishery that proper management should start long before a decline occurs.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.

Aaron Zappia

From: [Dick Daggett](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: captpaul@anglerconservation.net
Subject: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:46:18 AM

Sirs, Please support the following options; Option B3 - one fish per day @ 32" of Section 3.0, option A - Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another of Section 3.1. I fish both the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays in addition to the New Jersey Inner Coastal Waterway. We can't do enough to protect our most valuable resources, thanks.

Richard Daggett
1141 Chrome Road
Oxford Pa 1933

From: [Peter Jenkins](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Scott Wilson](#); [Chris Chobot](#); [Ryan Gluek](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:24:08 AM

Mr. Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland Street
Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

I am an avid saltwater angler for striped bass. I support an immediate 25% reduction with a one fish per day at 32 inches. I also support prohibiting quota transfers from one region to another. I also support Option A for Section 3.2, which deals with Commercial Size Limits.

Sincerely yours,

--

Peter Jenkins
Owner
[The Saltwater Edge](#)

From: [Lyle Hayes](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: draft addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:16:25 PM

Mr. Waine,

Don't let the striped bass gains be lost! Please reduce the harvest by at least 25% in 2015.

Lyle Hayes Ph.D.

From: [Brian](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:24:32 AM

Hello,

Over the past 5 years I have seen the decline of striped bass population. Its seems to be at the point where it is getting dangerous. I am an avid fisherman from shore and boat. I feel the need for emediate change in the regulations.

I am voting for the greatest conservative reduction of 25%. Plan B3, one fish 32" inches. This option will allow smaller fish to grow and spawn a few times. While the keeper fish above "32 will have had the chance to already before it has grown enough to harvest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian

From: [Alex Carlson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:57:33 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a resident of the state of Massachusetts and have been a recreational bass fisherman for the past 38 years and a commercial bass fisherman for the past 20 years. I have a vested interest in the health of the fishery. Regarding the proposed changes for 2015 I would like to see the recreational daily bag limit reduced to one fish per angler per day at the current minimum size of 28".

If further reductions in the overall mortality are still required after the 50% recreational reduction then I would propose a tiered or progressive reduction in the commercial harvest of 7% per year with an annual review to determine if further reductions are necessary. Additionally, when stocks are found to be recovering, healthy and above the "F" target then provisions should be in place to return the commercial landings and recreational landings to the current levels.

Thank you very much,
Alex Carlson

From: +18483337898@tmomail.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:52:46 PM
Attachments: [text_1412106744095.txt](#)

Option 9

T-Mobile

This message was sent to you by a T-Mobile wireless phone.

From: [Richard Zaczynski](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:48:50 PM

Please use some common sense. Let's save the bass. One fish per person under option B1.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jim Magnanini](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:44:41 PM

Mr. Waine,

I urge you to seriously consider the following Options for Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

All, or even a few, of these options would go a long way in ensuring that the striped bass population is protected and allowed to grow - for ours and future generations.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jim Magnanini
125 Killingsworth Drive
Cary, NC 27518
Fishing Coastal Carolina

From: [Gray, James](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:26:33 PM

Mr. Waine,

I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out and express my concern for the future of striped bass. Please be advised that I have been an avid surfcaster on Long Island since 1975. During my years of fishing I have noticed a "few bumps in the road" as far as the bass population is concerned but none as evident as the last 5 years. I fear what we are experiencing now is not a "bump in the road" but more a consistent and negative trend that appears to be continuing.

I attended the meeting at Stony Brook University where you presented the data and found it very interesting and disconcerting at the same time. While the majority of folks in the audience seemed to recognize that there is a problem, there were also numerous attendees who seem to be blind to what is obvious to so many others. I understand that everyone has their own perspective and agenda but I find it hard to argue with the concept that the bass population is declining quickly.

I strongly support the most conservative option on the table of an immediately 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. I also support option B3 - 1 fish over 32".

I appreciate all of the time and effort put in by folks like you to inform the public and I'm hopeful that quick, decisive action will be taken to prevent what appears to be a foregone conclusion is aggressive action is not taken.

Regards,

James W. Gray
211 Propsect Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

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From: [John Cusick](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:26:30 PM

9-18-2014

Mr. [Mike Waine](#)

Dear Mr [Waine](#),

I'm writing as a concerned angler who fishes for striped bass in multiple states in the northeast. There is a marked decline in the numbers of stripe

I support the following options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Best Regards,

From: [Bruce Sachenski](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:24:35 PM

I am a long-time fisherman from New Jersey and am very concerned about the striped bass population. As such, I am in favor of the following recommended options. Please help us to conserve and save this valuable resource.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Bruce Sachenski
Branchburg, NJ 08876

From: [Rob Hardy](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:18:35 PM

Good Afternoon,

First, I wish to thank you for your work.

I attended the meeting you hosted at the Chesapeake College on the 25th, and have respect (but don't admire) your difficult position in settings like that.

I wish to voice my support for option D, the 3yr @ 7% reduction.

Option D3 seems to offer the greatest protection for the large breeders, which is, as I understand it, the primary concern.

I personally feel that the 17% reduction offers the least amount of socio economic impact (especially after the 3 years), however, I saw little support for that.

I do realize that mortality is also a concern, but the utter lack of elementary decisions like a Coastwide requirement of using circle hooks for bait being discussed, seems absurd to me.

I asked about this at the meeting on the 25th, and your response was that this was a decision to be made on the state level.

I respectfully disagree for several reasons.

First, is that if the main governing body of the fishery (ASMFC) doesn't make the push, the process will be painfully slow, and contentious.

I see no reason why the ASMFC does NOT make this push, and still don't understand why that is.

Another reason I find this as being difficult for MD to lead the charge on, is with the complete lack of biological reference points in the Bay, how could we establish a base line to make a comparison to in order to mark success?

Frankly, I still have a great deal of questions about the entire Addendum.

But, I recognize that you are a very busy man, and with your limited time, and my limited understanding, I still feel the need to weigh in, because I still wish to be involved.

Thank you again.

Respectfully Yours,
Capt Rob Hardy
Bewitched Chesapeake Adventures
443-521-6161

From: [Jason DeLand](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:05:24 PM

Dear ASMFC,

My name is Jason DeLand. I am a life-long fishermen.

I understand that you are to soon end public comments regarding Draft Addendum IV.
Please Adopt the 25% reduction in Striped Bass Mortality.
I urge you to make this choice.

I am sure there are well entrenched special interests that do not want you to adopt the most aggressive measures.
I have heard and understood their arguments.

I have a counter argument.

When has conservation not paid off?
The more stripers in the water means more economic benefit to everyone.
If the stripers suffer, we all suffer.
If the stripers thrive, we all thrive.

Personally, I have been catch and release for the last 3 years.
Yet my fishing and the money I have spent on fishing has remained consistent.

It's never easy to stand up for what's right.
But in this case, the easy call is to vote for the strongest measures to protect the population of Stripers.

Regards,

Jason DeLand

Jason DeLand - Founding Partner
office: 917.595.2207
536 Broadway, New York, NY 10012
twitter: @jasondeland

From: [Zipp, Lee](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:57:00 PM

Hi Waine. Live in New York and fish in the LI sound out of Norwalk. Have a summer home in Maine at the mouth of the Saco River. Also fish around Sea Bright in New Jersey when visiting my daughters. Most of my striper fishing is in Maine where the slot regulation is enforced. Would love to see the slot limitations apply to the other states for a limited time to protect the breeding fish. Sure I throw back larger fish, but we all have cell phones to capture the moment. Maybe it is a long shot to think this could be a reality. I do remember the eighties when stripers were none existent. Any reduction in keeping breeding stripers would certainly help the fishery. Sincerely, Lee Zipp

R.Lee Zipp, CRB
Brokerage Manager
Houlihan Lawrence
Town Centre at Somers
104 Village Square
Somers, NY 10589
Office: 914-277-8040
Cell: 914-391-5216
lzip@houlihanlawrence.com

From: [Joseph Vukas](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:55:01 PM

Dear ASMFC:

Comment on Draft Addendum IV:

Section 2.5.1 and Section 2.5.2 – I am in favor **Option B**. We should be referencing the best available, most recent science (as set out in the 2013 Benchmark Assessment) when determining courses of action.

Section 2.6 – Option A. Clearly, a problem exists, and it needs to be addressed immediately.

Section 3.0 – Option B. Further, I am strongly opposed to any option that stretches out harvest reductions over three years.

Size and bag limits – I am in favor of **Option B3** (a one-fish bag limit and a 32" size limit on the coast) and **Option B15** (hard quota) in the Chesapeake.

I am an active catch-and-release striped bass angler; my method is fly fishing/ light tackle spin fishing from the shore and a small tin boat. Since 2010 I have experienced a steady decline in striped bass numbers. In some cases the fall has been alarming.

I fish the North Fork of Long Island and work those waters from April-November every weekend, with 2 straight weeks in May and 2 straight weeks in October. In the last four years, my daily trips have focused on finding a **single** bass! When in the past we looked for feeding groups or large pods on the flats. Those days are completely gone. Many trips go without a striper; the last time that happened was in the early 90s when bass numbers were scary low. In numerous places around Shelter Island, Peconic, Robins Island, Plum Island and Southold, I would fish spots that would produced 2 dozen schoolie bass in an evening session. Now ALL these places produce nothing, not even a single fish. Its hard to believe how quickly this fishery has collapsed in only 4 years. And the charter boats off Orient kill countless large fish offshore, further destroying the striped bass population. (I've seen them keep bass way OVER the legal limits.) In addition I used to make 6-7 huge orders (over \$300) from flyfishing suppliers (saltwaterflies.com and Orvis etc.) and salt-water tackle sites (saltwateredge.com, cabelas, the surfcaster.com etc) every season. But since fishing has collapsed, I only need one small order. This drop in bass numbers affects these businesses in addition to inshore fisherman like myself and thousands of others.

Striped bass are a precious, finite resource. Please enact regulations that will better protect these magnificent fish. We need to kill less of them. Period.

Regards,

Joseph Vukas

From: [Peter Belval](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:52:07 PM

Please implement the highest level of conservation. Stocks have plummeted and are getting worse. As a fisherman I think we are at the point where we have 1 chance to get this right. Go with the most conservative option and generations will thank you

Regards,

Pete Belval
Scituate, MA

Sent using BlackBerry

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From: [ROBERT NAPOLI](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: bobnap@optonline.net
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:40:54 PM

Mr. Waine,

I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to express my concern for the future of striped bass. I am a surf caster on Long Island and I have noticed a precipitous drop in the bass population over the past 5 years or so. I've only surf casted avidly for about 8 years and the first 3 were markedly more productive than the past few years. During a time where I was gaining proficiency and fishing more frequently I was catching fewer and fewer fish. This hasn't been a blip but a consistent and negative trend that appears to be continuing.

I attended the meeting at Stony Brook University where you presented the data and found it very interesting and disconcerting at the same time. While the majority of folks in the audience seemed to recognize that there is a problem, there were also numerous attendees who seem to be blind to what is obvious to so many others. I understand that everyone has their own perspective and agenda but I find it hard to argue with the concept that the bass population is declining quickly. I did not fish for striped bass the last time it collapsed but I've heard the horror stories from fishing buddies and it is hard to imagine that we would let history repeat itself in such short order.

I strongly support the most conservative option on the table of an immediately 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. I also support option B3 - 1 fish over 32".

I appreciate all of the time and effort put in by folks like you to inform the public and I'm hopeful that quick, decisive action will be taken to prevent what appears to be a foregone conclusion is aggressive action is not taken.

Regards,

Bob Napoli
14 Puritan Path
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

From: [Bpkelectric](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:19:39 PM

In support of striped bass conservation I believe option 7 is the most productive way to go

Bill Queen
BPK Electric LLC
732-840-2311office
732-612-1212 fax
908-416-7206 mobile

From: [Chris O'Donnell](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:16:57 PM

Greetings,

I am sure you are sick of all these emails but my voice should be heard like the rest and I'll try to keep this short. While "one fish at 28" seems like the popular choice, I feel that if keeping zero fish is an even better choice. How much fish does one need to consume to be happy and full? How much fish can a person consume with out seeing effects of mercury? Furthermore, if anything, commercial fishing of striped bass should be banned. They have it way easier than a guy fishing off the beach. I, myself carry a cooler, two rods, a tackle box, and two sand spikes onto the beach, while wearing a heavy pair of waders. Commercial fishermen have everything at their disposal; a bathroom, fish finders, nets... It's just too easy for them. So you're probably thinking, "what are all these guys going to do when they are out of work?" Well I'm here to say that they will be out of work regardless if they keep keeping like they do now! If I have to go a couple years before I can keep a striped bass, then so be it! There are other fish in the sea! Thank you for hearing me out. I hope all works out for these fish. Thank you for your time.

-Chris O'Donnell

From: [Alison Carothers](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:10:41 PM

Please support conservation of Striped bass by voting for immediate 25% reduction in harvest for 2015. Additionally, please support option B3; one fish over 32”.

Thank you

Alison Carothers

From: [Jonathan Kazarian](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:42:07 PM

I support the 25% reduction in striped bass harvest. I would like to see more conservative striper regulations going forward. Option B3 sounds good to me. The main reason is for the sustainability of this amazing fish and to make it possible for future generations to enjoy catching them.

Thanks,

Jon Kazarian
Sonos | Technical Recruiter | 857-998-5256 | jonathan.kazarian@sonos.com
[Facebook.com/Sonos](https://www.facebook.com/Sonos) | [@sonos](https://www.instagram.com/sonos) | [YouTube.com/sonos](https://www.youtube.com/sonos) | blog.sonos.com

From: [George Zembrzycki](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:41:35 PM

Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mike,

I care about striped bass conservation and let you and the Striped Bass Management Board know that I support the most conservative option on the table. I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. I want to see more conservative striper regulations next year to reverse the decline in the striped bass population. I hope this can be achieved in some way. We need to act now to reduce any further decline. Thanks

Sincerely,

George Zembrzycki

From: Saflynn48@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:36:17 PM

The state of Maryland's Commercial Hook and Line laws need to be amended or abolished.

Many of these so called commercial waterman are well to do folks who have well paying jobs or are comfortably retired and have no need to sell fish for additional income. I see the same boats out there time and again catching their 400 lbs. of Rockfish until the quotas are met.

Over the last few years since the popularity of live-lining Spot has come to the Chesapeake Bay these guys will sit on top of a school of fish and in short order wipe them out. Just one boat, under current laws, catch and kill more Rockfish in a single day than myself and friends will in several years of recreational fishing.

Yes, I know there are studies, and quotas in place that support this abuse. Also, that there are some REAL WATERMAN out there who probably do need the income. My point only, is that there are many folks that hold these licenses that should not.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
Steve Flynn

From: [Drew Contessa](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:29:22 PM

Hello Mike,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the Fall and everything it brings.

I am writing because since I was a young boy, I have loved nothing more in life than fishing for Striped Bass. Now I am 30, married and beginning to think about starting a family, I want to do everything I can to ensure my future children will have the opportunity to fall in love with the pursuit of these magnificent fish as well.

For that to happen, we need drastic change. I and many of my peers support the most conservative option on the table: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Thank You,

Drew Contessa

From: [Norman Hursh](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:00:45 PM

In my opinion, striped bass are perhaps the most sought-after game fish on the Atlantic coast. Although I do not believe the stock is in significant danger, it is clear from my experience over the last four years of active recreational fishing for stripers that catch levels and abundance has significantly declined and that stock levels should be addressed as soon as possible.

With regard to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan, I support the following:

Section 2.5.1 and Section 2.5.2 – I am in favor **Option B**. We should be referencing the best available and most recent science (as set by the Technical committee and the 2013 Benchmark Assessment) as to what and when actions need to be taken.

Section 2.6 – Option A. Clearly, a problem exists, and it needs to be addressed immediately. Fish mortality must be reduced and the sooner we address this, the sooner stock levels can be restored. Taking necessary reductions in fish mortality as soon as possible is the best solution.

Section 3.0 – Option B. **I am strongly opposed** to any option that stretches out harvest reductions over a three year period.

Size and bag limits – I am in favor of **Option B3** (a one-fish bag limit and a 32” size limit on the coast) and **Option B15** (hard quota) in the Chesapeake.

I am an active catch-and-release striped bass angler and I most often fly fish from the shore in Massachusetts. Since 2009, I have experienced a steady decline in striped bass numbers and size. In some cases the decline has been extreme.

Striped bass are a precious, finite resource. Please enact regulations that will better protect these fish and the waters in which they live.

Thanks for your attention and support of this request.

Norm Hursh

From: [Baymen Charters](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:44:40 PM

I support the most conservative option on the table: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

I also choose Option B3: 1 fish over 32".

My personal option is 1 fish over 36", Maine to Virginia, for five years. I wish this was an option in the striped bass management plan.

Respectfully,

Capt. David Bitters
Baymen Guide Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 366
Duxbury, MA 02331

From: [Laura Lucas](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:42:22 PM

RE: Upcoming Striped Bass Regulation Changes

It is in my opinion that if you are going to make changes to the recreational anglers regulation of one slot and one trophy fish per day then you must regulate charter and party boats as well.

All recreational fishermen, private, party and charter boats, should be one fish per man/per day.

Dave Lucas
[516-551-8911](tel:516-551-8911)

From: [Bethanne Acelin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:27:00 PM

Option B6: 2 fish 28-34" slot

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From: [david bixby](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:23:07 PM

ASMFC:

Please consider drastic reductions in the taking of striped bass both recreationally and commercially. The numbers of large breeding fish that I observe being taken off Chatham Mass. is staggering. I find it very hard to believe that stock assessments adequately reflect this. As an example, just this last Sunday (Sept. 27) a fleet of more than 30 boats was concentrated on a school of bass in 99 feet of water beyond the three mile limit. Most boats were doubling and tripling up on big bass throughout the tide. Of the roughly 30 boats, two released any fish. The worst offenders were charters operating with six to ten clients. I saw not a fish released. All fish were gaffed and tossed into the cooler. With the introduction of electronics and word of mouth, etc. these boats are very efficiently cleaning out these schools with no regard for the future. It also appears that some boats continue to be fishing for commercial sale of stripers. There can be no other explanations for the numbers of fish kept and killed in boats with less fishermen. There appears to be little respect for regulations such as the three mile limit and take limits.

Sunday was one day. Every day that one school remains it will be the target until it is virtually wiped out. Weekends are the worst but the slaughter goes on as long as weather permits. And this is just one school. The pattern is repeated any where these guys find fish. They are very efficient. This is not sustainable.

You need to take immediate action. My suggestion is to ban the sale of striped bass and to severely reduce the recreational take by whatever means necessary until the stock sufficiently rebounds. There also has to be a significant increase in enforcement and much stricter penalties.

Please save the bass.

David Bixby
24 Geranium Dr.
West Chatham, MA 02669

From: [Craig Falicon](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:14:07 PM

I support a 25% reduction in the striped bass fishery for 2015. I prefer option B1: 1 over 28"

Thank you,

Craig Falicon
Sandy Hook, NJ

From: [Andrew Gottlieb](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:13:27 PM

Mike,

I've been fly fishing the shallow water off of the upper and mid cape for the past ten years. I've seen the gradual rise and fall in the number of fish coming up onto the flats I frequent. These are often the areas first affected by slight changes in the population. Even back when I was eight or nine years old it was clear to me that the regulations on stripers were obviously insufficient to sustain a healthy fishery. I would watch people fishing the channel in Barnstable Harbor just to see how many fish were released. Everything from young 28" fish with clean stripes to lurking forty pound cows were killed. It's irrefutable that the striper stocks are hurting and need some help. If we want to see real improvement, we need to institute a 28-40" slot with one fish allowed.

For the sake of the sport, I hope you'll make the right decision
-Alex Gottlieb

From: [Michael Occhineri](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Bill Cole](#); [REP. CRAIG A.MINER](#); [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:10:00 PM

1 slot between 28. And 40 inches

Sent from my iPhone 203 843 4640

From: [Mike bush](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [TOM FOTE](#); [David Chanda](#); [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:01:07 PM

Team Chum Box supports B2. We need to make some changes so we don't go back to the late 80s , early 90s
Hope you vote for a good change

Michael Bush / Owner
Bush Landscaping Contractors LLC
444 South Ave
Westfield NJ 07090
Office # 908 276 9500
Fax # 908 301 9200

From: [richb](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:01:03 PM

I do not believe the bass are in bad shape I am from raritan bay but if it bad down south please spend more on treating runnoff as they do in nj and ny we have such prolific life bald eagles seals bait galore

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Smartphone

From: [Eric](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:59:56 AM

Hello Mike Waine,

I believe the first option: B1 - 1 striped bass over 28" is the simplest and best solution for modifying the recreational fishing regulations to protect striped bass populations.

Best regards,

-Eric Donaldson

Lancaster Massachusetts

www.facebook.com/erictreehouse

erictreehouse@aol.com

www.erictreehouse.com

From: [Ringgold, Vincent L - Sykesville, MD](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:56:29 AM

Mr. Waine;

I want to thank you for the opportunity to voice our position on Appendum IV. I also want to thank you and all the commissioners for all the hard work that you have been doing in this cause. As the President of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association I would like to submit the following suggestion for Draft Appendum IV. The following options were unanimous with the Board of Directors of MSSA. Which consists of Presidents of 14 chapters, Executive board and other committee members. As you know MSSA represents over 7,000 anglers in the State of MD.

The Chesapeake Bay Recreational options, which would include our summer and fall fishery, are extremely valuable to not only the charter boats, but perhaps more importantly to recreational anglers. The summer time is when we see the highest number of anglers on the water, especially our youth anglers. As you know MSSA has invested a lot of time and money into introducing and fostering youth fishing participation. Subsequently we need to continue to foster this program.

Balancing conservation and the tremendous socio-economic impacts, here are the Best Options within Draft Addendum IV for Maryland anglers and our striped bass fishery.

- * Coastal Recreational
- * OPTION B1 - One fish with a minimum size of 28" (31% reduction)
- * Chesapeake Bay Recreational

OPTION C4 - 2 fish bag limit with a minimum size of 20" (22% reduction)

NOTE: Alternate option D2 also reduces harvest by 22%, keeping a two fish bag limit and season length, min. size changes (2015-19"; 2016-20";2017-20")

In addition to Options B1 and C4, we believe the ASMFC needs to continue its efforts to press the Technical Committee to agree on Chesapeake Bay reference points and initiate another draft addendum as soon as possible.

Again thank you

Respectfully;

Vincent Ringgold

President MSSA

Commissioner SFAC

From: [Andrew Hedden](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com; "[AJ Hedden \(heddenaj@gmail.com\)](mailto:AJ.Hedden@gmail.com)"
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:52:02 AM

DEAR MR. MIKE WAINE

I WANTED TO TAKE THE TIME TO SEND YOU'RE A LETTER IN REGARDS TO DRAFT ADDENDUM IV. I AM A RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN AND HAVE GROWN UP ON THE WATERS OF RI FISHING FOR ALL THAT OUR BAYS HAVE TO OFFER FROM BOTH BOAT, SHORE, AND DIVING. BASED ON THE TURNOUT OF THE SEP. 17 PUBLIC HEARING AT URI, I AM WHAT YOU WOULD PROBABLY CONSIDER ONE OF THE "YOUNG GUNS". AT 27 YEARS OLD, I DID NOT EXPERIENCE THE LAST BIG CRASH THAT OUR AREA SUFFERED IN THE 80'S AND IT IS JUST STORIES OF "HOW BAD IT WAS". I DO HOWEVER RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE AND BALANCE OF ECOSYSTEMS AND THAT IS WHY I WOULD LIKE TO VOCALIZE MY SUPPORT OF THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS:

- IN REGARDS TO (SECTION 2.6) THE TIMELINE FOR HARVEST REDUCTION, I SUPPORT **OPTION A** AND REACHING THE REDUCTION WITHIN A 1 YEAR TIMEFRAME. THE SOONER THAT WE CAN GET THE REDUCTION IN THE HARVEST THE MORE TIME THE FISHERIES WILL HAVE TO BALANCE THEMSELVES OUT AND TO HELP GIVE US A BETTER UNDERSTANDING IF OUR INTENTIONS ARE ACTUALLY WORKING
- IN REGARDS TO (SECTION 3.0) THE RECREATIONAL QUOTA AND SIZE LIMIT, I SUPPORT **OPTION 3B** WITH THE REDUCTION DOWN TO ONE FISH PER PERSON PER DAY AT 32 DAYS. FOR SHORE FISHERMAN, BOATERS, AND CHARTERS THAT RUN FOR LOCALS AND TOURIST ALIKE, ONE FISH IS MORE THAN PLENTY AND THE SIZE INCREASE WILL HELP YOUNGER STOCK GROW. WHEN ASKING MANY PEOPLE WHY THEY FISH THE ANSWER YOU OFTEN GET IS "BECAUSE ITS FUN". IF THE STRIPER POPULATION CONTINUES IN A DOWNWARD DIRECTION THERE ARE GOING TO BE PEOPLE SAYING "IT USED TO BE FUN ... WHEN THERE WERE STILL FISH"
- IN REGARDS TO (SECTION 3.1) COMMERCIAL QUOTA TRANSFERS, I SUPPORT **OPTION A** FOR PROHIBITING QUOTA TRANSFERS FROM ONE REGION TO ANOTHER. AS JUST A RECREATIONAL FISHER I WAS A BIT SHOCKED WHEN HEARING THIS PART OF THE PRESENTATION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING. THESE FISH ARE MIGRATORY. I DON'T SEE HOW IF A REGION DOESN'T FILL THEIR QUOTA, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO PASS IT OFF SO ANOTHER REGION CAN ESSENTIALLY OVER-FISH.
- IN REGARDS TO (SECTION 3.2) COMMERCIAL SIZE LIMITS, I SUPPORT **OPTION A** AND THE REQUIREMENT THAT COMMERCIAL HARVEST AND RECREATIONAL SIZE LIMITS BE THE SAME. ONE OF THE PURPOSES SIZE LIMITS IS TO PROTECT THAT CERTAIN SIZE AND AGE FISH ... IT SHOULD BE DONE ACROSS THAT BOARD.

RHODE ISLAND IS SMALL BUT WE CALL OURSELVES THE OCEAN STATE FOR A REASON. FISHING IS SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE CAN ENJOY. YOU CAN FISH DAY OR NIGHT, MORNING OR EVENING, FROM A BOAT OR FROM SHORE. MANY PEOPLE ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO CONSIDER FISHING ONE OF THEIR FAVORITE ACTIVITIES AND OFTEN FIND THEIR BEST MEMORIES ARE CREATED WHILE FISHING. I THINK WE NEED TO KEEP THE STOCK PLENTIFUL BY TAKING FIRM ACTIONS NOW RATHER THANK LOOKING BACK SAYING MAYBE WE COULD HAVE DONE MORE.

THANK YOU,
ANDREW HEDDEN
BRISTOL, RI

From: [J Altman](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:40:48 PM

Dear ASMFC,

9/30/14

Hello, I am Jonathan Altman, and I am an avid fisherman who fishes in both Connecticut and New York waters. I want to suggest various options to help prevent another crash of the Striped Bass stock. Thus, I have taken the time to write proposals for *Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Public Comment*, despite my busy schedule as a senior in High School.

In section 4.1, very clear action is presented that if we were to violate over-fishing targets, then we must end over-fishing within (1) year. By deliberating a 3-year option, we are utterly disregarding the management plan, which is absolutely inexcusable. This fishery must undergo immediate changes that will help restore the striped bass stock. Immediate action must be taken – within one year, not three years; and in combination with the 31% reduction in fishing mortality. Since any plan only has a 50% chance of success, delays will only reduce the odds of success; as more and more fish will have perished.

Management for the conservation of striped bass must focus on reducing the number of large female spawning fish that are taken out of circulation. This is because a single female trophy bass (upwards of 36 inches) can produce on average 160,000 eggs per-pound of body weight every year.

It is imperative that the fishing mortality of the female spawning stock is decreased. Also, a serious conservation of the female SSB is needed to enhance the long term sustainability of the striped bass stock as a whole. This will require the cooperation amongst all the states that are involved in this fishery on the Atlantic coast.

Large striped bass must be protected by means of abolishing larger size limitations that allow for the large female specimens responsible for breeding to be targeted and killed by anglers. For instance, one 50 pound bass lays roughly 4 million to 5 million eggs per spawn—over 5 times the amount of eggs that a 12 pound bass would lay during its spawn (approximately 850,000

eggs). Therefore, upper size limitations must be placed on the top end/larger fish as well as on the smaller end/schoolie bass; that way the trophy/cow bass that have survived and have become large enough to be valuable breeders are protected. This must be done in order to establish a strong year class for future generations and to ensure that the progeny of the Female SSB is maintained at the proposed fishing mortality target.

Options that allow for even (1) large female bass to be killed, i.e.—option B3-(1@32), also allows for a 40+ inch—50 pound bass to be killed. All the potential eggs that large bass are capable of producing will not be able to go into circulation if large stripers are killed with their eggs inside them, unhatched and dead. More importantly, hundreds of thousands – if not millions, of striper eggs will not be able to contribute to the striped bass stock. As it is known, even one 50 pound bass has the potential of producing millions of eggs each spring. So why would it be acceptable to remove even one of these large breeding fish from circulation given its potential?

It's risky to allow options that permit a bag limit of (2) or more striped bass; i.e.— Recreational Fishery Management Options (B5) through (B9) as well as (B11) through (B15); which allow anglers to catch a bag limit of (2) fish or more. This is because allowing a bag limit of (2) fish or more would clearly give those aboard charter/party boats the ability to massacre many more fish than would a clearly defined bag limit of (1) bass. Since fishing fleets want to maximize their customer's experience out on the water, it would be safe to bet that those fishing on charter/party boats would want to limit out on (2) bass if the bag limit was (2) fish. If there is no established bag limit – as seen with options B14 and B15 – then anglers will definitely want to keep as many fish for that day as they can carry home. This would be especially devastating for a fishery that is trying to recovery. But a (1) fish bag limit on striped bass would likely mitigate this dilemma of over-fishing and would be the most efficacious and simple method to regulate the quantity of striped bass kept per-person-per-day. By allowing anglers to keep one fish within a 12 inch range, fishing mortality will decrease more as opposed to management options B5 – B9, and options B11 – B15.

Therefore, I support and strongly recommend the following management options—so that a significant recovery is eventually made to halt the decline of this iconic fishery:

2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Reference Points

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point – [Option B](#)

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point – [Option B](#)

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point – [Option B](#)

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option A – Status quo: One year time frame — *Management Trigger 3* requires reducing *F* to a level at or below the target within one year.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Proposed Management Scenario – Option B

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options: B4 and B10

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Option: B17

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers – Option B

3.2 Commercial Size Limits – Option A

Sincerely,

— Jonathan Altman

From: [jim Tynan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:38:56 AM

Hello, I'm writing you in support of an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest. As a kid growing up and fishing in Queens there were no striped bass. They made a great comeback due to conservation. Something should also be done about the harvest of menhaden for fish oil capsules. Stripers are not the only fish and mammals that rely on this fish.
Thank You
Jim Tynan

From: [Tim Ryan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:38:55 AM

B3

Sent from my iPad

From: [David Natkie](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [TOM FOTE](#); [David Chanda](#); [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:35:20 AM

I really believe we need to use the 1 fish at 28"-40". Also show other anglers how to properly handle and release fish. Option b-4. I also believe that you should make a standard license fee to fish. As long as the fees go toward preserving these great fish.

Sincerely
David Natkie

From: [Wes Preston](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:32:14 AM

I am 26 years old and have been fishing for stripped bass the past 18 years in both LIS and Block Island. I can attest to a decline over the past 5-6 years as I have been fishing very hard in both locations. Talking with the weekend warrior anglers, they do not target stripers anymore and in turn don't buy gear or spend as much time on the water. I have caught my friends bass and they are hooked forever. I have an extensive network of avid fishing friends, some of which would kill every legal bass they caught. They no longer keep any fish as they know it is getting worse. We cannot sustain the current standards. 1 fish at 32" is plenty of fish to keep for one person. Lets save some fish for the future and not react to late.

Thanks,
Wes Preston
New Canaan, CT

From: [Captain Jack](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:11:38 AM

I would strongly suggest a reduction of 25 % to the commercial catch because that class is the heart of the breeding population. To reduce catch and not severely financially impact the charter/ recreational industry I would support option 9. The fishery has certainly been changing on Cape Cod. I wish the seal impact would also be addressed.

Jack Mcguire
South Dennis MA

Sent from Samsung tablet

From: [Jason Bishop](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:52:34 AM

Just a quick note to tell you I support B3 . one fish a day at 32 inches. Actually , I think it should be catch and release for the next 5 years with NO fish killed . but that's not gonna happen so guess I'll have to be happy with the most conservative option being offered. Stripper fishing this year has been abysmal from shore and not much better in the kayak. We should be releasing everything until the populations start to rebound . I can't believe that we waited this long to do anything. Not happy . . anyway , there's my comment . hope you guys actually do something about this as most shoreline communities benefit from this fishery. Not just a few who sell their fish. Stripers should be managed as a gamefish . there's more money to be made from the fishery that way . sincerely,
Jason bishop

From: [Taylor Ingraham](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:44:36 AM

I have been fishing for striped bass 50-100 times a year for the past 25 years, and watching the decline in numbers from my home waters in Long Island Sound and Block Island through Cape Cod over the past 5 has been a pretty difficult thing to do. The last two years I have been in Block Island participating in a catch and release inshore tournament that takes place in the 2nd weekend in September, usually a time when stripers invade the waters around the Island, and there have been a total of 6 stripers landed the last two years (by 60 fishermen each weekend). It is especially depressing because of the numbers of big bass that were there early in the summer and watching the 150-200 charter and party boats each day just hammer the fish until they were gone by early August. Something needs to change soon. I propose Option B3 - 1 fish can be kept over 32". Clearly 2 fish a day is not working.

Best,

Taylor Ingraham

From: [Jeff Brodeur](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:41:06 AM

Hi Mike

I am the NE sales manager for Folsom Corp, a large fishing tackle distributor.

My travels allow me to talk fisheries management with virtually every independent tackle shop owner from Maine through Ct-daily.

You have a lot of emails to get through so I will keep it brief. I feel the simplest and best option is one fish at 28" and over.

This is the surest way to logically reduce harvest. A 28" fish is more than enough to feed a family if 4-5, if you enjoy striped bass so much, you can fish again tomm.

It is better for the stock, better for our business, and will eliminate what is surely a lot of waste. I never understood why an angler needs 2 30# fish? We shouldnt be managing this resource to feed our neighbors or the garden.

Its not a 50% reduction, but it will help. Most recs I know either release all fish or would only keep one fish, max.

Also. I feel the new commercial regulations were very beneficial to MA anglers for many reasons. One being that the family boater could access our waters on a Sunday. Prices stayed high, the temptation for out of state anglers to fish was reduced, the consumer enjoyed local product much later into the year. No gluts.

Thank you for the consideration.

Jeff Brodeur
508-783-0048
"Take a kid fishing!"

From: sylvia.chris@yahoo.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan.Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:35:20 AM

Hello,
I'm firm believer in enforcing the laws that are on the books now. Worse law ever was the saltwater permit, That was just a money grab. Maybe we need to look at commercial aspect of the Striped Bass Fishery.
Thank You

Sent from my iPhone

From: [chrisgill](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:31:33 AM

Sir:

I would like to say that I am a recreational striped bass fisherman and I fully believe the striped bass population is in trouble. Too many people—both recreational and commercial fishermen—are killing too many bass. I am in favor implementing the most stringent restrictions on keeping striped bass, and doing so as soon as possible. Ban the commercial fishing for, and selling of striped bass. And severely limit the number of striped bass that rec fisherman can kill. I favor a slot limit of one bass a day between 26 and 34 inches—anything smaller and anything bigger must be released. Actually I favor a complete catch and release fishery—a 0 fish a day limit—but I know that people will never go for that.

Everybody says they want more and bigger stripers, and the only way to achieve that goal is to stop killing them. But everybody wants a “keeper” too. It’s ridiculous. Please do everything you can to restrict the killing of striped bass as much as possible. It’s as simple as that.

Thank you—
Christopher Gill
Cape Cod

From: freetofish1000@yahoo.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:38:49 PM

Hello sir.

I am an avid surf fisherman. I mainly fish nj beaches. I can tell you from my experiences that the striper population is in trouble if something drastic is not done. I am in favor of a 1 fish limit without a bonus tag! I would prefer to see it be a slot from 28 to 36 but 28 and above would be ok for now. Something needs to be done about commercial by catch!

Thank you,
John Miller
856-9387447
27 S Boulevard Ave
Maple Shade NJ 08052

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Smartphone

From: [Phil Fresiello](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:30:29 AM

Mike,

My name is Phil Fresiello from Bay Shore, NY and have had the privilege of fishing my entire life. In 1993 I began an exclusive pursuit of Striped Bass from Long Island beaches and have logged every encounter for the last twenty one years. According to my personal experience and logs it was the year 2007 when the striped bass began a dramatic downward decline. Here we are seven years later and things are no better so I am pleased that action is finally being taken to help this fishery in decline. I am in favor of the following changes. Thank you for your time.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Regards,
Phil Fresiello

pfresiello@myldi.com

From: [James @ Chompersfishing](mailto:James@chompersfishing.com)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [David Chanda](#); [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:20:56 AM

Mike,

I wanted to write to you to let you know that Chompers Sportfishing support the Immediate 25% reduction needed in 2015 to rebuild the striped bass stocks. We fish nearly every day and find that from Manasquan to the Sandy Hook the fishing has been on a steady decline. We also support option B4 to accomplish this reduction! I appreciate the time and effort that you dedicate to this fishery and appreciate you reviewing our comments.



James@chompersfishing.com
www.chompersfishing.com
(732) 320-7339

From: [Mike Inzetta](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:17:07 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing you on behalf of the striped bass, perhaps the most important game fish in the NE US. I lived through the period when catching a striper was noteworthy and I have also enjoyed this most recent period of availability and abundance. Lest we forget the dark days I feel it is time to save the resource before the opportunity to do so is gone. Stock declines are apparent, couple that with the perpetual degradation of the estuarine environments so important to the juveniles of the species and we're heading for the demise of the species so important to the economy in our area of the country. I am a member of the group of fisherman belonging to the "1 @ 32" and wholeheartedly agree with the recommended options accepted by the group:

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

I hope you take the time to weigh the facts and come to the logical conclusion.

Regards,

Michael Inzetta

From: [Colles](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:13:50 AM

Hi Mike,

This is my formal comment on the draft addendum.

For your interest, here is [a link](#) to the blog I wrote about the hearing and what's next. I'll be interested to see how this shakes out, though I suspect changes are coming.

Rather than hit you over the head with a long diatribe, I'll keep it succinct.

I have fished for stripers since 1992 when I moved to the N.H. seacoast. That was the beginning of the heyday of recreational striper fishing in the Northeast. Since the mid 2000s I've seen marked drop-off in the size and number of prime brood stock class fish. This observation generally dovetails with the historical stock status numbers you presented.

As I said during the meeting, I attended the hearing in N.H. to propose upping the bag limit to two fish at 28." I opposed the move thinking it was too optimistic given the stock had just achieved a healthy balance, and the variable were too unknown. And now we're dealing with the consequence.

I would support making stripers gamefish (catch-and-release) only. I think it is the most certain path to fully restoring the stock in short order. Since this is not an option, I support the most aggressive of the proposed options. One fish at the maximum length. I oppose any quota transfer and support the maximum reduction in the commercial fishery. That is, the best of the options for preserving the stock and the fishery is to reduce the harvest by 25% in one year.

I hope that as a community interested in the striped bass fishery, we work together to more closely monitor the health of the species and react quicker to prevent having to reach the brink before taking any action.

Thanks for managing the process.

Cheers,

Colles Stowell
Yarmouth, Maine

From: [Sam Schneider](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:03:51 AM

Dear Sir,

I am writing as a recreational fisherman who enjoys the natural resources we have, and I wish to see these resources remain. Thus, I am writing to let you know my opinion regarding the options for adjusting the striped bass fishery.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

I would note that I am someone who has caught, at most, 3 striped bass in a single season, so I am not the person who is overfishing, but it is imperative that we as a whole adjust the rules, for all, so that we can keep our oceans sustainable.

Thank you,

Sam Schneider

Elmont, NY 11003

(fisher of the Atlantic Ocean, off the South Shore of Long Island...home of some of the best fishing in the world...and I'd like to keep it that way!)

From: [FCM Service](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:56:30 AM

To whom it may concern

Please consider the most conservative approach possible when deciding on the management of this species , I want to be able to take my grandchildren out and catch a big bass with them . The commercial benefits vs recreational benefits of this species Shouldn't matterwe want them here for a long time to comeplease do what is best for the fish, not the people .

Thanks,

Scott Carpenter
Service Manager
Brewer Fiddlers Cove Marina
508-564-6327
508-564-6724 fax

From: [Martin Evensen](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Kevin Blinkoff](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:54:00 AM

Mr. Waine,

I am writing to let you know that I care about Striped Bass Conservation and fully support a 25% reduction in the Striped Bass harvest in 2015.

Please help to make sure that the current decline in Stripers does not continue. It would be terrible if history repeated itself and we went back to the levels we saw in the 1980's.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Martin G. Evensen
68 Otis Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10306
718-987-1127
mge721@aol.com

Sent from my iPad

From: [Brad Murphree](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:53:05 AM

Dear Mike,

I support the most conservative option on the table: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

I'm a relatively new striped bass angler and have been reading about the decline in population and discussing it with other fishermen that I come across on the shore of eastern Long Island.

Everyone I talk to here, who have been fishing the local waters for much longer than I have, agree that the population is suffering and that conservation efforts should be considered. I personally believe that commercial fishing should be more strictly regulated and governed. I also think that recreational fishermen, private charter boats and party boats should have much stricter regulations and more governance.

I support and currently practice option B3 – one fish over 32"

I also plan to practice and would recommend implementing catch and release of any fish over 40" (if I were to ever catch a fish that large). I believe that these larger breeding age fish are being culled because of their trophy size and its having a negative impact on the population.

Best regards,

Brad Murphree
6 Argyle Rd
East Quogue
New York, 11942

From: [Swanson, Aaron](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:51:47 AM

Mr. Waine,

My name is Aaron Swanson and I am a 31 year old angler from Connecticut. I caught my very first striped bass on my 22nd birthday, just over 9 years ago. Since that time I have spent countless pleasurable hours in many locales, states, towns, rivers, estuaries and oceanfront locations chasing these amazing fish. I have made lifelong memories, met new friends and spent many thousands of dollars of disposable income in doing so. I am very concerned about what appears to be a declining population of stripers and I only hope I can chase them for another 9 plus years and beyond. For that reason I support the following options in Draft Addendum IV:

- In Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, I fully support Option B.
- In Section 2.6, I fully support Option A.
- In Section 3.0, I fully support Option B (and I strongly oppose any option to stretch out harvest reductions over three years--no more delay!).
- As far as size and bag limits go, I fully support Option B3 – a one fish bag limit and a 32” size limit —on the coast, and B15—in Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Aaron Swanson
New Britain, CT
swansonaaron@sbcglobal.net

From: [Eric Johnson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:46:09 AM

In strong support of just one bass under Option B3. Make the tough choices now so our kids kids can have a fishery to call their own.

Eric Johnson, MBA

DIRECTOR | BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Rocco & Associates Wealth Management, Inc.
1248 Post Road, Fairfield, CT 06824
Phone: 203.255.6022
Fax: 203.255.7507
eric.johnson@roccoandassociates.com
www.roccoandassociates.com



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From: [Richard Malizia](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:31:39 PM

Please register my position in favor of the immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest for 2015. Striped bass populations are being diminished by the overharvesting of spawning fish each Spring. I have experience a significant reduction in numbers of fish from New Jersey to Cape Cod. If I had complete control of the matter, I would make the Spring season catch and release ONLY.

Richard E. Malizia, Sr.
74 Beverly Road
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

From: [Danielle McMurray](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); [Pat Augustine](#); [James Gilmore](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:35:43 AM

I am emailing in support of striped bass conservation because having lots of fish around so that my five yr olds have something to catch and appreciate as much as me and their father do. Nothing is better than watching your kids spend time on the water truly enjoying themselves... Away from all the devices and plastic toys!

Thank you for listening. I support the most conservative option on the table: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Danielle McMurray

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mark Cahill](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:33:56 AM

I am the publisher of Reel-Time.com - I fish 20-30 days a year, both from boat and shore, casting, trolling or fly fishing, throughout the MA and RI coast. In addition I talk to a great many striped bass fishermen in my daily travels. I fish mostly catch and release, although I do keep a striped bass or two a year, generally fish that are gill hooked and unlikely to survive.

I have absolutely no doubt that the striped bass stock has declined greatly over the past few years. I am old enough to remember the awful days of the late '70s, and the horrendous mistakes we made then. I do not wish to see them made again. I urge you to err on the side of caution, taking in all cases on this addendum the most drastic action to save the striped bass stock.

Section 2.5.1 and Section 2.5.2 – I am in favor **Option B**. - the most recent and the lowest stock assessment

Section 2.6 – Option A. The problem needs to be addressed now.

Section 3.0 – Option A. Start now. Phasing in over several years is too slow.

Size and bag limits – I am in favor of **Option B3** (a one-fish bag limit and a 32” size limit on the coast) and **Option B15** (hard quota) in the Chesapeake.

Please, do not let the commercial interests that are so prevalent in our sport ruin this fishery for my children and grandchildren. It is simply too precious to risk for someone's short term personal gain.

Feel free to contact me about this at any time.

Mark N. Cahill
508.335.4091
Skype: mncahill
<http://reel-time.com> - The Internet Journal of Saltwater Fishing

From: [Kierran Broatch](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:30:13 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a 31-year-old surf fisherman from the Connecticut shoreline. I grew up during the moratorium of the 1980's and didn't get to lay eyes on a striped bass of respectable size until I was a teenager. I fear we are currently going down that road again, headed for another big crash. We **MUST** act now before it is too late for the striped bass fishery. That is why I support the following options in Draft Addendum IV:

- In Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, I fully support **Option B**.
- In Section 2.6, I fully support **Option A**.
- In Section 3.0, I fully support **Option B** (and I strongly oppose any option to stretch out harvest reductions over three years--no more delay!).
- As far as size and bag limits go, I fully support **Option B3** – a one fish bag limit and a 32" size limit—on the coast, and **B15**—in Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Kierran Broatch
Milford, CT
kbroatch@gmail.com

From: [Bill Hamilton](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:28:10 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing in support of an immediate 25% reduction in the striped bass limit with a 32" one fish option, applied to both the commercial and recreational anglers in all states that the striped bass inhabit.

I have been a recreational fly fisherman for the past 25 years in the NH Piscataqua River and seacoast NH and Maine areas, fishing both from shore and from my 18' center console boat.

I also live on the water in Eliot, ME and have observed a *dramatic decrease* in both the number and size of striped bass, especially in the last 5 years. Schoolie bass have virtually disappeared in the river in the past three years and larger fish are nearly absent. Five years ago, I typically would catch and release 10-20 fish per day, ranging from 14-28", with an occasional 32-36" fish. This year, with the same number of times out, I have caught only 2 fish, one an 18", one a 23".

Clearly the striper population in my region has collapsed.

The reasons? Who knows. Over-fishing by recreational or commercial fishing? Pollution? Climate issues?

Over-harvesting of herring and menhaden? All of the above?

In any case, the striped bass needs help.

I strongly urge you to support the following recommended options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Without your help, the striped bass fishery will not recover and the recreational fisherman will not bother to spend the money- real economic issues- in all states affected.

Soon the striped bass fishery will resemble the cod fishery in Canada.

Very truly,

Bill Hamilton

--

From: [Steve LaLonde](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); [Pat Augustine](#); [James Gilmore](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:27:13 AM

Hi,

My name is Steve LaLonde and I'm a fisherman in the NYC Metro area. I recreationally fish for Striped Bass and have felt a decline in Striped Bass which I feel is due to overuse of this resource.

I am begging you to consider an immediate 25% reduction in 2015.

Steven LaLonde

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Robert Blackburn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:20:46 AM

Comment -- In order to improve the spawn rate for striped bass, I suggest restricting the spring season when the stock is under stress by one of the following methods:

1. Reduce the limit from two fish per person to one fish per person.
2. Make the spring season catch and release only.
3. Close the spring season entirely.

My preference is option 3. With a striped bass stock that is clearly under stress due to poor spawning success, the spring season should be closed (permanently, in my humble opinion) to allow as many females with eggs to spawn as possible.

Also, I recommend increasing the penalty for keeping illegal fish. While the vast majority of fishermen obey the laws and fishing regulations, there are some who pay no attention at all to limits or seasons. One fisherman I know personally considers paying fines just part of the cost of fishing. He's been caught with illegal fish multiple times. Each time, his fine has only been \$75. Considering what we pay to go fishing -- typically over \$100 per trip in fuel costs alone -- a \$75 fine is no deterrent at all. The minimum fine for an illegal fish should be a minimum of \$250, if not more. And judges should be more aggressive in penalizing those who break the rules.

Thank you for the important work you do,

Robert Blackburn

From: [leadhead30](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); [Pat Augustine](#); [James Gilmore](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:14:31 AM

One fish slot limit of 28 to 40 inches. Save the cows for breeding.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

From: [Roy N. Rogers](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:01:51 AM

Dear Sir:

I am a homeowner on the New Jersey shore, a lifelong striper fisherman, commercial boat captain and small boat builder. My life and livelihood are intimately intertwined with the health of our ocean and the recreational fishing industry. My home is in Surf City, New Jersey, 08008. I am writing to encourage you to please adopted the Options listed below into the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6. Thank you for your time and consideration and your service to us.

Sincerely,

Roy N. Rogers
610.500.4918

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.
Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.
Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.
Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.
Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

From: [Hugh Schultz](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:31:00 AM

Please increase size limit to 32 inches. Decrease commercial quotas in every state. Limit one fish.
Please implement before it's too late.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hugh Schultz

hschultz@schultzlures.com

From: rich@nelsonsbaitandtackle.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:27:58 AM

I am a commercial fisherman, charter boat operator, and owner of a bait and tackle shop.

I support an immediate reduction in the recreation/charter boat striped bass fishery to one striped bass per person per day, and that fish must be over 32 inches.

I also support an immediate reduction of the commercial striped bass quota by a minimum of 25%.

Captain Rich Wood
Beth Ann Charters
Nelsons Bait and Tackle

From: [joe.pelle](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:12:14 PM

Mr. Waine,

I'm writing as a concerned angler who fishes for striped bass in multiple states in the northeast. Striped bass are perhaps the greatest fin fish resource in the United States due to their availability to such a large population and their accessibility from surf, shore, and small craft. Their abundance means many small businesses thrive, from bait shops, convenience stores, lodging, lure manufacturers, and many lure, fly, and plug builders up and down the coast. It has been well documented that the recreational economic impact far outweighs the commercial and charter profits. In other words, please don't sacrifice a valued resource for millions for the short term profits of a few individuals.

I would like to express my support for a striped bass management plan that I believe will be the most effective given the options that are on the table.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

This time of year, people visit from around the world to fulfill a dream or check off a line on their fishing bucket list to land a striper at "The Mecca" aka Montauk.

There is a marked decline in the numbers of striped bass and the quality of fishing in the areas I frequently fish. Where I live it is called the 'Striper Coast' I hope we can all work together to keep it like that.

Thank you for your attention to my comments, I appreciate your hard work and attention to this very important matter.

Joseph T. Pellegrini
Long Island, NY

From: [Sprague, George](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:22:40 AM

I recommend 2 over 33" for conservation

George Sprague
Chevrolet N.E. Region
Certified Pre-Owned Process Mgr.

GP Strategies Corp. / Sandy Grp.
Cell 774-222-0940
CPO Help Desk, 888-468-7338
gsprague@gpstrategies.com



From: [itr508](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:10:00 AM

Hello, my name is Brandon Martins. Im a thirty year old male from Taunton, Massachusetts who has been fishing since I can remember. I travel to Cape Cod usually twice a week to endeavor on a hunt. A hunt for the striped bass. It is a passion of mine, along with many other saltwater fisherman. The time and money spent on gas, bait, gear, etc., cannot be counted due to the sheer amount. This is my passion in life. The ocean breeze, the calm of a moonlite night, the feeling of being alone. Its just me, my rod, and the fish that has brought me to my limits to find them.

Im writing to you because im worried. Striper fishing has been on the decline. Every fisherman that I can think of has the same story, stories of juvenile fish, days on end with no sign of mature fish. Why is this happening? The fish that return to my beloved cape cod are surely the same fish year after year, but where are they? How come I keep seeing a new offspring of fish and not the fish that should be returning to visit me?

Well the answer is pretty simple. Over fishing of course. Its a huge problem on the rise thats already affecting alot of us. Its tough to point the blame on a specific reason but I would say commercial fisherman are targeting our huge schools of smaller fish. These boats are running nets in the path of migrating stripers, killing thousands of fish who havent had the chance to reproduce. Also, charter boats are doing alot of damage. These boats are out 5,6 days a week, some twice a day, cleaning house. 6-8 guys, two fish a piece, twice a day, 6 days a week, times the amount of boats who charter for a living. You do the math, im sure the number is ridiculous. Granted, these fish are legal size but the amount of fish being taken is just too large.

I am open to option b3. Im ok with one fish over 32". I for one only take fish when its to feed myself and my family, and one 32" fish is plenty for my needs. I would also like to see more policing in common fishing areas due to the high amount of illegal fish being taken from shore, and also checking coolers after a day out on the boat. I very rarely see any kind of police presence at fishing spots to check size regulations or if they have fishing licenses.

Along with b3, I think you need to limit the commercial charter season, and also get these net dragging boats away, they are ruining what we have..

You may not be that concerned with whats going on, but take away the amount of fisherman who come to places like cape cod to fish and enjoy the ocean and your gonna have a problem on your hands. From bait and tackle shops closing to the loss of revenue from fishing licenses, everything will be lost due to the lack of fish. With no striper in the ocean, I will have no reason to saltwater fish, plain and simple. I wont have to spend on gas, bait, tackle, or a license...

Hope this email helps, I'd like to take my kids and grandkids fishing one day.

Sincerely, guy who likes fishing

From: [John](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:09:48 AM

One fish over 32.. I've been Striper fishing for 40 yrs.. And I'm seeing the signs of severe trouble again...
Thank you ..
John Mury
Waretown NJ

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Armand Courchaine](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 7:52:05 AM

My name is Armand Courchaine, 70 Kosmas Street, Marlborough, MA 01752. a recreational fly fisherman who fishes MA and RI. To save the Striped Bass fisheries, I propose Option A Reduce mortality by 25 % in one year and one fish per day at 32 inches.

Please save the Striped Bass.

Thank you

Armand Courchaine
ajflyfish@yahoo.com

From: [Chris LeLong](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [TOM FOTE](#); [David Chanda](#); [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 7:48:21 AM

Gentlemen-

As an avid striped bass angler, I urge you to vote in favor of a reduction rather than maintaining "status quo".

I would rather error on the side of caution and see the striped bass population thrive as opposed to continue to decline.

I want to see future generations enjoy these magnificent fish.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris LeLong
Manchester, NJ

From: [Sean Foley](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 6:38:35 AM

Hi,

Just want to make sure Not to miss a chance to speak out. I fish everyday that I can for striped bass and out of hundreds caught I release them all but for the ones that are legal size and look like they will nit survive,so I take great care to keep the fish fresh and then feed my family.

I watch more "fishermen" gaffing fish of legal and short bass,and most throw the fish on the deck and let it rot in the sun so they can go back to the docks and or home to show everyone the big catch and then throw the fish in a dumpster. I know that policing this matter is nearly impossible with the amount of boats around ,but for the honest few if the size of the fish is increased and the number of fish legal allowed to keep ,I think will make a huge difference in the fishery.

thanks Sean Foley

From: [IAN PERNA](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:26:54 AM

I want you all to take a good look at what you are doing with our fisheries the decline of the coastal waters in NC are due to overfishing. I want to leave a bright future for my children when it comes to fishing our coastal waters. Please make the right choice for the people and not for political reasons. We can make a difference for our children and future of our local ecosystems.

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

ian perna

Knightdale,NC 27545

neuse river and NC Coastal is where I fish

From: [Brian Sheeler](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Pat Augustine](#); [James Gilmore](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:59:55 PM

Hello,

I'm writing as a NY State resident and active voter concerned about the state of our local striped bass populations. I believe that the best course of action would be the most conservative proposal being considered, an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. Please take this into consideration when voting at the October 29th Striped Bass Management Board Meeting at the Mystic Hilton in Mystic, Connecticut.

Thank you,
Brian Sheeler

From: [Jimmy Fee](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:57:13 PM

ASMFC
Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine & ASMFC Commissioners:

I am the editor of On The Water Media, a Massachusetts-based business that, like so many other recreational-fishing-related businesses, has come to depend on an abundant striped bass resource.

I am also a passionate recreational fisherman. I fish for striped bass from North Carolina to Massachusetts, pursuing them from shore, kayak and boat. I spend a great deal of my free time and my disposable income in the pursuit of striped bass. This includes money spent on tackle, bait, gas, travel, lodging, and food. A thriving striped bass population is very important to me both personally and professionally.

For Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan, I support Proposed Management Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year through an immediate 25% reduction in 2013 striped bass harvest.

Thank you for scheduling 19 public hearings and holding a 6-week public comment period giving stakeholders like me the opportunity to provide feedback. Having attended two of the meetings, I am certain that the Striped Bass Management Board has received the overwhelming response in support of meaningful striped bass conservation from the Northeast angling community. I will be there watching on October 29th in Mystic, CT to see if you heard it.

Below are the options I personally support. They are the most conservative options offered.

SUMMARY OF PREFERRED OPTIONS

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

- **Option B:** Use the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point Option

- **Option B:** Uses the preferred stock assessment reference point.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

- **Option A:** Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

- **Option B3:** one fish per person per day at 32 inches. This is the most conservative and most precautionary option.

- **Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Option B10**
- **Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Option B17**

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

- **Option A:** Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another. The purpose and goal of Addendum 4 is to reduce fishing mortality on striped bass. Option B would not reduce fishing mortality, but will most likely increase it.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

- **Option A:** Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Sincerely,

Jim Fee
12 Steven P Wentworth Road
N. Falmouth, Massachusetts 02556

From: [Pete K](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:28:43 AM

Dear Mike,

I am an avid surfcaster of many years for striped bass, averaging 100+ outings per year along the Rhode Island shoreline. I keep detailed logs of my outings for each year, and I have noticed a steady and rapid decline in the presence of striped bass. I am a member of several clubs and organizations, and have a vast group of anglers I stay in contact with up and down the coast, and the story is the same... striped bass are in trouble! The early 1980's are proof that people can wipe out the population, and it can happen again without a guarantee that nature and successful spawns will rebound it again even with another moratorium. Please act now to protect this important resource before it's too late to do anything about it.

please consider the following options in your decision:

Section 2.6 : Reduce Mortality by 25% in the first year

Section 3.0 : One fish per day @ 32"

Section 3.1 : Prohibit commercial quota transfers

Thank you for your consideration... These fish are worth far more to enjoyment and the economy alive than they are dead. Please take the necessary steps before its too late.

Regards,
-Pete Kosciukiewicz

From: [daniel reich](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: draft addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:00:56 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a lifelong angler, and a fishing guide. I am deeply concerned about the clear and obvious damage to striped bass fishery here in New York the past 5 or so years. There has been a steady decline in the numbers of fish I'm seeing. Anyone who spends time on the water can see this happening. It is common knowledge.

I urge you to do whatever is necessary to begin the strictest, most conservative regulations on striped bass, starting immediately. I practice catch and release, and I think there should be a zero fish reg for the next few seasons. A moratorium.

I grew up in a time when a striped bass was almost a mythical creature. They had been overfished, and when I was a kid, they were scarce. I fear we are headed for the same situation now (albeit from a different set of reasons this time). I think it's inexcusable to make the same mistakes that were made thirty years ago.

Thank you.

Captain Daniel Reich

From: [Justin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:48:27 PM

Hi Mike,

I am a recreational fisherman who is in support of a 25 percent reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. I want the striped bass to remain the poster child for stock recovery and would prefer that we not take steps backwards after all of the recent success that this great fish has seen.

Thanks for the consideration.

Justin Marino

From: [wade elms](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 5:02:21 PM

Need to control the off shore fishing
As well as, a out of state license for our lovely tourist that use and abuse

From: [Robert Giordano](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV: Vote Option B3
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:49:18 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I'm writing you to express my concern for the reduction of quality in our striped bass fishing here on Long Island, NY. Areas where I use to be able to count on catching numerous schoolie and larger sized bass are now no longer. Each of the last three years has seen a decline with each passing season.

Unlike last season where I had the effect of Hurricane Sandy to hang my hat, this year is even worse. The bait was back. The bass were difficult or nowhere to be found.

With that in mind I'm for the passing of option B3 One fish @ 32" or better, to assure a proper reduction in harvest to stabilize and hopefully grow our biomass of this great gamefish.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Bob Giordano

210 Bay Ave.
Huntington, NY 11743

Sent from my iPad

From: [amy vickers](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [amy vickers](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV-Personal Opinions from Amy Vickers
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:03:16 PM

Hello,

I wanted to make sure to write you before the deadline. I will try to keep this short, but try to include everything so you see where I am coming from. I am writing with many years of environmental experience in the State of Alabama concerning water quality and the varied elements that go into impacting all species in the water sheds. I am also writing with first hand experience seeing what beach refurbishment in Florida has done to once flourishing fish habitats.

As you know the answers are never straight forward, never easy, and never one sided. I moved to Martha's Vinyard in 2009, then moved to the Island of Pasque as a property caretaker, and now I commute to all locations out of Woods Hole, Ma. I grew up in the water, and on the water in Alabama and Florida, and now spend 3/4ths my time on the water here.

Since living on Pasque, it has been an eye opener to see the different levels of care and looking the other way that large property owners, individual fishermen, and commercial fishermen contribute to on a daily basis.

For the most part individual shore fishermen are the best stewards I have seen and met. Exceptions apply, but overall general statement here.

Individual boat fishermen, not so much. I fall into this category mostly, I own a boat, I commute on my boat and I love to fish. I am new here, so people have given me a less censored version than most people get about what really goes on. The fishermen who have one person on the boat and non-commercial will happily only take one fish, they might keep fishing, but they don't trade up in size, they are looking for dinner. The fishermen with more than one person on the boat, tends to be a little more laden with testosterone and will keep more. But the worst, are the few commercial individuals who must have back door deals of selling their fish. But still, I don't see these people on a regular basis, I only see them once a week, with confirmation of maybe 6 fish.

Then the large commercial boats. I had a learning curve moving here, and I am just figuring out who is who and where they go and what they should be and should not be doing. I have multi level serious concerns about the overall populations. I can confirm that the larger boats don't stay in the designated zones. I can confirm that they come in very close to shore and target species other than their intended ones. I think there is a multi level concern with this. I can't count how many refrigerated trucks on docks that will not unload a boat until I leave, or are clearly bidding time waiting for me to leave before they uncover the fish bins.

Not everyone here is bad, but when you look at the quantity these boats bring in, the manner in which they do, and then to know I can't go out and catch 1 keeper fish and sometimes don't even see schoolies in 2-3 weeks fishing, going out daily, something doesn't add up if the commercial fishermen are bringing in multiple tons of fish.

The concern that stretches into commercial fishermen targeting other species. When the clambers go by, with very different techniques, it disrupts the sea floor much like the beach restoration projects do, we end up with dead eel grass, roots and all washing up. The diversity being slowly striped away, which of course is a butterfly effect on everything else.

I understand that commercial fishermen need to make a living, but when the fish are gone, there will be no living to make. I have also encountered personal actions taken against me by commercial fishermen. We witnessed them coming practically to shore on Pasque, in an unmarked boat, and cutting our lobster trap lines, and hauling our pots. We are certain we know the individuals are out of New Bedford and we have seen them on another commercial lobster boat.

We have witnessed fishing nets coming so close to shore, that they entangled small boats that were fishing. But when you find these situations, they seem to be very complicated. Very small boats coming out of New Bedford with lots of people who don't speak English and we could not communicate with, but who luckily had immediate rescue arrive before we could get to them.

From talking to old timers in the area, there is much documentation on the beach refurbishment projects in some areas wiping out the little diversity that was left. Taking out the muddy levels, pockets, holes, eel grass, etc. That provided areas for diversity to occur. Same is true for areas that don't provide eel grass friendly moorings.

To really impact the fishing numbers, all areas must be looked at and all areas need to be addressed. I was very impressed with a video on Onthewater.com which shows Cash's Ledge. I can also easily draw the parallel how areas closer in, not too far in the past had this diversity. The remnants still exist.

I agree with lowering limits on fish in all areas and not being able to take fish over or under a certain slot size, but what about the commercial fishermen who dump those fish that don't fit the slot size. How can commercial fishermen not take those sizes with the current set ups? Shore, Boat, and Commercial on all levels should be lowered. Commercial with the greatest lowering. Individuals are different than Charters. Individuals might go out 1-2 days over a 3-4 week period. Charter Captains are out there daily catching their limit, with many of them having clear ties to selling to friends, coming in multiple times during the day each time with their limit in hand. The people breaking the laws of maximum fish, are not the people who stick to the 2 fish minimum anyway. If there are more fish, they will take more fish. Increasing checks and management cost unfortunately is the answer here.

Out boat is docked next to a commercial dock, do those docks have video cameras? How many boats do we see arrive daily that we know were out fishing, but their catch was unloaded somewhere else? Why somewhere else when we know the same truck arrived at that dock to unload someone else's? Lots of questionable behaviors here.

Hope this helps.

Also, on a recent trip to Hyannis we encountered on several different days large schools of adult bunker, not just covered, but oozing parasites. Multiple varieties, among hundreds of fish. Long skinny ones, that are half white and half red filled

with blood, large sores on the fish, and the fish we caught were covered in a slime that we have never seen before. What environmental effects are being seen in that harbor? Do bass who eat those fish then become sick? The Harbor there contains a good amount of what appears to be oil and/or gas. The water texture and color was quite mucky.

Thank You for the work you do and good luck. You can't make everyone happy, so across the board cuts will be the most balanced, and most effective changes to make. But until stocks seriously rebound, those numbers should not increase and should be heavily evaluated yearly.

Thanks,

Amy Vickers
P.O.Box 629
Woods Hole, Ma 02543

--

Amy Vickers
sustainablegrowing@gmail.com
[508-693-8924](tel:508-693-8924)
[774-327-9416](tel:774-327-9416)

From: [Joe Buono](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:31:50 AM

Hello Mr. Waine my name is John Buono and I live in Staten Island, NY. I'm writing to you today because I'm deeply concerned about the fate of the majestic striped bass. I have been fishing for 40 years in NY and NJ waters and I have seen the decline and the return of the striped bass. The years 2005 thru 2008 were pretty good for the bass, we always had a good spring run but you had to travel sometimes 20 - 30 miles from my home port in Staten Island and that got very expensive. I guess around 2010 I really started to see the decline. Catching 1 or 2 fish was considered a great day. And it only got worse in the next couple of years. Don't get me wrong there were fish to catch in the coastal waters of Jersey but Raritin Bay was barren. I'm sure you know all this already from other fisherman. I fish purely for the sport. I love to catch these beautiful fish. I release every fish I catch and I go to every extreme to release these fish unharmed. I do not even take the fish out of the water, I release at boat side whenever possible. The only fish I do take in the boat is to take a quick picture of a big fish and then I make sure the fish has completely revive before I release it. This past spring was one of the best springs I've seen in a long time. We did catch multiple fish up to around 40 lbs. I don't know what made these fish stop and play in Raritin bay but I has happy not burning a ton of fuel. I had heard that fishing was bad down the coast of Jersey. On occasion I take my wife and 2 girls with me fishing, both of my girls are in there 20"s, they love to fish but don't like it when its rough. So needless to say they came with me once this past spring. We caught numerous fish that day including a 42 lber that my older daughter caught. I had never seen her so happy and she did it all on her own. She tells me Dad now I know why you never come home with any fish that fish is to beautiful to kill. I do not believe there are many fish around if there here there not somewhere else. My concerns are how many more of the breeder fish can be killed without an impact on the fishery. I would like to someday take my grand children fishing and hope to have something to catch. I would love see striped bass become a game fish but I know you would get to much heat from the commercial fisherman. I now of one charter captain that continues to be in denial, would it kill him to try and encourage catch and release once in while. I have done the math this one charter boat goes out twice a day 7 days a week That's 16 + breeder type fish killed per trip. That averages to 30 per day or for 2 months 1800 breeder fish and that's just one charter boat. I am no scientist or do I know stats or know anything about biomass. All I know common sense and that's a lot of fish to kill. I guess I would be for the one fish at 32" it would be a start. And I think there should be a 6 fish limit for charter boats. The captain and mate do not fish why should they be allowed a fish and none of those special tags that allow you to keep even more. And I know all these charter boat captains are cry babies and afraid of losing customers but we all had to learn to adjust, I own a retail bakery I've had to make adjustments and work harder to make ends meet its the way it is. I hope I haven't bored you with my rambling but I had to vent. As you can see writing is not one of my strong points, I apologize for that. Thank God for spell check.

Have a great day Mr. Waine
John Buono

From: [Pete Utschig](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum VI
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:35:21 PM

To Mike Waine,

My name is Peter Utschig, I am a avid Stripped Bass fisherman. I chase these fish from March to December all the way from my summer house in NJ to the Cape Cod Canal. The amount of time and money I spend on gas and hotels is insane, but it's my passion so I don't mind at all. I have made lifetime friends and have memories and stories that I'll pass on to my kids because of these adventures. Each season it's been apparent that the Stripped Bass stocks are declining. I know this because I spend over 200 day/nights a year plus countless hours planning and prepping my adventures. The resident fish are dead and the migratory bio mass is dwindling. I am asking for you and our legislators to do something before it is too late and the fish stocks are decimated. I support Section 3.0 option B3. I feel 1@32 will help the fish stocks rebound.

Thank you
Peter Utschig

Sent from my iPhone

From: tim27@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 7:31:42 AM

Dear Mike,

I support the following:

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thank you,

Tim Maguire

27 Little Cove Circle

West Dennis, Ma. 02670

From: [Margaret Hess](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum4
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:12:35 PM

Dear Mr.Waine, thank you for your presentation at the Mass Maritime academy. I want to say I am in favor of the following.

2.5.2 option B

2.6. Option A

3.0 option B1

Again thank you for your time

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From: [Dean Clark](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:50:49 PM

I favor:
Option B3: But I could also support Option B4
Option B16:
Option 817:

Dean Clark
390 Walnut St
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

From: [Sparrow Woods Company, LLC](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Adendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:21:03 PM

I may not be from your state, but I do time and money there and have a deep interest in conservation and sport fishing. Please consider and pass these options following options in regards to Adendum IV.

Karen Hluchan

Sparrow Woods Company, President

21 Westward Rd

Woodbridge, CT 06525

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

From: [Jerry Salzer](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Adendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:53:21 PM

One fish at 32" seems the best!

Thank you.

Jerry Salzer

From: [Doug Parker](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Amendment IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:40:56 AM

Hello,

I have been fishing for striped bass since the mid 1980's and I remember too well the collapse of the stock during that time period. It was a true success story when the species rebounded. I feel that we were very lucky then to not have a total disaster in the stock. Please do not wait until it is too late this time. I would like to see the following options selected:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Here is my information:

Douglas Parker
171 Summer Road
Boxborough, MA 01719

I fish Cape Cod on both the sound and bay sides. I also take advantage of the north shore of MA, Portsmouth, NH and Wells and Kennebunk, ME

Thanks,
Doug

From: [William Prodouz](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Amendment IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:09:34 AM

I am a Massachusetts resident and an avid salt water angler. I especially target Striped Bass on Cape Cod, and also throughout New England from Maine to Rhode Island. I am a past President of the Massachusetts Striped Bass Association. I consider myself a strong environmentalist and a conservationist and a steward for our natural resources.

I have fished regularly for striped bass for the last 15 years and have seen some peaks and valleys to my observed population. As such I am concerned by the current decreased stocks and especially your data showing the SSB to be declining.

Your data mirrors my observations of stock depletion. The stocks are not gone but they do seem under pressure. As such I support the following

- 1) Use the 2013 data for the F reference point (let's use the latest data we have).
- 2) Lets shoot to meet the target in 1 year, not 3 years (the stocks cannot afford to wait)
- 3) I vote for a 25% reduction in the mortality of the stock and as such agree with the proposal for 1 fish at 32 inches.
- 4) The commercial quota should be cut 25% just like the recreational mortality.
- 5) There should continue to be no quota sharing across states.

I have tried to keep my observations and recommendations brief but truly am concerned for the striped bass and prefer somewhat extreme action now versus waiting for more data or doing minor reductions.

Regards,

Bill Prodouz
BProdouz@gmail.com
617 694 0723

Pocasset, Ma 02559

From: [Reed, Scott \(GE Aviation, US\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Amendment IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:19:24 PM

I have been an avid Striped Bass fisherman for decades. I fish out of the Essex River and near Cranes Beach. Fishing stinks this year – probably just one of those years but conservation steps sound good to me.

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

From: [patrick handrick](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fish regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:48:37 PM

I am a recreational fishing in the Chesapeake Bay and have been fishing it for 25 years. I am out three times every week.
I would like and we need an instant 25 percent reduction in one year with Striped bass.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

From: [Warren Cruz](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fishing
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 7:42:54 AM

I am status quo on stripped bass fishing.

Regards,
Warren Cruz

From: [David Simpson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: draft addendum 1v
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:08:08 PM

From: John Frione [jfrione@restaurantsupplystore.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:26 PM
To: Simpson, David
Subject: draft addendum 1v

You know i fish a lot and the issues are complex to have the right balance, early in the season like the first two weeks a lot of the fish are just about keeper size at 28 inches , the one at maybe 30 inches goes in the middle and should be fair to the charter guys, the problems you have are party boats, rec guys selling, commercial guys not staying in the boundaries, like half of those mass fish were caught at block, fishing in the ee zone, draggers with discard fish. I really think stripe bass fishing should be shut down for a year but i know that is a tough sell, thx my 2 cents john

From: [Michael Middleton](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fw: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:13:01 AM

On Monday, September 29, 2014 11:14 AM, Rachel Dean <chesapeakefishing@juno.com> wrote:

Addendum I

Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels.

If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable.

Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

Please strongly consider option D8.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

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From: [Bill Martin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Limits to harvest of the striped bass.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:57:38 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

Dear Mr. Waine;

I am writing to express my support for immediate significant fishery wide restrictions on the taking of striped bass. I have fished for stripers for 55 years here in Maryland and also in Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Block Island. I travel each summer to fish with friends in New England where I spend money on restaurants, hotels, tackle and guides. I am overwhelmingly a catch and return angler but am also a former charter boat captain. I keep only a few mid-sized fish each year.

From my own experience on the water and from talking with many owners of tackle shops, other anglers, professional guides, hotel owners and commercial fishermen throughout the coastal range of striped bass, I see consistent signs that the striped bass fish population is facing severe and increasing difficulty. Fishing success is consistently lower each succeeding year. Part of this decline has come from the growth of recreational anglers, but much comes from aggressive commercial fishing practices including fishing out of season, culling fish, catching undersized fish on a year-round basis and targeting large breeding females. Recently, I saw twenty five large female striped bass for sale at Wegmans in Hunt Valley, MD. These fish were all approximately 40 pounds and beginning to show their spawning bulge. These were all caught in MA in mid-August.

This population needs protection from all users. And the commercial interests in Maryland and in other states need to police their own ranks to stop egregious illegal overharvest. Any further examples will lead to people proposing to make striped bass a recreational fish only.

To protect the striped bass population I recommend the following: 1) impose a slot systems for all states in ASMFAC; 2) Limit of the size of the mesh of gill nets; 3) Immediately reduce the amount of total catch allowed of striped bass by 25%; 4) further limit the harvest of menhaden; 5) increase in number of officers enforcing fish laws; 6) require that all commercially caught fish have tags; 7) increase law enforcement monitoring of fishing at night and out of season; 8) , sponsor further research into the cause, extent and effects of micobacteriosis; 9) increase training of special courts and prosecutors to deal effectively with game law violators; and finally increase penalties and begin confiscation of boats of anglers caught in serious violation of game laws.

I am so disappointed that the stripers are again in trouble. Please join the effort to protect this wonderful resource.

William H. Martin, Ph.D.
20 Aintree Road
Baltimore MD 21286

Bill Martin



Senior Advisor
Campbell & Company, Inc.
2850 Quarry Lake Drive, Baltimore, MD 21209
Phone: (410) 413-4571 | Fax: (410) 413-4671
Bill.Martin@campbell.com
<http://www.40yearsofcampbell.com>

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From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [James Gilmore](#)
Subject: Fw: striped bass jim gilmore
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 8:04:11 AM

FYI

Carol Hoffman
Biologist 2 (Marine)
NYS DEC
205 N Belle Mead Rd
East Setauket, NY 11733
631-444-0476

From: Stern, Marian (DEC)
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Fw: striped bass jim gilmore

Marian H Stern
Marine Permit Administrator
NYSDEC Marine Resources

From: ohbro38@optonline.net <ohbro38@optonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:46 PM
To: dec.sm.FW.Marine
Subject: Fwd: striped bass jim gilmore

Hello my name is Capt.Robert Aaronson,I am the owner/operator of the fishing vessel Oh Brother in Montauk,NY Many Rec fisherman are supporting a 1 fish per person for striped bass.I DO Not.Customers who charter my boat do not have access to this fishery on their own therefor they put a group together and charter my boat..They are mostly blue collar workers who justify there trip with the perception of having fun with family or friends and most importantly taking home striped bass for dinner,fish isnt gonna do it for these people.They won,t come out to Montauk and sit in traffic for that.This draft will kill off a business that supports many businesses in my community.I have been a Full Time year round fishing industry professional and always have been.I planned on doing this my whole working career and my kids heritages are at stake here also.There are approx 20 full time charterboats out here who depend on this fishery,not the other 100 or so part time guys who are offsetting the cost of their hobby.We need 2 fish per person to survive in the industry.For Hire boat who do this for a living must be completly seperated from other user group for all fish,my boat alone has more than a 1000 customers who support this.I would like to see status quo on bass regs for the industry.If surfcasters or private boats want 1 fish

or catch and release that's fine with me. Industry crews are your best stewards of the sea. We see what's going on out there nearly every day. Thanks for your consideration in my family's life. Respectfully, Capt. Robert Aaronson F/V OH BROTHER 631 668 2707

From: [Comments](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Striped bass status quo
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:48:19 AM

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

From: joe [<mailto:lightingj@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:52 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass status quo

Stay status quo. If you must change, go with B7 regulation.

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G Android device

From: [Phil Ellis](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:24:43 PM

It seems likely that the recent decline in the striped bass population has mainly been caused by recreational fishermen. Unlike commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen target the largest fish, all of which are female, and are thus the breeding population. In addition, changes in technology have changed the dynamics of the fishery. The availability of inexpensive, fully equipped fishing kayaks have not only put more fishermen on the water, it has given them easy access to areas that were previously unreachable in power boats or from shore. In addition, trolling technology has been improved by fish finders and by the development of trolling rigs that are able to deploy very large arrays of lures.

I would suggest the following measures to reduce the recreational take.

(1) Start the season later in the year so that the fish have a chance to breed before being caught.

(2) Eliminate the taking of trophy fish, or at the very least, introduce a permit system for the taking of fish over, and limit the number of permits that are sold each year. This method has proved effective for maintaining healthy populations of ducks, geese, deer and other game animals.

(3) Eliminate the "Diamond Jim" portion of the Maryland Fishing Challenge. The money could be used for better law enforcement.

(4) Restrict party boats to a given number of fish that can be taken per day, regardless of the number of people aboard. I recently crossed the Bay Bridge and saw no fewer than 5 party boats, in a very small area off Sandy Point State Park. It's hard to believe that many fish were getting through the gantlet.

(5) Restrict the number of lures that can be towed by a boat that is trolling, regardless of the number of people aboard. I recently attended a fishing club meeting at which a speaker was giving advice on the best way to deploy 20 lines, each with an umbrella rig, which seems to me a little excessive.

(6) Use the media to discourage Striped Bass Tournaments, which are widespread and destructive.

Poaching is another cause of the decline of stripers, and it is encouraged by paltry fines and lax enforcement. Fines for poaching should be raised and they should be accompanied by mandatory jail time, confiscation of equipment, including the boat used, and permanent loss of a commercial license, if the violator has one. Enforcement should be vigorous. This is apparently not the case. A friend and neighbor recently found an illegal net in Eastern Bay and phoned DNR with the GPS coordinates of the net. Nothing at all was done. This is unacceptable.

The problems posed by commercial fishing are mainly those that concern overfishing of the stripers main food sources-menhaden and eels. Menhaden are routinely overharvested to make pet food. fertilizer and vitamin supplements.

What a waste. The overharvesting of menhaden is already under consideration for reduction because it is so egregious and so visible, but eels have also suffered a catastrophic decline without much interest in changing limits. The worst part of the eel harvest is the recent boom in elver fishing, which is likely having a more drastic effect on eel numbers than the number of adults that are taken. The commercial harvest of eels should be greatly reduced and the trapping and export of elvers should be banned outright. Bag limits for recreational harvesting of eels should be reduced and a season imposed to reflect migration patterns.

I regret that I am unable to support these assertions with hard evidence, and it's possible that some of them are incorrect, but it's obvious that the striped bass population is in decline, and it's hard to believe that reducing mortality of both the bass and its food supply wouldn't have a positive effect. The striper has shown itself to be a very resilient species when given a chance.

Respectfully,

Phil Ellis
511 Talbot Rd
Stevensville, MD

Respectfully,

Phil Ellis
511 Talbot Rd
Stevensville, MD

From: mistyboat@verizon.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Robert Ballou](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:36:21 AM

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

From: mistyboat@verizon.net
Date: Sep 30, 2014 11:18:06 AM
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
To: mwaine@asmf.org
Cc: Robert.ballou@dem.ri.gov

We make our sole living from the Charter boat business and have been doing so for the past 50 years. In the past, I have seen the stripped bass fishing excellent in the 60's and 70's I have seen many species disappear including the stripped bass. However during the last 20 years, the stripped bass returned and fishing has been better than it ever was.

We are a 6 passenger charter boat and we take out around 1500 people a year who spend thousands to fish, book hotels, eat at our restaurants, buy gas for their cars, etc. This is great for the Rhode Island Economy. Please do not deplete our business. Please keep the stripped bass limit to 2 per man. This is my vote. My second is to keep it 2 per person at 31 inches. THANK YOU, CAPT. ANDY AMBROSIA

From: [David Evans](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:25:24 AM

Strongly disagree with this new idea. For one thing how are you going to take the percentage from 2012 quota? How is it that you can pick what year to reduce quota and it not be the past year quota? Considering that we started at 5000 lbs. and now we're at almost half. I understand the importance to ensure that the population grows but there is other way to make this work. Example raise size limit across the whole coast. I'm pretty sure there's places that don't hold the same 18" and 28" size law that we have in place. I'm pretty sure that Florida is 12". I'm not a expert in this but I know that if the quota is lowered any more that many watermen will not be able to make a living. We are already a dying breed. Every year it's a little harder and a little more is taken from us. Something must be done I understand that but this is not the way to handle it.
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ryan <ryanlumpkins86@yahoo.com>
Date: September 29, 2014 at 4:38:23 PM EDT
To: "mckenzie.bowes@yahoo.com" <mckenzie.bowes@yahoo.com>, "nlumpkins@imagine-one.com" <nlumpkins@imagine-one.com>, "David.r.evans30185@gmail.com" <David.r.evans30185@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV

Please forward to below address

Sent from my iPhone
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rachel Dean" <chesapeakefishing@juno.com>
Date: September 27, 2014 at 9:33:42 PM EDT
To: chesapeakefishing@juno.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV

To: mwaine@asmfc.org

Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6

Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from

2012 levels.

If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable.

Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

Please strongly consider option D8.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

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From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [James Gilmore](#); [Phil Boyle](#); [Katherine Heinlein](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 12:23:39 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: J Altman <bluefishli@live.com>
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: September 30, 2014 at 4:59:38 PM EDT
To: "ECH12@CORNELL.EDU" <ech12@cornell.edu>

Dear EMERSON HASBROUCK,
9/30/14

Hello, I am Jonathan Altman, and I am an avid fisherman who fishes in both Connecticut and New York waters. I want to suggest various options to help prevent another crash of the Striped Bass stock. Thus, I have taken the time to write proposals for *Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Public Comment*, despite my busy schedule as a senior in High School.

In section 4.1, very clear action is presented that if we were to violate over-fishing targets, then we must end over-fishing within (1) year. By deliberating a 3-year option, we are utterly disregarding the management plan, which is absolutely inexcusable. This fishery must undergo immediate changes that will help restore the striped bass stock. Immediate action must be taken – within one year, not three years; and in combination with the 31% reduction in fishing mortality. Since any plan only has a 50% chance of success, delays will only reduce the odds of success; as more and more fish will have perished.

Management for the conservation of striped bass must focus on reducing the number of large female spawning fish

that are taken out of circulation. This is because a single female trophy bass (upwards of 36 inches) can produce on average 160,000 eggs per-pound of body weight every year.

It is imperative that the fishing mortality of the female spawning stock is decreased. Also, a serious conservation of the female SSB is needed to enhance the long term sustainability of the striped bass stock as a whole. This will require the cooperation amongst all the states that are involved in this fishery on the Atlantic coast.

Large striped bass must be protected by means of abolishing larger size limitations that allow for the large female specimens responsible for breeding to be targeted and killed by anglers. For instance, one 50 pound bass lays roughly 4 million to 5 million eggs per spawn—over 5 times the amount of eggs that a 12 pound bass would lay during its spawn (approximately 850,000 eggs). Therefore, upper size limitations must be placed on the top end/larger fish as well as on the smaller end/schoolie bass; that way the trophy/cow bass that have survived and have become large enough to be valuable breeders are protected. This must be done in order to establish a strong year class for future generations and to ensure that the progeny of the Female SSB is maintained at the proposed fishing mortality target.

Options that allow for even (1) large female bass to be killed, i.e.—option B3-(1@32), also allows for a 40+ inch—50 pound bass to be killed. All the potential eggs that large bass are capable of producing will not be able to go into circulation if large stripers are killed with their eggs inside them, unhatched and dead. More importantly, hundreds of thousands – if not millions, of striper eggs will not be able to contribute to the striped bass stock. As it is known, even one 50 pound bass has the potential of producing millions of eggs each spring. So why would it be acceptable to remove even one of these large breeding fish from circulation given its potential?

It's risky to allow options that permit a bag limit of (2) or more striped bass; i.e.— Recreational Fishery Management

Options (B5) through (B9) as well as (B11) through (B15); which allow anglers to catch a bag limit of (2) fish or more. This is because allowing a bag limit of (2) fish or more would clearly give those aboard charter/party boats the ability to massacre many more fish than would a clearly defined bag limit of (1) bass. Since fishing fleets want to maximize their customer's experience out on the water, it would be safe to bet that those fishing on charter/party boats would want to limit out on (2) bass if the bag limit was (2) fish. If there is no established bag limit – as seen with options B14 and B15 – then anglers will definitely want to keep as many fish for that day as they can carry home. This would be especially devastating for a fishery that is trying to recovery. But a (1) fish bag limit on striped bass would likely mitigate this dilemma of over-fishing and would be the most efficacious and simple method to regulate the quantity of striped bass kept per-person-per-day. By allowing anglers to keep one fish within a 12 inch range, fishing mortality will decrease more as opposed to management options B5 – B9, and options B11 – B15.

Therefore, I support and strongly recommend the following management options—so that a significant recovery is eventually made to halt the decline of this iconic fishery:

2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Reference Points

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point – Option B

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point – Option B

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point – Option B

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option A – Status quo: One year time frame — *Management Trigger 3 requires reducing F to a level at or below the target within one year.*

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Proposed Management Scenario – Option B

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options: B4 and B10

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Option: B17

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers – Option B
3.2 Commercial Size Limits – Option A

Sincerely,

— Jonathan Altman

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV: Favor Option B3
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 12:18:00 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Giordano <funbobbydesign@optonline.net>
Subject: Draft Addendum IV: Favor Option B3
Date: September 30, 2014 at 3:40:17 PM EDT
To: <ECH12@cornell.edu>

Dear Mr. Hasbrouck

I'm writing you to express my concern for the reduction of quality in our striped bass fishing here on Long Island, NY. Areas where I use to be able to count on catching numerous schoolie and larger sized bass are now no longer. Each of the last three years has seen a decline with each passing season.

Unlike last season where I had the effect of Hurricane Sandy to hang my hat, this year is even worse. The bait was back. The bass were difficult or nowhere to be found.

With that in mind I'm for the passing of option B3 One fish @ 32" or better, to assure a proper reduction in harvest to stabilize and hopefully grow our biomass of this great gamefish.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Bob Giordano

210 Bay Ave.
Huntington, NY 11743

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 11:56:34 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brad Murphree <murphree@optonline.net>
Subject: **Striped Bass Conservation**
Date: September 30, 2014 at 11:37:46 AM EDT
To: <JJGILMOR@GW.DEC.STATE.NY.US>, <PAUGUSTINE3@VERIZON.NET>, <PHILMJBOYLE@GMAIL.COM>, <ECH12@CORNELL.EDU>

To:
James Gilmore,
Pat Augustine,
Emerson Hasbrouck,
Senator Philip Boyle

Dear all,

I'm writing you to express my support for the most conservative option on the table for striped bass conservation: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

I'm a relatively new striped bass angler and have been reading about the decline in population and discussing it with other fishermen that I come across on the shore of eastern Long Island.

Everyone I talk to here, who have been fishing the local waters for much longer than I have, agree that the population is suffering and that conservation efforts should be considered. I personally believe that commercial fishing should be more strictly regulated and governed. I also think that recreational fishermen, private charter boats and party boats should have much stricter regulations and more governance.

I support and currently practice option B3 – one fish over 32"

I also plan to practice and would recommend implementing catch and release of any fish over 40" (if I were to ever catch a fish that large). I believe that these larger breeding age fish are being culled because of their trophy size and its having a negative impact on the population.

Thank you for your efforts!

Best regards,
Brad Murphree
6 Argyle Rd
East Quogue
New York, 11942

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [James Gilmore](#); [Phil Boyle](#); [Katherine Heinlein](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass regulations
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 12:05:17 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rich Larocca <captrich@live.com>
Subject: **Striped Bass regulations**
Date: September 30, 2014 at 1:27:29 PM EDT
To: "ech12@cornell.edu" <ech12@cornell.edu>

My name is Richard M. LaRocca. I am a full time commercial fisherman in NY state. I have been commercial fishing for over 40 years. Striped bass are neither threatened or endangered. There may be less numbers of bass in NY waters due to pollution and increased water temperature. They are summering further north. The rivers in Maine are full of bass. The robust fall runs on our ocean beaches the past several years indicate no shortage of bass. Both recreational and commercial should have a 28" to 40" slot limit. No trophy fish over 40". These are all female spawners. One fish could have two million young. The commercial quota is capped in NY state. The recreational should also be capped. If any reductions are to be made they should be shared in proportion to the amount of fish landed by the two factions commercial and recreational.

Thank You,
Yours truly
Richard M LaRocca

From: [Timothy Shaw](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); tshaw@corvexcap.com
Subject: I SUPPORT OPTION B3-1
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:36:16 PM

1 fish over 32"

in my lifetime, which has been a short 28years so far, i have noticed a dramatic decline in my northeast fisheries from Southern Connecticut, to Block Island, to Chatham. i am an avid boat and surf fisherman and its very sad to see how the species is doing compared to even 10 years ago. please please please make stricter catch regulations and lower the qty to take home - it sickens me to see the party boats pull over 40 keepers and kill them dead. were going to have a population crash and be lucky to catch sea robbins if you guys dont make change fast.

respectfully,

Tim Shaw

From: [Randy@Chiavari Chair Company](mailto:Randy@ChiavariChairCompany)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: I Support Reduction To One Fish 32" or Greater
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:13:47 PM

Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 over the last month or so. Recreational anglers support an immediate 25% reduction with a one fish option with 32" inches preferred.

With Warm Chiavari Regards,

Randy Tremblay

PH: 305-487-8978 (Direct)

PH: 305-487-8960 (Main)

FX: 786-400-1298

EM: Randy@ChiavariSales.com

WEB: www.TheChiavariChairCompany.com

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From: [djonesvt](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:42:03 AM

As a Massachusetts resident and one of the few people who rely on commercial fishing for most of my yearly income I ask you please to reconsider reducing our annual quota of striped bass. How about reducing the recreational catch to 1 fish per man. They kill far more fish than the commercial quota. Thanks David Jones. Concerned fisherman trying get to make a living on the ocean.

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S@4 Active™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: davenyberg@atlanticbb.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:14:49 AM

I am in agreement with an immediate 25% reduction with a one fish option with 32" preferred for striped bass.

I fish the Chesapeake Bay and feel that we need strong regulations in the entire fishery from Maine to North Carolina.

Also, the commercial harvesters should be subjected to the same size limits as the recreational group.

Sincerely,
David Nyberg

From: +18483337898@tmomail.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:26:43 PM
Attachments: [text_1412108749893.txt](#)

.....

Stop the commercial over fishing. I see what they do out there!



This message was sent to you by a T-Mobile wireless phone.

From: [thomas_poirier](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass : Public Comment.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:43:20 PM

Dear Mr. Mike Waine,

Hello, I am A resident of Rhode Island. I have been fishing for Striped Bass in Narragansett Bay for over 20 years.

I am writing to express my observations of the current status of Striped Bass in Narragansett Bay and request that you vote for Option "A" at the upcoming meeting. I have observed that the population of Striped Bass in Narragansett Bay is way down. It started around 6 to 8 years ago I noticed that the amount of Striped Bass that I caught, and that were around started to decrease.

It has slowly gotten worst and worst every year. I believe we need to do something drastic to stop this slow decline before it is too late ! I believe that Option "A" a 25% reduction in mortality in one year is dearly needed! It is time to stop doing small adjustments to the laws and finally do something now ! I also believe a large reduction is needed in the Commercial Catch Laws to follow the Recreational reduction, or the whole plan is not going to work!!! It is time to do something drastic before we have to totally shut down the fishery like what was done in the 1980's.

Thank you for your time, I hope you will take my opinion into consideration and vote for Option "A".

Thomas Poirier

From: mikespinney@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Please Support Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:24:38 AM

Mr. Waine -

I'm writing with the simple purpose of asking you and the striped bass managers of the ASMFC to adopt option B3 in order to protect striped bass.

As the Commission's own data have show, striped bass are in decline and have been for a number of years. The recent abysmal spawns, coupled with the disappearance of the 2011 class, upon which the future of this fishery rests, requires immediate and decisive action.

I wish there were a stronger option available as I truly believe the situation is more dire than the ASMFC seems to believe.

Thank you for considering my position as the Commission weighs its options.

Regards,
Mike Spinney
Townsend, Mass.
978-597-5653

From: [Jeff Newell](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Public comment on SSB
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:46:09 PM

Dear ASMFC:

My name is Jeff Newell, I am an avid recreational fisherman and have ties with the commercial fishing sector through friends and family working as commercial fisherman on the Chesapeake Bay. I feel it is imperative to strengthen the stock of Striped Bass as I recognize the decline in the fishery. If it is the SSB we are attempting to protect, the following are my suggestions based on personal observations:

- Obtain an accurate population of fish stock in the Chesapeake Bay
- **Push the start date back to trophy season**
- Ban pre-season C&R fishing
- Put an upper size limit on Recs too
- Raise the lower size limit for a "trophy"

My thoughts and strongest recommendation is simple- delay trophy season by a few weeks to allow more fish to breed. Protect the breeders now, and look ahead in an effort to protect the future numbers. My remaining recommendations follow a close second in importance. In addition, I along with others, find your meetings and public outreach valuable and would like to see more communications along these lines.

It's a tough call and you are not going to be able to make everyone happy. Good luck with these nearing decisions and thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Jeff Newell

From: nickborneman@gmail.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Quota reduction
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:24:58 PM

As a recreational angler, I am asking for a 25% reduction in striped bass quota in the first year. I feel it's what's best for the resource and what's best for for all of the interests both commercial and recreational. Let's do the right thing for the stock before we have a collapse like we've seen in the past. Thank you for your consideration.

Nick Borneman
Columbia, Maryland

From: [Peter Budryk](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Reducing striped bass mortality
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:03:21 PM

As a writer and resident of Cape Cod for almost 50 years who closely monitors striped bass on an almost daily basis, I have 1st hand verification of the drastic decline of this fishery.

The best thing to be done is to reduce the recreational and commercial catch ASAP before it's too late.

Thank you for your important work in conserving this economically important and iconic fish.
Peter Budryk
Orleans, MA

From: [Jim Gill](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Rockfish (striped Bass) harvest changes
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:42:39 PM

I am in agreement that we need to cut down on the harvest. I however think we should have a slot 28” to 36” and protect the big cows over that size, considering they are the most important breeding stock that need to be protected. You current proposal does not even address the big fish. We need to stop killing them!

One per person is fine. Make sure you stop that “one for the boat” crap for the commercial guys. AND LIMIT THEM TO ONE TRIP A DAY! Right now they do at least 2 and sometimes 3 trips a day. Us recreational guys do not go out 3 times in a day.

In the summer, allowing us (in the Ches. Bay) from 18” to 28” I would like to keep. Usually the larger fish are hard to find in the Summer.

Jim Gill
1414 Triton Court, Edgewater, Md. 21037
301-717-7934

From: [Michael Lloyd](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Rockfish Regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:40:08 PM

I, Michael Lloyd, want the maximum reduction of 25% in the first year for all sectors in all management areas. Please protect the rockfish as much as possible. They are an integral predator fish in the Chesapeake's ecosystem. Thank you,

Michael Lloyd, PMP

From: [Winnicki, David R.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: save the striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:22:48 PM
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Waine,

I strongly support the sport fishing community's proposal regarding Striped Bass, for the ASMFC to use the 2013 data as the baseline for measurement, instituting a one fish bag and a minimum 32-inch limit and getting the new rules implemented on January 1, 2015.

Please help save the Striped Bass.

Thanks!

Dave Winnicki

Buyer | SAIC

tel: 973-276-7698

david.r.winnicki@saic.com | saic.com | @SAICinc

From: [Zivkovich, M. Trent](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: SB Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:19:32 AM

Mr. Waine,

I'm writing to provide my personal comment regarding management considerations presented for Striped Bass in Draft Addendum IV. I wholeheartedly support the comments provided by Coastal Conservation Association Maryland, dated September 25th, and more importantly, the underlying philosophy and approach that organization follows and cites as its reasoning. Specifically, I support the following management options:

Section 2.5.1: I support Option B.

Section 2.5.2: I support Option B.

Section 2.5.3: I support Option B.

Section 2.5.6: I support Option A.

Section 2.6: I support Option A.

Section 3.0: I support Option B. *I strongly support the concept and actions required to reduce F to a level that is at or below the Target within one year (i.e., a 25% reduction in one year).*

Thank you.

Trent Zivkovich
5724 Uffington Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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From: larry.gardenour@myfairpoint.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: strip bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 7:06:45 AM

I support the conservation and 25% reduction for the strip bass.option B9 will work for all the people that just fish for dinner but the big problem is the commercial fishing.I have fished with people the last two years in MA. that commercial fish and they are the ones that are taking a toll on the strip bass. It is a any thing goes to get there fish even if they have to fish on the off days to get there 15 fish.I know they need to make the money its there job to fish as it is mine to go to work every day . But as they have seen the fish are fewer and farther between every day. They all need to step back and look at what is happening to the fish none of us want to see what happen before when the strip bass were almost gone.

Thank you

Top water

From: [MIKE MCGUIGAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripe Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:55:46 AM

My name is Mike McGuigan 960 w browning rd Bellmawr Nj 08031

I would like to keep a two fish per guy limit. But with that said I think the size limit should be increased and one fish could be a slot fish. I also think the commercial guys should have a smaller limit placed as well as size regulations.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thank you for hearing us out

Mike McGuigan

From: [Stephen Nicholson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:50:58 PM

Dear Mr. Wayne,

I have been encouraged to write to you concerning the status of striped bass. I agree with the proposition of a 25% reduction and a one limit of 32 " is also something that I can agree to .

I am sixty two years old and am in the water at least twice a week, weather allowing. I spearfish inshore and offshore, shallow and deep and have accumulated years of anecdotal information. My feelings are that bass should be allowed to be taken in a size window. A fish or two in a range of 28" to 32" would be allowed however larger fish [especially the big breeders] would be protected. I would also restrict some of the offshore locations where the larger fish congregate.

thank you,

Steve Nicholson

From: [Albano, Albert S](#)
To: [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); [James Gilmore](#); [Mike Waine](#); [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
Subject: Striped Bass ASMFC Decision
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:11:45 AM

Senator Boyle, Mr. Waine, Mr. Gillmore and Mr. Hasbrouck,

I am writing to you as a dedicated recreational fishermen. You are in a position to do something right for fisheries conservation. I'm sure you're aware of the upcoming decision that needs to be made regarding striped bass management. All serious striped bass fishermen have noticed the precipitous decline of this prized fish over the past 7 years or so. Please do the right thing so that this fish can rebound (again). Seems ridiculous that we never learned a lesson the last time we let those who had money to gain dictate management policy. And here we are, about 30 years later in a similar spot.

Please see to it that the most stringent measures are taken. 1 fish, 32" and do this in the first year. A 3 year approach is laughable.

Even this most stringent approach here may not yield the desired results for a long time (several years), if ever, in my opinion. It's a shame there weren't some more strict options on the table. In any event, please take care of the fish, and listen to those who sincerely have the health of the fisheries in mind, as opposed to their pockets. That includes commercial fishermen AND for hire charter boats.

See below for my recommendations on the available options:

Section	Option
Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment Reference Point Option	Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-benchmark assessment
Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point Option	Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment reference point
Section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference Points	Option B: To be managed by State of North Carolina
Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction (mortality)	Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year
Section 3.0: Proposed Management Scenario Options	Coastal Recreational Fishery: B3 (one fish @ 32") Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Select B10 Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Select B17
Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers	Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one are to another should quotas not be

	reached among fishers in a given region.
Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits	Option A: Status quo with Amendment 6

Thanks,
Al Albano
601 Chester Rd.
Sayville, NY 11782

From: [Mass. Commercial Striped Bass Assoc.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Comment for Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:53:34 AM

Mike,

MCSBA (130 commercial fishing members from Massachusetts) requests:

-Immediate 25% reduction coast-wide.

-Improved accountability in the Recreational fishery and reductions to be accomplished in the much larger recreational sector before the commercial sector is impacted. Commercial TAC's are highly accountable and have not grown out of control to unknown levels like the recreational fishery. The recreational fishery needs to be fully understood and quantified before the commercial fishery is cut and definitively sustains significant negative economic impacts.

-Slot limits and trophy fish allowances should be avoided and the recreational bag limit should be 1 fish per angler at 28" or greater.

Darren Saletta
Executive Director
Massachusetts Commercial Striped Bass Association
MassCommBass@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/masscommbass>

From: [Thomas Johnson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:59:20 PM

I would like to recommend starting the Spring season later in the year and NO CATCH AND RELEASE season. Let the "cows" come into the Bay and lay their eggs without being disturbed!!! Start the "Spring Season" later (perhaps the first of May) and keep the size limit of 28 inches the same as in previous years.

Capt. T. J. Johnson
Tracy Lynn Charters

From: [John Duane](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass conservation - ASMFC public comments
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:28:25 PM

Hi Mike – good to see you on board with striped bass planning. We’ve met and spoken a few times around menhaden, and the time seems right to start conserving stripers as well, for the health of the fishery, and benefit of those who depend upon striped bass for their living.

Here are my specific recommendations as provided in the public comment document:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thanks for considering my comments.

John

John Duane
348 Main Street – Box 3174
Wellfleet, MA 02667
508-237-2211

From: [Shane Clift](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:58:10 PM

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you today about the evident need for Striped Bass Conservation up and down the eastern sea board. I am a 26 year old avid recreational angler and I grew up on the Chesapeake Bay. In recent years there has been a noticeable decline in the number and quantity of Stripers in the Bay and ocean. I am urging you to take measures to reduce quotas by 25% in 1 year across all sectors. We need to do what's best for the fish so that this great resource will be able to make a strong rebound.

Thank you for your time and attention to the species I have a great passion for.

Shane Clift
Annapolis, MD

From: [Dan Bailey](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:56:14 AM

Mr Waine,

The fastest way to bring striped bass back to acceptable levels is to take the biggest cut in the shortest amount of time. We all want striped bass around for generations to come.

We want the maximum reduction of 25% in the first year for all sectors in all management areas.

Sincerely,

Dan Bailey
600 Overlook St
Cinnaminson NJ 08077

(609) 314-2517

Sent via Verizon Wireless

From: [Drew Koslow](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:09:26 PM

Hello,

I wanted to voice my support for taking the conservative approach towards striped bass management to prevent a more serious situation in the future. Please take action to reduce striped bass mortality by 25% the first year of action to protect this resource for present and future generations along the entire Eastern Seaboard of the U.S.

Thank you,

Drew

Drew J. Koslow
Choptank Riverkeeper
Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
24 N. Harrison St.
Easton, MD 21601
www.midshoreriverkeeper.org
c) 410-533-2753

From: [Michael Oliver](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Consultation Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:39:12 PM

Dear Sirs below are my comments regarding the Striped Bass consultation.

I am a keen Sports Angler and travel to the USA twice a year to fish for Striped Bass for a total of 4 to 5 weeks.

I am anxious about the short and long term viability of such a precious and commonly owned resource which needs protecting.

Here are my comments on Striped Bass Addendum IV:

Section 2.5.1 and Section 2.5.2 – I am in favor Option B. We should be referencing the best available, most recent science (as set out in the 2013 Benchmark Assessment) when determining courses of action.

Section 2.6 – Option A. Clearly, a problem exists, and it needs to be addressed immediately.

Section 3.0 – Option B. Further, I am strongly opposed to any option that stretches out harvest reductions over three years. I am a strong believer in the precautionary approach as it is a safe one. Three years is too long.

Size and bag limits – I am in favor of Option B3 (a one-fish bag limit and a 32" size limit on the coast) and Option B15 (hard quota) in the Chesapeake.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Regards

Mike Oliver
11 Blandford Ave
Castle Bromwich
Birmingham
B36 9HX
U.K.

From: [Jim Hensley](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass decline
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:04:38 PM

Please consider reducing the striped bass quotas by 25% in year one. I am an avid recreational fisherman and support anything that can be done to save and repair the striped bass population for future generations. Thank you. Jim Hensley.

Sent from my iPad

From: [John Budish](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: xmako@verizon.net
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV - Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:21:52 PM

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Va. 22201

Dear Mr Waine and ASMFC,

I urge the Commission to adopt the new reference points as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment and to take action on those new reference points to reduce mortality by 25% within a one year timeframe. Of those options given, I support option B-3, a one fish limit with a 32" minimum size. I feel this will best protect the remaining breeding stock and will allow the 2011 year class a few years of spawning before being put under the pressure of harvesting.

In regards to the transfer of commercial quotas from one state to another, I vehemently oppose such a transfer and support "Status Quo" for this measure. In an addendum that is driven by the need to reduce mortality it is appalling that this section would allow an increase in mortality. I would like any unused quotas to be conserved rather than reallocated and harvested.

While fisheries have historically been managed at a "maximum sustainable yield" model for years, I feel now is the time to break away from such a model. MSY management puts us at a disadvantage if we make an error in the science our models are based on. I think it is time to error on the side of conservation.

Respectfully submitted,

John D Budish

From: [Chelsey Bogan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public comment
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:40:40 AM

Dear Mr. Mike Waine:

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B8.

Chelsey Bogan
115 Rose Island Way Apt. 1206
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
732-239-7445

From: [Pablo Velazquez](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:18:48 PM

Mr Mike Waine;

I read data regarding Striped Bass and your recommendations. I noted that you are not reducing the harvest for commercial boats but are placing all the burden of reduction on the recreational fisherman. My vote is for a status quo or an exact percentage reduction across the board, commercial and recreational. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (201) 455-1548.

Thanks,

Pablo Velazquez

From: [Charles Schwalje](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:32:58 PM

Dear Mr. Waine

I have been fishing for striped bass in New Jersey since 1959 and have seen the years of abundance, scarcity and renewal of the striped bass population.

In my opinion, I think that striped bass fishing has declined since 2005.

I also think that too many large fish are being killed, particularly in the spring season.

Therefore, I feel that action must be taken to preserve this resource.

After reading Draft Addendum IV I think that the following options would be effective in achieving the target goal while minimizing the effect on recreational fisherman, charter boats and party boats:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Use the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces F-level to target in 3 years.

Fishery: Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational

Option C3: one fish per person per day at 28"-35" slot and one fish 35" minimum.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased

Thank You for your consideration.

Charles Schwalje
856 Central Ave
Hammonton, NJ 08037

From: [Mike Killelea](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Fishery (Rockfish)
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:37:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mike,

As someone who lives on the bay and fishes at least 100 days a year recreationally(I have been doing so for the last 14 years), I have firsthand experience to share with you. Between all the pressures that are affecting/impacting the striped bass/Rockfish population, including but not limited to: pollution, predation by invasive species like cormorants, advances in fish finding technology, the constant attack by both recreational and commercial fisherman along the entire migratory route of the striped bass, the reduction in their food supply (crabs and menhaden) the rockfish is in serious decline. Last night I was looking through pictures from the last 14 years of the numerous catches of rockfish by me, my friends and family over the years and I was amazed to notice the precipitous decline in the number and quality of the fish being caught each year, particularly over the last 5 to 7 years. The striped bass we were catching just 4 years ago were for the most part significantly larger on average and much more plentiful than the striped bass we are catching today. Since I fish often, I know many charter captains, guides and other fanatic fisherman like myself who all share insider information on where the fish are and what they are feeding on etc...My network stretches from the lower bay to the upper bay and includes commercial as well as recreational anglers/interests. While none of us wants to make too big a deal out of it for selfish reasons, we all know there is a major problem with the decline in striped bass population that is well documented and spiraling out of control.

I urge you to take immediate action to protect the striped bass. First I would support at least a 25% harvest reduction across the board. Then I would focus on protecting the breeding stock by elimination of the "trophy season" for at least 5 years. The breeding stock needs a break and should be protected while it recovers and rebuilds the base population of striped bass. I would also look at ways of reducing the predation by invasive species (open hunting on cormorants who eat 2 times their body weight per day in juvenile fish, that's over 1,000 lbs. of biomass consumption per cormorant on an annual basis), and encourage the protection of crabs and menhaden by limiting their harvest levels which will increase the food supply for the striped bass (many of the rockfish we catch are noticeable skinny).

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for helping to protect one of Maryland's greatest natural resources!

Best Regards,

Mike Killelea

L.F. Jennings | 407 North Washington Street, Suite 200 | Falls Church, VA 22046

Direct: 703.531.2336 | Mobile: 703.407.4581 | Main: 703.241.1200

mkillelea@lfjennings.com | www.lfjennings.com

From: [Stephen O'Brien Jr.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us); paul.diodati@state.ma; [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#)
Subject: Striped bass fishery- Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:46:06 PM

To whom it may concern,

I write to you to express my growing concern and frustration with the management of the striped bass fishery here in Massachusetts and other states along the Atlantic seaboard. As an angler that experienced the decline and forced moratorium on striped bass fishing for five years in the 1980's, I do not want to return to those dark days.

As a recreational striped bass angler residing in Duxbury, MA I have the good fortune of fishing Duxbury Bay over thirty mornings each year from May-October. Over the span of the last four years I have watched the fishery change immensely. Annually I typically catch several hundred bass each year. I have watched the average length of striped bass drop from an average hovering near 30" in 2010-2011 down to just 20" in 2014. I hear more of the same up and down the Atlantic.

I fish in two fly fishing derbies annually with 30 of the best anglers along the eastern seaboard. In years past the winning fish were always in the mid to high 30" range with all 30 plus anglers landing fish in the mid to high 20" inch range. We had a single fish landed in our 2014 Cuttyhunk derby over 30", most were in the teens! The largest fish landed in the Duxbury derby was under 25" with nearly all the fish in the teens! Keep in mind, both derbies are scheduled to take place during prime time for big bass- Cuttyhunk in mid-June and Duxbury in mid-September. Nearly all the fish caught in both derbies were the 2011 YOY class.

We are headed down a slippery slope. Over 95% of the hundreds of bass that I caught this summer were between 15-24".

We absolutely need to drop the daily retention of striped bass down to one fish.

Though not listed as an option, I believe a slot limit similar to the state of Maine's would be the ideal. This would allow anglers to keep a smaller "dinner fish" of 18"-26" and if they must a trophy fish over 40".

If we were to find that we were still over harvesting, I would then suggest moving to a single fish over 34" or whatever the best science tells us that would allow for several breeding seasons to occur before harvesting.

With the current options on the table I would vote for option B3 with a one fish over 32" limit. All the other slot limits proposed are too narrow. A 26"-40" ban would allow a far greater number of breeders to spawn and be protected.

We need to act on this now! We cannot take a "let's wait and see attitude." We have worked too hard to bring this great fish back to see it slip back to the status of the early 1980's. I cannot think

of a single angler worth his salt that would not be in favor of changing the status quo which is clearly not working.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen B. O'Brien, Jr.

[29 Reynolds Way](#)

[Duxbury, MA 02332](#)

From: [William May](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Harvest Cuts
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:58:06 AM

I attended the CCA meeting in Annapolis a couple of weeks ago. I found the arguments for lesser cuts underwhelming, the reports of crashed fisheries at Montauk, Susquehanna Flats, Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel alarming. Therefore I endorse the position of CCA MD: "We want the maximum reduction of 25% in the first year for all sectors in all management areas."

From: golfowens@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Issue.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:38:46 AM

Please leave the present size limit of 28 inches and daily limit of 2 striped bass intact and in place!
Thank You, Michael Owens at golfowens@aol.com

From: [coastaleng](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Limits
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 6:47:47 AM

Please note I'm in favor of Option B7.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

From: stevelabel@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Management
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 7:41:01 AM

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Steve Belvin 732-600-6970

This **MUST** be accomplished before September 30, 2014. Please join us on FaceBook and let us know you have helped:

SAVE YOUR STRIPED BASS FISHERY

From: [Shawn Kimbro](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Need ASMFC's help
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:16:49 AM

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission --

I am writing to ask for a 25% reduction in the first year. I doubt that will be enough. I am very disappointed that my home state of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay states are resisting maximum conservation on "socio-economic" grounds. If the fish are here, so will be the social and economic benefits. Depleting a species for economic gain is like burning a Renaissance painting for firewood. It's worth more than that.

Sincerely,
Shawn

Shawn Kimbro
Author & Angler
Kent Island, Maryland

From: pbfishing@yahoo.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass plans
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:25:15 AM

Carol J Charters. Opinion 1 bass per person is PLENTY for charter trips. A THREE YEAR REBUILDING MAKES MORE SENSE to me. A one bass limit is not going to put anyone out of business. Not having bass will.

Paul B Johnson Sr

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Tom Weaver](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass proposal
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:08:06 PM

Dear Mr Waine,

I am in favor of reducing the Striped Bass harvest 25% immediately, yes there will be a socio economic impact, postponing this impact by reducing the harvest gradually will not help the stocks of fish in the immediate future.

Best Tom

Tom Weaver
Eastport Yacht Company
808 Boucher Ave
Annapolis, MD 21403
410 533 0928

From: apeltzer@netzero.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Quota Reductions
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:15:41 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am going to keep this simple. I live in Maryland and have been fishing for striped bass for over ten years. From my observations, the number of stipers in the Chesapeake and along the eastern seaboard has been drastically reduced in the past 6 or 7 years, There are far fewer fish than in the recent past. I used to take several trips a year out of state and probably 20 trips a year in the bay, but in the past few years I find that it is hardly worth the effort anymore. I fished in NJ, Virginia and NC every year, but not anymore. Even the CBBT has been devoid of fish recently. The last two years have been bad, The Chesapeake in Maryland is not much better. A good trip now if a dozen fish, in the past it was 100. By the way, I have not kept a fish in at least five years,

What I am getting at is that there are far fewer fish in the population, the fishing is getting worse every year and that someone needs to impose serious restrictions on the amount of fish that are killed each year by both recreational and commercial fisherman. I would suggest that striped bass be made a gamefish in Maryland or that a total moratorium be imposed, although those will likely never happen. At the very least, I think that the spring "trophy" season should be totally eliminated until the breeding population in the system recovers and that no fish over 36 inches be allowed to be killed by any angler, either recreational or commercial. Further, I would implement a slot of 24 to 32 inches with a limit of one fish per person per day. On the commercial front, I would reduce harvest by a minimum of 25% across the board.

Now is the time to act. Better to be too aggressive than too passive. If nothing is done to reduce the amount of fish that are killed annually we will certainly be facing another moratorium in the coming years and one of Maryland's greatest conservation successes will become a collective failure. Make a stand. Do something now before it is too late. We do not need more studies and analysis. We need action.

Sincerely,

Alan Peltzer
Parkton, MD

The #1 Worst Carb Ever?
Click to Learn #1 Carb that Kills Your Blood Sugar & Don't Eat This!)
<http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3231/542af259dd19a725917b6st03duc>

From: [Gary Lengerhuis](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass reduction
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:22:19 AM

I would like to see a 25% reduction in the first year, I feel we are behind the 8 ball and the 3 year reduction will be too little too late. Thank you
Gary Lengerhuis

From: [Doug Shamblen](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass reduction
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:28:35 PM

We want the maximum reduction of 25% in the first year for all sectors in all management areas, including the commercial fishermen.

Commercial fishermen have proposed a 7% reduction citing this is necessary to minimize the socioeconomic on the watermen. I propose you remind them that the money lost on the reduced number (supply) of fish can be made up by the increase in the price of the fish.

I have also heard an argument made by the commercial camp that despite the reduced number of fish available now that there is still plenty left. Their evidence is that they can still catch many fish with their nets, it's just that in the current reduced state it becomes harder to catch a fish with hook and line, but still easy with nets.

When it becomes hard to catch a fish on hook and line, the recreational consumer will stop fishing and the economic impact will be felt by far more citizens than commercial fishermen. I supposed this is ok with the commercial guys based on their willingness to keep the level of harvest where it is easy for them and hard for the recreational fisherman.

My final observation I ask you to consider is what a fish is worth. Who spends the most per fish to catch it, commercial fishermen or recreational fishermen. Our economy needs you to vote for the maximum reduction.

Put this one to bed and get to work on the menhaden problem.

Douglas D Shamblen, MBA, CPCU

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From: [Chris Moe](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Reduction
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:06:28 PM

Mike, I support the maximum reduction in harvest for striped bass for all areas and all sectors. Here in central Maryland, we have experienced a steady decline in rockfish to the point where there are virtually none to be had out of Solomons Island.

**Sincerely,
Chris Moe
Solomons Island**

--

"The sail, the play of its pulse so like our own lives: so thin and yet so full of life, so noiseless when it labors hardest, so noisy and impatient when least effective."

-Henry David Thoreau

From: [Jack Detweiler](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Reductions
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:09:17 PM

Mike,

I am a resident of PA and have a second home in Annapolis where we sail and fish. I have seen dramatic reductions in the number and size of Stripped Bass over the last few years and an even more disturbing reduction in the species over the last 6 or 7 years. We should learn from our past mistakes and start taking care of this most important of all recreational fish in our coastal region and the Bay.

I am a member of CCA Maryland and a member and board member of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. I agree whole heartedly in the 25% reduction next year over the 2013 harvest. Also, and this is my personal opinion, I think we need to stop killing all of the large females. I believe we should have a closure of the flats fishery and the trophy season and a slot limit on striped bass like other states have for Redfish. We need to do this for at least a few years until the stocks can recover.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jack Detweiler

Jack Detweiler, Associate Broker
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services
717-761-5524 home
717-215-3195 cell
717-920-9600 office

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Howard Hanna
(717) 920-9600
www.howardhanna.com

From: [peter bonilla](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass regs
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:29:07 PM

As a recreational angler for years ,I have noticed the last two years that the stripers have not been productive at all. The chances for the recreational angler as my self is already very tough.If you get one keeper one in 8 to 10 times your lucky even on head boats. I vote b6 for keeping it the same as it has been.

From: [Ed Salge](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Regulation Discussions
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:23:37 PM
Attachments: [image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)

I am writing you to voice my concerns about the upcoming discussions relating to reducing the Striped Bass harvest in NJ. I am a Charter Boat Captain and an avid striper fisherman for 40 years.

I truly believe that it is noticeable that the Bass population has declined over the last 10 years. I feel that the fish slaughters and the practice "upgrading" by the commercial fishermen off Virginia is in part responsible for the decline. The rest of the problem is with the recreational fisherman.

I have an opinion that may not be too popular with some fishermen. I think that if we want to restore the stocks, which we have proven can be done, I would suggest the following:

- Changing the limit to 1 fish at any size will cripple the party and charter businesses. (and of course all the coastal business that benefit from fishermen stopping in to buy gas, food, tackle and bait.)
- I understand that there are 9 options being discussed. From the list that I saw, Option B6: 2 fish 28-34" seems to make the most sense to me if we want to rebuild the stocks. I really think that 2 fish 28 to 40" would accomplish the same thing. As long as the 30 pound and larger females are returned to the water to spawn, we should see improvement. Tournaments would have to adopt the slot rules, like the southern redfish tournament model or cease operation. Killing all the 40 and 50 pound fish just for a tournament doesn't make any sense anyway.

I hope that the folks that make the rules will truly recognize the value that recreational fishing brings to the coastal communities.

Thanks,

Ed Salge
BOOMER Fishing
Atlantic Highlands NJ

Ed Salge
Executive Director, Operations & Information Technology



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From: stephenschad@verizon.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass regulation - public comment
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:38:53 PM

Mike,

You have a big job to do with so many different stakeholders with varied opinions on Striped bass. Do want you think is best for the fish when you decide on the three options being considered for reducing Striped bass mortality.

I am a recreational fisherman and vote for a 25% coastwide reduction. Go with the KISS principal and keep it as simple as possible.

thanks

Steve

From: [Phil Juhring](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Regulation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:39:42 PM

Mike and ASMFC,

The Berkeley Striper Club is based in Seaside Park, New Jersey and is composed of approximately 200 avid striped bass fishermen. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. We discussed the addendum thoroughly and our position is as follows:

2.5.1 We support option B and urge the Commission to adopt the new reference points as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment.

2.6 We support option A and would like action to be taken to reduce mortality within a one year time frame.

3.0 We support option B and would like to have F reduced by 25% or more within one year. The striped bass biomass been declining since 2003. We would like to see stripers managed so that they remain near peak abundance rather than just sustainability.

We also support B-3, a one fish limit at 32". We believe that this option will best protect the 2011 year class. They are currently about 18" long but the females will be large enough to breed by 2016 or 2017. We would like to ensure that this last good year class is able to spawn at least a couple of times before they are harvested.

3.1 We support option A, status quo. We are vehemently opposed to the transfer of commercial quotas from one state to another. In an addendum that is mostly about remaining at status quo or reducing mortality it is appalling that this section would allow an increase in mortality. We would like any unused quotas to be conserved rather than harvested.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Juhring 3rd

From: [Captricht1](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Robert Ballou](#)
Subject: Striped Bass regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:18:52 AM

Hello,

I am the owner/operator of the charter boat Restless out of Snug Harbor, RI.

I have been in business for 28 years.

During this time, I have seen fisheries change dramatically. For example: in the late 80's I would tuna fish in July, August and September. Now I have no tuna charters.

In the 80's and 90's we would codfish, now there are very few codfish trips on my books.

Each time the fishery has changed, I have addapted. Changing the striped bass regulation to 1 fish per person will definitely hurt my business. Unfortunately, it will also necessitate me pursuing other species once (and if) the 6 fish limit is reached.

This will put addional pressure on summer flounder, sea bass, scup etc.

I strongly urge you to keep the striped bass limit at 2 fish per person at 28 inches.

Thank you for you consideration.

Capt. Rich Templeton

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S™ III, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: [Michael Miller](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:11:07 PM

I favor B,1 fish at .28 ".
hopefully anglers will be satisfied with 1 fish and not injure more fish in quest for another.

Do you ever consider the opposite approach, 2 smaller fish but not allowed to keep larger fish capable of spawning huge numbers of eggs?

From: [noah cluster](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:10:40 PM

To be proactive with a polluted Bay please reduce the catch in 2015 . And implement real solutions to the Bay to reduce pollution and runoff . 40 yrs of failed Bay policy by MD and VA leaders. Thanks Noah Cluster Rec Angler and tax payer 56 yrs old and lived thru the moritorium. Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Goolgasian](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:40:38 AM

Please do not lower the limit on striped bass to one fish. This will be extremely detrimental to all of us in the charter business. Perhaps using a slot size and keeping the two fish would be a good solution. This would allow our customers the opportunity to still keep two fish even though they may not because of the slot size. I spend the winter in Florida and they use slot sizing for their endangered species and it works so why not us giving it a try? It works with snook and grouper and reds.

Thanks for your consideration to this matter

John Goolgasian
Marlin Charters Inc.

PS also put a stop to the practice used by some people of keeping two fish for the captain and two fish for the mate in addition to the two fish per person per trip. This should be done immediately with or without any changes. this could potentially save four fish per trip for any boats that limit out.

From: [Mike Soudee](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:41:57 AM

Hello Mr. Waine,

I have been fishing the Chesapeake Bay for many years. The decline in striped bass is alarming. For the sake of the fishery and future generations of fisherman, I urge the ASMFC to **adopt the maximum reduction of 25% in the first year for all sectors in all management areas.**

Obviously, I am no fisheries biologist, but it pains me that it is so hard for us to save a fish, when it is clear what the solution is: kill less of them.

Thanks,

Mike Soudee
Chesapeake Bay Kayak Anglers, Inc.

From: [Michael Tero](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:11:56 AM

lets all work together to ensure that the best gamefish in the ocean is managed properly . we need to take action now while we can turn it around quickly! thanks ,
mike tero

From: [Michael Behot](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:50:39 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing to share with you my deep concern for the future of Striped Bass on the east coast. I have fished for stripers for the last 30 years and watched them deteriorate in the 80's then come back in the mid 90's to their high point tens years ago only to fall apart again. It has been demonstrated twice now that striped bass cannot bear the commercial and recreational burden that has been put on them. There must be strict measures put in place to stop their complete collapse again and it is a fool's game to think this can be done by "phasing in" a plan over three years. It should have been put in place three years ago.

Sincerely,

Mike Behot

From: [Carl Ohata](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:41:05 PM

I fish the Chesapeake Bay, and have caught 1 large striper (2 years ago) during the past 5 years. Prior to that I could catch my daily limit during the spring and fall seasons. This is because gill net usage proliferated 5 years ago, and now wall off all hot fishing areas from sport fishermen. I have lost large amounts of expensive tackle when I inadvertently troll over the nets which are so long and so numerous that you don't know where they are. How actively are commercial netters regulated, and are their catch numbers monitored? Sport fisherman need their access to the fish, as netters should be restricted to other net restriction areas only.

From: [Ernie Rojas](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:24:00 AM

Please put a slot in for these fish as well as a 25% harvest reduction. Let's leave the cows alone!

Save our fish!

Thanks!

Ernie

From: [John Rainone](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:05:40 PM

Capt. John Rainone
L'il Toot Charters

Mike,

I would like to be on the record saying that we need to have a 2 bag limit in order to maintain our business's as charter boats in RI...

Precedent was set years ago in NY when the recs had a 1 fish bag limit and charter boats that got a special charter boat lic. from the state could have 2 fish per person to maintain their business. The stocks are not overfished I believe according to what I see every day on the water. What I do see is a complete lack of any enforcement...State DEM and Feds/ US Coast Guard...Every day and night, there are vessels fishing over the 3 mile line. There are commercial guys from MA, Divers, and every other type of fisher person you could think of. Even when you tell people they are not allowed to fish for or have onboard Striped Bass they just laugh and say mind your own business. I have seen during the Open Commercial season boats day and night from MA taking as many striped bass as they could fit in their big X totes....I have had a morning trip, brought my people in and come out for a twilight trip and still see the same boats out there....some with just 2 people on themThere is no way they can only have 4 fish on their boat after fishing all day and night....We need enforcement desperately...It is a joke to keep making more and more rules with out it.

I also think that there should be a cap on the large breeding fish....It seems like everyone is out trying to catch those 50+ lb fish and throwing all others back....You can only hope that they were properly taken care of and released...but those anglers have still stressed out those big old gals using light tackle etc.. Maybe there should be slot limit of 28-40something...whatever the scientists feel will not hurt the breeding stock.

We as charter boats need the perception that we can catch 2 fish per person, even though many customers are happy with 1 fish, but some do want or need 2 fish.

Thanks

Capt. John Rainone

--

L'il Toot Charters Inc.
35 Ocean View Dr.
Narragansett RI 02882
401-497-6683
www.LilTootCharter.com
www.facebook.com/pages/Lil-Toot-Charters/268318656187

From: [Carl Vining](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper bass consetvation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:25:06 PM

I vote for conservation of striper bass by the ,25% reduction and by all catch and release. I am a very avid fisherman of bass and very concerned seeing the great absence of large fish this year espescially. I am from Boston mass and fish the harbor,mystic river,and mystic lakes which has big population of residing bass that live there.

From: [Sasha Serpa](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:21:54 AM

I am just emailing you to show my support for a 25% reduction in striper conservation in the 1st year.

Regards,

Sasha Serpa
VP of Sales

Quality Air Services

- c) [301-922-7622](tel:301-922-7622)
- o) [301-770-8980](tel:301-770-8980)
- f) [301-770-8982](tel:301-770-8982)
- e) sasha@qualityairservices.com

AOBA, PMA, WMCCAI, NAPE, BOMA, MMHA

From: [Tulay Sencar](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripper Quota
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 4:44:39 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing because I would like the quota to REMAIN STATUS QUO.
I think option B7 would be the only acceptable option!!

Please leave things they way they are!

Thank you
Tulay Sencar
908418-0705

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dennis Kroger](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: stripers
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:55:10 PM

Please do not reduce by more than 25%.

Dennis Kroger
Berlin, MD

From: [Pierrepont, Stuyve](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripers-Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:19:59 AM

Mike. Good luck with managing this valuable resource. The most productive breeding fish (Over 36"s) are being decimated at an alarming rate. We need to protect the breeding population that yields the highest survival rate, large bass. Killing female crabs has caused the same drop in Chesapeake crab populations. If 90+ % of all bass over 38" are female, we need to protect these fish. Please try to protect our future fisheries by taking steps today.

Question is, why did we stop commercial market gunning for ducks and deer. We need to take the same action to protect our fisheries. Any action to increase mortality is shortsighted. Please " do the right thing" for our fisheries. Stuyve

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at **28"-36" slot** plus one annual **non transferable trophy tag** inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: **Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another or one owner to another fisherman.**

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased. No culling of smaller fish.
" Released dead"

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From: [Norman R. Hines](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripped Bass Reduction
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:50:42 AM

Dear Mr Waine, as a life long citizen of MD, and a lifelong fisherman, I encourage you to stand up for the Stripped Bass and vote for a 25% reduction in harvest to help conserve this great resource. Thank your for your consideration of my request.
Norman R. Hines SR

From: [Fred Akers](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:31:51 AM

September 30, 2014

Dear Mr. Waine,

As a recreational fisherman from New Jersey, I support the following **Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Option** regarding coastwide striped bass management measures to improve future stocks of striped bass:

B1, I fish bag limit, 28 inch minimum size

I also think it is critical for future striped bass management that the fishing mortality reference points should be adjusted to be internally consistent with the SSB target and threshold, consistent with the recommendations in the 2013 benchmark assessment.

Sincerely,

Fred Akers

P.O. Box 395

Newtonville, NJ 08346

From: [Andrew Hughes](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Take the full 25% reduction immediately for Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:44:53 AM

Mike-

As a recreational fisherman, I would encourage the ASMFC to take the full 25% immediately vs. spreading it out over 3 years. My anecdotal experience is that the fishery is in worse shape than the estimates suggest. I recreational fish 30 days a year for Striped Bass.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Andy Hughes

From: [Colin Long](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: We want the maximum reduction of 25% in the first year for all sectors in all management areas.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:42:17 AM

Please!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!111

Colin Long
Sr. Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 219842



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Suite 404
Severna Park MD 21146
(443) 336-5799 Cell
(443) 725-0460 Efax

clong@gofirsthome.com

From: CAuten@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: (no subject)
Date: Monday, September 08, 2014 8:53:08 PM

leave the 31" plus fish to reproduce, keep 25 to 30" to eat.

From: bcfair61@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 11:38:02 AM

Hello,

I have been fishing for stripers for 20 years and really enjoy the sport, I have total respect for these fish and keep only a few a year for the grill, I keep a log also of how the year went and there is no doubt that the amount of fish around has dropped.

I am all in 100% on taking action to protect these fish and bring them back to the way it was 8 or 9 years ago.

my thoughts are to reduce the bag limit to 1 fish at a length of 32 in, or even 34 in. also there needs to be some stiff penalties to the ones that are ignorant to the rules, I have seen and approached poachers that flat out do not care about the well being of our fisheries, some times I wish I went to school to be a game warden lol and lastly maybe some panthlets to educate the public on how to care and release the fish.

thanks for getting us all involved here and I have good faith that you all will make good choices to help the striped bass.

thanks

Bryan.Fairweather

From: drchid@verizon.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: "Draft Addendum IV"
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014 11:11:04 AM

Dear Sir,

I am a fisherman concerned about the decline in the striped bass population, and urge the adoption of option one as the strongest management approach for rebuilding striped bass stocks in the upcoming addendum on striped bass conservation.

From: [mikek](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Addendum IV to Striped Bass Management Plan
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2014 8:31:46 PM

Mr Waine,

First off thank you the informative presentation in conjunction with the CT DEEP Marine Fisheries staff. I attended the meeting and listened to all the questions, statements and opinions presented by the members of the audience.

I will further add that I am also a member of an advisory group hosted by Dave Simpson and CT DEEP.

The Marine Advisory Group, or Mag, also held a meeting to discuss the points of the addendum and I was able to hear more opinions from the rest of the members of that group too.

As a strictly recreational fisherman that has not targeted striped bass for a number of years I feel that it is still important to offer my written opinion for the record in order that we may avert another possible collapse of this species as we have seen in years past.

Therefore on

2.5.1 Coastwise population,

If I am reading the chart correctly it looks like option B is the more conservative than going with Status Quo and it appears that recruitment is the end goal.

2.6 Timeline to reduce the F target

I would say that option A gives better flexibility to achieve the required goal. If after the end of the year the target is still unattained adjustments can still be made to further help reduce the F target. A three year plan might not give desired results but that may not be known until after the time period has passed.

3.0 Management options

This is the most difficult portion for me as I do not target this species and do not harvest fish of any species unless I know of someone that wants them.

I heard all the comments at the public hearing say that they mostly wanted B3 but the Mag group seemed more in favor of B1. I have heard the reasoning behind both of these and have to agree that B1 is in the best interest of the conservation of the species by allowing anglers to harvest a fish for the table and yet still leaving some of the larger breeders alone also allowing for the trophy hunters to have their day.

As for the commercial side, here in CT we do not have a commercial fishery for stripers but use our quota as a means to recruit more folks into become anglers by allowing them to harvest a somewhat sublegal fish to take home for the table. Yes this seems to go against the desired recruitment of ssb but we are not talking about a large number of fish to begin with and should not be much of a factor overall.

As for the charter fishery I am afraid that I still do not know what would be the right choice there. The 25% cut back sounds like a good idea but the numbers appear to be another story. I do not want to effectively end anyones fishery but it looks like a better option is needed.

3.1 Quota transfers

I can see the good and the bad in this. If any transfers are allowed it should be limited to a percentage and not a total amount.

3.2 Commercial size

I am not certain what the status quo is for the Chesapeake Bay area but if they are allowed to take smaller than the recreational size limit and this is a major source of the ssb than why are we doing all this talking about recruitment? If the major area for these fish to spawn is targeting smaller fish in a commercial fishery capable of harvesting a large number of fish than we are effectively shooting ourselves in the foot.

Thank you,
Mike Kraemer

From: [Jake Markezin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 8:33:07 PM

Dear ASMFC,

I am in favor of the most restrictive management option offered in addendum IV. I am in favor of option B - specifically B1.

Thank you

Jake Markezin
600 Manchester Avenue
Media, PA 19063
toprod610@gmail.com

From: [roger davies](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum to policy to protect striped bass
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 7:52:36 PM

I, and thousands of nature lovers like me, are advocating for the welfare of wild striped bass, I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length as well as Regulations to mandate an aggressively enforced catch and release practice.

Roger Davies, Sc.D.
Licensed Psychologist
Grandview Psychological Services

From: [Nicholls, Chris](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [David Simpson](#); [Dr Lance Stewart](#); [REP. CRAIG A.MINER](#)
Cc: [Pat Murray](#)
Subject: ASMFC Striped Bass Management Draft Addendum - Comment Response
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 1:35:05 PM

Dear Sirs,

Regarding ASMFC Striped Bass Management – Draft Addendum IV, I would be in favor of the option to reduce fishing mortality as rapidly and dramatically as possible, to its target in one year with a 25% reduction from 2013 harvest in 2015. This is based on my personal experience and my alarm at what appears to be a precipitous drop in the stripe bass stocks. As further described below, stripers in my known prime locations, over the last 10 years, have declined roughly 95%. I am not in favor of the more gradual reduction in harvest because I believe this will be too little too late, as hard working commercial fishermen will only end up causing a greater crash in the stocks, which will take much longer to recover.

Barring some evidence that there has been an ecosystem or some other significant driver of the recent decline in stocks, I also believe that there needs to be a material increased in enforcement. My sense is that there is significant illegal netting occurring, which is why known F is completely inconsistent with the current decline in SSB. Along these lines, I would support a salt water licensing fee to pay for increased enforcement (I pay for my hunting license and fresh water fishing, why not salt). Further, I believe a consistent set of harvest regulations, minimum length, etc. for the entire Eastern Seaboard are key to drive an effective recovery (having a 25 inch rule in one state and 28 in another makes little sense to me, I would be happy to go back to the 36 inch rule). Lastly, given that the economic benefit of recreational fishing is much greater than that of commercial fishing, giving striped bass “Game Fish” status, is an option that I would like to see being seriously reconsidered.

The basis for my position is as follows, I have been a serious Striper Fisherman for over 25 years and a fisherman for almost all of my 50 years. During that time, I have been fortunate enough to have experienced excellent fishing from the coast of Connecticut, to Gardiner's Bay, Montauk, and Martha's Vineyard. With serious time on the water, I have learned the prime spots and have become a very successful salt water striped bass fly rod angler.

During the last 10 years my fishing success and the apparent prevalence of fish in prime locations has declined dramatically. Over this period, I have fished my home waters of Gardiners', the Peconic Bays and Montauk and have seen previously highly productive fishing spots devoid of everything but sea robins. Whereas I used to be able to consistently catch 5-10 striped bass on an early June morning (97% undersized and released unharmed, with barbless single hooks), I caught two fish this entire spring and had a similar result last spring, translating into an approximate 95% reduction in fish caught. I am not sure if the increased activity of commercial fishing, the resurgence of sea lion populations, baitfish populations, the recreational catch or all of the above are driving this issues but I believe we have a big issue, as has been highlighted in the August issue of Soundings Magazine and other similar reports by serious fisherman.

I am hopeful that the ASMFC, DEEP and other state agencies will take the most assertive action possible to rapidly address this serious problem.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Christopher Nicholls
212.499.3605 office
203.249.5945 mobile

From: DEEP-Marine-Fisheries-News-owner@list.state.ct.us [mailto:DEEP-Marine-Fisheries-News-owner@list.state.ct.us] **On Behalf Of** DEEP Marine Fisheries News
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2014 1:58 PM
To: deep-marine-fisheries-news@list.state.ct.us
Subject: ASMFC public hearing on striped bass fishery management

CT DEEP Marine Fisheries Division is hosting a Public Hearing of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Draft Addendum IV to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan on Tuesday August 26, 2014 at the Marine Headquarter's Boating Education Center beginning at 7PM.

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From: albacore9@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#); [REP. CRAIG A.MINER](#); [Dr Lance Stewart](#); [David Simpson](#)
Subject: ASMFC Striped Bass Options
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 9:47:39 AM

Sirs;

While it is encouraging that finally the ASMFC has determined that there is a problem with the striped bass population I feel the current proposals fall short of what is needed. I attended the August 26, hearing in Old Lyme, Ct and it was my understanding that all the proposals have a 50% chance of success, they are as likely to fail as succeed. Why not manage for the resource and not the users of the resource and try for a 75% chance for success? If surveyed I think you would find that the majority of recreational fisherman would be in favor of moratorium while still allowing charter boats a one fish per angler harvest.

The commercial industry must live with the same reductions as the recreational anglers.

I am also NOT in favor of Connecticut's commercial quota being reallocated to other states.

Additionally I feel all netting of striped bass should be banned permanently and only a rod and reel harvest be allowed.

If we have to live with what has been proposed then I would choose Option B3.

I hope it works.

Thomas Shipman
112 Mathewson Mill Rd
Ledyard, Ct 06339

From: [Michael Pierdinock](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Michael Armstrong](#)
Subject: ASMFC: Public Comment to Addendum IV - Amendment 6 Proposed Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 9:26:39 AM

Mike:

The following is in response to the ASFMC proposed changes to the recreational striped bass fishery quota for 2015. I continue to question the MRIP data and have no faith that the data truly represents the status of striped bass landed by recreational fisherman. Assuming the MRIP data is correct, which I don't agree to be the case, I agree with the council's recommendation for a 25% reduction over one year. It was pointed out at the recent hearing that the same conservation effort would be achieved if 1 or 2 fish per angler was permitted for 2015. This is a key point that needs to be taken into consideration if reducing the quota to one fish per angler and its detrimental impact on me as a charter boat captain and fellow charter boat captains and all of those that rely on that business.

As a charter boat captain, a portion of my business relies on striped bass fishing. Several years ago I chartered striped bass trips only but purchased a larger boat and now bottom fish, chase large pelagics and fish for striped bass near shore. During the striped bass migration in June and the fall months I will conduct striped bass trips only. The majority of my clientele that go on striped bass charters want two stripers per person or the possibility of a second fish or they will not spend the money to go fishing.

When the fishery was at sustainable levels of bottom fish in 2010 and the bottom fish, bluefin tuna and stripers were plentiful (prior to the implementation of the flawed catch share system) the local charter boat fleet would conduct fishing trips with an experience unmatched elsewhere in the U.S. A typical day would be to leave the dock and chase bluefin tuna during the morning bite, proceed to and fish for cod and haddock and sharks east of Stellwagen Bank, and on the way home fish for striped bass near shore. We would call this a New England grand slam. Unfortunately this is no longer the case. We are now faced with a 7 to 8 month cod and haddock fishing closure, lack of recreational bluefin tuna and we are told to focus on other fish such as striped bass. As set forth above the majority of our clients will not charter a boat if only 1 fish per angler can be landed. Implementation of a 1 fish per angler is just another nail in the coffin as a result of the recent bottom fish closures.

A reduction in the landing of striped bass over the past few years is in part as a result of the economic downturn that has not been seen since the great depression. We have observed a significant reduction in the number of charters as a result of the inability of anglers to afford a charter.

Lack of fish in our waters near shore is associated with many factors including, colder than normal water temperatures (that has impacted the striper and bluefin tuna), the booming seal population and dogfish eating everything in sight and lack of adequate habitat to maintain a forage fish population or food source for striped bass. We have observed a shift in the location of striped bass into deeper water the last few years. In the early 2000 timeframe the majority of striped bass that I landed would be in 30 to 40 feet of water. The past few years I am encountering them in 80 to 100 feet of water. I have encountered them by the hundreds and caught them as bycatch while fishing for tuna or sharks far offshore within the EEZ.

They are following the mackerel, herring and poggies well offshore into the EEZ and migrate periodically nearshore with the forage fish. Therefore, lack of fish near shore is not necessarily a result of a fishery in trouble or at the point of collapse that is the agenda being advanced by those that don't want to permit anyone to land and consume striped bass.

I find it difficult at this time to make a decision based on flawed MRIP data with observations of credible numbers of striped bass that we continue to encounter well offshore in the EEZ. In conclusion, considering the detrimental impact to the charter boat fleet and all of the businesses that rely on us, I recommend that two striped bass per angler be permitted especially since it will achieve the same conservation goal as one striped bass per angler.

If you have any questions, please email or give me a call. Could you please confirm that you have received this email.

Thanks

Capt. Mike Pierdinock

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From: [Frank Jersey](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 4:50:24 PM

After having read the documents referenced in the commissions recent e-mail, many conclusions and options are being presented based on assumptions that have little or no basis. As a recreational fisherman, I never have to report my catch to anyone and I do not know of any other recreational fishermen who report their striper catch. So, all the data presented for recreational fishing is pure guessing. The commercial side of striper fishing is closely monitored so the data is probably relevant. I would challenge the commission to identify where it is getting the numbers from. The report presents a lot of mathematical formulas based on the data used. All I see is a speculative projection for recreational fishermen that will ultimately result in the reduction of catch limits for recreational fishermen. Most of the speculative data suggests recreational fishing has been in a decline since 2008 yet the brunt of the cutbacks will fall on the shoulders of the recreational fishermen. As individuals, we don't have anyone lobbying for our interests. What has been presented is an intellectual and mathematical presentation of data and conclusions that have no way of being verified at this point in time. Before the commissions arbitrarily imposes cutbacks, why not come up with an accurate reporting system that can be verified. As a fisherman, I have no problem with cutting back if the stock is being depleted. I just don't want to have the deck stacked against me based on guess work. If the quota's need to be cut back, lets make sure of the facts.

From: [bonefishmon](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Att Mike Waine
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 7:52:00 PM

I sat directly in front of you last night at the striped Bass Public Hearing at CT DEEP headquarters. I was wearing the black hat and shirt and the only one to address the state of the forage striped bass need to survive in our waters here in Ct. I also requested the banning of treble hooks which in many people's minds is an out dated and deadly form of catching fish with out harm and return to the water. CT catch and release trout rivers do not allow treble hooks. Let's take this to a new level in striped bass C&R as the smaller fish must be returned UNHARMED to the sea.....please. I live a stone's throw from the ocean on Mason's Island at the mouth of the Mystic River. I am not a purist but use a fly rod to to cast imitations of bait fish up to 18 inches long. Everything from two inch bay anchovies to 18 inch hickory shad. I have been doing this out my back door since the moratorium in the 80's. All of the flies have the barbs removed to do as little harm as possible to the fish and I return all striped bass to the ocean after careful revival. I started to see a serious down turn in striper returns inshore in 2006. The hickory shad all but disappeared along with baby menhaden and adults. With that followed fewer catch periods in the spring over shorter periods of time and again in the fall. Fewer residents bass in the summer. This area was ecosystem that was very sustainable. Harbor seals where constant reminders of the herring returns in the spring and gannets diving for herring in the fall. In short....the entire ecosystem has changed. Waters have gotten warmer and the forage system depleted. Even my friends that fish for lobster have all but given up the trade. Striped bass are eating the baby lobsters. What choice do they have. No menhaden although that may be coming back due to the lack of bass. Swarms of silversides and no bass on them. Butterfish are also scarce. None of the usual spots that keep striped bass feed are producing like they were up until 2006.

Please push option B: Reduce F in one year with B3 at 25% mortality! I fear it may be too late already. My first choice would be a two year moratorium for the recreational sector and B7 for the charter boats but it was not presented as an option last night.

In closing, I wish to thank you for your professionalism and control of last nights' public hearing. Many of us expected this to get out of control and you handled it very well. I appreciate your hard work going into this huge task. Thank you and goodnight.

Phillip F. Sheffield
12 Nauyaug Point Road
Mystic, CT 06355

From: [Dan Beetz](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Bass numbers
Date: Monday, September 08, 2014 11:09:54 AM

I am a member of a small group of striper fishermen who fish out of York Harbor, Maine. The six of us normally take hundreds of bass of all sizes in a given season; almost all are returned unharmed especially the breeding stock. This summer, the gradual downward trend in numbers is even more apparent. There is plenty of bait around but not plenty of bass except, mercifully, small ones. We each spend thousands of dollars yearly on boats, motors, tackle, eels... much more that these fish are worth to the economy dead. I fished a charter on the Vinyard in July. The captain complained that after killing large cow bass that covered the deck and filled the fishbox to be sold at \$4-5 dollars earlier in the year that there were no fish in the same rips for his charters. I asked if he could see a connection. No, he said, bass are cyclical and the cycle was down. Of course, he does this for a living, but he is selling something that belongs to the public at large. Please reduce or eliminate this practice. It makes no sense for us to be releasing a fish caught in Maine that will be caught and sold elsewhere. Dan Beetz York Harbor

From: Mikemonta@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: bass regs
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 10:27:19 AM

I am Captain Mike Albronda I run the Charter boat Montauk I support D1 people will not drive to Montauk for one fish. you can lower the mortality on the big fish by more than 50% by banning live bait for bass it makes it too easy and even with the circle hooks 1/2 the fish are gut hooked. I have a comm Bass licence your tagging regs are unfair to Montauk. Montauk is the only place you can fish, do the math over 40000 tags must be used here that makes it very hard for us, more gill net boats are coming in everyday last year there were so many gill nets in the water we could not fish the south side it killed the surf casting, you must let comm fishing for Bass in the rest of the island, please do not use the PCB bull, you let fishermen keep 5 salmon from Lake Ontario they have 5 times the PCB that is safe they have deoxen way over the safe level and enough mercury to make a thermometer, you put them in the Lake you sell them their lic that's like selling the fishermen poison fish Thank you Captain Mike Albronda

From: [Jordan Jr, James A:\(GenCo-Nuc\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comment on proposed cahnge in regulations
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 9:28:12 AM

I fish from surf and boat for striped bass in Brigantine NJ. I agree that bass are on the decline over the past 4-5 years and don't have a problem with change in regulation. I prefer that the regulation be as simple as possible and from what I have heard about options being considered, would prefer keeping the 28" minimum at 1 fish per person. Slot limits are made complicated by how to measure the fish. The 28-32 inch fish are best to eat, and are not as important as bigger fish in breeding, so I support keeping the minimum as low as possible. Keeping a smaller fish and releasing larger fish caught later is better for all than releasing smaller fish and keeping a larger fish later.

Jim Jordan

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From: [Joseph Freeman](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comment Striped Bass Population Management
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 12:43:53 PM

Dear Mike -

As a long-time recreational angler on Nantucket (60 years), I have to say that one cannot deal with the decline in the striped bass population without confronting the major issue of the explosion of the Harbor and Atlantic Gray Seal populations around the island.

I and many others have witnessed this dramatic change over the last 10 years with increasing alarm. Stripers are being "harvested" by a huge multitude of these marine mammals, which require a very large amount of fish to maintain their populations.

When I was a boy, as you may know, there was a \$5 (or possibly \$50) per snout bounty on the seals, maintained by fisherman to keep the population under control. Now, as in the case of white-tailed deer, we have a serious overpopulation problem. While I understand that this sort of wildlife management is not politically viable or even desirable nowadays, there is no question in my mind that this problem must be addressed, and quickly, before the striped bass population is further depleted.

All The Best with Your Efforts.

Sincerely Yours,

Joseph S. Freeman

The Racemaker Press
39 Church Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 723-2661
(617) 723-2333 (f)
www.racemaker.com

From: [Rob Wofchuck](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comments on Striped Bass Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 2:02:48 PM

Dear Mike, thank you for great presentation in Portsmouth, NH last week. It was very informative and you made what I presume is very technical information very understandable.

Overall, as a recreational fisherman in New Hampshire, I support the proposals that bring the striped bass spawning stock biomass and fishing mortality rates back to the targets as soon as possible. The striped bass is a national asset that needs protection so that future generations can enjoy the same experiences that we do.

Specifically, I support making the changes over 1 year rather than 3 years as I believe that this gives us the most opportunity to make further changes if needed in a timely fashion.

I think having the proposals meet a 50% probability is way too low and would rather have seen something on the order of 70% probability of success.

I support Option B - 25% reduction from 2013 levels within one year.

I support Option B3 to be only able to keep one fish over 32". Again, I would like to see a higher probability of success and based on your options, this appears to be a higher percentage reduction which hopefully will lead to a higher probability of success.

I support B10 for one fish with 18" minimum. This seems the most enforceable. I am concerned with the overall large percentage of fish that are allowed to be harvested in the Chesapeake Area. The striped bass are a national resource and should be spread out over the entire eastern coast.

I support B17 to reduce 2013 commercial quotas by 25%.

Regarding Commercial Quota Transfers, I support Option A for Status Quo and no transfers.

Commercial Size Limits - I support Option A, status quo - same limits for commercial and recreational.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Respectfully,

Robert Wofchuck
Brentwood, NH

From: martyoflodi@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV I love to fish. Please conserve the stripers
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 3:09:11 PM

Dear Mike Waine, 08/31/2014

I support protecting all large breeding Stripers over 34". The time to act is now.

Sincerely,

Martin Adamkiewicz

From: [BILL HALLMAN 215 512 9314](mailto:BILL_HALLMAN_215_512_9314)
To: [Mike Waine](mailto:Mike_Waine)
Cc: stripers@stripersforever.org
Subject: Draft addendum IV Striped Bass conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 9:01:23 AM

I would like to comment on this addendum:

I have fished recreationally for Striped Bass since the 1950's and have witnessed the decimation and recovery of the stocks. The Striped Bass is one of the most, if not the most, important fish for anglers and businesses catering to recreational fishermen, and a very small part of the commercial fishery. The "Striper" allows for an extension of the fishing season by their presence in the spring and then again in the fall and the winter.

The Striper allows for fishing close to shore and from the beach permitting many under privileged anglers especially the young.

The Striper is the most probable fish to reward an angler the catch on a life time.

The Striper is not a crucial catch or fishery for commercial fishermen no is it sustainable as a commercial catch.

The Striper should be in Gamefish status as the Federal Government stipulates.

I suggest the following:

1. Limit the catch of large Striped Bass by all.
2. Abandon the "Trophy Tags" such as New Jersey issues. The advocate the catch of large breeders and worse cause over fishing of big breeders through miss-use. { don't use the tag unless you are stopped by enforcement person
3. The Poaching of Striped Bass by boats fishing over the 3 mile EZZ is blatant and more enforcement is needed. Charter boats actually advertise the fact that they will go "over the line"
4. The position of Striped Bass by commercial interests should be illegal.
5. Establish a limit of one slot Bass and one bass over 28 inches. No bonus tags and only one over 28'
6. Enforce the laws and charter the marine police and coast guard to check catches.

Thanks for you help

Bill Hallman

From: [JAY GOLDMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV -- Angler Input
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 6:16:47 PM

TO:

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201

Mike -- I have reviewed the options outlined in the Draft Addendum. As an avid catch-and-release recreational saltwater fly fisherman I regularly fish for striped bass on the Massachusetts North Shore. My experience this season has been that there are fewer, and smaller, inshore fish as compared to last season. Anecdotally I am hearing the same from other anglers. I believe action should be taken to try to restore the fish population, and so I support any of the options (other than status quo) which are intended to reduce striped bass mortality. Among these options I feel that the fish option A is probably the best, e.g. it makes sense to immediately increase minimum fish lengths and reduce bag limits to attempt to achieve the quickest reduction in fish mortality. Presumably if this strategy works, limits can be loosened in future years, but if these changes fail to arrest the current decline then even more stringent measures may be necessary.

Thanks for considering my input, sincerely,

Jay Goldman
15 Turtle Back Road, Essex, MA
jsterquito@yahoo.com
617-912-6099 (office)
617-634-9294 (mobile)

--- On Thu, 8/28/14, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries <marine.fish@state.ma.us> wrote:

> From: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries <marine.fish@state.ma.us>
> Subject: Opportunity for Angler Input 2 Rec Fish Issues
> To: JSTERQUITO@YAHOO.COM
> Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014, 12:02 PM

>

>

> Opportunity for Angler Input on Two Recreational
> Fisheries Issues

>

>

>

> Your opinions matter! Below are two important issues for
> Massachusetts recreational fisheries for which public
> comment is being sought. MarineFisheries encourages
> you to get involved in the management of YOUR recreational
> saltwater fisheries by providing your views.

>

>

>

> 1) Striped Bass Management Measures in 2015

>

> The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – which
> coordinates management of shared fisheries resources along
> the Atlantic Coast – is accepting public comment on

- > proposed revisions to the interstate management plan for
- > Atlantic striped bass. Draft Addendum IV proposes reducing
- > fishing mortality because even though overfishing is not
- > occurring, spawning stock biomass has been steadily
- > declining below the target level since 2006 and is projected
- > to fall below the threshold level due to a series of years
- > with poor juvenile production. While recreational harvest of
- > striped bass in Massachusetts has not changed appreciably
- > with the decline in the stock, recreational catch (including
- > both harvested and released fish) has fallen by roughly 75%
- > since 2006, a trend anglers like you have likely noticed. In
- > response, the draft addendum offers a range of management
- > options to reduce both commercial and recreational harvest
- > throughout the striped bass' range beginning in 2015.
- > Specific options under consideration include various bag and
- > size limit combinations for the recreational fishery and
- > quota reductions for the commercial fishery. Please read the
- > addendum for more information.
- >
- >
- >
- > Draft Addendum IV is available here
- > or through the Commission's website, www.asafc.org,
- > under "Breaking News". The document includes
- > instructions for submitting written public comment through
- > the comment deadline of September 30. There will also
- > be four public hearings in Massachusetts on the Draft
- > Addendum during the first week of September. Details on the
- > hearings are available here
- > or through Marine Fisheries website, www.mass.gov/marinefisheries,
- > under "Marine Fisheries Notices."
- >
- >
- >
- > 2) National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries
- > Policy
- >
- > NOAA Fisheries (www.nmfs.noaa.gov)
- > is developing a national policy on saltwater recreational
- > fisheries to outline a set of principles to guide the
- > agency's management actions and decisions over the long
- > term. The new policy will make clear the values NOAA
- > Fisheries will keep in mind when implementing the
- > Magnuson-Stevens Act, the legislation that governs fisheries
- > management in federal waters. The policy will also serve as
- > the underpinning to the agency's recreational fishing
- > Action Agenda.
- >
- >
- >
- > NOAA Fisheries would like to know your thoughts on what
- > should be in the policy. Comments will be accepted through
- > September 12. Click here
- > for more information, including how to submit comments.
- >
- >
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- >
- >
- >

From: [Roy Swartz](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Bob Rifchin](#); [Floyd Alwon](#); [Frank Kudirka \(frank.kudirka@unh.edu\)](#); [Marla Blair \(marlablair@yahoo.com\)](#); [Pat Grenier](#); [Phil Trotter](#); [Tony Sarlan](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 8:56:48 AM

Mr. Waine

I am writing to comment on the various options that will be debated soon for the future of striped bass. I have commented several times on this issue to my congressman and to MA Fisheries. I am also a long-time member of Stripers Forever and the Coastal Conservation Commission. As an avid fly fisher, I greatly enjoyed the resurgent striper population that we saw in the 1990's and early 2000's. But the last few years have been painful. I could never understand how fisheries managers could be so blind to this, and I am encouraged to see that some real action may be at hand. My goal would be to make stripers a game fish up and down the coast, as several states have effectively done (why not Mass?? !!). But, for now, I endorse the following statement from Stripers Forever:

"Stripers Forever, a recreational conservation organization advocating for the welfare of wild striped bass, believes that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length."

Please take this into consideration as you debate this issue. We must not repeat a sorry history for our favorite gamefish!

Thank you,

Roy Swartz

Ashland, MA
e appreciate your cooperation.

From: [David Hedrick](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV Comment
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 7:14:45 PM

Dear Sir:

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species... especially the large breeders. I am in favor of a 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

As a consistent participant in the coastal striped bass fishery in Maine, I have witnessed a precipitous decline in the past decade in the quantity and quality of the fish I catch (and release) to the point that I am convinced that, no matter what the reason for the decline -- ocean warming, changes in baitfish availability, overfishing commercially and/or recreationally, health of Chesapeake Bay stock, etc. -- something must be done urgently to restore a breeding population.

David R. Hedrick
3 Patricia Terrace
Waterville, ME 04901-5059

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From: [Potvin, Brian](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV public comment
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 9:32:43 AM

Hello, Mr. Waine,

I'm a passionate fly fisherman living in Massachusetts. I have been fishing for striped bass for 20 years. I've fished from a boat for the last 10. I practice catch and release and if there are fish around, I am pretty competent at connecting with them. During my first season with my boat, I caught and released about 500 stripers. Since then, I've seen a steady but dramatic decrease in the number and quality of striped bass. Last year, I caught about 30 stripers and this year, I've gotten about 20 so far. This drop is despite the fact that one would assume I'd be getting better at catching fish as my experience and skill improves.

This summer, on the north shore of Massachusetts, I see large masses of bait fish in my area-- massive schools of bait under feeding gulls but with no stripers underneath them as should be the case. Where there once were stripers, we have pollack if we are lucky. Where there once were surface feeds, there is nothing happening.

It is getting to the point where owning a boat is hardly worth it. I put about \$2500 into the economy to own my boat each year. I also spend a few hundred dollars on gear (flies, etc.). I am at the point where I'm considering shelving the boat or selling it. I'm sure there are others in my same situation. There is a real negative financial risk to the decimation of this fishery. Guides that I know are struggling to book charters to fish over empty waters.

The short-sighted lack of constraint with regard to the "harvest" of striped bass is really frustrating to see. I put the word "harvest" in quotes because it implies that wild stocks of fish are like crops or something cultivated. If we don't (and can't) control the means of production of a resource, it is not "harvesting" a resource, it is essentially an extraction industry like oil or mining. Would we allow for the commercial harvest of wild elk or moose? Why are wild fish treated otherwise.

As for the pending legislation, in Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, I advocate for Option B. In Section 2.6, I support Option A, because I don't think the fishery can afford a three-year phase-in of the reduction in harvesting. While my preference would be a complete cessation of the killing of any stripers for a few seasons, of the available options, I support Option B3 and B15 in the Chesapeake.

I believe the situation is sufficiently dire that we need to take as aggressive a stance as possible to restore this important natural resource. The time to act on their behalf is now.

Thank you.

Brian Potvin
83 Green St.
Marblehead, MA 01945

From: matt.lejeune
To: [David Simpson](mailto:David.Simpson)
Cc: [Mike Waine](mailto:Mike.Waine)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV to Am6: Atlantic Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 4:13:46 PM

Matt LeJeune
36 Great Hill Pond Road
Portland, Conn 06480
[860-214-0073](tel:860-214-0073)
linesider82@gmail.com
September 10, 2014

Mr. David Simpson
David.Simpson@CT.Gov

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Mr Simpson,

Thank you for hosting the recent public hearing on August 22, 2014 at the DEEP Headquarters in Old Lyme, Connecticut. I was in attendance and would like to thank both Mr. Waine and you for explaining the addendum and each of the management options. I am a recreational striped bass angler, who fishes waters in several states within the commission's reach. Each year I also hire Charter captains in Connecticut and abroad as a means to expand my knowledge of this species.

The following is a summary of my stance on the striped bass fishery and my votes for draft addendum IV.

The ASMFC board must take action consistent to the findings of the 2013 benchmark stock assessment. It is evident that the draft addendum's most stringent options are already a compromise of the conservation measures necessary for the fishery to recover, it is written in the addendum that the options only have a probability of 50% at succeeding.

Of the available options, I am in favor of a 25% reduction in harvest, using the 2013 coast-wide benchmark stock assessment F reference points, applied equally across the board (commercial and recreational sectors, in all states) taken in a one year time frame, with a possession/bag limit of 1 fish at 32 inches (Option B3). This is in my opinion much easier to adjust to as an individual and easier to remember for the general fishing public, easier for our environmental police to enforce, and would result in a more expedient recovery of the bass stocks, and therefore the socioeconomic benefits related to the fishery. Regardless of the final vote, the option selected must hold for all recreational anglers including for-hire charters.

For the coast wide commercial sector I am in favor of an actual 25% commercial quota reduction (using a base number that does not mathematically work-out to a 13% increase). During the public hearing, this section was referenced as an "error" however there was no suggestion of a solution or pursuance thereof. If I was forced to pick an option it would be B16, with no commercial quota transfers, especially in light of this year's Block Island, RI fish grab.

I endorse option B17 for a 25% reduction taken from the 2013 Quota for the Chesapeake Bay commercial harvest.

It is my sincere hope that these measures are adopted. I understand that there are people who directly depend on these fish for their livelihoods, through the sale of bass or the sale of the sport, or equipment such as rods, lures, bait, etc. It is a sport I love and spend a lot of my hard earned money on annually. To say I am invested in fishing for striped bass would be an understatement. On the commercial and for-hire side of the argument I can see the hesitation in wanting to favor a reduction in harvest into a rule, however at the same time, it is hard to believe the same sentiment would risk another crash of the striped bass fishery and the economy connected to it.

Thank you for your time, sincerely,

Matt LeJeune

Cc: Mike Waine
Mwaine@asmfc.org

From: [Vincent Simpatico](#)
To: [David Simpson](#)
Cc: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2014 8:25:37 AM

Vinny Simpatico
40 Ridgeview Place
Cheshire, CT 06410
203- 615- 4145
30 August 2014

Mr. David Simpson
David.Simpson@CT.Gov

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Mr Simpson,

Following are my suggested votes for the various options:

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

- Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

- Option A: Status quo: One year time frame

3.0 Proposed Management Program

- Option B4: 1-fish slot limit, 28" to 40"

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

- Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers. I would further like to see Connecticut make a symbolic gesture by either refusing to accept the commercial allocation (if it will not be reallocated to the other states) or accepting the allocation but stating that we will not use it.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

- Option B: Status quo with existing size limits

Note: what I'd *really* like to see vis-a-vis the commercial fishery is the striped bass designated a game-fish. I understand the recreational fishery takes significantly more fish than does the commercial. However, as I see it, elimination of the commercial market will eliminate large-scale poaching, which probably doesn't show up in the commercial harvest numbers.

(Admittedly, I could be all wet here...)

I am sure that you would agree that the vast majority of attendees were overwhelmingly in favor of drastic reductions in quotas in the quickest time-frame available and I hope you take into account the sentiments of the attendees when you consider your vote.

Sincerely,

Vinny Simpatico

Cc: Mike Waine
Mwaine@asmfc.org

From: [Dave Langan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS INTERSTATE FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 8:28:26 AM

DearCommissioners

Thank you very much for your attention and research regarding the status of striped bass stocks and proposing management alternatives in response to the research results.

I am a recreational angler. My primary residence is in NY and I have a secondary residence in West Yarmouth. MA with in shore fly fishing for striped bass being one of my primary recreational activities.

I strongly support your most conservative options for the conservation of the striped bass breeding population (25% reduction). In addition to harvest restrictions I would support restrictions on fishing methods that have an increased mortality (I recognize this is beyond the scope of the draft addendum).

Of course, along with conservation of striped bass stocks, I am most interested in conservation of prey species and habitat upon which they are dependent (I recognize this is beyond the scope of the draft addendum). I have observed a significant decline in the presence of herring in the waters I fish. Perhaps this is weather dependent, but I am concerned and question if commercial harvests are a significant factor in this decrease. Water quality issues in the Chesapeake Bay and other striped bass spawning grounds are of concern and interest.

Thank you very much for your research, proposals, and providing opportunity for public comment.

Respectfully,
David A. Langan
dalangan61@gmail.com

9 Lincoln Ave
Clifton Park, NY

Unit 26
184 South Sea Ave
West Yarmouth, MA

From: [william savolt](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: draft addendum iv
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 7:35:40 PM

We all are catching less fish just look at the numbers. That's why i support option B. B3, B10, B16 ,B17. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure it out, first you have to protect the spawning areas i can't tell you how many pictures I've seen of those Hudson river guys holding trophy fish filled with eggs. I've lived in new york for 55 years first on long island sound and than on the Hudson river the first weekend in may you can walk from boat to boat on the Hudson. And than after they spawn their waiting for them in the western part of the sound and new york harbor. But nothing will change because it's big money. I have been fishing the Maratha's vineyard fishing tournament for years. a fish in the 20's is a good fish most of the fish are in the teen's.All i do is fish i talk to a lot of fisherman I'm a surf fisherman their is a lot of down time waiting for tides etc. Some of them tell me they are not coming back because the fishing is that bad so their goes the house he rented, the coffee place, the deli, the restaurant where he has dinner it's a trickle down effect. The second thing is you have to real in those commercial guys. I was fishing for tog on the vineyard I don't fish for meat but I think I was able to keep 2 or 3. the guy next to me was able to keep 25 because he had a commercial fishing license. i asked him how much he had to pay he said it wasn't much.They do the same thing for striped bass. THE LAST THING IS THE BAIT WHERE IS THE BAIT? I remember walking down the beach following peanut bunker huge schools. I hardly see any now the trawlers are picking them all up. I drive around the whole Island no bait and than people wonder why their are no fish no bait no fish.This is all good but I'm afraid your going to cave to big money. If i was a betting man i would bet on big money. Please prove me wrong.

From: [Frank & Meredith Wnek](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 6:50:50 AM

Dear Mike,

I have been a recreational Striper Bass fisherman for many years and have personally witnessed a significant drop in the fish population in my area. I practice strict catch and release. I now take my grandchildren out with me and I hope there will still be stripers for them to catch and release in the future. With current policy on commercial harvest I'm not sure that will be the case.

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I strongly support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

Frank Wnek Harpswell, ME

From: [Dick Omrod](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2014 11:34:28 AM

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.



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From: [Chris Martinez](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 12:21:27 AM

If the trophy sized fish were strictly a game fish people would come from far and wide for a chance to fight a 100lb striper.

With slot limits we can have wild caught striped bass, and also a valuable tourist draw as well as quality of life for millions of rec anglers.

I think B4 is the closest to this. (Although perhaps 1 fish 28-34 makes more sense because a high 30s fish isn't so tasty)

And B12 for the Chesapeake Bay Management Area makes most sense to me (but would be better as 1 fish until the downward trend reverses)

Likewise C2 & C5 make most sense as they are slot limits.

Although I currently live in Mass, I went to school in Annapolis, and I think it's fair to say that outside of the areas where they call it rock fish, most folks really don't care if they order or buy striped bass vs any other generic white fish. Part of the reason for that is that the smaller ones taste so much better. So for me, I think for the slot limits proposed, the numbers are too high (I'd much rather periodically bring home a single 18 inch fish, than a single 28 inch fish)

Thank you for taking the public comment.

John C. Martinez
36 Woods Court
Dunstable, MA 01827

From: [scott_maccaferri](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 6:40:48 PM

Mr. Waine,

I would like to see the 25% (should be more in my opinion) reduction enforced in 2015 and not over the course of the next three years. I would also like to see it enforced up and down the east coast. What is the reason the the Chesapeake would still get to take 18" fish? Was there not a reduced amount of small fish in 2013, but yet that area still keeps these small fish? How does that work?

I am all for reductions across the board, but believe that the whole striped bass fishery should be shut down for commercial and recreational fisherman for a period of three years starting in 2015. In 2018, there should be a slot limit. I am not a marine biologist, but I can see the benefit of protecting small fish less than 18" and breeder fish larger than 38". Since this was not one of the options for 2015, 25% reduction is a start.

R,
Scott Maccaferri

From: [Jeff Clabault](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 10:41:04 AM

Hello- My name is Jeff Clabault and I have operated Forestdale Bait and Tackle in Forestdale, MA (on the upper part of Cape Cod) for the past sixteen years. During that time there have been many ups and downs in the quality of the striped bass fishing but never has there been such an obvious decline as we are now experiencing. Areas of the Cape that were once consistent producers are now without bass and when a spot does crank up it is usually the only good area so the entire fleet, both recreational and commercial, descends on it and fishes it out. This has had a major effect on any business that relies on striped bass fishing from charter boats to motels to tackle shops. (One of the most popular questions in my store this season has been "what happened to the striped bass"?) It is imperative that we make the changes needed to protect the few fish that are left and these changes must include concessions from both the recreational and commercial sides. An obvious adjustment would be lowering the recreational bag limit to one fish- with a corresponding fifty percent cut in the commercial quota. If the discussion among my customers and myself is any indication of the general sentiment, the switch to one fish will be met with little or no resistance. The commercial cut will be a tougher sell but as any local here could tell you the striped bass commercial fleet is mostly made up of folks selling fish for pocket change and fuel money, not to feed their family, so the squawking will be, for the most part, disingenuous. Further, with a price of twenty dollars per lb. for striper fillets...which is what people were paying this summer..anyone looking to eat fish can switch to lobster or Nantucket bay scallops...and save money! Time is running out on this great fish. If something is not done soon, and the current trend continues, there is a greater chance that striped bass will be extinct in twenty years than there is that we will have a healthy population. We can not afford to wait any longer.

Jeff Clabault
Forestdale, MA

From: [Poll, Martin C.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 10:23:08 AM

Sir,

I am a recreational angler, live in NC and have not caught an ocean striper in the surf for the last 6 or 7 years...virtually absent at and south of Oregon Inlet...

From the VA line to Oregon Inlet I have heard of very few striper caught in the surf...

The habitate/food source for striper needs to be examined...Where are the menhaden?...

The Omega 3 Fish Oil industry has decimated the primary food source for the striper...

The recreational anglers below the VA line have done nothing for years in the surf....Check the blogs, fishing magazines and tackleshop web pages...

Even the anglers in boats have not done much of anything...

Also look at the Commercial Net Quota/Results...they have hit the striper alot harder than any recreational anglers...

Put the emphasis upon the ones who are harvesting...

I hope that you will give my opinion fair credence...

Thankyou...

Martin Charles Poll
1799 Green Ridge Lane
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

252.451.0350 home
252.903.3387 cell

From: [Steve Stepanian](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 10:19:34 AM

Based on what I have seen from the fishery over the last few years (recreational, not commercial), I would like to see the changes I have highlighted below. 1 fish at 28" or longer is plenty to feed most families. As long as the limit is 2 fish per day, people will continue to harvest multiple fish over 30# and 40#, whether they plan to eat them or not. I have seen it far too many times along the banks of the Cape Cod Canal, where people are keeping multiple breeders on each outing. You can try and educate them as much as you would like, but when the law says they can keep 2, there is no argument.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

**Steve Stepanian
617-894-1591**

Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year. This represents a 25% reduction from 2013 total harvest. The desired reduction would be achieved by approximately equal relative reductions to both the commercial and recreational fisheries.

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options
The tables below provide a suite of options for both the coastal and Chesapeake Bay recreational fisheries. When providing input on this document, please identify one preferred option each for the coastal and Chesapeake Bay fisheries.

14
Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)
Option Bag Limit Size limit Trophy fish % reduction from 2013 harvest

B1 1 28" min n/a 31%

Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery (MD, PRFC and VA would implement)
Option Bag Limit Size limit Trophy fish % reduction from 2013 harvest

B10 1 18" min n/a 31%

B15
Chesapeake Bay Recreational Quota of 1,800,740 pounds (no established bag limit, but a minimum size of 18").

Quota is based on a 25% reduction from 2012 harvest.

32%

Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Management Area Recreational Fishery

The State of North Carolina will manage the recreational striped bass fisheries in the Albemarle

Sound and Roanoke River based on reference points from the latest North Carolina stock

assessment accepted by the Striped Bass Technical Committee and approved for management

use by the Board.

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

The tables below provide a suite of options for both the coastal and Chesapeake Bay commercial

fisheries. When providing input on this document, please identify one preferred option each for

the coastal and Chesapeake Bay fisheries.

It is important to note none of the management options presented in the tables achieve a 25%

reduction from 2013 harvest.

Coastal Commercial Fishery

Option B16: Takes a 25% reduction from the Amendment 6 quota. This option does not achieve

the proposed 25% reduction from 2013 harvest if all states harvest all of their allowable quota

3

The data available to estimate the percent reduction is limited because the combination of a bag limit and size limit

changes simultaneously means only measured fish from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) were

included in the analysis which is a small subsample of the MRIP dataset for striped bass. 15

(see table below). However, this option may achieve some level of reduction from 2013 harvest

if the fishery performs similar to previous years.

For Reference Option B16 For Reference

State

Am6 Quota

(lbs)

25% reduction from

Am6 Quota (lbs)

2013 Harvest

(lbs)

Maine 250* 188 0

New Hampshire 5,750* 4,313 0

Massachusetts 1,159,750 869,813 1,002,519

Rhode Island 243,625† 182,719 231,280

Connecticut 23,750** 17,813 1,479

New York 1,061,060† 795,795 823,801

New Jersey 321,750** 241,313 6,096

Delaware 193,447 145,085 191,424

Maryland 131,560† 98,670 93,532

Virginia 184,853 138,640 182,427

North Carolina 480,480 360,360 0
 Coastal Total 3,806,275 2,854,706 2,532,558
 % Diff from
 2013 harvest
 +50 +13 0

Option B17: Takes a 25% reduction from 2013 commercial quota.

16
 For Reference Option B17 Option B18 For Reference
 Chesapeake
 Bay
 2013 Harvest
 (lbs)
 25% reduction from
 2013 Quota (lbs)
 25% reduction
 from 2012 harvest
 2012 Harvest
 (lbs)
 3,293,337 2,666,024 2,943,629 3,924,839
 % Diff from
 2013 harvest 0 -19 -11 19
 % Diff from
 2012 harvest -19 -32 -25 0
 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Management Area Commercial Fishery
 The State of North Carolina will manage the commercial striped bass fishery in the
 Albemarle
 Sound based on reference points from the latest North Carolina stock assessment
 accepted by the
 Striped Bass Technical Committee and approved for management use by the Board.

From: [Bob Campbell](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 6:54:09 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I believe that the reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. All signs point to a repeat of what we all saw in the 1980's unless the ASMFC takes immediate significant measures now.

It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species -- especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34: in length.

Please guide the ASMFC to preserve and protect this magnificent fish, Mr. Waine, and thank you.

Sincerely,
Bob Campbell
Trumbull, CT

From: [William Bratton](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 9:09:13 PM

Hi Mike,

Mike I don't profess to know all the answers to the Stripe Bass problem but I am going to give you my thoughts on the issue. I won't be able to attend any of the meetings but here are some of my and others I know ideas on helping the Striped Bass recover. One thing I believe would help out quite a bit is to stop killing the breeders in the spring when they are for example in the Chesapeake Bay and other breeding tributaries along the East Coast. I also feel that changing the size limits would help such as bringing back the slot fish as the 25" one that was in Delaware. Make the second fish have to be something like one between 28" and 35" or 36". I guess I should have mentioned that we would have a 2 fish limit.

Mike there is a few of my ideas. Not much to go on but a start. I too miss the good times when stripers were plentiful

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<http://www.avast.com>

From: rx4fishing@nycap.rr.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 7:18:52 PM

Dear Mike,

I am an avid saltwater fly fisherman and have been fishing for striped bass for the past 15 years. Over that time I have noticed a decline in the fishing for striped bass in Cape Cod, where I do the majority of my fishing. I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length. I ask you to support these conservation measures.

Respectfully yours,

Ronald R Boutin
Albany, NY

From: [Gregory Murphy](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Howard Marshall](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 7:06:25 PM

Mike and Board Members,
I hope you understand how DIRE the current state of striper fishing is. I fish on the North Shore of Long Island, specifically Sands Point and Manhasset Bay. The fishing has collapsed!! PLEASE...we need a moratorium. I know you can't do that politically.

But please...

- 1) No keepers over 30"
- 2) Only one fish per day under 30"
- 3) review again in 2020.

There is abundant rationale financially to support this approach. Please enact these changes so that stripers remain viable for many years to come. Otherwise I fear that my son will never enjoy what I was able to enjoy, and we will witness the decline and perhaps ultimate extinction of this fabulous sportfishing species.

Thank you,
Greg Murphy

From: [Joe Varrasse](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 6:49:58 PM

Please help us conserve the striped bass resource that is so critical to recreational fishing. Accept and adopt the recommendations supplied by the Stripers Forever organization. Act NOW before a complete closure is required. We need to protect the bigger fish with a slot limit. We need to immediately stop all commercial fishing everywhere. The most important thing is to move quickly and make responsible changes. Better enforcement is also required. Again, please do the right thing and keep this fishing resource at a sustainable level. Thank you for your consideration.
ps I'll be at the meetings to show my level of interest and concern

From: [Alfred Boyd](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Chidester Dennis](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014 12:35:42 PM

I am a fisherman concerned about the decline in the striped bass population, and urge the adoption of option one as the strongest management approach for rebuilding striped bass stocks.

Al Boyd

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mike Irise](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2014 7:28:24 PM

Mr. Waine,

Having fished my entire life, I have a great respect for the value of monitoring, evaluating and restricting the taking of fish from our waters. Over the years, I've experienced the decline of many species due to overfishing, mainly commercial but in some cases recreational also. I am mainly a surf jockey now after retiring and appreciating the control of driving off the beach when I want to.

As it relates to this restriction of Stripe Bass, I am in full agreement with as much restriction necessary. The idea of bolstering the stock back up to substantial numbers works for me as well as many of the surfcasting community. For a number of years now I have been a "Catch & Release" fisherman, especially when it comes to strippers. I want to do my personal duty to keep their population strong. Unfortunately many of the "head" or "charter" boats want their money's worth. Obviously the commercial boats need them for their livelihood. It's a tough balance, but one that important for the future, everyone's future!

Thank you for all your time and efforts!

Sincerely,
Mike Irise

From: [William R. Boyd, Sr.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 5:37:21 PM

My vote is for #1.

Drastic measures are needed for a serious problem that will only get worse if not attended to immediately.

The other much diluted measures will not impact the problem adequately, if at all, because of so many other factors involved.

Please take a serious look at this problem as it will also affect other flora and fauna in the food chain.

Sincerely,

Dr. William R. Boyd, Sr.

From: [Pete Kelso](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 5:16:11 PM

Mike, I will try to make one of the Public Hearings although I work in downtown Manhattan and the times/locations are going to be tough for me to make. So in case I can't attend I wanted to let you know that I strongly believe striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. I spend well over \$10k a year Striped Bass fishing; hiring guides, buying equipment, and running my boat. And I spend a lot of time on the water so I've seen this collapse first hand. I picked up Striper fishing as a hobby and a passion right after the last recovery in the early 90's and what's happened over the last decade with the resource has been heart breaking. Now I have young boys I'd like to introduce to the sport, but I'm afraid they'll never have the chance I had for that brief 10 or so years before this latest collapse. A collapse that I'm afraid the fish will never recover from, much like appears to be the case with Cod in the Canadian Atlantic northwest.

It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species. I support using the new reference point (the better science) in **Section 2.5.1 Coastwide Reference Point Options**. Coupled with that we should implement the 25% reduction in quota in one year **Option B3** with the 1 fish only and a maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 32" in length. I don't fish the Chesapeake but I think either Option B10 – one fish at 18" or Option B15 which sets a hard quota works.

I wish there were harder limits being considered for the Commercial fishing. But considering the options, **Option B16** which takes a 25-percent reduction from the Amendment 6 coastal quota is better than nothing.

Pete Kelso

From: [Jon Hollis](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 3:44:51 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I'm writing to you as a member of the recreational fishing community; NOT a member of the recreational fishing INDUSTRY, an industry which too often tries to speak for people like myself when influencing management decisions. I want to be clear that the INDUSTRY and myself are often fundamentally different in our goals for striped bass management. The industry is profit driven, and many of its members hold the short-sighted belief that increased profits are correlated with increased harvest. Recreational FISHERMAN are not necessarily driven by harvest. My personal goals for striped bass management center on conservation that favors an immediate return to a robust population and spawning stock, using the best and most current (2013) Benchmark Assessment reference points available.

Specifically, I support the following :

Option B in Section 2.5.1 to use the 2013 Benchmark Assessment reference points which represents the newest and best science available.

Option B in Section 2.5.2 which will use coastwide population F reference points as established in Section 2.5.1 and help prevent overfishing of the Chesapeake Bay stock, a tremendously important stock.

Option A in Section 2.6 to establish an immediate reduction in fishing mortality in 2015.

Option B3 in Section 3.0 to achieve a full 25% reduction in harvest by next year and a one fish bag limit and 32" size limit. **Option B15** for the Chesapeake Bay Management Areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Hollis, fly fisherman and striped bass fanatic

From: [Donald Ingling](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 2:56:08 PM

Please consider the following personal opinion with the newly proposed Addendum IV. I am 67 yrs old and have fished for Striped bass for over 50 yrs. I fish mostly from the surf and keep approximately 6 fish per year for the freezer. (2012 only caught 4 fish over 28") (2013 only caught 2 fish over 28") All others I return. It's a shame we can't separate Surf fishermen from the boats. Over-fishing will never come from the surf but we are all in this together.

Here are my suggestions:

Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 Option B

Sections 2.6 Option A

Section 3.0 Option B

Option B3 a 32" one fish limit on the coast and B15 a hard quota in the Chesapeake.

Thank you,
Don Ingling
Surf City, N.J.

From: [John Moy](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 2:26:58 PM

I was at the meeting this morning on Nantucket, but had a couple additional comments.

I voiced an opinion in favor of a 1 fish recreational bag limit, with the size a 28-34" slot. This was in order to preserve the larger breeding fish (like a 40" fish). However, I would not be in favor of subjecting the commercial guys to the same slot size. Since the mortality rate for the fish they throw back is much higher, I would let them keep the old 28" minimum. Having them throw back a dead 40" fish would be a waste.

In fact, other than a per-state commercial quota, I'm not sure that there should be a coast-wide size size limit on commercial catches. Just let each state fill its commercial quota the way it sees fit.

As for the ability to transfer part of a state's commercial quota, like most (but not all) of the attendees I am against such a transfer. Just like the fact that basing the 25% reduction on the Am6 Quota instead of the 2013 Harvest, leaves open the possibility that harvest could actually increase, the ability to transfer quotas would make an increase even more likely. I could tell that the MA fisheries officials were in favor of the transfer because that makes the fishery easier to manage, but we're supposed to be addressing the health of the striped bass fishery.

Finally, some mention was made of the Chesapeake's separate commercial fishery. But I think that the Chesapeake recreational fishery might be of an even bigger concern. They have a very small minimum size, and as Paul Diodati said in the meeting, every kid can catch an 18" fish. I think that their recreational size limit should go up.

Thanks for your consideration.

John Moy
8 Castle Drive
Acton, MA 01720
617-784-1872
jmoy@ospf.org

From: [Joshua Raboy](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 1:51:34 PM

I have been a recreational Saltwater angler in New England and New York (both Surf and boat) for a long time approx 35 to 40 years.

For the past 8 years I have kept my fishing boat in Niantic Connecticut and have had the pleasure of concentrating my fishing effort from Clinton Connecticut to South of Block Island and Montauk.

I can say for sure that I have seen a major decline in Striped Bass (rod and reel) over the past 4 years. Its my opinion that we need to change the regulatory measures on both the size limits and the numbers of Striped Bass for both recreational and commercial fisherman, and along the whole North East Striper Coast.

95% of recreational fisherman and 100% of Commercial Fisherman will def keep there limit when fishing. And that does not include those people/ fisherman that break the rules and keep more then there limit or keep fish that are smaller then what the size limit indicates.

I believe the issue is two fold. One person does need to keep two Striped over 25 lbs. When I see a Party Boat with people holding up two fish over 45 lbs, the first thought that comes to mind is GREED and stupidity.

Who needs to keep two 45 lb pound Striped Bass? The large Striped Bass are the breeding females, the future of Striped Bass fishing.

How about one fish between 10lbs and 25 lbs? Or one fish between 28 inches and 40 inches? Everytime a single Party boat with 30/ 40 people goes out and keeps everything they can ("there limit") within the Law, they slaughter larger numbers of very large breeding Females (**the large Striped Bass**).

How is it the Striped Bass population was nearly decimated from over fishing in the 80's, and here we are again?

To whoever is listening at the ASMFC, the issue is real (again) and it will get worse (again).

More common sense, less Politics.

Thanks,

-Joshua Raboy

Milford, Connecticut

From: [W. Brice Contessa](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 11:13:04 AM

ASMFC -

This is a letter I wrote to the editor of several regional publications this spring after a forum with our state DMF. I would like it entered with the public comments on Draft Addendum IV. The striped bass fishery is on the brink of total collapse and the time to do something is now. Not in three years. Now. Thank you for your consideration....

On the morning of Tuesday February 18th the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries held a forum at the Katherine Cornell Theater here on Martha's Vineyard regarding several fisheries management issues, among them potential regulatory adjustments pertaining to the harvest of striped bass. Several relatively significant changes were discussed including reduction of bag limits and fishing days, limiting the ability of captains to harvest bass for sale during for hire trips, lengthening the fishing season to compensate for the reduced days and the institution of a point of sale tagging program to allow the state to better monitor catch statewide. Most of the theoretical modifications were relatively well received by the fisherman in attendance, most of whom curiously seem to think that there is little problem with striped bass stocks in general, but rather that the fish have relocated from our waters here on the Vineyard (and almost everywhere else in Massachusetts for that matter) to those of Chatham off Cape Cod because of a proliferation of forage in that area (not because they admittedly harvested millions of pounds of striped bass out of the waters off the west end of the island during the fisheries heyday in the late 90s).

Unfortunately however, the 800 pound gorilla in the room, the fact that the population of wild striped bass is on the brink of collapse much like it was in the early 1980s, was never discussed. What are needed to save the striped bass in this state and coast wide are not minor logistical adjustments, but rather wholesale changes to the overall management strategy. The first step in that process is to immediately cut the commercial quota in half and make striped bass a closed access fishery (grant no new licenses and make those who hold licenses currently prove that a significant portion of their annual income generates from striped bass fishing). The commercial quota currently stands at over a million pounds in Massachusetts. At the average harvest size that's roughly 60,000 individuals, all of which are 'broodstock' females as male striped bass generally do not reach the minimum size allowable for sale. Think about that for a second; that's roughly 120 times the amount of fish taken in the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby last year harvested in a little over 2 weeks in July. It's just too big a burden for the current biomass to bear and it needs to stop right now, before it's too late. All the potential changes discussed at the meeting are completely useless (from a conservation/management perspective) unless the quota is significantly reduced. A million pounds is a million pounds regardless of which days of the week it's caught on.

The challenges facing striped bass are multifaceted and commercial fishing is in no way, shape or form solely at fault. The recreational regulations need to be completely revamped as well. The current limit for recreational anglers in our state is 2 fish per angler at 28 inches. This bag limit, much like the commercial quota, should be reduced by half. By reducing the bag limit from 2 to 1 fish you instantly reduce mortality by 50%. That's a big deal and this step is likely even more vital in the short term than the reduction of the commercial quota. Furthermore the recreational size limit should be increased to 32 inches. There's a movement going on now in the recreational angling community called the 1 at 32 pledge in which anglers all along the eastern seaboard are pledging to only keep one fish a day at 32 inches regardless of their given state's regulations. I'm participating in this initiative, as will be every client who steps on my boat this season. I'd encourage all to do the same. It is progressive action like this that just might bring about the realization amongst officials in this state and others that the time to act is now. More info on the pledge can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/433685153423751/

Alex Friedman, President of the Dukes County Fisherman's Association, on multiple occasions during the forum referred to striped bass as a 'sustainable resource'. With this statement Mr. Friedman I must adamantly disagree; under the current regulatory structure they most certainly are not. This was proven when the population crashed 30 years ago and is being played out now before our very eyes all over again. It's not to say that the striped bass population can't remain viable and sustain limited commercial and recreational harvest, but how the fishery is currently being managed is irresponsible plain and simple and has us on the fast track to another collapse. Instituting the aforementioned reductions to commercial and recreational harvest and closing access to the fishery are logical and practical first steps in finding out if our beloved stripers can rebound again and continue in their role as the great American game fish to be enjoyed by generations of anglers to come. I for one have faith

that they can, but not unless quick and decisive action is taken.

Captain W. Brice Contessa

Edgartown, MA

From: [Robert Armati](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 10:09:16 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

It is my belief that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever (a conservation organization for Striped Bass) supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

On a personal level I have been a fisherman and conservationist all my life. I fish every year and I have noticed that each year the Striped Bass populations is severely dwindling. The last couple of years I did not catch any Striped Bass at all where I used to catch several. I have young children who are developing interest in Striped Bass fishing and I worry they will not have any fish to catch at all in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Robert Armati
16 Van Wyck St.
Croton on Hudson, NY 10520
[914 355-2551](tel:914-355-2551)
robertarmati@gmail.com

From: [Josh Cohn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 9:53:14 AM

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

The stock is dying, lets not let Striper go the way of Atlantic Cod. Look past greed, and save the fucking fish before it's to late.

Thank you,
Avid Fisherman & Conservation enthusiast.

Josh Cohn

From: [Kalil](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Brad Hill](#); [Bruce Tarr](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 7:50:16 AM

Good Morning,

I am a charter captain and an Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide. My charters center around fishing for striped bass (catch and release practiced at all times) and I fish the waters of the Essex River, Ipswich Bay and Plum Island Sound. Anglers from around the country hire me to take them striper fishing.

Since 2007, I have experienced a steady and drastic decline in the total number of striped bass being caught (and released) on a charter. It has come to the point that many of my anglers are not willing to make Massachusetts a destination and to take the chance on going out on a charter with the possibility of not catching striped bass.

This decline in the number of my charters is not only hurting my business, but is also eliminating a cash flow to hotels, restaurants, local retail shops and tackle shops.

I hope something can be done to help reverse this alarming trend I have witnessed over the last eight years.

Thank you,

Capt. Kalil Boghdan
www.downrivercharters.com

From: mvpv88@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 11:37:13 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to comment on the proposed state of striped bass and their management. Having grown up and lived through the "glory years" on Cape Cod the lean years-moratorium, and the rebirth I feel we are fast approaching once again the severe decline of the population. I now reside in Western Massachusetts, however I still fish primarily on the Cape. I have experienced a steady decline in catch size and numbers the past five years. I have made more trips for fewer fish. I have caught ONE striped bass this year, a 28 lb. 42 inch fish which was RELEASED. I surf fish and boat fish for striped bass in L.I. Sound, the Ct. River and Cape Cod. I did not catch one fish in the Ct. River this season or at the Cape. My logs show where there should have been at least schoolies there were none, even though bait was plentiful. Too often I have seen schools of bait with nothing chasing them. Under the poorest fishing conditions there should have been schoolies. Whole year classes 10-18 inch striped bass seem to be non-existent. Cow's too, that is not a sign of a healthy population. I have worked as a commercial striped bass fisherman, charterboat mate, and now retail tackle store and I have seen the decline in business of each as the catch rate and population declines. I am very worried. As fisherman I think we owe it to the marine environment to once again sacrifice now so that we have a future. Please impose a plan that is fair to the fisherman and ere on the side of protecting the fishery long term. If it means a moratorium again so be it. I would rather catch and release for three to five years if it means saving a population and industries, charter and tackle. Striped bass face warming ocean temperatures, pollutants, recreational and commercial fishing pressure, poaching, increased predation of young from increased cormorant and jellyfish populations. Adults face a constant onslaught of seal predation from Maine to Connecticut. Thirty years ago many of these threats did not exist. The striped bass population needs our help again, and now is the time to act before it is too late!

Sincerely, Mark Vatousiou
97 Granger Dr.
Feedinghills, MA 01030

From: [Dick Omrod](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 11:57:09 AM

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

In addition I strongly recommend that ASMFC consider a slot restriction in managing Striped Bass. The continuing recovery of the Redfish (Red Drum) is an excellent example of this management technique.

Dick Omrod
Strathmere, NJ



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From: [Frisbie Robert](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 9:06:38 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I support a 50% reduction in quota in one year for both recreational and commercial, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length. We should also institute a more severe penalty for anyone who disobeys any of the state regulations. I see commercial fisherman taking fish outside the three mile limit every time i'm in those waters. We also need help in reducing the take on all the bait fish in our waters. There is almost nothing left for the stripers and blues, etc to eat.

I will be attending the Nantucket meetings on Tuesday concerning small mesh trawl fishery and ecosystem management.

Thank you for all your help in conserving our once great fishery.

Robert Frisbie

From: [Thompson, Clarke](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 9:03:59 AM

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

The loss of the recreational striped bass industry would have a far greater impact on northeast economies than would the loss of the commercial fishery.

Clarke Thompson
Peabody, Massachusetts

From: [Parker Corbin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 6:51:27 AM

ASMFC,

There is no better game fish in the northeast than the striped bass – albies and bonito are fun for their speed, blues for their aggression, but seeing a big striper eat a big surface plug is unmatched in my mind. The last time the stock collapsed I was very young and the idea of catching a striper seemed almost mythical. When the fishery recovered I saw how great a fish it is and have many great memories fishing for them with my father. My daughter is now 5 and all she wants to do is catch a striped bass – she has a painted striper hanging on her bedroom wall (by her choice). I don't want her to simply know these fish in paintings and stories but would like to see the expression on her (and my other two daughters' faces) the first time they see a big pass eat their plug.

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

This fish is too great a sport fish not to be appropriately managed as just that. The health of the fishery should be the primary driver in any decisions. While I do keep the odd fish and enjoy eating fish, I am a firm believer in catch and release and think that needs to be the standard mentality if we are to have fishing a healthy resources. I would love to get to the day where people who don't fish or those going fishing for the first time understand that catch and release with a great picture is the norm and not the exception for most serious sport fisherman - any decent charter captain should be teaching their clients this. I don't know how many times people give me a blank stare when I tell them I let my fish go. A picture is what most people should want to remember their catch by not a single meal (of which striped bass is really not that good).

Please manage this fishery in a way that my kids will be able to enjoy it someday.

-Parker Corbin
66 Connecticut Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830

From: [Lincoln Barber III](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 6:50:28 AM



I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length, and I do to. My personal striped bass fishing experience over the last 20 years shows a huge decline in the last 4-5 years please act now. Lincoln Barber



From: lreed7333@roadrunner.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 6:06:37 AM

Dear Mike Waine

My brother and I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length. We fished the Saco River area with little success this year. Last year we did catch and release many more stripers.

Lynda Reed and Harold Keene
Windham and Dayton, Maine

From: [John Kaufmann](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 9:05:34 PM

As someone who actively pursues striped bass, I have been deeply concerned at what I see as the decline in numbers of this great fish.

I normally have rented a house on Cape Cod for six weeks in the spring and four weeks in the fall. When I am on the Cape I spend a significant amount of money, in addition to the rental, going out to dinner with my visiting friends, purchasing tackle and equipment, having my two boats worked on, etc. This fall I have cut back from the four weeks to two weeks due to the decline in the fishing. If the fishing continues to decline I expect I will cut back further. While I am only one person, I spend a considerable amount on the Cape and I expect that my personal trend is not unique. I feel quite badly for the many businesses that I support over there whose owners, in many cases I have come to know. Fishing for striped bass is a very important part of the Cape economy. It is hard to imagine how damaging to businesses there the collapse of striped bass fishing would have.

As such I would like to offer the following comments on the draft:

1. **Section 2.5.1 Coastwide Reference Point Options** I support using the the 2013 Benchmark Assessment reference points for addressing the need for remedial action
2. **Section 2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options** I support *Option B: Use coast wide population F reference points as established in Section 2.5.1.*
3. **Section 2.6** I strongly support Option A in order to reduce the mortality rate as quickly as possible.
4. **Section 3.0 Proposed Management Program** I strongly support option B which would implement a 25% reduction in mortality by next year. I support Option B3 setting a one fish bag limit and a 32" size limit. I also support B15 for a hard quota.
5. **Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Option B16.** I would have preferred a greater reduction in the commercial harvest but apparently this is the best that can be done.
6. **Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options Option B17.** I support it.

Common sense calls for erring on the side of caution in preserving this great fishery. As you know, there was a considerable period when the public was limited to taking only one striped bass over 34". I find it hard to believe that when the charters were allowed to take two per angler that their businesses radically improved in terms of clients. Conversely, I wonder what these charter captains will do if the striped bass fishery goes. Keeping less fish seems like the prudent approach.

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From: [Bob Olsen](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 6:20:32 PM

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

I used to fish Maine regularly for Stripers. I have pulled back due to poor catches. It would be nice to see the State of Maine support the Striped Bass fishery

Bob Olsen

1612 Shaw Mansion Road

Waterbury Ctr. VT 05677

From: [Berwyn and Delores Wetter](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 3:13:49 PM

It is my opinion that reductions in striped bass quotas are likely to conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length. I fly fish for stripers in Maine and have witnessed a dramatic decline in striped bass numbers. It just seems like the time has come for some sensible action that will help preserve what can again be a wonderful recreational fishery. Thank you for your consideration.

Berwyn Wetter

South Paris, Maine

From: [Gary Batch](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 1:31:12 PM

Mr. Waine:

I strongly believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

We need to do something BEFORE the only option is moratorium...again. The ASMFC has not acted in accordance with its own charter - it's time to start, right now.

Sincerely,
Gary Batch
Sportsman & Conservationist

From: [J.KARCHER](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 11:23:29 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a recreational angler who pursues striped bass both in New Jersey and Cape Cod, MA. I fish primarily from the surf 30 - 35 days each year. Over the past 5 - 6 years I have witnessed a steady decline in the number and size of striped bass that I catch. I applaud your new efforts in attempting to improve the striped bass stock by revising the harvest quotas.

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species, especially the large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting striped bass exceeding 34" in length as these fish are the source of future spawns. I also support limiting the daily coastal recreational harvest to one fish per day.

.
John F. Karcher
144 Andrea Drive
Rockaway, NJ 07866

johnkarcher@optonline.net

From: [Ron Hoff](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 1:09:59 PM

Mr Mike Waine,

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

Sincerely,
Ron Hoff
806 East Chester St
Long Beach NY 11561

P.S. Went surf fishing 46 times this year an caught no Striped Bass.

July 21, 2000 I caught 21 Striped Bass.

Please listen to the public, because the striped bass are in big trouble.....

I know many guys that fish the surf and have NO STRIPED BASS THIS YEAR !!!!!

From: [Fred Cuddy](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 1:08:01 PM

Dear Mike,

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

It is a sad state of affairs with the striped bass. Just a few ago in New Jersey we were enjoying a surge in the number of bass. It brought all kinds of people out to fish again and enjoy the outdoors. We used to laugh when we said, "I wonder how long this will last. People and regulators will screw this up." Well, the joke is on us. Limits went up and restrictions were lessened and here we are. The last couple years I haven't even caught a bass on the surf....and we fish quite a bit in the fall. Sad.....really sad.
Fred Cuddy

From: bonesral@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 12:10:09 PM

Dear Sir,

I believe striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

I fish the Chesapeake Bay of which the only decent amount of fish in the Bay is the 2011 year class. They soon will become prey to over-harvesting by commercial and recreational anglers. Big stripers (over 28") are very rare anymore, except during the Spring of the year. And there are not much in the way of smaller fish, the latest year classes. That is anecdotal evidence but we anglers see it.

Thank you,
Ralph Bones

From: [Peter Kutzer](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 11:10:26 AM

Mr. Waine,

I have been a fly fishing instructor for a long time with the Orvis company and the striped bass was the reason why I got into fly fishing. I would hate to see the students that I teach miss an opportunity to pursue these great game fish.

I believe that Stripers Forever, a recreational conservation organization advocating for the welfare of wild striped bass, believes that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

Thank you for your time,

Peter

Peter Kutzer

Orvis Adventures Specialist

Fly Fishing & Wing Shooting Instructor

The Orvis Company, Inc.

178 Conservation Way

Sunderland, VT 05250-4465

direct – 802-362-8777 (Sunderland office)

direct - 802-362-4155 (Fishing School)

email – kutzerp@orvis.com

www.orvis.com

The Orvis Commitment

Orvis commits 5% of pre-tax profits to protecting nature, supporting communities and advancing canine health and well-being

From: [Susan Paffrath](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 10:49:20 AM

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

As a lifelong female fisherman in Long Island Sound as well as Narragansett Bay, I have personally watched the changes in the striped bass population for the past 50 years. When I participated in a tagging session out of Galilee, RI last year, it was shocking how sparse the fish and how small the average we caught.

I grew up in the area of Connecticut where currently award winning sized bass are being caught. It is important to establish effective legal brackets for the harvesting of striped bass, a high level predator in the Atlantic coast food chain, and the tagging program is an integral legal and scientific tool in determining the best way to perpetuate the species for sport and commercial fishermen into the future.

To allow commercial fishermen to continue harvesting as they do now serves neither them nor their children, or my sport fishing children. Striped bass migrate along much of the Atlantic Coast, and all Atlantic states must join in protecting the future of this limited resource.

Our nation's citizens have endured financial hardship over the past 6 years due to the lax regulation in the financial markets as well as individual's actions motivated by short term personal gain. Is this the model our fisheries managers want to follow? Or can we look at this and many other examples of lazy governance as models to shun in our pursuit of the management of our national fishery resources.

One law should be obeyed by all citizens, regardless of their financial interest. Our fisheries belong to all the American people. Commercial interests are NOT more entitled to access than individual fishermen.

The negative impact on our local economies by a collapsing striped bass population is felt much more by those businesses supported by the sport fishing industry than the commercial fishing industry as sport fishing has a broader and more diversified base.

Please take the time to understand this complex issue and help our citizens today and in the future keep this amazing fish viable. Let us not follow the example of the codfish and its demise.

Sincerely,

Susan Paffrath

From: [Thomas A. Cox](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 10:47:31 AM

Dear Mr. Waine:

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species...especially large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota over one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

As a life long (70 plus years) recreational fishermen I have seen the good times and the bad times of striped bass populations, and indeed we are now in the bad times. I would willingly fish less or not at all (I no longer keep any fish that I catch) to allow stocks to be responsibly managed to allow recovery. I have seen such managment and recovery before, and know that it can be done if only fisheries managers will act properly and promptly to help rebuild this imperiled fishery.

Thank you for considering this.

Tom

Thomas A. Cox, Esq.
P.O. Box 1314
Portland, Maine 04104
(207) 749-6671
tac@zwi.net

From: [Bruce Rich](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, August 29, 2014 4:06:48 PM

Mike,

Thanks for your presentation on this subject earlier this week in CT. We were a tough audience that night but I think almost everyone appreciated your clarity, honesty and professionalism. I had to leave before making verbal comments, so my comments for the record follow here.

I support Option B4. Harvest limitations are more likely to have a positive impact the deeper and quicker they occur, and large female striped bass are essential for sustaining a healthy stock.

I believe the greatest threat to the striped bass fishery is water pollution. Although pollution control is not central to ASMFC's authority, it is in line with your vision statement to do whatever possible to limit agricultural and industrial runoff in our coastal waters, especially Chesapeake Bay.

Best regards,

Bruce J. Rich

CT Fly Fisherman's Assoc.
Fisheries Advisory Council of CT DEEP

From: [Larry Bay](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 6:40:04 PM

I have been a striped bass fisherman for many years, mostly surfcasting from shore at Cape Cod. Over the past 4 or 5 years, I've found surfcasting to be a waste of time. There are far fewer fish than a decade ago.

The biggest difference I've seen over the past several years has been the absolute explosion in the seal population. Some estimate that there are now 20,000 seals in Chatham alone but they can be found all over the Cape. They eat a huge number of fish on a daily basis.

I guess the question becomes, which species can be more readily repopulated? Seals have demonstrated their ability to do so, bass have not. I'm not averse to fishing restrictions, be they recreational or commercial. Those restrictions may be useless if nothing is done to reduce the seal population. This will not be a popular piece of the solution pie with many.

Larry Bay
1 Harwich Place
South Hadley, MA 01075

From: [Steve Rosenfeld](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 4:47:03 PM

Mike, a charter boat captain on Cape Cod recently told me something upsetting: A couple of weeks ago a wave of stripers came into the Cape Cod Canal and were hitting everything anglers threw at them. Some guys were catching their limit, putting them on ice in their vehicles, then going back for more with no fear of repercussions.

I haven't been able to access the draft yet due to network error, but I am curious if enforcement is addressed. I dutifully buy my MA recreational marine fishing license each year, but I've never had to produce it. Another indication that enforcement resources must be hard to come by.

Glad to know you folks are on the job.

Steve Rosenfeld
Worcester, MA

rosenfelsa@yahoo.com

From: [Peter Kelly-Detwiler](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 4:34:19 PM

Good afternoon - First, let me say I am encouraged that you are taking action to remedy this situation.

Second, I think it is important to take on the greatest level of potential sacrifice now for the greatest potential later.

I therefore support Option B, representing a 25% reduction, and the subset of B4. It would be fantastic to see more of the larger fish around in the future.

Good luck, and best regards,

Peter Kelly-Detwiler

From: [Richard Milaszewski](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 08, 2014 10:09:55 PM

I have fished for striped bass in MA and RI for over 55 years and experienced the years of very good fishing and those problematic years in the 1980-1990 time frame. During the last five or six years, I and my friends have experienced a steadily decline in the numbers of catchable bass. In each succeeding year, since 2008, the numbers bass that we caught have diminished dramatically and it seems we are approaching a population crisis.

I would hope that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission would adopt a proactive approach and that more stringent regulations for size and limits are enacted for the upcoming 2015 season so the striped bass population can rebound. For recreational fishing, I personally would favor preferably B3 or option C1 found in Addendum IV.

Richard Milaszewski

From: [Steve Carlsen](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 3:59:33 PM

I appreciate receiving an e-mail update from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission about possible changes to the striped bass fishing regulations. I am a resident of the state of New York, but am an active recreational fisherman in the waters off Nantucket, Massachusetts. I have directly observed the recent decline in striped bass and support aggressive action to support the population.

I would support something like Option B-4, which reduces the bag limit to 1 and also introduces the concept of a slot. I would suggest amending the slot to 28"-36". Stripers larger than 36" are almost always breeding females, capable of spawning huge numbers of juveniles. And really, fish that large are not great to eat and are best released. Most Nantucketers that I talk with would support this kind of approach.

Thank You,
Steven Carlsen, PhD
12 Oak Bluff Ave.
Larchmont, NY 10538

e-mail: stevecarlsen@optonline.net

Sent from my iPad

From: [Cordy Swope](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 2:58:21 PM

Hi Mike,

As a reasonably educated, recreational striped bass fisherman, I found Draft Addendum IV a bit chewy to get through. However after some re-reading, and in light of the fishery's recent history in the late 80's, I had a few thoughts:

1) In general, and as a concerned fisherman, I would prefer a 25% reduction of the entire harvest for one year, with the option of further rolling reductions when necessary. That way you and your team might be able to gauge and monitor the impact of such restrictions while at the same time, fisherman can get used to them, so the same debate does not have to be re-opened every 5 years. (I think of how tuna and billfish are restricted in Australia and New Zealand, and how that fishery has remained robust because of it.) Maybe a shorter season might also help reach these targets?

2) For what it's worth, I also strongly believe that ALL fishing for striped bass be strictly limited to hook and line only, and that includes commercial striped bass fishing.

3) Netting, the business practices of New York charter boats, combined with the double-whammy of pollution and over-fishing in important spawning grounds like the Chesapeake are the levers that seem to be most effective in maintaining a healthy striped bass eco-system.

I hope that the right measure will be adopted.

All the best from Vineyard Sound,

Cordy Swope

From: [Terence Weir](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 2:09:58 PM

As a lifelong recreational Striped Bass fisherman I am totally for any limiting or a moratorium on Striper keeper size. I was appalled that years into this recent decline (2006 and on) the State increased the take to 2 fish?? After the fragile success of returning this fishery from the dark decades of a near wipe out of the biomass, we should consider this fishery a sporting gem as well as a huge economic engine. Please please limit the catch and increase the length. How about 1 fish over 34" for starters? Do something immediately. Stocks are crashing.

Terence Weir
102 Winthrop Ave.
Reading, Ma.
01867

Age 55

From: [Doug Rich](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 1:58:30 PM

I am submitting this email as part of the Public Comment on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

I am a recreational angler with an active permit for fishing with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. I have been fishing the Massachusetts coastal waters for over 50 years.

I am in favor of the proposed Addendum to manage the Atlantic striped bass fishery. I believe that the best way to bring the stock up to a sustainable level is to put in aggressive, but realistic limits on both recreational and commercial fishing interests. As your statistics indicate, the stock will be restored faster if the limits implemented are more extreme. It makes sense to me that one or two years of significant limitations will have less impact on the various state economies as impacted by recreational fishing and on commercial fishing interests, than if less stringent, but less effective limits are implemented for an extended period of time.

Having said that, I would be most in favor of Option B3 which would limit recreational bag limits to 1 fish of 32 inches or greater. I am in favor of this option only if similarly aggressive limits are imposed on the commercial fisheries. I am also only in favor of this option only if it includes a relaxation of the limits once the targeted striped bass biomass is reached.

By contrast, I am least in favor of Option B4 which would limit recreational bag limits to 1 fish of 28 to 40 inches in length. This "slot" concept is not appealing to recreational anglers because it eliminates the potential for keeping trophy size fish. The options which provide for 1 "slot" and 1 trophy, are more appealing to the recreational anglers but are also less effective at restoring the striped bass stock. I am familiar with the Alaska Halibut Fishing Management Plan which initially implemented the "slot" bag limits on non-resident recreational anglers. This Plan was not effective in managing the halibut stock, cost the state's economy millions of dollars in lost revenue from the non-resident recreational anglers and probably resulted in many fish being released that could not survive. Alaska subsequently revised their halibut management plan to a bag limit of 2 fish of x inches or greater. I recommend that the ASBIFM adopt Option B3.

Respectfully,
Douglas Rich
Oak Bluffs, MA

From: [Rebecca Heuss](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 9:05:53 AM

Hi, I am forwarding along comments from a striped bass angler regarding the Addendum.

Thank you,
Becky

Becky Heuss
Marine Fisheries Division

NH Fish and Game... *connecting you to life outdoors*
www.fishnh.com, www.facebook.com/nhfishandgame

Did you know? New Hampshire Fish and Game is the steward for New Hampshire's marine resources, from lobsters and clams to stripers and bluefish, and also manages the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

From: joseph moffatt [mailto:jrmdpm@myfairpoint.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 2:26 PM
To: Heuss, Rebecca
Subject: Re: Squid

Becky, thanks for the info.

I have some comments on the "Striped Bass Addendum":

1. The use of circle hooks while fishing with bait should be **mandatory**, not just recommended!
2. I think there should be a recreational fishing slot limit, say 22" - 28"(non breeders), one fish per day and it should be uniform throughout **all** of the states.
3. Commercial fishing for Striped Bass should be eliminated for the next five years then reevaluate the fishery. I realize some people make a living from this but if the goal is to revive the fishery then we should do what's necessary; if this is to draconian then cut the quotas in half.

And you can quote me.
Joe Moffatt

On Aug 27, 2014, at 10:17 AM, Heuss, Rebecca <Rebecca.Heuss@wildlife.nh.gov> wrote:

Hi Joe,

Sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you. There seems to be more squid coming up into the river than in previous years, I think we started getting regular reports of them 2 years ago. Of course there were some present before that and we would find their egg masses in the river while doing scuba diving surveys but they seem to be more prevalent now much like the black sea bass. In my observations, they seem to arrive a little after the mackerel when the water warms. We have

been encountering them into September and typically don't hear about them anymore when we get into October and the waters have cooled considerably.

I was down in Portsmouth yesterday at the Port Authority docks by the IOS Steamship Company and there were loads of roughly 4" Atlantic herring around the docks. We were watching a couple good sized stripers leisurely moving around the docks, having lunch. Then the schoolies moved in and were following the herring upriver with the tide, the water was so clear though that we could watch all of these fish easily, very cool to see. You may already be aware, but there is a meeting tonight about possible changes to the striper regs, the announcement is here http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Newsroom/2014/Q3/marine_SB_addendum_081514.html . The addendum is here http://www.asafc.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassDraftAddendumIV_PublicComment.pdf . The options start on Page 12 if you want to skip ahead ☺. Unfortunately I won't be able to make the meeting but I imagine there were be many SB anglers in attendance.

Becky

Becky Heuss
Marine Fisheries Division

NH Fish and Game... *connecting you to life outdoors*
www.fishnh.com, www.facebook.com/nhfishandgame

Did you know? New Hampshire Fish and Game is the steward for New Hampshire's marine resources, from lobsters and clams to stripers and bluefish, and also manages the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

From: joseph moffatt [<mailto:jrmdpm@myfairpoint.net>]
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2014 1:42 PM
To: Heuss, Rebecca
Subject: Squid

Hi Becky, thought I'd give you an update on the fishing. My son & I fished the mouth of the Piscataqua, anchored and jigged Yozuri lures for squid from 6AM to Noon and landed 24 squid, didn't bother with the bass - maybe next week.

Can you tell me when the squid usually arrive in the river and when do they leave?
Joe Moffatt

From: Jim.I.Johnson@dupont.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 8:21:01 AM

Dear, ASMFC,

I can remember 100 fish days of catch and release on the Susquehanna flats back in the 90's when all was well. Rarely now do you here of anyone catching anything. The lost revenue for the tackle shops, marinas and guides has killed the economy based around striped bass fishing. I personally have not fished for stripers for 15 years. Something has to be done now before another complete moratorium is needed and nobody wants that. I believe a 25% reduction of mortality for next year would be a start to help the fishery recover. Since the striped bass have been over fished for at least the last 10 years, this reduction might need to be done for the next 10 years before we see a full recovery.

Regards,

James I Johnson

Associate Investigator
DuPont Central Research & Development
Experimental Station, E262/437
200 Powder Mill Rd
Wilmington, DE. 19803
302-695-1065

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From: [Drew Stefaniak](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 6:31:28 AM

To whom it may concern,

My friends and i have noticed a rather alarming decrease in the number of striped bass around over the past few years. We are all in favor of the strongest management rules allowed in hopes that the population increases again. Therefore, i am in strong favor of option 1—reduce mortality by 25% in one year.

Sincerely,
Drew Stefaniak

From: [Scott, Christopher R \(DEC\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 1:52:57 PM

Mr. Waine,

After reviewing Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass IFMP I have selected my recommendations for the listed options. Please see below:

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options - **Option B**

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options - **Option B**

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options - **Option B**

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target - **Option A**

3.0 Proposed Management Program

- **Option B:** Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year. This represents a 25% reduction from 2013 total harvest. The desired reduction would be achieved by approximately equal relative reductions to both the commercial and recreational fisheries.

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options

- Coastal Recreational Fishery - **Option B4** (Bag Limit: 1, Size Limit 28 - 40" slot)
- Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery - **Option B15**

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

- Coastal Commercial Fishery - **Option B16**
- Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery - **Option B17**

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers - **Option B**

3.2 Commercial Size Limits - **Option B**

I would like to see a reduced F coast wide for the striped bass fishery. I believe strongly in protecting the large breeding females. These large females should not be available for harvest to the recreational or commercial sector. As you know, larger females provide healthier year classes for the future. Finally, I think greater attention needs to be payed toward protecting and restoring essential fish habitat throughout the coast to support striped bass and all the species which support the striped bass.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Sincerely,

Christopher R Scott
Diadromous Fish Unit

NYS DEC
Bureau of Marine Resources
205 N. Belle Meade Rd, STE 1
E. Setauket, NY 11733

631-444-0488

From: [Douglas Grunwald](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 9:28:26 AM

I am writing concerning the emergency meeting of the striped bass stock. I am 29 years old. I grew up fly fishing for trout, but the allure of the beach, crashing waves, and large stripers drew me to surf casting. I have only been striper fishing for 3 years, but in that time I have dedicated hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars to the sport.

Also in that time frame, I have caught fewer fish and have seen less fish caught as well; this is in the context of using more sophisticated gear and fishing at the best times and tides. For example, over the last few weeks I have fished four times during a midnight high tide and have not even fooled one fish. After the last trip, I told my wife I may just give up fishing altogether.

I am a catch and release fisherman, but I do not get angry at people who keep fish for the dinner table. The thing that makes me angry is that people are still keeping fish today, even though they know that the stock is on the decline. Their argument is that "the law says I can keep 2 fish, so I am going to do it." My thought is that this law is antiquated and has outlived its lifespan. The law must be changed and it must be changed quickly.

Because of this, I am advocating option 1; a 25% decrease in harvest over 1 year. Even though I am a recreational fisherman, I think that the decrease in harvest should fall on the recreational sector. If this means that the bag limit changes to 1 fish at 32", then so be it. This rule needs to be implemented to decrease the mortality of charter/head boats. Having a stricter limit will not decrease their profits, but it will help reduce fishing mortality.

Feel free to share this letter at any hearings or meetings. Thank you for your time,

Douglas Grunwald
71 Fox Road
Apt 822
Waltham, MA, 02451

From: [Brian DiDonato](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, August 25, 2014 2:34:19 PM

Michael,

Unfortunately I cannot make tomorrow night's meeting in Old Lyme, CT... but I did see on the website that we have the ability to email our comments directly to you. I am writing in favor of a reduction in the catch limits for Striped Bass. I am an avid recreational angler fishing in CT on the Long Island Sound. I have seen a significant decline in the number of striped bass caught in each of the last three seasons. I keep detailed log books and a summary of the data is noted below.

<u>Season</u>	<u># of Fishing Trips</u>	<u># of Keepers Caught</u>	<u># of Shorts</u>
2012	44	63	10
2013	56	50	8
2014	67 (still fishing)	42	4

I typically fish live bait with circle hooks (always catch and release) so I don't see a lot of shorts. But in the past three season I have seen the migration get smaller in both numbers of fish and duration of the bite. What used to be a couple good months of fishing is not a couple of good days. Something has to be done, I fear we are getting dangerously close to repeating the same mistakes that were made in the last collapse of the striped bass stock that lead to the moratorium. We need to act now. **I would purpose we take the limit from 2 at 28" to 1 at 28"**. I would also like to see a greater effort made to ensure people are in fact following the regulations. Thank you for all your hard work and please act now to ensure my children are able to fish and enjoy the outdoors like I did growing up.

Sincerely,

Brian DiDonato
Fairfield, CT

From: [Todd Richter](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 08, 2014 3:30:30 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

My name is Todd Richter. I am a recreational fisherman residing on the east end of Long Island.

I am emailing you with my two cents regarding potential changes to striped bass limits for the coming years.

I think there should be some sort of slot limit just as most southern states have with redfish. I think a 28-38 slot would be sufficient and would make sure as many of the large breeding females are not removed from the population.

Frankly, seeing pictures of party/charter boats with desks full of dead breeding females makes me sick to my stomach.

Again, just my two cents.

Todd

From: [Angelo Rivituso](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, August 25, 2014 12:30:50 PM

commercial fishing for stripers should be suspended.
recreational fishing should be one striper 34 inches or larger per angler.

From: [Christopher Mastino](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 24, 2014 7:51:15 PM

Christopher J. Mastino M.D.

314 Riverside Drive

Fairfield CT 06824

(203) 292 – 6694

Fax (203) 292 – 6697

08/22/2014

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

Dear Mr. Waine,

I unfortunately will be unable to attend the Public Hearing on August 26th 2014 concerning the "Draft Addendum" regarding Striped Bass Management but do wish to have my voice heard. I have been a fisherman my entire life with the earlier portion of it having been spent on Long Island and the latter, coastal Connecticut. I have personally lived through the years of "no kill", slot limits, and now the abominable over 28" restrictions on Striped Bass fishing. This fishery is in real trouble and I am not hopeful that I will be able to teach my future grandchildren the art of fishing for Striped Bass unless something significant is done right now. Having watched the precipitous decline in the Striped Bass population with the easing of the regulations, I believe nothing less than a complete moratorium on both the

commercial and recreational angler is needed. Menhaden biomass, while it has shown some improvement, is still at record low levels. He have not only continued to kill Striped Bass with reckless abandon but have killed their food source. I urge the ASMFC to institute an immediate "ZERO LIMIT" on Striped Bass. Thank you for allowing the voice of this fisherman to be heard.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Mastino M.D.

From: [James](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 24, 2014 7:02:30 PM

I am comfortable with option B1 for a period of 1 year as stated. Stronger enforcement is necessary. Recently at Floyd Bennett field in brooklyn I witnessed a Russian gentleman keep a 16 inch striper stating I got a nice fish eh. More regs in other languages and heavy fines are necessary as long time anglers know conservation but the clowns out there keeping everything they catch have no concept of what it requires to keep stability and resources for generations!

From: [Bob Macioch](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014 8:48:32 PM

I fish for Striped Bass in the Western Long Island Sound everyday from May to the end of August. I have seen a drastic drop in numbers over the last 10 years. I hope you do your job and start taking care of the resource instead of worrying about a 2 fish limit or charter boats. I vote for whichever Plan that increases and sustains the Striped Bass stocks to optimal numbers the quickest.

Manage the fish !!!!

Bob Macioch

From: [Phil Orsini](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [C. LOUIS BASSANO](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014 8:26:06 PM

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my preferences on the above mentioned draft addendum.

On proposed management scenarios, my preference would be option B4, 1 fish limit with a 28-40" slot.

It is my belief that the continued decimation of the large breeding stock by recreational fishermen, both private and charter, will result in a repeat of the fishery collapse if not put in check.

Striped bass deserve to be protected and treated as gamefish, not hunted down to be stacked like cordwood on docks and fill freezers with absurd amounts of meat. It is my hope that a slot limit of one fish will help striped bass achieve that status in the same way red drum have in the south.

Sincerely,
Phil Orsini
2089 Grand St.
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

From: [Ken](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Tony Guadagnino](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014 7:41:17 PM

I fish for striped bass out of Barnegat Inlet, NJ, and have done so for more than 20 years. Although I believe the fishery is fully recovered, if ASMFC determines that further regulation is necessary, I believe you should fully protect the breeding stock, and not allow harvest of trophy fish. Ideally, you should not allow the retention of any large female breeders. I therefore would recommend that any limit exclude large and trophy fish: allowing 2 fish between 24 and 34" per person daily, and in NJ, one bonus fish of the same size. I do not understand why you would not stop the harvest of the mature breeding stock, if you believe the female spawning stock needs to recover.

Sincerely,
Ken Gerecke
Marlton, NJ

From: arschryver@optonline.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, August 22, 2014 5:17:18 PM

Keep one striped bass over 40 in

From: [FRANK RETACCO](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2014 1:13:48 PM

I've been fishing for striped bass for over 40 years, mostly in Long Island (Montauk Point) and in the past five years, I've seen a drastic decline. I attribute this decline to fishermen keeping the large breeder bass, overfishing in general, cheating by fishermen keeping more than they are legally entitled to and selling them to the local restaurants and markets. It is a known fact that these fish criminals have no fear because there is absolutely no enforcement out here in Montauk.

There should be a slot limit on size or even better, a complete shutdown of keeping any size striped bass for five years. Of course, enforcement to combat the fish criminals. I am not exaggerating about this serious problem.

Frank Retacco

Montauk, New York. 914-420-8350

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10152431490933451&id=6197893450

Sent from my iPad

From: [John Lacey](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2014 10:21:58 AM

Stripped Bass should be a game fish with no commercial fishing except for farmed fish. Jack Lacey, Southold NY

John Lacey

jtlacey@optonline.net

From: [Daniel Waegel](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2014 9:27:10 AM

I am writing to share my deep concerns about the declining striped bass population in recent years.

For many catch-and-release fishermen such as myself, the Striper is the crème de la crème amongst fish all along the Northeastern shoreline.

It is difficult to bear witness to this declining population, and there are fewer fish, of smaller stature, found in the waters each year. Many of us recreational anglers fear we are heading for a severe population crash like the one documented during the 1980's.

As any striper angler will attest, markedly fewer bass have been caught in coastal waters every year for the past three or four years. The populations of migratory fish are notoriously difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy.

As a computer scientist, I know that mathematical models built to estimate bass populations are only as good as their underlying assumptions. Unfortunately, because of the difficulties involved in obtaining high-quality estimates, most of those assumptions have a high degree of uncertainty. They are essentially informed guesses.

If you really want to cultivate a solid understanding of how the striped bass population is changing over time, I encourage you to send trained interviewers into the field to speak with veteran anglers. These dedicated men and women have spent fifty or a hundred days a year, for decades, pursuing striped bass up and down the eastern seaboard. Who else could be more keenly attuned to the size and health of the striped bass population?

Good science cannot claim authority when it is based on estimates of dubious accuracy. When data from one source is sparse, it *must* be supplemented with information from other sources in order to arrive at any kind of accurate conclusion. I truly believe that Striper anglers represent a wealth of untapped knowledge for your organization.

I *strongly* urge ASMFC to adopt Option One. Do not forget that just a few short decades ago, in the 1980's, a coastwide moratorium was needed in order to save the Striped Bass population. There was even talk of making this marvelous fish an endangered species. The moratorium turned out to be a wildly successful management tool and the Striper population rebounded at a surprising speed.

While Option One may not be the easiest choice in the face of pressure from commercial fisheries, it is the choice that will have a real impact on the long-term health of this this amazing creature's population. Please, take the courageous path and help this fish regain its former glory.

Thank you for your time,
Daniel Waegel, M.S.
University of Delaware

From: [Steve Kandrac](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 08, 2014 1:32:38 PM

Hello Mike,

I support a 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length. As a catch and release sports fisherman I have to say that this year seems like one of the bleakest in terms of activity levels associated with our immediate coastal fishery; whether measured in actual fish caught and released or pods of bait fish seen near the surface. There is definitely something wrong going on, I'm not a scientist but I am concerned that the fishery is under pressure.

We all appreciate any actions that can be taken to keep the fishery healthy and viable for the future.

Steven Kandrac
87 Woodridge Rd
Wayland, MA 01778

.....

From: [Richie](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 12:18:31 PM

I cannot attend the local meeting on the 4th, attending a sales meeting, but want to ask that striped bass over 40 lbs be required to be returned to the water. The larger fish are usually female and loaded with eggs and have to be released to preserve the striper population for the future.

Thank you

Rich Fredericks
609 335 9353

From: [Dave Connors](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 1:59:10 PM

To Mike Waine,
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

I would support option (1) reducing F (mortality) to its target in one year with a 25% reduction in 2013 harvest in 2015.

Dave Connors
Recreational fisherman, NY

From: [Bill](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 12:46:11 AM

I have fished for striped bass from Cape Cod to Cape Hatteras over the past 35 years. All serious bass fishermen are acutely aware of the significant decline in the striped bass population in recent years.

To someone who doesn't fish, it is difficult to express how much this fish means to fishermen all up and down the Northeast coast. It is truly the cult fish of the Northeast. No other species has such a dedicated following. Part of the stripers' appeal is the size to which it can grow, and these large fish (which many of us release) have been particularly hard hit.

It has been a painful experience witnessing the decline, and fears are growing that we may be moving toward the kind of population crash experienced during the 1980's. The money which striper anglers inject into coastal communities is sorely missed as anglers reduce fishing trips in reaction to the declining population of stripers. Every year for the past 3 or 4 years, fewer and fewer bass have been caught in coastal waters. It's difficult to measure fish populations with a high degree of accuracy. Mathematical models are cloaked in a scientific aura, but it should never be forgotten that they necessarily rest on assumptions which can threaten the validity of models. If you really want to develop a solid understanding of striped bass population changes, send trained interviewers into the field to speak with veteran anglers. Listen to what striper anglers who spend 50, 75, 100 days or more a year pursuing striped bass. By and large they are astute observers and a largely untapped source of information. Good science involves multiple approaches to measurement. This is particularly true where measurement is problematic, as is the case with fish populations which cannot be directly observed (although Alaska is doing some impressive work by stretching lines of sonar transducers across the mouths of rivers to obtain accurate daily counts of salmon moving into each river.)

I strongly urge ASMFC to adopt Option One. Remember the 1980's when a coastwide moratorium was needed, and there was even talk for endangered species status for stripers. Reduced mortality turned out to be a wonderfully successful management tool as striper stocks rebounded at a speed that surprised almost everyone.

You face a choice between making marginal changes or implementing changes which will have a real impact. I implore you to take the courageous path.

William B. Waegel, Ph.D.
Villanova University

From: [Bernie & Margie Dove](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 1:49:48 PM

To the Commissioners:

Our Striped Bass is in trouble again and we need to FIX IT NOW! My vote is for plan 1, a reduction of 25% to reduce F of 2013 to take place in 2015. We need to get this over with now for ALL user groups.

Here's a second suggestion to reduce mortality of our spawning fish.: ALLOW NO STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENTS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BEFORE MAY 15th!

CAPTAIN MARGIE DOVE of the charter boat

Margie D out of Solomons



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [DPPoler](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 9:56:15 AM

Mr. Waine,

Have read the information of the situation by KeepAmericaFishing. My comment is that assuming that the striped bass in peril, that proven measures be taken to reduce the mortality rate, although, if I read correctly this is going to be hard to do. My experience catching s bass is with a lure and pole the mortality rate is determined by how efficient the hook is extracted, how you going to legislate that. Most bass fisherman (large mouth/smallmouth) are allready aware of the methods to use to extract the hook efficiently.

The issue is unclear to me and can only comment on what I interpret the message to mean. God Bless, Dar.

From: [Gabe Gries](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 2:20:06 PM

Hi Mike,

Please see my comments below:

Coastwide population reference point options:
option b

Chesapeake bay stock reference point options:
option b

Albemarle sound/roanoke river stock reference point options:
Option b

timeline to reduce F to the target:
Option a

proposed management scenarios:
Option B
coastal commercial fishery: option b16
Chesapeake bay management area commercial fishery: option b18

Commercial quota transfers:
option A

commercial size limits:
option a

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Gabe Gries
14 old hinsdale road
ashuelot, NH 03441

From: Rnwhiteley@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV, Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 11:24:21 AM

How quickly we forget our victories and how we achieved them. The job is to ensure that there are fish available for all users of the resource. we achieve that by:

1. Restricting the harvest, particularly broodstock .
2. Funding adequate enforcement of regulations.

This must be done on a permanent basis, not just until a perceived stock recovery, or pressure from user groups to increase the kill.

The answer is simple. When there are fish for all fishery stakeholders, everyone is happy. It's just not that hard.

I support one (1) fish in a slot from 28 to 34 inches.

Ron Whiteley
188 Mark Twain Lane
Rotonda West, FL 33947

Rnwhiteley@aol.com

From: [Tom Kelly](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: draft addendum iv
Date: Friday, August 29, 2014 10:39:28 AM

I am old enough to remember the last collapse of the striper fishery in the 80's and its come back because of sound management in the 90's . I have no doubt that this fishery is on the verge of another crash if we do not act NOW ! I support in sections 2.51 and 2.52 option B , in section 2.6 option A , and in section 3.0 option B . We should have a 1 fish 32 inch size limit and a hard quota in Chesapeake Bay . Please support these measures so that future generations can enjoy fishing for this great game fish . Thank You Tom Kelly

From: wjmccorm@gmail.com on behalf of [john.mccormick](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: draft addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 4:11:34 PM

dear mike,

please do something to protect striped bass stocks...i've been fishing for 15 years and have seen many negative developments concerning the stock in that time...here is a copy of an article by zach harvey of the fisherman magazine written in august, 2014 that mirrors my views on what is wrong and what needs to be done short of declaring the striped bass a game fish in massachusetts waters...something must absolutely be done to immediately stop the slaughter of striped bass by commercial boat fisherman...

thanks,

mccormick

For the last bunch of years, I've scratched out a ridiculous number of published words on the subject of fisheries management. The last two or three seasons, much of that output has related to what many fishermen and I have seen as the increasingly bleak state of our striped bass resource—a position that has remained up for active debate until quite recently. This season, though, something has changed; even the last holdouts have begun to concede that we are headed for dark days in our striper fisheries.

To continue hollering that bass are in trouble now would be preaching to the converted. There's important work to be done, but it's about to get a whole lot more complicated.

Back in my former life as editor of The Fisherman's New England Edition, I struggled to understand long-time Senior Editor (and my predecessor) Tim Coleman's apparent hatred for those who had failed, 30 years and counting, to enact any effective regulatory measures to protect our beleaguered codfish. Twenty-four when I arrived, I was full of big ideas and a conviction that my fellow young guys and I might get things turned around if we could put some new faces on the councils and put some honest effort into getting it right.

But as my own tenure wore on— as I watched management fiasco after management fiasco erode what little faith remained among those who'd paid attention and tried to work the process from the inside. Nine years later, in 2011, I saw all too clearly how Coleman—we'd become friends by then—had wound up so thoroughly disgusted with council appointees whose chief management priorities involved safeguarding their own financial stakes in various fisheries under their regulatory jurisdiction.

Over years, I'd watched some unsavory back room political wrangling between state delegates to the ASMFC, had witnessed a couple of scandalous examples of bad regulatory science in action, and seen more than a couple fisheries managers vote butter onto their own bread. It was a surprise codfish rebound that materialized around 2007 on long-forgotten winter grounds east and south of Block Island, and ended with the wholesale annihilation of that spawning aggregation in the winter of 2011-2012, that gave me a clear picture of a management regime that had failed. That fishery fell under the jurisdiction of federal-waters regulators on the New

England Council (NEFMC)—a management body with some serious skeletons in its conservation closet. The striped bass situation, by contrast, is a state-waters problem, under the concurrent jurisdiction of state-level councils and the over-arching federal oversight thereof through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The challenges, as we attempt to turn striped bass around, will be about the same as they've been with cod—chief among them trying to get timely management action out of a bureaucracy paralyzed by statute.

As I've continued to study the fishery management process, I've seen how burdensome the tangle of interlocking federal and state statute becomes—and learned that there's a direct proportional relationship between the scope of a proposed regulation and the number of statutory hoops managers must clear to write it into law.

The fastest regulatory actions— emergency actions—require much less advance bureaucratic scrambling, but also have relatively brief legal shelf-life, partly to prevent slipshod work by regulators tackling a complex problem: You don't want to address a complicated and chronic problem with a Band-Aid. On the other end of the regulatory spectrum, a permanent change with significant management implications—an amendment to a fishery management plan, for example—requires a whole laundry list of environmental and economic impact studies, among other due-diligence prep work. The extent of preparatory spade work and legal analysis naturally prolongs the timeframe for implementation by months or years.

It's this latter knowledge—the reality that the whole process pokes along at a glacial rate when the issue at hand involves so many different user groups—that has kept me from teeing off too violently on striped bass managers for their non-action to date. Often, when an issue involves the state-waters level of regulation (and thus the ASMFC), managers will defer to the states to enact their own measures rather than trying to shoehorn the whole East Coast into one regulatory action from the federal level.

In the case of this summer's massacre of big breeder striped bass at Block Island, the part that's so hard to reconcile is the apparent certainty that fishermen will exploit the resource at the highest possible level so long as the fish can be removed from the briny.

The ugly reality is that a very high market price for bass on the Mass commercial market has put a serious bounty on the fish anywhere they swim: When a market is open anywhere, it inevitably serves as a loophole for illegal commercial practices (like landing RI fish in MA) as well as running interference for the black market. What makes this year so tricky is the relative dearth of saleable fish in Mass waters, the diminished possession limit, and the huge quota allocation granted to that state: Not only will a slow, steady trickle of fish keep the price off the charts, but it won't likely fill the quota anytime in the foreseeable future. Thus, as long as there are big fish to catch anywhere in the Northeast, there will be a heavy economic incentive to abduct them.

Much as I wish it was in the range of normal human behavior to self-regulate, the only effective means to keep fishermen from destroying their own future in the name of short bucks will be drastic restriction across the board. It's simple: Either everybody's in or everybody's out. If one guy is fishing for the market, everyone's fishing for the market—or catching his share before the next guy ships it to Mass for

\$4.50 a pound.

As for enforcement, the states simply do not have the revenues or the manpower to tackle a black-market free-for-all on the scale of Block Island this summer. To its credit, at least Massachusetts has made a visible effort to keep its own fishermen in line—mainly through select “shock-and-awe” efforts like a big show of force along the three-mile line off Chatham back in July, which confiscated a handful of boats and trailers from guys fishing for the market outside three miles in the EEZ. By comparison, RI made no real effort to make its presence known at Block Island, despite a veritable circus of fish piracy there.

But that’s history now, and we’re back to the million-dollar question: How to save striped stocks before it’s too late? For what it’s worth, because striped bass is certainly not the only stock in crying need of something like real-time regulation, it’s time to start taking a hard look at the current statutory wording that requires the use of hard data in all management actions. At a point when fishery scientists have near-zero research budgets, attaching more and more legal gravity to data is a quick way to grind the whole system to an ill-timed halt. And the call for more data is just one small facet of a larger set of challenges.

Years of political wrangling, environmentalist litigation, and bureaucratic sprawl have deprived regulators of any agility they sorely need to function effectively.

Best shot we really have at this stage is to pressure our state ASMFC delegations to propose new catch restrictions—increased minimum size and one-fish bag limit for state recreational vessels might be a good starting point. As for the commercial allocation, in light of rampant black-market abuses in all the states that have commercial seasons, this is probably the time to put a temporary moratorium on the sale of bass—until we can put adequate accountability measures place to curb massive abuses of the commercial fisheries.

Unfortunately, we’re all going to deal with some pain at this point, but if that’s what it takes to shore up the future of our most important stock, better to start now than to wait until we squander the possibility of a second rebound.

--

W. John McCormick
email - pjmac1@comcast.net
cell - (978) 496-9529

From: [Edward Michaels](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 7:34:13 PM

Stripers stocks have dwindled while efforts have stalled to protect the overall population.

Reducing the harvest, especially of large females, would preserve this fishery for both recreational and commercial interests.

The overwhelming fact is: there are too many people living with ample incomes, and therefore, all the stripers would be consumed in short order if regulations were not in place to protect them.

The long term economic value of this fish will be best maximised by limiting the commercial kill and increasing the sport fishery. A simple algorithm will show that. However, we can ameliorate the commercial interests by giving them something to kill, but protecting their own self interests by simply reducing harvests, especially of the large gravid females.

Respectfully,

Edward Michaels
850-653-6161

From: [Steve%20Barr](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 8:43:10 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for accepting my comments. Thank you for thinking of doing something about the current situation.

My background: I have fished commercially and recreationally for stripers since the 1960s. I still hold a commercial (MA) permit. I have seen the decline of the fishery in recent years. I saw the previous collapse in the late 70s and 80s. I worried that my daughter (born 1981) would never see or catch a striper.

Stripers are overfished. There is too much pressure on them. My equipment is so much better today than it was in the past. The fish stock can't take that sort of pressure.

Ideally I would like to see a total moritorium on striper fishing. But that will not happen because of the pressure put on ASMFC.

But something needs to be done. If the status quo is no changed there will be no SB fishery in a few years.

What can be and should be done are steps that will save the fishery:

1. cut back on the commercial quota coastwide (cut it by 25%/year every year till the fishery recovers)
2. cut back on the recreational quota to 1 fish/day (and possibly 1 trophy) Ideally, 1 slot fish (19"-26") and 1 over 45"
3. use realistic science: do not touch the 28" to 44" fish. We know that those are the breeders. Why would we want to eat the breeders?

We saw what can happen with fish when the pressure is off: Example: the dogfish. Take off the pressure and they came back and are everywhere now. The same thing can happen with stripers.

ASMFC, please have the guts to do what is right and save the fishery.

thank you,
steve barr
29 Craft Rd
Forestdale, MA 02644
617-777-3826

From: [Skip DeBrusk](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 3:38:42 PM

Hi Mike,

Massachusetts has a commercial season for striped bass. This targets bass over 34" and without question these are our best breeders, large fish with with a large number of eggs and probably a long history of breeding. Any business that targets (eliminates) their best breeders is sure to fail. If we were raising horses, cows, chickens, goats or any other animal we would never consider killing our best breeders.

I urge you to enact as soon as possible the maximum protection for striped bass.

Thank You,

Codfish, Dogfish, Mermaids, and Frank
By Capt. Skip DeBrusk 781-545-1353
18 Michael Ave.
Scituate, MA 02066

From: peterpatricelli@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum recommendations
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 3:59:01 PM

Sirs,

As a recreational fisherman from OREGON who brings 12 fly fishing anglers from across the country to MA in June for a week of fishing...during which time we typically kill exactly TWO (2) fish for dinner.....and drop \$25,000 in guide fees, lodging, and food....and that does NOT include airfare, rental cars (4) and alcoholic beverages...I am acutely aware of what a valuable resource a vibrant striped bass recreational fishery is to MA and the NE economy in general. And, for the long distance traveler/fisherman, which I presume to be the most economically generous to the economy on a per capita basis, there is little middle ground. Either the fishery is good enough to justify this time and money....or it is not. \$25,000 plus....or nothing! My recommendation for the recreational fisherman is Option B4...an immediate 1 year implementation with a recreational limit of one fish of a slot with no kill in fish over 40". My recommendations for the commercial fisheries would be along the same lines of maximum immediate reduction AND preferential protection of the female spawning population.

Peter Patricelli MD
1935 W 28th ave.
Eugene, OR

From: jrboettcher@cox.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Aeddendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 12:59:10 PM

Mike, It is very important to get this draft addendum passed with the maximum benefit in reaching the reduction of the 25% MORTALITY rate. All freshwater striper fishermen rely on healthy and numerous brood stock to maintain our fisheries.

From: [Richard Howell](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Amendment IV - Striped Bass
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 1:25:32 PM

Dear Mike,

I would support the most restrictive options as I believe that this is a population that is still in serious trouble - in fact a moratorium would make sense until we understand the dynamics behind the current population structure.

I would support option B ; B4 B10 B16 and B17.

I'm both a fisheries biologist and a sports fisherman so have a keen interest in keeping this unique animal from effective extinction.

Kind regards

Richard

Richard Howell

20 Fells Road
Wellesley
Massachusetts
MA 02482
USA

Cell: 781-795-2131
howellrichardk@gmail.com

From: [Gene Doebley](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Amendment IV Striped Bass
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 11:15:09 AM

Mr. Mike Waine
Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator
ASMFC

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a recreational fisherman with many years of on the water experience fishing for striped bass. I have lived through the previous downturns in striper population and had the good fortune to see their spectacular resurgence. Now, once again I see the significant decline in striped bass numbers that is occurring as we dither about what to do.

I believe that immediate reductions in striped bass quotas are needed to conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken far too long to get a commitment to conservation in spite of the documented decline in the species. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year and conservative maximum size limits that will protect fish over 34 inches.

I also support option B-6 for the recreational fishery management option.

Sincerely,

Gene Doebley
2 Somers Avenue
Somers Point, NJ 08244

From: jay_d_gemma
To: [Mike Waine](mailto:Mike.Waine)
Subject: Draft Amendment IV
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 7:01:44 PM

Good Day Mike,

I am a ASA member and in the sportfishing industry as a manufacture's represenatative in New England

I tend to mirror the opinions of most of the retailers I work with, thinking that the commercial Striped Bass fishery should ended completely along the East Coast aand there are two recreational options:

- 1) 1 fish/day of 34 +"
- 2) 1 fish of under 22" and one over 42" per day

Thanks

Jay Gemma

Respectfully,



Jay D Gemma
J.D. Gemma and Associates
P.O. Box 544
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
(508)842-3355
(508)842-1317 fax
jaydgemma@verizon.net

From: [Wayne Kubovec](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: fishing
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2014 2:37:24 PM

leave it at two

From: [Comments](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW:
Date: Friday, August 29, 2014 10:36:33 AM

From: chris bennett [mailto:bloofish@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 6:58 PM

To: Comments

Cc: chris bennett

Subject:

hi folks,

I have fished stripers since the 1990's in Ma., CT, and rib. I would like to know why the Chesapeake area has such a more liberal bag limit than new england and ny, if this is where a good portion of our stripers come from.

sincerely, chris bennett

bloofish@comcast.net

From: [Toni Kerns](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Kirby Rootes-Murdy](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 9:49:25 AM

Hi Mike,
Bob sent comments to Kirby and I so I am passing them along to you.

Toni

From: captain [rbusby@optonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 9:43 AM
To: Toni Kerns
Cc: Kirby Rootes-Murdy
Subject: Comments on Draft Addendum IV

NORTH FORK CAPTAINS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 129 PECONIC NY 11958
CAPT. ROBERT W. BUSBY - PRESIDENT

Hi Toni and Kirby,

After careful review and consideration the NFCA representing charter/party boats and the people of Eastern Long Island NY we would like to recommend the following options within Draft Addendum IV for Striped Bass.

OPTION B-7 1 fish 28-34 in and 1 over 36 in. This would achieve a 28% reduction. The 28 in size is considered to be critical to our industry as is the 2 fish bag. We believe that options over 28 in would result in an increase in mortality.

OPTION C-3 would be a close 2nd choice. One fish 28-35 and 1 fish over 35 in. We like this because there are no gaps but it only achieves a 20% reduction.

Of course we would like to continue to see charter/party boat regulations be improved over normal recreational regulations, thereby giving people another reason to sail with us. We would like to see all states, particularly those in our region have the same regulations for striped bass.

Thank you for your consideration of our needs and concerns.

Warmest regards,
Bob

From: [BOB THOMAS](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [TOM FOTE](#)
Cc: [BOB THOMAS](#)
Subject: Fw: Draft Addendum IV- Support of Coastal Option B3
Date: Friday, September 12, 2014 12:39:03 PM

Gentlemen,

Please see the letter below from Mr. Dougherty. My feelings echo his.

As an avid fisherman myself, from my own personal experience I can say that the striped bass fishery is not what it was even a few years ago. Raritan Bay was packed with stripers in the 28 to 36 inch range and the migration along the coast of fish that size or larger was many times what it has been over the past couple of years. Moreover, this year there was an abundance of larger fish, and not as many smaller fish in the sizes mentioned above, so those being caught and not released subtracted more from fish which produce the most eggs.

While my opinion may be non-professional, it is formed from spending many hundreds of hours fishing off the coast of New Jersey each year.

Seems to me we ought to have size limits on the bass allowed to be harvested (e.g. nothing over 40 inches), and regulations governing the type of hooks to be used (I always use circles, and even then, if the fish are feeding voraciously, the hooks sometimes wind up in their stomachs. With larger fish though, even in this case, the fish's mouth is large enough to put one's hand in and turn the hook around with little or no harm to a fish destined to be released.) Additionally, making fisherman aware through education is always better. Don't we now have a list of names from the salt water registry that could be used to disseminate information?

Thanks for you help in preserving this great world class resource.

Bob Thomas
908.421.4413

William F. Dougherty, LSRP

Senior Project Manager/Account Manager
1340 Campus Parkway, Suite B4
Neptune, NJ 07753
(800) 220-3068, ext. 4114
wdougherty@gesonline.com
www.gesonline.com

From: William Dougherty
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2014 11:54 AM
To: 'mwaine@asmfc.org'; 'tfote@jcaa.org'
Subject: Draft Addendum IV- Support of Coastal Option B3

Good morning,

I would like to respectfully request support of **Option B3** with regard to the Draft Addendum IV proposed striped bass regulations.

As an avid angler for striped bass for approximately 20 years (residing in Monmouth County, New Jersey, but also traveling at times to fish for stripers in Maryland, New York, and Massachusetts) I am concerned about the 2013 stock assessment data and the continuing decreasing trend in female spawning stock biomass (SSB) below the target levels.

This stock assessment data seems to also reflect the status of the fishery which myself and many others encounter in our fishing experiences, namely, significantly less large striped bass than in past years (2004 through 2008 seemingly to be the peak of large female stripers) and fewer small to medium sized striped bass around to “bring up the rear”.

I do not believe we can wait to take action until SSB is below the threshold and the fishery is declared as “overfished”, which is the most likely scenario in the near future. This is a management to failure approach.

We have learned from the mistakes of the past in both fisheries management. As a scientist, I believe we now have the data to show the trends are not in favor of a sustainable striped bass fishery.

I believe a harvest reduction in the shortest timeframe possible (not a 3 year implementation) is needed to conserve the large breeder striped bass and ensure a health stock for generations to come. Option B3 supports this goal.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

William F. Dougherty

From: [David Simpson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Rep. Craig A. Miner](#); [Dr Lance Stewart](#)
Subject: FW: FW: ASMFC public hearing on striped bass fishery management
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 10:35:10 AM

From: Matt Hillyer [mailto:matthillyer54@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 6:01 AM
To: Simpson, David
Subject: Re: FW: ASMFC public hearing on striped bass fishery management

Hi Dave

I won't be able to attend tonight's meeting, (xxxx)

My thoughts on the striped bass issue are as follows

1- Going back to 2008, at the end of every year I have assessed our bass season. And every year I've said, well it was OK but not as good as last year. Obviously this years assessment is much worse.

2- If a little guy like me could see this coming why in the world did the Atlantic States Marine fisheries not? I bet if they had taken a yearly survey along the east coast of saltwater bait and tackle shops,party boats,charter boats,and striped bass anglers they would have come to the same conclusion I had. Something should have been done 2 or 3 years ago!
The information they need to make informed decisions is there,they just need to go and get it.

3-The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission must do a better job at managing these fisheries,they seem to always wait for a fishery to be in crisis before they act.

Thanks Dave,
Matt Hillyer,Hillyer's Bait & Tackle Shop

From: [Comments](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment
Date: Friday, August 29, 2014 10:35:41 AM

From: Jonathan Landers [mailto:jonlanders17@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2014 9:48 AM
To: Mike Waine
Cc: Comments
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment

Dear Sir/Madam,

As one who experienced the decline of stripers in the 1970's after also being one of the "selfish" recreational striper fisherman who never stopped to think about the consequences of overfishing in the 1960's, I am writing to express my vote as to the best options to keep the Striped Bass fishery from again going to the edge of the precipice. As I now live on the Severn River in Maryland, I believe that as beneficiaries of the Chesapeake Bay we have an even great responsibility to be good stewards of this fishery.

After reading over and considering the options I would like to submit my preferences for the options to take going forward to ensure the future of the Striped Bass (or as they call them here, Rockfish):

As to Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point, I would select Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-Bench mark assessment.

As to Section 2.5.: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point option, I would favor Option B to use a preferred stock assessment reference point.

As to Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction (Mortality) option, I would strong agree with Option A to Reduce mortality by 25% in one year.

As to Section 3.0 Proposed Management Scenario Options, I would favor Option B3 (one fish @ 32") for the Chesapeake Recreational Fishery and Option B17 for the Chesapeake Commercial Fishery.

As to Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers options, I would favor Option A which prohibits the transfer of quotas from one area to another should quotas not be reached among fishers in given region.

Finally, as to Section 3.2 Commercial Size Limits, I would vote for Option A which requires the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thank you for your efforts, this process and for allowing me the opportunity voice my preferences on how to move forward to reserve this critical fishery.

Sincerely,
Jonathan W. Landers
152 Boone Trail,
Severna Park, Maryland 21146

Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers	Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one area to another should quotas not be reached among fishers in a given region.
Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits	Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased

From: [Comments](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Striped bass fishery
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 10:48:27 AM

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

From: mr.stasiuk@gmail.com [<mailto:mr.stasiuk@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2014 1:28 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striped bass fishery

How about we do the smart thing and not allow ANY stripers over 30" be kept by recreational or commercial fisherman. I'm tired of the confusing stock assessments, that may or may not be accurate, dictating bag limits while thousands of "cow" stripers are harvested before they have a chance to spawn. A little common sense goes a long way. Do we have to wait until the stock crashes again before we act? Can someone tell me where the weakfish are??

From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [James Gilmore](#)
Subject: FW: Striped Bass stocks
Date: Friday, August 29, 2014 5:02:41 PM

FYI

Carol Hoffman
Biologist 2 (Marine)
NYS DEC
205 N Belle Mead Rd
East Setauket, NY 11733
631-444-0476

From: mike C <mikecliny@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2014 4:50 PM
To: Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Striped Bass stocks

To Whom it May Concern,

For the past six years I have watch the fall bass runs get worst. Having lived though the lass down turn, I can not believe the in action at the Government level. It is time for either another moratorium or making the Striped Bass a game fish. No slots, one fish at 32 or any other short sighted rulings. If nothing will be done by the States than it's time the Federal Government step in and close the fishery completely down. Would you bet your pension on the Bass fishery still being viable in three years?

M. Campanelli

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Comments](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 10:52:16 AM

From: Donald Chambers [mailto:drbombay030@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2014 12:10 PM
To: Comments
Subject: striped bass

I would say that the way striped bass are being fished in states such as N.C. is having a major impact on fish numbers. I would like to see striped bass be named a sports fish and remove the commercial fishing altogether. Unless you have same laws governing the bass along the whole eastern sea board there will be states catering to their own special interests, and a collapse of the bass fish stocks. We need to act now or there will be another 80's collapse of the stripe bass population and I'm getting to old to wait 20 years for it to return.

From: [Comments](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Striper Fishing near Cape Cod
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 10:51:07 AM

From: Ed Hobday [mailto:edhobday@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 31, 2014 2:04 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Striper Fishing near Cape Cod

We need to reintroduce a bounty on dead seals in order to increase the striper population, diminish the contamination of the national seashore and coves, encourage the great white sharks to go elsewhere for lunch and dinner.

From: [David Simpson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Rep. Craig A. Miner](#); [Dr Lance Stewart](#)
Subject: FW: Stripers on the decline
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 10:39:59 AM
Importance: High

From: Ray Phillips [mailto:rphillips03@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 5:56 PM
To: Simpson, David
Subject: Stripers on the decline
Importance: High

David,

I wasn't able to attend the meeting this Tuesday on Striper Bass Management. I have been striper fishing for many years and have noticed a huge reduction in stripers over the last few years. I advocate reducing the daily limit of striped bass to only one fish over 32" and other measures. We should also do away with vouchers for undersize fish. We must take swift action (immediate limits to 1 fish over 32") with no delays in implementation in order to reverse the trend that is leading to an overfished stock. We also need to make the public more aware of the declining striper stock.

Ray Phillips
Engineering Consultant
Phillips Engineering, LLC
Phone: 860-342-1901
Cell: 860-306-4099

From: [David Simpson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Rep. Craig A. Miner](#); [Dr Lance Stewart](#)
Subject: FW: vote on addendum
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 10:36:02 AM

From: specialty woodworks [mailto:specialtywood@optimum.net]
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2014 10:43 AM
To: DEEP Marine Fisheries
Subject: vote on addendum

to whom it may concern,
after reading the addendum IV, i choose option B4 for the rec. fisheries. also i feel the size and limit should be the same throughout the entire east coast. it makes no sense that anglers in one state get to take more fish than others resulting in a potential problem throughout the entire migrating biomass. i don't see this as a state issue as so much as a biomass one. among other ideas, i feel strongly that ignorance plays a role here and most anglers don't revive fish properly and or don't care about the health of their catch resulting in mortality after the fishes release. more education on the biology of the fish is critical to minimize this. also those who sell fish on the black market need to be dealt with more severely, more as an issue with pregnant women and children that may consume the fish unknowingly. more pressure on the stock is sure to come as more people are getting into the sport, myself included as newbie as of only the past 10 years. i've learned a lot through reading and talking with old timers on the beaches.
striped bass, as you are aware are beautiful creatures and a symbol of new england as much as a lighthouse is. i appreciate all the effort the commission makes to assure its sustainability for generations to come for both the fish and angler.
thanks for inviting the public to weigh in on this issue.
(as to the commercial fishery, i have no consideration as ct doesn't allow it. although i do think whatever is to be done it should be the same across the board. but this seems to be a more complicated issue)
sincerley,

David Bacchiocchi
Specialty Woodworks and Design, LLC
1050 Bridgeport Ave.
Milford, CT 06460
p/f 203-874-6464
specialtywood@optimum.net
www.specialtywoodworksmilford.com

From: [David Simpson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: written comments regarding striped bass.
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 11:48:44 AM

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

From: Capt. TJ Karbowski [<mailto:tedkarbowski@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 11:31 AM
To: Simpson, David
Subject: written comments regarding striped bass.

Dave, here are my official comments regarding the striped bass situation.

The point of "for hire" boats taking 2 fish is simple. –

2 fish for charterboats is just a marketing tool. Striped bass are the reason why 99.99% of customers call. Tide, bait, moon phase, sea state and weather conditions are rarely perfect to even be able to pull a 2 fish per man limit trip. A 2 fish limit is simply just a motivator for potential customers to fork out \$720 for your standard 5 hour trip. Charter customers are most often a bunch of friends or coworkers looking to have some fun and bring the rewards of the day home to their families. Customers are often from out of state and travel great distances, sometimes traveling more than 2 hours each way. They may be very hesitant to call knowing they can only take home 2 fillets.

I do promote, "recreational" boats having a 1 fish limit as long as they do not exploit the other species. (using circle hooks and outlawing trebles would be nice too as many fish end up gut hooked with large trebles by the live bait recreational fleet.). The upside is most recs are only out 1- 2 days a week. A rec. fisherman on a Saturday morning will most likely catch his 1 allowable striped bass within the first 15 minutes of his trip. Then what? He's going to switch target species, that individual has been waiting ALL WEEK for his big Saturday morning fishing trip. It is definitely a balancing act.

In the long run, something needs to be done either way because if there aren't ANY striped bass, my phone won't ring AT ALL!

Because business is typically slow in the fall, right now I feel during this fall season, the limit for recs and for hire boats should be 1 fish per person and the commercial quotas cut to 50%. (100% would be nice, but not realistic). This would ensure there are more fish to spawn this spring, and this species needs all the help they can get.

*****MOVING FORWARD**

Striped Bass are a New England staple. They are the bread and butter of, and the foundation of the ENTIRE Northeast sportfishing industry. This fish MUST be changed COASTWIDE to GAMEFISH ONLY status.

As a charter boat captain, I can CLEARLY state that if it were not for striped bass that I would simply have no customers. That's all they want, and that's all they ask for.

**Remember, in the eyes of the general public, striped bass are the only edible inshore species of fish larger than a few pounds in our waters. Bluefish are a VERY tough sell.

Restaurants across America have the LUXURY of choosing which dishes to serve at their establishments. Many of which currently purchase farm raised striped bass. We as fisherman do not have the luxury of choosing which fish to inhabit our near shore grounds. Why the need for commercial interests to take the few fish left from a PROVEN fragile stock is mind blowing. Lobbyists and politicians that are our real battle. NOT recreational fisherman.

To be clear- the recreational sector has its offenders. There are many poachers as well as many greedy fishermen who just want to look like heroes to their friends and family and are only looking for bragging rights. This is also fueled by the lack of enforcement of our current regulations- lack DEP presence on the water, small fines and very little to no media coverage on the state of our fishery. This all leads to the weekend recreational fleet with no idea of how poor the fishery truly is, no fear of keeping short fish, going over their limit or even selling their catch.

Reducing Connecticut's recreational bag limits will do NOTHING for this fishery without the proper enforcement to back it up. Recreational limits have to uniform throughout the range of the striped bass AND the commercial market MUST be eliminated. There are currently DOUBLE the amount of states along the striped bass migration route that ALLOW commercial fishing than do not- including the STRIPED BASS EPICENTERS of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, (Chesapeake Bay Stock) Delaware, New York (The Hudson River Stock), Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

As long as there is a commercial market for these fish, commercial draggers, pin hookers and poachers will continue to work the system until this fishery is collapsed. Again.

We are just trying to put a small bandaid on a very large wound.

Thanks,
Capt. TJ Karbowski
Rock & Roll Charters
Clinton, CT
203.314.3765
www.rockandrollcharters.com

From: PAUL_stamos
To: [Mike Waine](mailto:Mike_Waine)
Subject: Fwd: asfmc
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 6:16:48 PM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: PAUL stamos <paulstamos@hotmail.com>
Date: August 27, 2014 at 6:00:15 PM EDT
To: "david.simpson@ct.gov" <david.simpson@ct.gov>, "meaine@asmfc.org" <meaine@asmfc.org>
Subject: Fwd: asfmc

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stamos, Paul P" <paul_p_stamos@uhc.com>
Date: August 27, 2014 at 2:14:41 PM EDT
To: "PAUL stamos (paulstamos@hotmail.com)" <paulstamos@hotmail.com>
Subject: asfmc

Stamos

Road

Conn 06824

8340

Paulstamos@hotmail.com

August 27, 2014

Mr. David Simpson

David.Simpson@CT.Gov

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass

Paul

93 Judson

Fairfield,

203-256-

Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Mr Simpson,

Thank you for hosting the public hearing on August 22, 2014 at the DEEP Headquarters in Old Lyme, Conn. Not being familiar with the Addendum, I appreciated the opportunity to become informed about the amendment and also your availability to answer questions.

Following are my suggested votes for the various options:

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Option B: 2013
Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Option A: Status
quo: One year time frame

3.0 Proposed Management Program

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Option B3: 1-fish
bag limit with a 32-inch minimum size

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Option A: Status
quo, no commercial quota transfers. I would further like
to see Connecticut make a symbolic gesture by either
refusing to accept the commercial allocation (if it will not
be reallocated to the other states) or accepting the
allocation but stating that we will not use it.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Option B: Status quo
with existing size limits

I also would like to note that I am requesting that the commercial quota not be allowed to increase the 13% noted in your handout. Rather, the commercial sector should share equally with the recreational sector and their quota should be reduced by an equivalent (or greater) amount to the recreational's 25% reduction.

I am sure that you would agree that the vast majority of attendees

where overwhelmingly in favor of drastic reductions in quotas in the quickest timeframe available and I hope you take into account the sentiments of the attendees when you consider your vote.

Sincerely,

Paul Stamos

Cc: Mike Waine
Mwaine@asmfc.org

Paul Stamos
UnitedHealthcare National Accounts
185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Phone: 860-702-7817
Fax: 860-702-5375

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From: [Tina Berger](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: DEAR TINA
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014 8:29:21 AM

Public comment

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: josterlitz <JOSTERLITZ1@nycap.rr.com>
Date: August 22, 2014 at 7:58:56 PM EDT
To: <tberger@asmfc.org>
Cc: "a-a-A ME" <josterlitz1@nycap.rr.com>
Subject: DEAR TINA

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ADD MY 2 CENTS TO AMENDMENT ,” IV “,PLAN
; AS AN 78 YR. OLD FISHERMAN

1. COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR STRIPED BASS IS LARGELY A PIN HOOKERS FUN
WAY TO PAY FOR ONES OWN GRATIFICATION & GAS MONEY ..AND THUS IS
NOT A VIABLE BUSINESS.

2.THE STRIPED BASS FISHERY , PROVIDE A MUCH MORE VIABLE & IMPORTANT
RESOURCE FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF FOLKS WHO USE THAT RESOURCE
FOR

RECREATION . THAT RECREATION , I’M SURE IF ONE CRUNCHED THE NUMBERS
, PROVIDES , JOBS THAT FAR EXCIDE ALL COMMERCIAL ENTITIES .

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT A NUMBER VALUE ON THE BENEFITS OF FISHING
AS A RECREATION ; WHAT EVER THAT NUMBER IS , SHURLY , FAR OUT
WEIGHS ANY

COMMERCIAL VALUE .

JOHN OSTERLITZ

From: hkkib@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 9:31:55 AM

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

From: hkkib <hkkib@aol.com>
To: mwwaine <mwwaine@asmfc.org>
Sent: Fri, Sep 5, 2014 9:25 am
Subject: Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mr. Waine,

I speak as an angler who has been closely linked to striped bass for more than 70 years, as a former staff member of Salt Water Sportsman magazine, and as an author of numerous articles and one book featuring this fish.

There is no doubt that the species has been in serious trouble for several years, and I am relieved that ASMFC has finally decided to address the situation.

I believe that the reduction in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest possible number of large female striped bass because these are the breeders that can restore the population in the shortest amount of time.

I support a 25% or greater quota reduction in one year and the protection of fish over 34" in length. I believe that the recreational catch should be reduced to one fish daily with a slot from 24" to 28".

Thank you for your consideration.

Kib Bramhall

From: [PAUL FORSBERG](#)
To: [JJ Gilmor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 9:56:57 AM

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

From: Kenny <krh05@optonline.net>
To: Carl Forsberg <lito325@msn.com>; Steven Forsberg <sforsberg77@yahoo.com>; Paul Forsberg <pgfviking@aol.com>; Eleanor Donnelly <ed@stelleco.com>
Sent: Mon, Sep 15, 2014 8:29 am
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV

Sent from my iPhone
Orla Reville

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stret Whitting <stretwhitting@gmail.com>
Date: September 14, 2014 at 4:54:00 PM EDT
To: undisclosed-recipients: ;
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stret Whitting** <joan.stret@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Sep 14, 2014 at 4:39 PM
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
To: Gmail <stretwhitting@gmail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Richard Etzel** <etzbreak@aol.com>
Date: Sun, Sep 14, 2014 at 4:09 PM
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
To: joan.stret@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV, I Support option D1

Option D1: Size limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.
Year Bag Limit Size limit Trophy fish % reduction
2015 2 30" min n/a Approximately a 21% reduction
2016 2 31" min n/a from 2013 harvest over three years
2017 2 32" min n/a

From: [Anderson Family](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 3:18:12 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anderson Family <AndersonFamily6@optonline.net>
Subject: Proposed Striped Bass Regulations
Date: September 9, 2014 at 1:46:53 PM EDT
To: mwaine@asfmc.org

Dear Mr. Waine,

My name is Earl Anderson, and I am a 59 year old lifelong resident of the state of New Jersey, and an avid fisherman. I am contacting you to express my preference for the new bag limits proposed for Striped Bass. Because of work obligations I am unable to attend the meeting in Ridgefield Park scheduled for tonight. I cast my vote for option B4 that allows for a 1 fish slot size fish. I would prefer the upper limit be lowered to between 32-36 inches not 40 inches. I adamantly oppose options B7 B8 and B9 that allow for a trophy fish to be included in the daily bag limits! These large breeder fish need the most protection. With todays technology every trophy can be photographed or video taped and kept for posterity! I also encourage the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the breeding grounds.

cordially,
Earl D. Anderson III
50 Payne Ave
Midland Park NJ

From: [Richard Nicholson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Get Real
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 9:43:45 PM

Drop it to 1 fish at 26-32" and shut down the commercial slaughter. this is the final blow to the stripers. 50 yr striper fisherman.

From: [Tony Guadagnino](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Inut striped Bass
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014 12:35:17 PM

Draft amendment IV: Allow one fish between 24" - 30" AND/OR one Trophy Fish (Bonus Tag ONLY) 40" + if it's available in 2015

Tony Guadagnino

1105 Egret ct

Forked Rive, NJ

E-Mail: dadstoy2223@yahoo.com

From: [Katherine Mazzucchelli](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 5:26:58 PM

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

As a lifelong female fisherman in Long Island Sound as well as Narragansett Bay, I have personally watched the changes in the striped bass population for the past 50 years. When I participated in a tagging session out of Galilee, RI last year, it was shocking how sparse the fish and how small the average we caught.

I grew up in the area of Connecticut where currently award winning sized bass are being caught. It is important to establish effective legal brackets for the harvesting of striped bass, a high level predator in the Atlantic coast food chain, and the tagging program is an integral legal and scientific tool in determining the best way to perpetuate the species for sport and commercial fishermen into the future.

To allow commercial fishermen to continue harvesting as they do now serves neither them nor their children, or my sport fishing children. Striped bass migrate along much of the Atlantic Coast, and all Atlantic states must join in protecting the future of this limited resource.

Our nation's citizens have endured financial hardship over the past 6 years due to the lax regulation in the financial markets as well as individual's actions motivated by short term personal gain. Is this the model our fisheries managers want to follow?

Or can we look at this and many other examples of lazy governance as models to shun in our pursuit of the management of our national fishery resources.

One law should be obeyed by all citizens, regardless of their financial interest. Our fisheries belong to all the American people. Commercial interests are NOT more entitled to access than individual fishermen.

The negative impact on our local economies by a collapsing striped bass population is felt much more by those businesses supported by the sport fishing industry than the commercial fishing industry as sport fishing has a broader and more diversified base.

Please take the time to understand this complex issue and help our citizens today and in the future keep this amazing fish viable. Let us not follow the example of the codfish and its demise.

Sincerely,

Katherine Mazzucchelli

33 Slater Avenue, Providence, RI

From: [Mark Dusseault](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Mass Maritime meeting
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 8:32:38 AM

Hi Mike,

Just wanted to say you did a great job at the striped bass meeting. I'm sure it's not easy fielding all those questions.

As a recreational angler I would like to see a reduction of 25% in the first year to try and bring the stock to a more plenty full amount. I've been fishing in Buzzards Bay for 12 years and have never seen it this bad. My proof is that my 2 boys used to go with me a lot and we would catch a couple of fish but for the past 2 years we rarely catch or see anyone catching fish. I don't bother asking them to go anymore because they have no interest in being bored with no fish around.

Please help bring the fish back.

Thanks

Mark Dusseault
American Shoring Inc.
Sales & Rentals
508-858-1708
www.americanshoring.com

From: [Ray Phillips](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Meeting on Management of Striper Bass
Date: Monday, August 25, 2014 5:12:48 PM
Importance: High

Mike,

I won't be able to attend the meeting this Tuesday on Striper Bass Management. I have been striper fishing for many years and have noticed a huge reduction in stripers over the last few years. I advocate reducing the daily limit of striped bass to only one fish over 28" and other measures. We should also do away with vouchers for undersize fish. We must take swift action with no delays in implementation in order to reverse the trend that is leading to an overfished stock. We also need to make the public more aware of the declining striper stock.

I believe we need to reduce fishing mortality to its target in one year with a 25% reduction from 2013 harvest in 2015.

Regards,

Ray Phillips

Engineering Consultant

Phillips Engineering, LLC

Phone: 860-342-1901

Cell: 860-306-4099

From: [George Strathern](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: New Stripe Bass regulations
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 1:05:50 PM

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my support for Option "B" reducing the legal taking of bass to one per day. I have been both surf and boat fishing for bass for over 30 years. My personal experience is that the stocks are way down and need to be re-built. I live and do most of my fishing in N.J. but I do travel to N.Y state and Ma. to Fish. I refuse to travel to North Carolina and spend money in that state because of their policy on striped bass. Please support a reduction of the daily catch to one fish.

George Strathern
426 6th Terrace
Seaside Heights, NJ 08751

From: [Robert Pistorini](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Observations so far.
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 10:08:05 AM

Hi Mike.

You may or not remember me, my name is Bob Pistorino. I talked to you for a while at the Mass Bass show this spring. From what I have seen so far makes me feel like that old commercial with the native American on his horse with tears in his eyes looking at what we have done to his country. (Hyperbole for sure)

The free for all circus I have witnessed this season is heartbreaking to me. The bass are not at all as spread out as normal, they are few and far between. But when you find a school it's usually large and condensed. Every boat that happens upon them just loads up, I'm assuming it's because they doubt they may find them again. The comm stacking on off days and shore highgrading is off the charts. Poaching like I could never imagine. But I suppose when you can get \$60 to \$120 per fish it just brings out the worst in people.

I've been on the water for 40 years, I used to catch cod, fluke, haddock, bluefin and a few more species that are virtually non existent now. I would hope that draconian measures are quickly undertaken (without the painfully slow committee after committee process) to provide the northeast fishermen at least one viable fishery that's worthwhile to pursue from shore and boat. With that also is habitat and forage protection of course.

I could go on and on.....

I'll be at the Thursday meeting at the Viking club.

If you are there I'll re introduce myself.

Thanks

Bob.

From: [Mark Assogna](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Option D1
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2014 9:46:22 PM

I am a full time charter Capt. From Montauk, fishing is how I feed my 2 children
I have to support option D1

Masterpiece Fishing Charters
Montauk NY
631-668-3881

From: [Tim Kennedy](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Preserve the fishery
Date: Friday, August 22, 2014 3:17:09 PM

I'm for preserving the fishery for future generations by whichever method is most likely to succeed and benefit the fish population.

Tim Kennedy

72 Weaver Street
Greenwich, CT 06831

mail@timjkennedy.com

From: [Frank Ruczynski](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Public Comment about Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 4:57:45 PM

I'd appreciate it if you could read this short article based on my years of fishing in NJ for striped bass.
<http://www.noreast.com/articles/blog.cfm?b=26>

I'm in favor of Option B1

Thank you,
Frank Ruczynski

From: [Hanecak, John L \(HIMCO, FIN\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Addendum IV to Reduce Striped Bass Mortality
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 11:00:37 AM

I was in attendance at last night's meeting but wanted a chance to digest some of the information presented before commenting.

To start out with I really hope the "mistake" in the commercial numbers is corrected and that the commercial fishing reduction is taken off of actual catch numbers and not a quota that was never met. ASMFC already has a reputation of being heavily influenced by commercial fishing interests and when it becomes common knowledge that the commercial sector did not share equally in the cuts for 2015 the organizations reputation will suffer and recreational fishermen will become even more discouraged with the management process.

As a general comment I do not feel that your SSB number accurately reflects striped bass abundance and I have seen a dramatic drop off in the number of fish this season in the CT and RI waters that I frequent. In my role and the Rhode Island regional editor for The Fisherman magazine I speak with many charter boats and tackle shops across Rhode Island and the common theme is that there are very few striped bass in our waters this season. Block Island is the one stand out but as was noted in the meeting even out at block there are very few fish under 30 pounds being caught.

I strongly feel that input from anglers who spend countless hours on the water each season should be used to supplement the numbers that your models produce. I fish for striped bass 100+ nights a season and have been doing so for many years. This year has been abysmal and there are very few striped bass in the waters of CT and RI that I fish. I'm not seeing a 5-10% reduction from last year as your numbers would suggest I am seeing a 50+% reduction in the number of fish available and that seems to be a common theme among many of the recreational anglers that I speak with on a regular basis.

Reviewing the options, even the most conservative option offered (which I've included below) was said to only have a 50% chance of success based on what I believe is an inflated SSB number so I don't see how any of the others are even up for consideration. I would like to see at least a 50% reduction for 2015 because, in my view, there is a lot of uncertainty in the numbers used in your assessment and we are better off erring on the side of caution. If I could create my own option I would choose 1 @ 36" for recreational and a 50% cut for commercial fishing based on the actual catch for 2013 to protect the one strong 2011 year class that we have for a few more years.

Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment Reference Point Option Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-benchmark assessment

Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction (mortality) Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year

Section 3.0: Proposed Management Scenario Options Coastal Recreational Fishery: B3 (one fish @ 32")

Thanks,
John Hanecak

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From: [Dan TANNA](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Public Comment to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass
Date: Monday, August 25, 2014 9:03:36 AM

If it's only a 50% probability that any of the options you are considering will attain the desired results, why not take the most decisive action in 2015? If the 3 year plan is implemented and it fails, you'll be 3 years farther down the path of the SSB being overfished. It seems to me the quickest and most effective way to help the SSB is to immediately reduce the harvest levels now and give the remaining fish (i.e 2011) a better chance to join the spawning stock.

Taking a 50/50 chance that implementing smaller reductions over 3 years will get to the desired F target seems to be geared towards the "socio-economics" of the situation and not in the fisheries best interest.

The Striped Bass fishery is in real trouble. Taking a 50/50 shot doesn't seem good enough at this point. I'd suggest the Maryland Trophy season be changed to a 36" minimum with a 1 fish per person limit. Go back to a May 1 start date. Close all catch and release Striped Bass fishing in the Bay from January 1 through May 1. Ban all Striped Bass tournaments in the Chesapeake Bay until after May 15 each year. Raise the summer legal Striped Bass size to 19". For the past 4 years there has been virtually no Striped Bass fishery south of Poplar Island. It's obvious the fishery is declining rapidly. I ask you do what you can, as soon as you can, to bring this fishery back before it's too late.

This quote is taken directly from the DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

"Projecting Harvest Reductions to Achieve F Target
Stock projections were used to forecast future stock conditions and estimate the harvest level needed to reduce F to the proposed target over a one or three year timeframe. The Technical Committee used a forward projecting methodology to identify the percent reduction from 2013 harvest levels necessary to achieve the proposed F target over a one or three year timeframe.

Projection results indicate:

If total harvest is reduced by 25% starting in the 2015 fishing year, there is a 50% probability¹ F will be at or below its target level within one year.

If total harvest is reduced by 17% starting in the 2015 fishing year, there is a 50% probability F will be at or below its target level within three years.

¹ A 50% probability was the minimum recommended by the TC - a higher probability of being at or below the target would require more restrictive management measures that achieve a higher reduction than the projections estimate is needed.

If total harvest is reduced by 7% each year for three consecutive years starting in 2015 to achieve an approximate 20% reduction², there is a 50% probability F will be at or below its target level within three years.

To contrast these options, if total harvest remains unchanged (status quo), there is less than a 1% probability that F will be at or below its target in one or three years.

It is important to note in all of the harvest scenarios, the probability of the

stock being overfished (SSB less than the SSB threshold) is high and increases until 2015-2016. This means despite any reduction in harvest through these proposed scenarios, SSB will continue to decline reaching a low point in 2015-2016 before it begins an upward trajectory towards SSB target (see SSB projection figure below). This trend is driven by the lack of strong year classes currently in the fishery, and the emergence of the strong 2011 year class that matures into the spawning stock in 2016-2017."

Respectfully,

Danny Tanna

From: [JIM WHITE](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: RE: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 12:06:40 PM

Dear Mike:

I urge the Commission to adopt the most stringent measures possible to save what remains of our coastal striped bass stock, which is the 25% reduction in one year.

I have fished for striped bass my entire life, including operating a full time guide business for 23 years. I also lived the last "crash" the striped bass suffered, and it is my belief that this time, is or will be even worse, than the crash of the late 70s and early 80s.

That one was mostly small fish from the bottom of the stock. This time its all fish, right across the board. Big fish are being targeted like never before. THERE ARE NO SMALL FISH ANYWHERE, to speak of. And hasn't been for quite some time now. We also didn't have a forage base, that was devastated by commerical interests, we didn't have disease in the stock like we do now, which it seems, no one is willing to speak to or about to any significant degree. The effects of Mycobacteriosis, is still, a HUGE UNKNOWN of its impact on the stock in general.

Finally, the numbers of people who are pursueing striped bass now is got to be 50 times greater than in the early 80s, possibly even greater. The internet and social media also play a HUGE ROLE, this time around, as once a school of fish is located, millions of people know it INSTANTLY, and are therefore capable of harvesting them in huge numbers, with little or no experience.

I would estimate, that the Commission is currently around 5 to 7 years behind the curve, on the overall health of our striped bass population. One good example is the Young-of-the-Year figures posted as FACT, by the State of New York in 2007. The State reported the HIGHEST YOY INDEX in Hudson River history with figures Of 35. REALLY? It is awfully strange, how NO ONE, not even New Yorkers, have ever seen these huge numbers, anywhere. That was 2007, it is now 2014, moving into 2015 and those fish for the most part haven't appeared in any significant numbers since those figures were made public.

I know, and have spoken to MANY professional captains from NY and they all tell the same EXACT STORY. What happened to that many fish?

During a recent tele-conference, a female biologist from NY, stated that , "WE CAN NOT, OR HAVE NOT FOUND ANY SMALL FISH IN THE HUDSON RIVER, AND IT APPEARS THAT CONDITION WILL CONTINUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE".

How can the Commission even entertain anything but the strictest of regulations to stop this incredible down-turn in our striped bass stock?

Captain Jim White
White Ghost Guide Service Ltd. (now out of business)
43 York Drive
Coventry, RI 02816

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

From: [David Decker](#)
To: [marine fish](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Re: Opportunity for Angler Input 2 Rec Fish Issues
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 4:11:56 PM

Dear Sirs: Responding to the request for public input regarding the management of the Atlantic Striped Bass.

The report you provide is extensive and would appear to have plenty of raw data that has been compiled into understandable copy, thank you.

Having been part of numerous discussions regarding fisheries I am curious how the data is harvested.

As far as selecting options, mine are as follows:

Option B

Coastal Recreational fishing, option B2.

Chesapeake, option B10

Coastal Commercial, B16

Chesapeake, B10

Commercial size limit, option A.

I share some observations. 2003 through 2013 the total harvest seems to be consistent.

In each case the harvest from 2003 through 2013 is below the quota.

Is the economic data available comparing the value of a "sport caught" versus "commercially" harvested or killed fish? As well as how that economic flow resonates through communities. Is the economic effect a consideration regarding the management of the Striped Bass?

How important is the enforcement of any regulation to the outcome of increasing the stocks to past levels?

I applaud the efforts to change the trajectory of this situation proactively. I would also encourage you to be courageous in your decision making to care first for the resource and second to the old voices that fear change.

My last observation is that having fished the Cape for the last 12 years for most of the month of June, I and my mates in three boats have never been checked by anyone other than the Coast Guard in a safety check for fish limits, or even what is in the box, I mean ever. I have witnessed first hand the over--harvest and high grading by private as well as chartered parties. The harvest of bass from Race Point to the Chatham rips is brutal and unchecked. When checking menus in the nice restaurants in Provincetown in June, seeing fresh bass on the bill of fare is common, and in several cases the restaurants are owned by Charter Captains, hmm.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. These are spectacular fish and are worthy of more than being managed as food.

I look forward to your reply and any answers you may have for my questions.

Best Fishes, David Decker

From: "Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries" <marine.fish@state.ma.us>
To: DAVIDWDECKER@COMCAST.NET
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 10:02:19 AM
Subject: Opportunity for Angler Input 2 Rec Fish Issues

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August 2014



Opportunity for Angler Input on Two Recreational Fisheries Issues

Your opinions matter! Below are two important issues for Massachusetts recreational fisheries for which public comment is being sought. *Marine Fisheries* encourages you to get involved in the management of YOUR recreational saltwater fisheries by providing your views.

1) Striped Bass Management Measures in 2015

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – which coordinates management of shared fisheries resources along the Atlantic Coast – is accepting public comment on proposed revisions to the interstate management plan for Atlantic striped bass. Draft Addendum IV proposes reducing fishing mortality because even though overfishing is not occurring, spawning stock biomass has been steadily declining below the target level since 2006 and is projected to fall below the threshold level due to a series of years with poor juvenile production. While recreational harvest of striped bass in Massachusetts has not changed appreciably with the decline in the stock, recreational catch (including both harvested and released fish) has fallen by roughly 75% since 2006, a trend anglers like you have likely noticed. In response, the draft addendum offers a range of management options to reduce both commercial and recreational harvest throughout the striped bass' range beginning in 2015. Specific options under consideration include various bag and size limit combinations for the recreational fishery and quota reductions for the commercial fishery. Please read the addendum for more information.

Draft Addendum IV is available [here](#) or through the Commission's website, www.asmf.org, under "Breaking News". The document includes instructions for submitting written public comment through the comment deadline of **September 30**. There will also be four public hearings in Massachusetts on the Draft Addendum during the first week of September. Details on the hearings are available [here](#) or through *Marine Fisheries* website, www.mass.gov/marinefisheries, under "Marine Fisheries Notices."

2) National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

NOAA Fisheries (www.nmfs.noaa.gov) is developing a national policy on saltwater recreational fisheries to outline a set of principles to guide the agency's management actions and decisions over the long term. The new policy will make clear the values NOAA Fisheries will keep in mind when implementing the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the legislation that governs fisheries management in federal waters. The policy will also serve as the underpinning to the agency's recreational fishing Action Agenda.

NOAA Fisheries would like to know your thoughts on what should be in the policy. Comments will be accepted through **September 12**. Click [here](#) for more information, including how to submit comments.



To unsubscribe please click [here](#)

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA, 02114

From: Joseph Silverio
To: Fish, Marine (FWE)
Subject: Re: Opportunity for Angler Input 2 Rec Fish Issues
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 8:36:48 PM

Lets not over react for the purpose of protecting the stripped bass no one that I know that fish for bass were asked about any numbers of fish caught keepers or not no one is talking about how much tonage the seals eat up and down the east coast lets look at the whole picture to truly make the right decisions

On 8/28/14, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries <marine.fish@state.ma.us> wrote:
> Email not displaying correctly? View it (
> <http://sendgrid.org/wf/webmail?rp=ZT1bGQzTnNaWfWjWhkZmFXUTZNVl6TkN4MWMYnYmMxT2p1MU5cVTBmUWV5SnVaWGR6YkdWMGRHvNlYmMxSwpvaU16QTEOREU1TINj0lNWxkM05zWh5MFpYSmZkWF5sY2w5cFpDSTZNemsTkrRVNE1UWxbNVGQ5>

>) in your browser
>
> August 2014 (
> <http://www.mass.gov/dmfw/dmf/index.html>)
>
>
>
> Opportunity for Angler Input on Two Recreational Fisheries Issues
>
> Your opinions matter! Below are two important issues for Massachusetts
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> MarineFisheries encourages you to get involved in the management of YOUR
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> by roughly 75% since 2006, a trend anglers like you have likely noticed. In
> response, the draft addendum offers a range of management options to reduce
> both commercial and recreational harvest throughout the striped bass' range
> beginning in 2015. Specific options under consideration include various bag
> and size limit combinations for the recreational fishery and quota
> reductions for the commercial fishery. Please read the addendum for more
> information.
>
> Draft Addendum IV is available here (
> http://www.asmf.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassDraftAddendumIV_PublicComment.pdf
>) or through the Commission's website, www.asmf.org (<http://www.asmf.org>
>), under "Breaking News". The document includes instructions for submitting
> written public comment through the comment deadline of September 30. There
> will also be four public hearings in Massachusetts on the Draft Addendum
> during the first week of September. Details on the hearings are available
> here (
> <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/dmf/marinefisheriesnotices/2014-asmf-striped-bass-hearings-20aug14.pdf>
>) or through MarineFisheries website, www.mass.gov/marinefisheries (
> <http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries>), under "Marine Fisheries Notices."
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> <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/policy/>) for more
> information, including how to submit comments.
>
>
> (
> http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/fishing/saltwater/?utm_source=MA_Saltwater&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=May_2014
>)
> http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/fishing/saltwater/2014-saltwater-fishing-permit/?utm_source=MA_Saltwater&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=May_2014
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>) Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
> 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA, 02114

From: [MATT](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: RE: Opportunity for Angler Input 2 Rec Fish Issues
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2014 6:49:06 PM

Do you really expect people to read all this stuff. Just say it like it is and enough with all the political crap.

One of the problems is that there are people out there still keeping everything they catch and size limits don't mean anything to them. Spot checks need to be implemented on boats before they get to the docks and while they are being trailered.

From: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries [mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 12:02 PM
To: GUZZETTAM@VERIZON.NET
Subject: Opportunity for Angler Input 2 Rec Fish Issues

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August 2014

Opportunity for Angler Input on Two Recreational Fisheries Issues

Your opinions matter! Below are two important issues for Massachusetts recreational fisheries for which public comment is being sought. *Marine Fisheries* encourages you to get involved in the management of YOUR recreational saltwater fisheries by providing your views.

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NOAA Fisheries would like to know your thoughts on what should be in the policy. Comments will be accepted through **September 12**. Click [here](#) for more information, including how to submit comments.

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| | | | |

| |

From: [Jason](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014 12:40:32 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my preferences on the above mentioned draft addendum.

On proposed management scenarios, my preference would be options B4, B10. Concerning Commercial Quota Transfers, my preference would be option A.

I am choosing these options as I believe they represent the greatest reduction in harvest from current levels. If there were options that further reduced harvest, I would select those instead. I would be in favor of a tighter slot with One fish limit and One trophy fish over 55" per season.

Striped bass stocks are in serious trouble due to overharvest and mismanagement by the ASMFC. Immediate action to correct this is badly needed.

Sincerely,

From: [Cambria, Richard P.,M.D.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: re:Draft Addendum 4
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 7:19:55 AM

Hello Mike, My name is Richard P. Cambria MD. I am a Professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, and Chief of the division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. More importantly I am an avid saltwater recreational fisherman owning two center console boats and pouring LOTS of money into the local caped cod economies in the context of my fishing. One of my boats is also utilized for charters with my son who is a coast guard liscensed capt. Thus our perspective is both strictly recreational and charter sport fishing. For sure I have ALWAYS been against commercial fishing for stripers despite the fact that I understand its engrained culture on cape cod; this year I have personally witnessed the abuses against the current "regulations"...(eg fish taken outside the 3 mile limit, greedy people fishing the night before a "commercial" day etc), and I for sure strongly support major reductions in the commercial quota. For my part I would love to see both elimination of the commercial fishery AND significant reductions in the bag limit for recreational anglers. In particular I often see charter boats coming into saqutucket harbor with 6 people on a boat each carting off their 2 perperson limit. If the charter fleet really wants to preserve the resourse they need to have reductions in addition to the reduction in the commercial quota. I would like to see a "keeper fish" be no less than 34inches and the recreational limit to be one fish per day per angler...for all shore and boat fishing. Any charter boat would have the same limit. I am happy to discuss or further elaborate with you....my cell is 617-877-6651. Thanks for your consideration. The timing of this initiative is very important. I have been pursuing stripers on cape cod for over 30 years; my personal observations, catches etc this year indicate to me a significant decline in the number of bass around the outer cape. The beachfront fishing, fall run etc has virtually disappeared; the swarms of early bass in the middle of cape cod bay has not been seen in two years. The big batches that camped off the backside of chatham simply never happened this year..we need to act now.thx.rpcambria

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From: [dan spos](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Save the Striper
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:43:33 AM

Dear Mike,

"Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length."

I am a striper fisherman here on Long Island and have been for almost a quarter of a century. I have personally experienced the ups and downs of this fishery. To my disappointment, this fishery is once again in trouble. The restrictions instituted some 10 or more years ago significantly improved the preservation of a great game fish. Perhaps a relaxed approach over recent years, lack of enforcement of regulations, euphoric sense of "it will always be this way" or just greed and selfishness, has led to this disaster. I advocate for the "Stripers Forever" policy. I would advocate for an even more rigid and dramatic approach to save the fishery. The time is now before it's too late. Slot limits of one fish less than 34" is prudent. Quota reduction is essential. Elimination of trophy fishing is a must. The big fish must be saved for posterity and genetic virility.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [roger2](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Saving striped bass
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 7:41:58 PM

The survival of striped bass hangs in the balance and that survival is in your hands. I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. As a member of "Stripers Forever", I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length. Further, I am a strong advocate of "catch and release" for all game fish, the striped bass being one of them.

The commercial fishing industry has been guided by short sighted greed and disillusionment. They have brought fish stocks to perilous extinction in the name of preserving their industry. As a result they are on the verge of eliminating their livelihood and depriving sports fishermen and women of a long standing tradition of responsibly fishing for sport. With respect to the striped bass, you can prevent that calamity from happening.

These are magnificent creatures

Roger Davies, Sc.D.
Licensed Psychologist
Grandview Psychological Services

From: raora05o@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Strip bass
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 8:25:06 PM

I regularly fish the jersey shore and last thing the angler fishing industry needs are more regulations on strip bass. However if there must be some changes than I suggest eliminating the bonus tag for a 3rd bass. If one is fortunate enough to catch 2 than that is plenty of meat. There should also be a limit on the max. size bass to keep. A 28" min.in my opinion is good however the max. should be set maybe around 38"-40". Most of these large beauties are usually full of roe and its a shame how many eggs are destroyed.. Take a picture and release it!! Finally I never hear anything said about all the fish that are killed in the nets and all the 18" limit fish that are caught in Maryland. How about more pressure on the commercial industry. Im tired of hearing how the lowly angler with a fishing pole is depleting the species!

For what its worth...
Ray O.

From: Bboutdoor1@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: stripe bass are just fine
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 7:44:54 PM

Good day,

Your about to get many emails from people wanting you to ban fishing for stripe Bass. They are just fine and the numbers of small fish this year proved this. Many small fish from the Merrimack to Maine were caught and I am betting you already knew this. So listen to your biologist and fellow biologists who tell you good things about a great fish.

Have a wonderful day,

Bill Biswanger
Outdoor Writer Lowell Sun
Striper Fisherman
bboutdoor1@aol.com

From: [Thomas Hugg](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripe Bass Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 8:45:26 AM

Dear Mike,

Being a recreational fisherman my whole life in South Jersey, I have seen fisheries go up and down over the years. I can appreciate the studies that are being done to estimate quotes for each year, however I would probably question the accuracy of this data. Let's be logical here, it is the commercial fishery that depletes a fish species. **Case and point:** The Cod fishery took a huge hit due to commercial overfishing, damn near wiped them out. When we allowed the Russians or whoever to come into our waters to net Atlantic mackerel years ago, they pretty much wiped them out. Now to go out try to catch any off our coast is a joke. Commercial fishing almost made the striped bass fishery extinct until a 2 year moratorium stopped the bleeding. Now the weakfish fishery has been for years and still is in danger, this is also due to commercial overfishing. An article, years ago, reporting a commercial fishing boat netting 10,000 lbs. of weakfish and selling them to Purina for cat food! A video on Bass Barn showing a ¼ mile stretch of dead stripers floating behind a commercial boat off North Carolina, all being the by-catch that had to be thrown back due to size limits. Commercial fishing boat was boarded in Point Pleasant, NJ only to find they were 4,000 lbs over their Fluke limit. These are only a few instances. You know as well as anyone else, the fish caught recreationally on hook and line does not even put a dent into these fisheries. Please leave our recreational regs. alone. Keep the shore tourists happy and keep them coming to our businesses. Keep the locals happy. Let us go home with some fish and have a fish fry. People are being discouraged on wanting to spend money on boats and fishing because of these limits and restrictions. Marinas are taking a huge hit, even more after Sandy. I encourage you to restrict the commercial fishing and enforce the regulations, with stiff fines if need be. Restrict the dragging and reduce the dead fish by-catch. Again, do your best to leave alone or even make less the restrictions of recreational fishing. Let us have fun and fish!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

R. Thomas Hugg, PLS

Principal Associate / Assistant Dept. Manager

Maser Consulting P.A.

156 Stagecoach Road | Marmora, NJ 08223

P: 609.390.1927 ext: 4419

www.maserconsulting.com



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In a continuing effort to support its strategic growth initiative, Maser Consulting recently opened a new office in Tampa, FL. This latest office will provide new Mobile LiDAR Mapping services while strengthening its Civil and Site services to meet growing commercial development opportunities. Now employing over 450 professionals throughout the East Coast, our award-winning firm has a nationally diversified project portfolio.

From: [Jim Brooker](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: stripebass reg."s possible changes
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:13:38 AM

in light of the contribution of rec stripe bass fishing to East costal states, I suggest that any reduction of take be assigned against the commercial quota. Continuing reductions to the rec quota will seriously damage costal states economies. Thanks jim brooker

From: [john mc intyre](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass addendum
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 12:08:37 PM

dear sir, i,am john mc intyre owner of tight line charters on long island new york on the south shore fire island inlet. the striped bass fishing has been going down rapitly for some 5 or 6 years to the point of 1 mass of fish coming past spring and fall.i think that we should reduce F to its target in ONE YEAR with a 25% reduction in harvest in 2015 . i believe that if we dont we will lose the striped bass fishing and all will suffer. i also think that NO recreational fishery should take trophy size striped bass,one fish 28 inchs to 32 inchs should be ok at this time. sorry to say and i understand having to make a living , i just think NO commercial fishery should be at this time or stoped completely, striped bass are that important to all the small busnesies alone the east coast. i hope that we all do the right thing and save this great fish its in our hands and now is the time. thank you
john mc intyre tight line charters

From: [Daniel Mancari](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass 1@32
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 10:05:43 AM

Mike Waine,

Just emailing you as a Pennsylvanian that fishes NJ, DE, PA and MD for striped bass, please do all that is necessary to save the fishery. I lean towards moratorium for 2+ years, but that's just me. As a 16 year old kid, I caught my first two "keeper" striped bass back to bass before I even knew what they were, now as a 33 year old, I'd be lucky to catch 2 keepers in a season. I have a 8 week old son and I would love for these fish to be around so I can teach him about the chase of the great striped bass.

Daniel Mancari
Sent from my iPhone

From: [captainwen](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass Addendum IV public comment
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 4:45:51 PM

ASMFC ,

The striped bass in the waters of New York feed on menhaden. You have collapsed the menhaden stock. There is less than 1% of the unfished biomass in the water now. Unless you abandon the inaccurate and dangerous Beaufort Assessment Model for menhaden which has brought us to this all time low in our fisheries here , the striped bass will continue to dwindle.

Everything eats my menhaden ! You have to reevaluate your reckless and inaccurate menhaden management system. You are destroying our food web.

Wendelin J Giebel
23 Wedgewood Lane
Miller Place NY 11764
631 8210539

From: ronaldlomas@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 4:44:05 PM

Mike Waine:

I wish to express my opinion on the draft addendum concerning striped bass. I feel that a 1 fish per limit is the way to go, but I would also like to see a slot limit similar to the one used in the state of Maine because I feel it would protect the largest portion of the breeding population therefore increasing the biomass. This addendum would have to apply to the entire coast or striper range and also apply to the charter fishery unless they wanted to be classified as commercial in which case they would have to abide by the commercial regulations.

I feel that the 1 fish limit is a step in the right direction but we need to do more right now to rebuild the striper biomass.

Sincerely,

Ronald Lomas

Rehoboth, MA 02769

From: brian.bishop@thomsonreuters.com
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); [James Gilmore](#); [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
Cc: bassatnite@hotmail.com
Subject: Striped bass Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:39:25 PM

Dear Fishery Managers,

My name is Brian Bishop. I've been fishing striped bass recreationally for 30 years, and see the population has declined significantly through the past 10 years, and seems to be less stripers every year. Here are the options I think should be implemented for the striped bass Addendum IV:

Section: 2.5.1 - Option B

Section: 2.5.2 – Option B

Section: 2.6 – Option A

Section: 3.0 – coastal recreational fishery – select B-3
- Chesapeake recreational fishery – select B-10
- Chesapeake commercial fishery – select B-17

Section: 3.1 – Option A

Section 3.2 – Option A

Brian Bishop
Data Center Technician
Brian.Bishop@thomsonreuters.com
Desk:631-233-6770
Mobile 631-560-4137
88 Parkway Drive South, Hauppauge, NY 11788

From: [Fred Bogue](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass amendment options
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 3:42:24 PM

I would like to enter my input on the proposed changes
First of all I do think we are in a decline and I would like the changes to take place in one year.

I would also be most interested in option B4 as a size change
Thanks for your time
Frederick Bogue
3 East Delaware Trail
Medford,NJ 08055
Linesider50@verizon.net

Sent from my iPad

From: [DEWAYNE FOX](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass and panties
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 8:07:25 AM

Mike,

Thought you would appreciate this. I may show up just to see you get a bunch of men's "panties in a bunch" (see attached). Good luck with this one!

<http://capegazette.villagesoup.com/p/big-changes-in-store-for-striped-bass/1231339>

D

From: [Josh Eldridge](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass comments
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 11:28:02 AM

I fully support the proposal to return the spawning biomass to a sustainable limit as fast as possible. The 25% reduction seems like the fastest way possible, and most viable option. To stretch the reduction out seems like a poor way to go about returning the stocks to a sustainable level. It would also allow environmental factors to play a larger, and uncontrollable factor.

As far as size restrictions and bag limits. I would love to see the bag limits go down as well as the bag limits. Protecting the larger more sexual mature females would seem to make more sense than protecting the smaller non sexually mature fish. As far as bag limits, 1 fish a day more than enough for a recreational fisherman. There should defiantly be a cap on trophy fish. I do like your "no fish larger than 40". No matter which route the board takes I would like to see that portion be adopted.

As I commented during the meeting. I do think the board should look at allowing smaller fish to be taken. The current regs focus both the entire recreational and commercial quota on the spawning stock. Allowing the juvenile fish a chance to breed is great, however protecting the more mature, more successful breeding stock would seem the fastest way to spawning biomass to acceptable levels. Even if this is only used as a short term solution.

As pointed out in the meeting spawning is only one issue. Habitat is also a concern. The board and the states should try to come up with a more universal habitat protection plan. With advancing erosion proposals, windmills and assorted projects identifying critical habitat and protecting it should also be at the for front of discussion. Working to open the 3 mile limit would be great as it would allow the pressure on the species to be more spread out, and not as focused in one geographic area.

Another issue is food. The food sources need to be managed, and protected. This includes the estuaries where scup, bunker, squid are born, as well as any fisheries that focus on a food source as a fishery. The fishery needs to be managed as a whole and not just one or two parts of it.

You guys have done a great job so far. I'm sure you will continue too. Thank you for taking the time to come to the island, and for reading my comments.

Josh Eldridge
508 901 1120

From: [Bob Burger](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass comments
Date: Friday, August 29, 2014 5:41:06 PM

Dear Mike- I had the chance to hear you at the Connecticut meeting on the Striped Bass Amendnebts this past week- thanks for taking the time to break down all the proposed changes for us. Since things ran late, I wanted to write some other comments down that I hope will make it to the board for consideration.

First- the charter boat fishery should be required to keep limits for their paying customers only- ie, it is very common for captains/mates/deckhands to be counted in the "limit" that the boat takes home (2 fish for each of them, in addition to to customers' fish), resulting in hundreds of extra fish being killed daily in many areas.

Second- some attention should be paid to the horrendous waste that occurs in the NorthCarolina fishery each winter. That state allows their commercial fishermen to keep the 100 biggest fish per day- culling through thousands of dead fish to do so. This should be changed to a daily weight limit, so all fish count towards the daily total, resulting in no waste be culled (thrown back dead).

Lastly- the commerical reduction being takien from a previous quota rather than actual landings is a slap in the face to all of us who are making sacrifices to help rebuild this fishery. I don't have any specific suggestions in this regard, but I just can't agree that their "reduction" (which is really a 13% increase) is fair in any way.

thanks again for your time-

regarsd-

Bob Burger
109 High Meadow rd
Guilford CT 06437

From: [Melinda & David Battistelli](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass concerns
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 10:05:44 AM

To ? (No contact name given on the "Public Input" section of the ASMFC website)

My name is David Battistelli. I'm 54 years old and have been a recreational fisherman in New Jersey since my childhood. I understand that there is some concern that the stock assessment has revealed a decline in striped bass and that there may be cutbacks in the size and or number of stripers that recreational fisherman can catch in the future.

I'm an avid hunter and fisherman. I consider myself a conservationist. I'm very concerned about preserving the future of hunting and fishing opportunities for my children and grandchildren and therefore I completely support effective management programs when necessary. But my experience has me questioning many of the things that I read.

Until now, I've never written a letter to a government agency about this topic. In fact, I have my doubts whether anyone in the agency has the time, or will take the time to read this. But if you do, thank you.

Concerns

Is the science accurate? Can the science be accurate? Are there so many factors to consider, that science has become anecdotal?

My Background

I have actively fished for the last 48 years. Most of my fishing has been in the Delaware Bay and the coast of New Jersey from Cape May to Long Beach Island.

My Historical (and anecdotal) Observations

- I had never met anyone who actually caught a striped bass until about the early 1990's (there was a moratorium in the 80's). We read about them in the newspapers, talked about them with the bait shop owners (a nearly extinct group themselves today), but the reality is, it was very uncommon for people to fish for stripers and a rare occurrence for someone to actually catch a striper years ago.
- South Jersey fisherman began targeting stripers in the 1990's. However, most of us made many trips before actually catching one.
- Back then, my colleagues and I could actually go years without catching a striper.
- In recent years, I have fished a lot, and with the exception of weakfish, my fellow fishermen and I have never in the past seen the quantity and size of fish like we catch today.
- Years ago, a good day fishing would have been a half dozen 12 to 14 inch flounder. A 16 incher was a really nice fish, and much less common. An 18 incher was rare, something you took pictures of.

Someone's data is wrong

- Despite what I read in the Press, despite the "evidence" supported by science, THERE ARE SO MANY FLOUNDER RIGHT NOW. I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. So many huge fish. (18-23 inches) Since the beginning of June, I have fished inshore and the back bays from the Great Egg Inlet to Cape May and we have caught more and bigger flounder than I have ever caught in my life. My freezer is full.
- The last 5 years or so have been incredible flounder fishing. We have caught so many flounder. Most fish were not keepers prior to this year, 16 - 17 inches (but still, very large flounder for the back bays)
- Despite what I read in the Press, despite the "evidence" supported by science, THERE ARE SO MANY STRIPED BASS. THERE ARE SO MANY BAIT FISH. THERE ARE SO MANY SHARKS, BLUEFISH, TUNA AND MARLIN. Within 3 miles of shore, we've caught rays, (not just skates), brown sharks, blues, sea bass, tropical looking fish. We saw the largest pods of Dolphin that I've ever seen. Almost a mile long at times. Within 4 miles of the coast, we saw miles of spinner sharks surfacing above the baitfish. Never new what a spinner shark was until this year. Crabbing is fantastic. Every marina we go to is filled with tiny baitfish. Whales have been within a mile of the coast.
- We have seen so much marine life in the past few months. My Son (a biology major in his senior year), and my daughter, (an environmental science major), are constantly asking how there can be so many fish, and yet the press and the government organizations tell us the stocks are low.

The Striped Bass issue

How does the ASMFC know that their science and data is a correct representation of the fish stocks?

How does the ASMFC know that the regulations which they create, will have any effect on the fisheries?

Can the ASMFC know whether the regulations will have a positive or negative effect on the targeted fishery or whether it will have an undesired effect on related fisheries?

I'm losing my confidence in the fisheries management data.

Example

I fished for Striped Bass last fall (about 15 days) during October and November in the Ocean off of Long Beach Island. Day after day we observed miles and miles of birds and striped bass on top of the water (more than we've ever seen). They were everywhere. But for whatever reason, few fisherman could catch them. My boat caught one fish the whole fall season. Fish were jumping within 10 feet of our boat. If your data was based off of what fisherman caught, you would say there was a decline in the stocks, when in actuality, there were more fish than any time in my lifetime.

Please take this into consideration when developing regulations for the future, and remember all of the lives that are affected by your decisions.

Thank you for your time,
David Battistelli

From: [Potvin, Brian](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Current State
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 8:55:18 AM

Hello, I would like to strongly advocate for the strictest conservation measures that could be imposed on this important fishery. I am a recreational saltwater fly fisherman who practices catch-and-release on all of the fish I catch. I have seen a precipitous decline in the quantity and quality of striped bass in the last 8 years. I caught 500+ stripers in my first year owning a boat and caught a mere 20 fish last summer and 15 so far this summer, approximately. You'd think I would be getting better with experience, but my most common outcome when I fish now is not feeling as much as a tug on the other end of my line. I do see ridiculous volumes of bait around; it is telling that there are only baitfish without any predatory stripers targeting them.

I advocate a two-year hiatus on the taking of ANY fish. This fishery is in horrible condition currently and something drastic needs to take place in order to stem the collapse.

Thank you.

Brian Potvin | Marblehead, MA | 603-793-0745 | bpotvin@lindt.com

From: [Edward Briganti](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV - Public Comment
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 4:23:44 PM

Dear Mike,

I am writing to provide comments on the draft version of Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV.

- In **Sections 2.5.1** and **2.5.2**, I support **Option B**, which simply adopts the best available science, as set out in the 2013 Benchmark Assessment
- In **Section 2.6**, I support **Option A**, which would prevent the three-year phase-in of the harvest reduction from being adopted and requires the reduction to occur all at once in 2015
- In **Section 3.0** I support **Option B** which affirmatively requires the full 25% harvest reduction to be imposed next year. I oppose any option to stretch out harvest reductions over three years. I DO NOT want more delay. We need to reduce fishing mortality NOW. As far as size and bag limits, I support the most precautionary option, **Option B3 – a one fish bag limit and a 32" size limit—on the coast, and B15—a hard quota—in the Chesapeake**
 - Within the commercial fishery management options I support **Option B17** which takes the 25% reduction from the 2013 commercial quota, though it should really be from the actual commercial catch, subjecting the commercial fishery to the same standard as the recreational fishery. We should share the pain.

I am a relative newcomer to this fishery, having only picked up fly fishing for stripers in 2008. As a lifelong sailor and lover of the sea I was immediately drawn to fishing for stripers on the fly and had some memorable times in those early years. Lately, however, I have experienced a noticeable reduction in the quality of striper fishing from western Long Island Sound, to the Watch Hill reefs, Peconic Bay and Montauk, to the Cape and the Islands. As fly fishing is one of the hardest ways to catch stripers, this seemed to me to be the canary in the coal mine that something was wrong.

I have given up wading for stripers from shore altogether since the fish are too few and too infrequent to justify spending the time searching for them, and now almost exclusively fish with guides by boat. As a result, over the last two seasons I have personally spent close to \$3,000 per year on striper fishing alone through guide charters and purchases at local fly shops and the like.

However, after experiencing such poor fishing, particularly for stripers in NY/CT waters, I am planning to curtail my spending on recreational fishing for the remainder of this year and next year; it's becoming too difficult to justify laying out ~\$500 each time I want to fish for what amounts to a nice boat ride but no fish. I have long-since boycotted ordering striped bass off the menu at restaurants (though fewer and fewer seemed to have it this summer) and encourage my family and friends to do the same.

I understand the potential negative impact this will have on these local guides and fly shops, and I don't take this decision lightly. I count many of these folks as friends, but I don't purchase their products and services out of charity. I am a business person just as they are and I expect to receive a certain quality experience in return for parting with my cash. Unfortunately that experience just isn't what it used to be when stripers were more abundant.

The problem is not imagined. There is a famous ice cream shop on Nantucket where you got off the ferry called the Juice Bar. On the walls inside they have annual photo collages stretching back to the early 2000s of the staff that works there each summer, most of whom are college kids. Each year some of the kids choose a "grip n grin" photo with a striper they caught that summer, maybe on a company outing, perhaps. The fish in the early years look like they're caught from shore and some of them look like real bruisers, serious trophy fish. But after the 2010 collage the fish pictures eerily just stop; from then on it's just people's faces, no more grip and grin shots. I don't think this is a coincidence. 2010/2011 is about the last time I recall experiencing anything close to decent fishing in our waters, particularly from shore. Something needs to be done now to reduce striper mortality and manage this important species for abundance.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Kind regards,

Ed Briganti

--

Edward R. Briganti
160 E. 88th Street
New York, NY 10128
(203) 644-0561

From: [John Crocker](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Comment
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 6:11:53 PM

Mr. Waine,

I am a Massachusetts resident commercial striped bass and charter captain. I have witnessed a precipitous decline in the striped bass fishery surrounding Martha's Vineyard over the last nine years where I live and fish. Most of the bass have been wiped out of our area. Very little commercial fishing effort takes place here now. The charter season has been reduced to 6 weeks with few fish even then. My income has dropped by 50%. There are fewer fish every year. We must reduce the taking of this valuable resource.

I support the following options;
Section 2.5.1 and section 2.5.2 Option B
Section 2.6 Option A
Section 3.0 Option B
Size & bag limits Option B3 coastal & Option B15 Chesapeake

Thank you for your consideration,
John Crocker
PO Box 816
Edgartown, MA 02539

From: [John Kay](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [John Kay](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment
Date: Sunday, August 24, 2014 9:26:46 AM

Subject: Draft Addendum IV

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my preferences on the above mentioned draft addendum.

On proposed management scenarios, my preference would be options B4, B10, B16, and B17. Concerning Commercial Quota Transfers, my preference would be option A.

I am choosing these options as I believe they represent the greatest reduction in harvest from current levels, and still remains fair to both recreational and commercial fisherman.

Striped bass stocks are in serious trouble due to overharvest and mismanagement. Immediate action to correct this is badly needed.

Sincerely,

John Kay
4 Waters Edge
Kinnelon, NJ 07405

From: Spencer.D.Dufton@uscg.mil on behalf of [Dufton, Spencer D ET2](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 12:10:09 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am looking to put in comments for the striped Bass. I believe that the striped bass population is declining and that it requires immediate reduction in the harvest. I have been commercial fishing since 2006 on friends boats and my own, my experience has shown that the striped bass population in Massachusetts has declined substantially since I started fishing. The stock along the Elizabeth Islands has become almost nonexistent along with the fish off of gay head and Nomans island. I have adapted my techniques year to year and been successful, but the fish are being wiped out and the fleet of commercial boats are fishing more concentrated in one area. I would like to see immediate action to reduce both commercial and recreational fishing. On the recreational side I have witnessed almost every boat fishing block island come in with 40lb fish limits every day. No one needs to keep two fish that large, they give away the fish or sell them illegally. If the limit was back to one fish over 34" I think it would allow the recreational anglers to continue their pursuit of trophy fish and save the fish from being overfished.

The other concern I have is enforcement. I have witnessed to many boats fishing over the 3-mile line in the last two years and believe that more enforcement is required to solve the problem. I have not been boarded myself or seen the environmental police when fishing. I believe the money from the new saltwater license needs to be used to help protect the fish and beef up the patrols being made.

Very Respectfully
ET2 Spencer Dufton

From: [Surdel, Dave - Boston](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 1:09:40 PM

To: Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

I will be unable to attend one of the striped bass hearings in my area, but would like to communicate my thoughts pertaining to Draft Addendum IV.

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). In my opinion, the proposed changes are generally inadequate and favor the commercial sector of the fishery vs. the greater user group of recreational fishermen. Although this is not fundamentally acceptable, I will concede that some change is better than nothing at all. To me, this change is long overdue and there is no reason to further delay mortality reduction by 2-3 years. Striped bass need to be managed as a public resource, not a profit center for the commercial and charter fishing industries.

Although, I am in favor of a catch & release fishery until the stock has rebounded, I support the following options from the proposed Addendum:

Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2: Option B

Section 2.6: Option A – the idea of delaying action any further is completely irresponsible

Section 3.0: Option B – impose the reduction ASAP

Concerning size and bag limits: I support Option B3 – a one fish bag limit and a 32" size limit—on the coast and B15—a hard quota—in the Chesapeake.

I would also like to see improved efforts for enforcement of the new rules. I have spent 600+ hours/year on the water for the last decade and have never been checked on the water or at the dock. That's unacceptable. There is a sickening amount of abuse of the current rules by all sectors of the fishery and that needs to stop.

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 has declined on Cape Cod will rebound. Local small businesses in the hospitality industry will benefit. The charter fleet will benefit. All of the anglers that travelled from great distances to fish the cape in the spring (many of whom no longer visit due to poor fishing) will return.

I hope ASMFC does the right thing and takes immediate action to conserve stripers. We

should have learned from our mistakes by now.

Thank you.

Dave Surdel
3 Harvard Court
Acton, Ma 01720

From: [Lori Niese](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass limit - Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2014 10:49:25 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a relatively new fisherman (woman), having started fly fishing only 3 years ago. I love the sport and am very happy to release my catches back into the ocean, even the 38" one I pulled in earlier this year! I live in MA and have heard stories of 'blitzes' that covered large portions of Boston Harbor and lasted days or even weeks, on and off. I personally have noticed a decline in any activity over the mere three years I have been fishing. My friends, also fishermen (men), are all meticulous about the size and count limit. Most are truly in it for the sport. I believe most or all would be very appreciative of tighter control in order to sustain the dwindling population, and support Draft Addendum IV.

Thank you and best of luck. Your job is not an easy one!

Lori Niese
145 Black Bear Dr
Waltham MA, 02451

From: [Peter Regan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Management Hearings
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 12:29:53 PM

This once vibrant fishery has declined to the point that I no longer fish in Rhode Island. All the guides that I have used in the past are struggling and finding few if any fish. Their businesses are declining and something has to be done. It is shocking that the eastern seaboard states continue to watch this fishery suffer and refuse to take the necessary measures to protect the spawning and breeding of these fish. With regards to the proposals being looked at please look at the new and better science contained Option B in sections 2.5.1 & 2.5.2. In section 2.6 I favor Option A - no more delays! In section 3 I favor Option B- reduce the harvest! The limits suggested in Option B3 are a start and Option B16 puts long overdue restrictions on the commercial fishery.

I wish that more could be done and that people had a better understanding of the sad history of fisheries management where regulations have mostly come too late to save the resource. It is shameful that the commercial industry and sport fishing industry have allowed the resource to be so degraded. It will take strong regulations put in place by strong leaders in every state to make a difference to this migratory population. Conservation can help preserve this resource. Failing to implement dramatic changes will cause this fishery to collapse.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Regan

From: rwilson813@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Management proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 1:36:13 PM

Dear Sir,

I urge you to promote a "Slot Limit" model for managing Striped Bass. I have seen first hand how successful this model can be in managing fragile fish populations in Canadian lakes for Walleyes, Muskie and other species. Also, I would like to see a lesser allocation for commercial fisheries or banning commercial fishing of striped bass. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Wilson
7 Buck Road
Yardville, New Jersey 08620

From: [Georges Boyer](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass management
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 1:19:02 PM

Dear Mr. Waine, I am a resident of Far Hills, NJ 07931, and I usually fish for stripers on the New Jersey shore in the fall. I would suggest that the easiest and most practical way to assure the continuation of striped bass survival would be to institute a slot limit, say from 28-34 inches, with all fish over 34 inches to be released after revival. Since most breeding females are the larger fish, this would at least give them a chance to reproduce.

Thank you for your attention,

Georges Boyer
PO Box 567/ 118 Mosle Rd
Far Hills, NJ 07931

Georges Boyer, SVP-Sales
Wellington Shields & Co. LLC
140 Broadway, 44th Floor
NY, NY 10005
(w) 212-266-0312
(c) 908-672-3220
g.boyer@wellingtonshields.com

From: [Ed Rapp](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); [James Gilmore](#); [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
Subject: Striped Bass management
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2014 1:21:00 PM

As an avid recreational fisherman I would like to send you my opinion on the Striped Bass regulations being considered.

- 1. *I would like immediate action: One year and not 3.*
- 2. *I am in favor of a 31% reduction in mortality in one year. Since any plan only has a 50% chance of success, delays will only reduce the odds of success, since more and more fish will have perished.*
- 3. *I support a 1 fish at 32" per angler per day-regardless of where, how, and when the fish is caught. This regulation should be applied to all venues including party boats and charter boats. Making \$\$ on the fish does not justify providing these harvesters with an advantage. This provision has been a thorn in the sides of the majority of independent recreational fishers and it's time to end this unfair and scientifically unsound practice. Likewise, 1 fish at 32" should be the standard in the estuary as well. The notion that only small fish are caught in the estuary is nonsense. All places have their seasons and that's why anglers invest great effort in the estuaries around spawning time.*

We don't need any more scenes like this:





*Thank You,
Edward Rapp
Brooklyn, NY*

From: [Christopher Staab](#)
To: [David Simpson](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Managment
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 11:14:28 AM

Gentlemen,

Thank you for hosting the public hearing yesterday. As recreational fisherman and also in the charter industry I would like to weight in on the situation.

As stated by your data, the fishery is in decline and has been like this for the last 8+ years.

I would recommend at least a 3 year plan to bring the fishery back to acceptable levels.

3 years will help give the 2012 YOY class time to spawn a few times and help recover the stock.

1 year and done management will not be sufficient.

We talked a lot about restricting the catch, but what about improving the habitat. I have read many articles that the Chesapeake bay area is getting hammered by run off and pollutants that is hampering the fish stock. Any truth to that, and if so, what is being done?

thanks again for hosting and giving us the opportunity. Hopefully our voice is heard and acted upon.

Chris and Cooper Staab
Old Lyme

*Cooper was the "young of the year" fisherman in the room @ 1.5months, but he supports the 3 year plan too.

From: [Joe Casey](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: STRIPED BASS NEW REGULATIONS
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 10:10:47 AM

I am a member of stripers forever and I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length. These 34" fish are primarily female breeding fish and need to be totally protected.

thank you for your sincere concern for this wonderful natural resource and let's protect it forever.

Joe Casey

NJ Saltwater Fly Fisherman

From: vgano@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Options
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2014 6:39:26 PM

Hello Mike,

I am a concerned striped bass fisherman. I pick Option B1.

Sincerely,

Victor Gano

From: stratfocus4001@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Protection
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 7:00:17 PM

My name is Jeff Palmer and I am an avid striped bass fisherman. While I have caught hundreds of striped bass in the past year, I have released every one of them because I am concerned that this species is under dire threat. My experience on the water tells me I in no uncertain terms that this species is in serious decline and new legislation must be enacted to save it. I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. Stripers Forever supports the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

Jeff Palmer
Sag Harbor, NY

From: [Rob Wolhar](#)
To: richking@delaware-surf-fishing.com
Cc: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass reductions
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2014 6:52:19 PM

I am in favor of striped bass reductions and mandatory throw back for fish over 38". Please consider my opinion with any further decisions and assist Delaware's best interest towards the future of fishing.

Rob Wolhar
214 Beaufort lane
Milford, DE 19963
Rwolhar@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [arthur james](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [dennis intravia](#); [pete antonocelli](#); [Vinni NAPPI](#); [james m](#); [Bill Lorusso](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Regs, Proposed
Date: Friday, August 22, 2014 9:46:45 AM

Mr. Michael Waine,
As a NY recreational fisherman, I agree that something to preserve this resource must be done and quickly. My vote would be for option B4, one fish in a slot limit between 28" and 40". No one really needs more than one fish in this size. Second choice would simply be for Option B1, one fish over 28", although I see this option as potentially less effective as it allows the taking of "cows" that produce more eggs. Thank you.
Arthur James
26 Joludow Drive
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

From: [Ben Emery](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass regs
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 8:14:07 AM

Hi...I'd like to add my "vote" to the upcoming striped bass regulation discussion...although I think the proposed rules are still less stringent than I would like, I'll opt for C1 on the recreation side and D6 on the commercial side... I think the Maine regs...slot limit 20-26 and 40+ with a one fish bag limit are more in line with trying to rebuild the stock - but I guess the proposals have to be something that MIGHT get passed...
Ben Emery

From: [Vincent Nappi](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass regs
Date: Friday, August 29, 2014 10:27:14 PM

Mr. Michael Waine,

As a NY recreational fisherman, I agree that something to preserve this resource must be done and quickly. My vote would be for option B4, one fish in a slot limit between 28" and 40". No one really needs more than one fish in this size. Second choice would simply be for Option B1, one fish over 28", although I see this option as potentially less effective as it allows the taking of "cows" that produce more eggs. Thank you.

Vincent Nappi
76 nearwater ave.
massapequa, ny 11758

Sent from my iPad

From: [Paul Kerlinger](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass slots
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 9:32:41 AM

If you want to increase striped bass for recreational fishing the reg should be that 1 fish only may be taken and it must be a slot that includes only young fish that are just entering breeding age and size (say 20-24 or 22-26 inches), but who do not produce large amounts of eggs and don't have the experience to spawn successfully. This would increase the actual number harvested, but it would reduce the impact to spawners. The current, antediluvian regs encourage the killing of cows. Enough of the bait dredging pigs who want to take 2 massive fish per day.

These regs would also put some charter captains out of business by discouraging their (meat boy) fares, but it would encourage more fly light tackle anglers as the fish come back again, which would in turn change the structure of charter captains and the sizes of their boats. There would be more smaller boats catering to light tackle anglers, making just as many jobs and angling would be better.

Barbless hooks should be a regulation, for lure and bait anglers. Imagine that, we would actually get fish back in the water alive and well even if they were throat hooked.

I lived through the early 1970s with pcbs from GE and the near elimination of striped bass by netters. When will anglers ever learn.

Paul Kerlinger, Ph.D.
Curry & Kerlinger, LLC
609.884.2842 – office
609.636.7522 - mobile

From: [tom maguire](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); jgilmor@gwdec.state.ny.us
Subject: striped bass suggestions
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2014 10:51:12 PM

Sirs;

Commercial: 1% reduction and a season from June 15th to the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Recreational: ! fish over 32" and either no trophy or the trophy has to be over 45".

Season from May 15th to the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Charter Boats: 2 fish over 32". Season same as recreational.

Special attention needs to go towards spearfishing. They only target trophy fish and also just jump in right in the middle of everyone.

Gill netters need to be watched when they cull their catch. Too many floaters of legal size.

Anyway, that's what I think.

Tom Maguire
681 S 7th St
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
631-226-2242

From: rbooz@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Symposium
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2014 5:22:41 PM

Please do a full reduction on striped bass. Let the big girls go to keep the breeder stock alive !! Robert Booz

From: [Ken Washburn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 9:10:27 PM

Mike,

For the record I am a fly fisher and support catch and release of all striped bass. At minimum, I support a reduction in number of striped bass killed and an end to all commercial fishing for this species thus declaring bass a game fish in Mass. and everywhere else.

I am a member of Stripers Forever.

Respectfully,

Ken Washburn
104 Foster Rd.
Swampscott, Ma. 01907
kenwashburn1@gmail.com

From: [Gerald Ferguson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 1:59:28 PM

I favor the elimination of commercial striped bass fishing. For too long, we have seen a decline in the numbers and size of these fish. It is time for Massachusetts to join with other States who have decided to end commercial fishing of this species. I also favor restrictions on bag limits for sport fishermen and an increase in size limits as well.

Sincerely,

Gerald Ferguson
4789 Yantis Drive
New Albany
Ohio 43054

Sent from my iPad

From: [Pete Longo](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 12:34:18 PM

Many 30+ pound breeder fish are harvested each year. Please change the rules to no fish over 39 inches.

Pete Longo
908-770-4105

From: [George Jacobi](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Friday, August 29, 2014 1:26:34 PM

Dear Sir,

It has happened again, and as a recreational fisherman, I am extremely chagrined. Please change the regulations, for recreational but especially for commercial striped bass fishing, to conserve the species. Better yet, do away with commercial fishing. I have seen it, and it is a game marred by cheating - with terrible consequences. Thank you,

George Jacobi
Mansfield, CT

From: [James Joyce](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 2:21:24 PM

A note from Martha's Vineyard

I do not fully understand all the pages about this but my feeling is striped bass should be listed as a game fish period. No more commercial fishing should be done period. Most of the commercial fisherman I know that fish for bass do not rely on this for there income. It is only a supplement and easy picking for them to make a few extra dollars. Shutting down the commercial fishing is the best way to save this fish for the recreational fisherman like myself.

thank you

Jim

James E Joyce CSB
Carroll & Vincent Real Estate
37 Main St PO Box 65
Edgartown MA 02539
work: 508.627.4080
cell: 508.627.0286
fax: 508.627.7407
www.carrollandvincent.com

From: [Randy Richards](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Friday, August 22, 2014 2:24:52 PM

Hi Mike!

I noticed the hearing about the Striped Bass issues.

I can't make it because of my work schedule but had a question:

Is anything being done about the fishing corporations who are taking entire species of fish from mile long nets out there?

I think that has hurt fish populations more than anything in the past 10 years. Fishing used to be good in the sound. Now you barely catch anything unless you head out to the race. Now the Race is also being overfished because every fish tour boat brings their customers there as well...

Thanks for all you do!!!

Randy Richards
195 Seneca Drive, Groton, CT

From: [Peter Tilton, Jr.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 10:36:51 AM

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Mike-

I am unable to attend the NH hearing on striped bass effort reduction, so I am submitting my preferences to you by email.

Either B1 or B4 would be my choice for recreational reduction. I am against increasing the minimum size because I feel this would only increase discard mortality. I like B4 but if it is chosen I would like each angler have the option to keep one over 40" fish a year. This could be enforced by issuing a tag number with the license that the angler would call/email to Fish and Game if they kept a big fish so they wouldn't be able to possess more than one a year. Thanks for taking my input.

Peter Tilton, Jr.
Defiant Lobster Co.
www.defiantlobster.com

From: [noah cluster](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 10:35:34 AM

As a concerned angler who lived thru the 70s and the moratorium I feel that we could be on the verge of another major decline of the species. I know that the biomass is supposed to be large enough to sustain things but don't you think its wise to be cautious with this resource?The economic impact of this fish for recreational purposes is huge. All you have to do is listen to anglers who are selling their boats or moving to Florida out of the Chesapeake Bay region(see Tidal Fish forums VA section). The environmental causes for the decline will never be eliminated because of chronie capitalism in the nursery states so its up to you to safeguard things and be proactive. There should be a game fish status in the nursery watershed at the least. Thank You Noah Cluster life long angler/environmental citizen.

From: [Ron](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2014 6:34:19 PM

Good afternoon ,
I have been watching , reading a lot about the striped bass stocks. We the recreational fishermen do not see the quantity of fish there once was, it is getting harder to find this fish. I read the science about them, I here the overfishing by commercial boats, everyone that fishes will tell you the bass are in trouble, if we do not reduce the number and size that is taken, there will be no fish left, the influx of fish that the bass eat has increased in numbers, the large breeders are almost not herd of, so please throw the graphs out and listen to the people, 1 bass at 32" and not trophy fish,
thanks for your time.

Ron Smith
453 Lafayette dr
Brick N.J. 08723
Tron453@comcast.net
723-477-8521

From: rwilson813@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:23:21 AM

Dear Sir,

I urge you to implement a commercial reduction considering the commercial sale of striped bass in other jurisdictions. Although the science is confusing and there are diverse opinions, I urge a slot limit be implemented for recreational fishermen. The slot limit has worked in Canadian lakes and rivers for other species for decades and will work for striped bass if implemented over the entire migration.

Please do what you can to maintain this wonderful natural resource. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Wilson
7 Buck Road
Yardville, New Jersey 08620
609-571-2510

From: grandslamcharter@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper Comments
Date: Friday, August 29, 2014 10:34:59 AM

Capt. Tom Mikoleski
Grand Slam Charters
38 Gull Dip Rd
Ridge, NY 11961

I'm writing this letter in response to Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management plan for Atlantic striped bass.

I'm a Montauk, NY charter boat captain who sees the daily pressure put forth on the striped bass fishery from many fishing fronts. In relation, the last few seasons I have experienced reduced catches and shorter migration spans at one of the most popular destinations for striped bass fisherman. I believe these two observations indicate that the schools of stripers running the Atlantic coast are getting smaller and smaller. Despite these two facts, I don't believe like some anglers that the fishery is on the verge of a collapse. However, I strongly feel that in 2015 new regulations should be put in place to aid the striper population recover from a precipitous downturn.

I'm aware that many of the factors that help determine the size of the striped bass population is out of man's hands, a prime example being the recent poor YOY spawning success in the Chesapeake Bay. The success of the spawn is mostly environmental, and this can't be controlled by man, but harvests numbers of striped bass can be, and in reality this is the only tool managers have to help increase the numbers of stripers swimming the coast.

I strongly feel that any reductions in recreational harvest should be implemented next season, and not phased in over 3-seasons. In addition, the commercial fleet must also have their reductions phased in quickly, and not stretched over 3-seasons.

Changing the size and bag limit to one fish at 32-inches is the best option. It should be noted that at the present size limit of 28-inches, 70% of the female striped bass in this size range have spawned at least once. At 32-inches it is believed that 100% of the female striped bass will have spawned at least once. Hopefully, more spawning fish will result in better YOY numbers in the future.

I also feel that any changes made to the party/charter fleet need to be coast wide. Many bordering states to New York have had more liberal fishing regulations than NY-party/charter boats for many years. This must stop in order to level the playing field between boats that often fish the same waters regardless of state boundaries.

Thank you for reading my letter, regards Capt. Tom Mikoleski.

From: [Dick Fincher](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper Fishery
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 4:06:20 PM

Mr. Waine - re the proposed changes on the recreational side, I would recommend one slot fish 18-24", and one fish over 32" daily limit per angler.

1. This would increase the odds of landing a male instead of a female.
2. It is my understanding that a smaller female, say around 32" would produce considerably less eggs than a female @ 36".

A related concern is the use of live bait in the recreational fishery - bunker chunks, bunker, eels, porgies. I believe from personal experience as well as observation, that live bait such as this results in far higher fish mortality, and usually with larger, even trophy-sized fish. In this regard, we need to foster a mind-set change that results in "I caught and safely released a trophy striper," instead of "I caught and killed a trophy striper."

Full disclosure: I make and sell wooden lures used for stripers and other species. I have never, with my lures or other commercial lures, gut-hooked and had to kill a striper.

Yours truly,

Dick Fincher, President, Phase II Lures
Westport, CT
203 226 7252
www.phaseiilures.com

From: [Michael Miller](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striper opinions
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014 1:10:37 PM

option A one year time frame.
Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement) B-3.
Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement) C-6.
Coastal Commercial Fishery C-9

michael miller photography
p. 323-528-4743
mmfoto@pacbell.net

From: williamhmartin341@gmail.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper restrictions
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 2:00:57 PM

I have fished for stripers for 55 years in MD, CT, NJ, RI and MA. I am concerned that we again need to make significant reductions in harvest throughout the fishery to protect the stock, especially the large breeding females. Please adopt the 25 0/0 reduction and implement it immediately. Also please close the destructive trophy seasons which this past year in the Chesapeake took many breeding females before they spawned. This frequently happens in late springs. Please press to limit and severely punish poachers who take a staggering amt of stripers illegally in MD, NC and MA. Please increase research funding study of micobacteriosis which is destructive in the Chesapeake Bay. Please consider making striped bass a gamefish. If not possible , then push for GPS monitors on commercial boats. Punish culling seriously. And dramatically limit the harvest of menhaden so these fish have ample food.

Bill Martin
20 Aintree Road
Baltimore 21286. 443-285-9617
Sent from my iPhone

From: [mike C](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper Slaughter
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 11:31:25 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

Unlike Stripers Forever, a recreational conservation organization advocating that believes in the reductions of striped bass quotas. I believe that it has been proven that States and their fishery managers, can not manage the Striped Bass fishery. The time has come for the Federal Government to take over and make the Bass a game fish. It has taken way too long to get a commitment for conservation with limits on harvesting. This bowing to commercial interest (include charter boats as well) have allowed the slaughter of even the last of the large breeders. I support a 100% reduction in quota now, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and to conservative, using maximum restrictions protecting all Striped bass at any length. Anything less than that and you would be remiss in your fiduciary duty to ALL America's citizens not just a few.

Sincerely
M. Campanelli

From: [Chris Lido](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripers
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 11:40:52 AM

As editor of the Fisherman I do not let my public comment be know too much, but after seeing the management of Gulf and Florida redfish over the years I am in favor of coast wide, or regional slot limit on striped bass. One fish between 24-28 inches and one over 28. The bonus tag program here in New Jersey should also be abolished.

Chris Lido

Editor

The Fisherman

www.TheFisherman.com

(732) 330-9638

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www.facebook.com/thefishermanmagazine

From: [baybully](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripers
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 10:38:07 AM

Mr.waine I'm sending you this email asking you and the members of the board of the asmfc.to stop sitting back doing nothing and start doing your jobs on protecting the stripers . For years you have sat back and done nothing while the large females are dropping in large numbers still you will not take action. The people who fish all the time like myself see how bad it is getting and yet asmfc just sits back and let's history repeat itself. Do something now before we have to shut down the striper seasons again. With that being said you also need to cracked down on Virginia with the menhaden stock.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

From: [Max Cavallaro](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripped Bass
Date: Monday, September 08, 2014 12:09:33 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing in support of protection of the striped bass and its food in Massachusetts, and all East Coast waters.

I fish recreationally with light tackle an average of two times per week. I fish mostly in Boston and Plymouth harbors from boat, and cape cod bay from shore, and these past two seasons have been the worst I can remember. I don't know what's going on, but something needs to be done.

I've caught exactly two fish over 28" in two years. In past years, I would lose count of keeper fish. My fishing friends observe this same trend. Please intervene, for if this fish is lost, we will lose a precious part of New England and ourselves. Thank you.

Best,

Dr. Max Cavallaro

From: [Jim Bradley](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 5:37:47 PM

I believe action should be taken to preserve the Striped Bass fishery. I fish the Delaware River and hope to someday share this experience with my grandsons. Option C as stated should be implemented, in my opinion it sufficient reduction and maintaining this over 3 years. This would allow time for further study.

I would suggest:

No slot fish maintain 17% reduction in recreational and commercial fishing.

C-1 , C-4 & C-9.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion.

From: [Wilhelm, Bruce A. CIV AIR-6.7.7](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Wilhelm, Bruce A. CIV AIR-6.7.7](#); ["wilhelmb2@verizon.net"](mailto:wilhelmb2@verizon.net); ["fish@mssa.net"](mailto:fish@mssa.net); ["tony@ccamd.org"](mailto:tony@ccamd.org)
Subject: Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, August 21, 2014 7:05:17 AM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I personally feel we should have the option to comment on two fronts - Recreational AND Commercial, because quite frankly, those two fish harvesting sources are what collectively need to be regulated and managed if we're going to fix this problem. As such I vote as follows:

B10 - 25% Reduction and 1 bag/18" min

B18 - 25% reduction from 2012 Harvest

Bruce Wilhelm
45516 Brawny St.
Great Mills, MD 20634
MSSA#: 8226820
CCA#: 1691329

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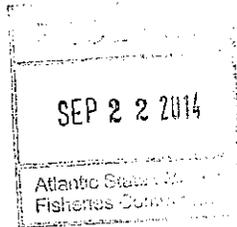
From: [John Denny](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: The future of striped bass
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 12:59:58 PM

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

As a fisherman that fishes about 200 days a year I have seen first hand the reduction of large striped bass, the wasteful use of the fishery by keeping too many fish by recreational fishermen and commercial fishermen. This resource is being lost and the economic impact will take a heavy toll on communities that depend on fishing after the summer tourists have left for the season. Though I feel a complete catch and release program is needed realistically this would not be reasonable for all that use the resource. We do need comprehensive laws to protect the fishery before it ends up like the Atlantic cod fishery which is suffering.

Thank you for taking to hear me out.

*Regards,
John Denny
755 Main St.
Belford, N.J.
07718
saltyh2ofly@yahoo.com*



September,17,2014

Dear Mr Waine,

My name is Andrew Kral and I'm a recreational fisherman who has been fishing the waters of Long Island, New York for about 45 years and I'm writing this letter in regards to the declining Striped Bass population occurring since 2004.

I wanted to thank you for your presentation and listening to our comments and concerns at Stony Brook University Tuesday evening. The task and decision at hand will be a difficult one, but the main goal is to increase the Striped Bass stocks to a sustainable level which I think we can all agree on and doing so that is fair both to the recreational fisherman and commercial fisherman. I belong to a surf fishing club on Long Island and the overall opinion amongst fellow members is that the Striped Bass stocks are dwindling and harder to find.

The first changes I would like to see are:

2.5.1 Option B

2.5.2 Option B

2.6 Option A

3.0 Option B

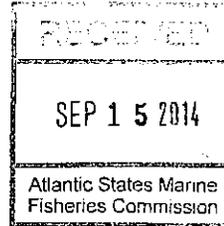
I also support one fish per day at 32 inches for recreational fisherman for all the coastal states that belong to the ASMFC and also raising the slot size for commercial fisherman accordingly.

I do not support the transfer of commercial quota transfers for this practice only increases fish mortality and is detrimental to any and all conservation policy.

In closing, all addendums and changes will be hampered and difficult to help improve the Striped Bass stocks without the crack down on poaching, this is a major problem and concern of both recreational and commercial fisherman.

Thank You, Sincerely, Andrew Kral bowhnr11757@yahoo.com

September 10, 2014
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201



Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Dear Mike,

In reference to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission's Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan, please register my following comments on the public record.

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option A: Status quo: One year time frame.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B1: 1-fish bag limit with a 28 inch minimum size

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B: Status quo with existing size limits

Additional Comments:

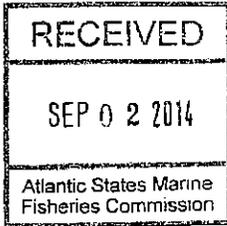
A correction needs to be made in reference to the 2015 commercial quota referenced in option B16. The 25% reduction from Am6 Quota could actually result in an INCREASE of 13% in the commercial harvest for 2015 if the new quota is met. This should be corrected so that the actual results are a 25% minimum reduction in the harvest based on the actual 2013 harvest numbers.

Sincerely,


Anthony R. Ranaudo
520 Munger Lane
Bethlehem, CT 06751

Tel: 203-266-5613

Email: arranaudo@optonline.net



ARTHUR K. SCHWEITHELM
129 SEAVIEW TERRACE
NORTHPORT, NY 11768
August 26, 2014

*Hi Mike, 8/26/14
I've sent the same
letter to all 3
Commissioners - Act*

Senator Phillip Boyle
69 West Main Street
Suite B
Bay Shore, NY 11706

Re: Draft Addendum IV

Dear Senator Boyle,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you in your role as a Commissioner of the NY ASMFC, with my written comments concerning Draft Addendum IV. I hope that my data and observations will help to reinforce the available data confirming that our biomass of striped bass has been greatly depleted.

I have been tagging for the American Littoral Society for roughly 24 1/2 years. A quick look at the following table indicates that I have averaged 498 fish tagged each year of which an average of 300 have been striped bass. Through 2007, the figures remained fairly consistent with striped bass representing 73% of the cumulative total of fish tagged over the 18-year period.

The very disturbing part of the chart is the period from 2008 through 2014. Over this 6 1/2 year period, I tagged 3605 fish of which only 1073 or 30% were striped bass. I have spent more time in recent years fishing for fluke and porgies as a result of the apparent decline in the striped bass biomass, but I have not reduced the amount of time I spend fishing for striped bass. In other words, the decline in the number of striped bass I have caught over the last 6 1/2 years is not a function of a reduction in time spent (effort) pursuing the species.

Total Fish Tagged Annually, Cumulatively & Percent Striped Bass

Year	Total Tagged	Cumulative Tagged	Striped Bass Tagged	Percent SB Tagged	Cumulative # SB Tagged	Cumulative % SB Tagged
1990	16	16	8	50%	8	50%
1991	8	24	8	100	16	67
1992	57	81	53	93	69	85
1993	151	232	125	83	194	84

Year	<u>Total Tagged</u>	<u>Cumulative Tagged</u>	<u>Striped Bass Tagged</u>	<u>Percent SB Tagged</u>	<u>Cumulative # SB Tagged</u>	<u>Cumulative % SB Tagged</u>
1994	211	443	154	73%	348	79 %
1995	224	667	180	80	528	79
1996	395	1062	311	79	839	79
1997	553	1615	448	81	1287	80
1998	573	2188	442	77	1729	79
1999	692	2880	503	73	2232	78
2000	652	3532	520	80	2752	78
2001	804	4336	552	69	3304	76
2002	818	5154	521	64	3825	74
2003	371	5525	246	66	4071	74
2004	503	6028	301	60	4372	73
2005	823	6851	630	77	5002	73
2006	742	7593	595	80	5597	74
2007	1008	8601	685	68	6282	73
2008	506	9107	196	39	6478	71
2009	298	9405	160	54	6638	71
2010	437	9842	193	44	6831	69
2011	509	10351	94	18	6925	67
2012	617	10968	203	33	7128	65
2013	836	11804	138	14	7266	62
2014*	402	12206	89	22	7355	60

*through 8/20/14

While a majority of my fishing is done from the beach, I also charter boats each year to go striped bass fishing and will continue to do so even if the number of fish you are allowed to take home is reduced from 2 to 1 and the size limit is changed. I have fished extensively throughout the South in states where slot limits dominate fishing regulations. For the most part, I believe those regulations work very well and I would be in favor of seeing slot limits brought into the management process of our striped bass population in some shape or form.

In conclusion, my good friend, Carl Lobue, Senior Marine Scientist, The Nature Conservancy, can attest to the quality of my data and observations. I am sure that another friend, Jeff Dement, American Littoral Society Tagging Director, would also be happy to verify the quality of my data although he is currently on vacation. Please let me know if you need any additional information from my records and thank you for giving my comments your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Arthur K. Schweithelm

Similar letters: Commissioner James J. Gilmore, Jr.
Commissioner Emerson Hasbrouck

c: Michael Waine
Douglas Grout
Patrick Augustine
Steve Hines
Carl Lobue
Fred Golofaro

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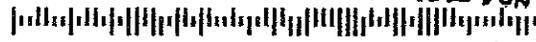
BILL CRAMER
203 623-3469

September 17, 2014

CC TO MIKE WAINES

DEAR MIKE
THANKS FOR YOUR PRESENTATION, YOU PUT A LOT OF DATA OUT
IN A SHORT TIME. MY REACTION TO THE ATTACHED TABLE OFTEN,
THE SLOT IDEA MAKES A MESS WITH IRI & NY. ONLY 2 MILES AWAY
HOPE FULLY THE STATES WHO MAKE OUR RULES AT LEAST TAKE FEW CAN
BUT WE DON'T HAVE A COMMERCIAL FISHERY.

Mr. William Cramer
216 Upton Ter.
New Haven, CT 06512-3142



DEAR JIM

I'VE BEEN FISHING STRIPED BASS SINCE 1951 WHEN THERE WERE FEW BASS & WE
FINISHED BEARING BOATS FROM 12 FT TO NOW A 40 FT BOAT WITH A 5 SEWER
AS A SUMMER BEACH HOUSE, 10 DAYS FISHING ARE SPENDING MAIN MONEY ON \$1
ON FISHING. THE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN HAVE MORE IMPACT THAN WE DO!

Dear William,

After discussion with anglers, business owners, fisheries managers and biologists, the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) fully supports a reduction in striped bass harvest along the Atlantic Coast, with equal reductions to both the commercial and recreational sectors. Based on our own observations and extensive review of the scientific data, RFA believes it's important to reduce fishing mortality to a level that is at or below the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) target reference point as of 2015, and not by delaying action over several years.

PLEASE NOTE MY PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS OF THE OPTION B TABLE ATTACHED

As per the ASMFC options-presented to the public, RFA staff, chapter leaders, board members and volunteers have given consideration of the organization's stated mission ("to safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs and ensure the long-term sustainability of U.S. saltwater fisheries"), and we believe that one option in particular presents the most efficient way of meeting the needs of the fish, the fishermen and the recreational fishing industry.

For the coastal recreational fishing sector, RFA views the following immediate and long-term benefits of Option B1, a bag limit of one fish at the current 28-inch minimum size limit:

- 1. Reducing the individual bag limit by one fish offers a 51% reduction in harvest (according to ASMFC), but would also effectively cut the number of broodstock fish harvested during the spring migration when pre- and post-spawn fish are congregated in key areas.
- 2. Keeping the size limit at 28 inches will reduce bycatch mortality resulting from any increase in size limit (proposed in options B1, B2 or B5): the 'one at 28' option allows anglers fishing specifically for harvest to catch their 'table' fish more efficiently without undue harm caused to undersized fish.
- 3. While a traditional 'slot' option to preserve and protect smaller fish and breeding fish alike is a sensible management option, RFA is concerned about the current recruitment classes; with the 2010 and 2011 recruitment years being the most robust of recent record, it's important to protect those age 4 to 5 females until better than 90% can spawn (age 5 to 8) at least once before harvest.
- 4. ASFMC has previously stated that reducing fishing mortality on fish aged 8-12 (32- to 40-inch fish) by half would result in "much greater egg production in the stock and an age distribution in which older fish are much more dominant": as such, any slot option (proposed in options B4, B6, B7, B8, or B9) which focuses undue harvest pressure on more 'fertile' age/size fish in the stock could be counterproductive to conservation efforts.

① REDUCING OUR LIMIT FROM 2 TO 1 IS A 50% REDUCTION ALL AROUND

(please turn over)

③A WE NEED COMMON OR IDENTICAL LIMITS FOR CT, NY, RI & MA. FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN.

④ WITH OUR .50% LIMITS WE CANNOT HAVE MUCH IMPACT ON THE BILL PICTURE. THERE SHOULD BE A BONUS FISH AND INCENTIVE FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN

YES I want to help the RFA FIGHT FOR MY RIGHT TO FISH in my state and across the

RFA 2014 Donation - I Fish I VOTE

Washington, DC 20091

William E. Cramer
216 Upton Ter.
New Haven, CT 06512

203-623-3469

501

4502

51-110/211 7524
100998630006

SEP 27 2014

* WHEN OUR ALLOTMENTS ARE PUT IN PERCENT, 1/10 IS 10% AND 1/100 IS 1%
 * OUR PERCENTS IN THE 2013 HARVEST WERE .05 OF 1%
 A WE MUST BE BAD FISHERMAN.
 B IN CT, MA, RI WE NEED TO HAVE COMMON RULES
 C WE ARE NOT SUPPOSE TO HAVE THESE PERCENTS IN PERCENTAGES

SEPT 2014 WEE

Option B: Reduce F in One Year

State	For Reference	OPTION B16	For Reference
Maine	2500* 60.673	188	0
New Hampshire	572500* 60.787	1813	0
Massachusetts	1,159,750 30.469	869,813 30.469	1,002,519 39.076
Rhode Island	243,675* 56.441	189,719 6.442	1,000,000 4.376
Connecticut	23,750* 66.603	17,813 60.604	1,479 6.657
New York	1,054,000* 67.87%	759,795 27.67%	823,801 32.52%
New Jersey	321,750* 8.463	341,313 8.463	6,095 2.407
Delaware	199,400 5.690	144,085 5.690	191,424 7.751
Maryland	131,560 3.476	98,670 3.476	93,532 3.673
Virginia	184,813 4.836	138,540 4.836	182,427 7.207
North Carolina	480,480 12.623	360,360 12.623	0
Coastal Total	3,806,275	2,894,706	2,894,706
% Diff from 2013 harvest	+50	+13	0

THE ALIEN AT THE MIDDLE COULD NOT BEHOLDEN FROM THE POLICE THERE BY
 ALSO THEY ESTIMATE THAT 9% OF BLENDS DONT MAKE IT OVER DO!

ASMFC,

As a member of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), I've given thought to the following options being considered by the ASMFC:

Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)

Option	Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest
B1	1	28" min	n/a	31%
B2	1	30" min	n/a	greater than 31% ³
B3	1	32" min	n/a	greater than 31% ³
B4	1	28-40" slot	n/a	greater than 31% ³
B5	2	33" min	n/a	29%
B6	2	28-34" slot	n/a	28%
B7	2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-34" slot	1 fish 36" min	28% ³
B8	2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-36" slot	1 fish 38" min	26% ³
B9	2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-37" slot	1 fish 40" min	26% ³

WE HAVE
VERY FEW
FISH
40" +

I understand RFA's position, and as an individual RFA member and saltwater angler I want ASMFC to know I support the following: **B-9**

(write option letter/number on space provided)

Sincerely,

Name WILLIAM CRAMER **THOSE REPORT, ASMFC**
Address 216 WILSON TERRACE
City NEW HAVEN, CT State CT Zip 06512
Signature WE CRAMER

IN CT

WE HAVE NO

COMMERCIAL FISHING. I FISH • I VOTE

ALSO, THE CHARTER BOATS NEED THE 2 FISH TO STAY IN BUSINESS.

DEAR MIKE, SORRY I COULD NOT FORMALIZE A LETTER

September 30, 2014

Mike Waine
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200 A-N
Arlington VA 22201

Subject: Draft Addendum IV – Support for Option B2 & B3

Mike Waine & ASMFC members,

I offer the following comments to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) with regard to *Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV*.

As that relates to the suite of options presented by ASMFC, I support the following options with detailed citation following;

Section 2.5.1, Coastwide Population Reference Point, I support Option B - use the 2013 Benchmark Stock assessment F Reference Points.

Section 2.5.2, Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Reference Point options, I support Option B – Use Coastwide population F reference points as stated in Section 2.5.1

Section 2.6, Timeline to Reduce F to the Target, I support Option A – Status Quo: One year Time Frame

Section 3.0, Proposed Management Program, I support Options B2 and B3, a one fish bag limit and 30-inch size limit, or one fish bag limit and 32-inch size limit with a Fallback position of Option B1 should either Option B2 or B3 fail to be approved.

Section 3.1, Commercial Quota Transfers, I support Option A – Status Quo: No Commercial Transfers

Section 3.2, Commercial Size Limits, I support Option A – Status Quo with amendment 6

Section 5.0, Recommendation for Federal Waters, I continue to support the closure for targeting Striped Bass within the EEZ and would not support any recommendation to change the EEZ closure at any time.

Recognizing that 2010/2011 year classes are the most robust of recent record, I support both B2 and B3 as options which offer a better than 31% reduction in recreational harvest while allowing more opportunity for those 4- and 5-year one or even two (or more) chances to spawn before reaching harvestable lengths.

Specifically, I have taken the following three points into consideration when arriving at my recommendations.

1. Reducing the individual bag limit by one fish offers a better than 31% reduction in harvest (according to ASMFC), but would also effectively cut the number of broodstock fish harvested during the spring migration when pre- and post-spawn fish are congregated in key areas.
2. I am still concerned about the current recruitment classes; with the 2010 and 2011 recruitment years being the most robust of recent record, it's important to better protect age 4 to 5 females until better than 90% can spawn (age 5 to 8) at least once before harvest.

3. ASMFC has previously stated that reducing fishing mortality on fish aged 8-12 (32- to 40-inch fish) by half would result in “*much greater egg production in the stock and an age distribution in which older fish are much more dominant*”; as such, any slot option (*proposed in options B4, B6, B7, B8, or B9*) which focuses undue harvest pressure on more ‘fertile’ age/size fish in the stock could be counterproductive to conservation efforts.

Striped bass is an iconic species; in the state of New York, it’s designated the State Marine Fish and it’s very important to the recreational community. I believe both sectors, recreational as well as commercial, need to take an equal harvest reduction and a full harvest reduction starting in 2015, and not ‘staggered’ over the course of several years – we don’t have the luxury of ‘loitering’ here with this important fishery.

ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

Pirate fishermen have a strong economic incentive: many species of fish, particularly those prone to over-exploiting (like striped bass) and in limited supply are of high value. On April 3, 2014, the U.S. Senate approved a pair of international treaties to combat IUU fishing, predominantly in the face of issues occurring in the North Pacific Ocean. ASMFC, in consult with NOAA Fisheries the Department of Commerce, can work to address IUU in the striped bass fishery without waiting for an Act of Congress.

NO COMMERCIAL QUOTA TRANSFERS

Section 3.1 of the *Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV* presents an option for commercial quota transfer between states. New York Sportfishing Federation is opposed to this change; of particular concern is the pressure this could apply to localized striped bass populations. When fish, particularly big fish, are congregating in certain coastal locations a particular times - late summer and early fall of Block Island, RI for example – taking unused quota from one state to maximize a ‘time and area’ harvest above and beyond allowable commercial harvest for another can have serious negative impact on the local stock.. Such activity could also have deleterious impacts on the recreational fishing community when those fish fail to make their way along the coast because of localized overharvest elsewhere.

TIME & AREA CLOSURES

One topic of concern which was brought up at the September 16, 2014 ASMFC hearing on Long Island was with regard to the Hudson River breeding stock of fish. I believe that a limited ‘time and area’ closure for the prime breeding grounds on the Hudson River during a two- to three-week period identified as the critical spawning time would be a welcome action. As with portions of the Chesapeake (Susquehanna Flats) and Delaware (Salem River to Trenton) where a spawning area closure and ‘catch and release’ fishery (mandatory circle hooks) exists presently, we would ask ASMFC and the state authorities to consider such a change to conserve breeding fish in the Hudson River complex.

2.6 TIMELINE TO REDUCE F TO THE TARGET

To reiterate my position in relation to the timeframe for reducing mortality, I do not support a modification of Management Trigger 3 under Section 4.1 in Amendment 6. While I appreciate the desire to “provide management flexibility” by spreading out required harvest reductions over time, I believe the deadline to address the conservation of striped bass is upon us now (if not already passed the date for action). I therefore support the one-year time frame and Management Trigger 3 which requires reducing harvest to a level at or below the target within one year.

While it’s certainly good news that the striped bass stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, the fact that the spawning stock biomass is approaching its overfished threshold and stock projections show it’s likely to fall below the threshold in coming years is of great concern to me.

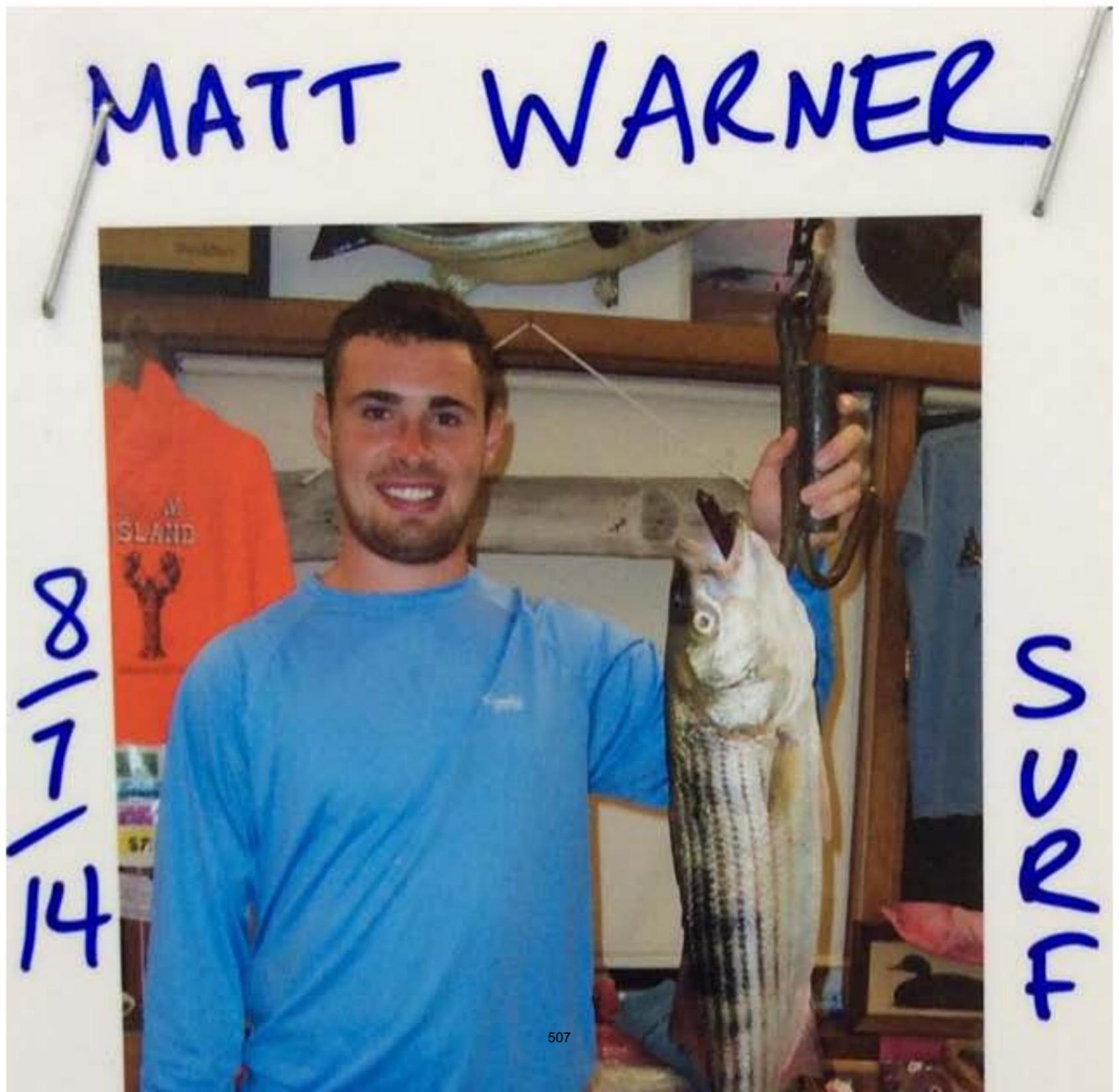
In response to these concerns, *Draft Addendum IV* proposes a wide range of options to broadly address several management objectives including conservation of the strong 2011 year class and conservation of large spawning fish to enhance the long term sustainability of the striped bass resource and the fisheries that it supports. I hope that ample consideration will be given to the position as stated in this document, as I believe that giving serious attention to meeting the needs of the striped bass fishery in full as of 2015 will ensure a more healthy and robust fishery within the next three to four years.

Sincerely,
Bob Danielson
NY Recreational Angler
86 Balin Ave
South Setauket, NY 11720



THE SUMMER DOLDRUMS

Matt Warner from Plum Island used a bone colored SP Minnow along the oceanfront during the incoming tide this past Thursday. The fish weighed in at 9-2. This is one of the few fish we have heard about being taken. For the most part it has been extremely quiet over the last few weeks around here. Have heard of more fish north of us. But, Matt and his friends have been doing okay along the oceanfront. So many it is just that not as many people fishing. The guys that fish a lot are reporting "seeing" lots of fish but getting them to bite is another issue. There's a lot of feed in the water so they can be fussy!



From: rturcotte5@cox.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripers
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 4:58:53 PM
Attachments: [2014-08-13_14-41-59.png](#)
[2014-08-13_14-43-30.png](#)

Mike, good afternoon. As we fisherman are trying to set NEW LIMITS on Stripe Bass we are unfortunately having the ongoing issues of people taking Bass that are on the brink. And to top it off this bait shop is advertising it as the biggest fish caught all week. Bass must be a grand prize in NH. We all need to be on the same page. See attached picture. Please follow Facebook's Surfland site to see a few more small Stripers. As a Avid Stripe Bass fisherman, I am embarrassed. If this is happiness, what does a 30lber bring??

Bob

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Smartphone

Brendan M Craig
143 William Cook Blvd
Manahawkin NJ
08050
September 16th 2014



Mike Waine
1050 N. Highland St
Arlington, VA 22201
mwaine@asmfc.org

Regarding: Striped Bass Mortality Reduction Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mr. Waine,

Unfortunately I could not make the most recent meeting in Toms River, NJ, regarding the Striped bass mortality reduction due to my work schedule, however I am writing you today to because i consider this an urgent matter.

I urge you to also support a reduction at 1@32" limit option B3 for 2015 and no commercial quota transfer between states.

As an avid recreational angler, I have been keeping logs for the past 5 years on my angling catches. I have seen a 34% drop in catches through the past 5 years. This spring was my worst spring on record with numbers. While I have caught larger fish striped bass this year, the numbers have been reduced drastically. As an avid angler that fishes a large portion of the eastern coast and I am highly concerned about the decline of Striped bass that I have witnessed over the last several years and therefore would like the laws to change to help support an immediate impact for their recovery and preservation.

Best Regards,

Brendan Craig
brendanmcraig@gmail.com

Good afternoon,

I would like just a few moments of your time to share my thoughts and observations with the council on the current state of the Striped Bass fishery. I have pursued this majestic fish from Montauk to Cape Cod for the past 20 years of my life from both surf and kayak. During the late 90's the striped bass population seemed to be healthy and thriving, and it was. It has only been within the last 8 years or so where I have noticed a steady decline within the fishery. The numbers of fish we used to see in Montauk and up on the Cape simply aren't there anymore. I think that most, if not all, striped bass fisherman would agree with this assessment. The striped bass, quite simply and bluntly, is being overfished; by both commercial and recreational fisherman. I feel that immediate action must be taken by the ASMFC to preserve this valuable gamefish and to delay would cause irreparable damage to the future of the striped bass fishery.

After reading Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to The Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan I would like to provide my input as to what steps need to be taken to preserve this historic and valuable fishery. First, in **Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, Option B** is the most logical choice simply because it adopts the best available science, as set out in the 2013 Benchmark Assessment. In **Section 2.6, Option A** is clearly the most viable as it prevents the three-year phase-in of the harvest reduction from being adopted, and calls for an immediate reduction in harvest for 2015. Finally, I support **Option B** of **Section 3.0** as it affirmatively requires the full reduction to be imposed next year. Under **Section 3.0**, the best options for management of the species are **Option B3** (a one fish bag limit with a 32" size limit for the coastal states, and **Option B15**, a hard quota in the Chesapeake.

I feel that with the above options in place for 2015, the future of the striped bass will be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brendan Markett

From: brusky69@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [TOM FOTE](#); [David Chanda](#); [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:37:08 AM

The problem lies here keep it the same

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Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

September 5, 2014

Dear Mr. Waine,

Since 1970, I have fished avidly for striped bass. I've seen ups and downs, and it's down. Very obviously down. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. I am writing to you as the founder of The Safina Center (formerly Blue Ocean Institute) and a recreational fisherman.

I strongly encourage the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board to adopt the fishing mortality reference points based on the 2013 assessment for the Coastwide and Chesapeake Bay fisheries, and reduce fishing mortality to the new target within one year, as required by the management plan. This will allow for the quickest, surest recovery of the striped bass population. Striped bass have already been in decline for quite some time now. Managers and fishermen worked hard to create a sustainable striped bass fishery. We must ensure it gets back to that, ASAP.

Therefore, I recommend that fishing mortality is reduced by 25% starting in 2015 (**Option B** under Proposed Management Program). To achieve this reduction, I recommend a one fish bag limit with a 28-40 inch slot limit (**Option B4**) for the coastal recreational fishery. A slot limit will provide protection to large, highly fecund striped bass, which are critical to helping the population recover quickly. This option also reduces fishing mortality by more than 31% from 2013 harvest levels. The Board should choose a similarly conservative option for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery (either Option B10 or B15).

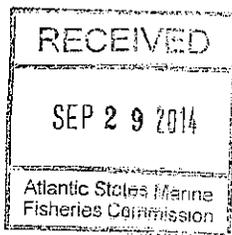
A large reduction is needed in the recreational fisheries since it is unlikely that the quota reduction option for the coastal commercial fishery (Option B16) will achieve a 25% reduction from recent commercial harvest levels. To ensure that there is at least some reduction in commercial fishing levels, the Board should **not** allow commercial quota transfers between states. If quota transfers are permitted it is more likely that the full striped bass quota will be caught, in which case no reduction in commercial fishing mortality would occur.

I hope you will put the conservation of the striped bass resource and long-term viability of this important fishery ahead of lesser and more temporary concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carl Safina, PhD
Founding President, The Safina Center



12 Harborside Drive
Milford, CT 06460
(203) 545-4125
Charlie.Kreitler@gmail.com

September 25, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine and ASMFC Members,

Striped bass populations have been dwindling. This has been my personal experience as a long time recreational angler, and is supported now by the scientific data on fish stocks. The number of fish caught per trip has declined, and during certain times of year we no longer bother to fish for striped bass that were once abundant then in past years. Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan finally recognizes what has become more clear year after year—the striped bass is in trouble and action to rebuild the abundance of the species must be taken.

Abundance of the species should be the primary management goal. . Increasing harvest amounts should be viewed as a secondary benefit assuming the species recovers. Abundance of the species is what makes more fishing trips successful. Success brings more recreational anglers to the water for more trips, spending more money. Lower abundance means fewer guided trips and less money spent on fishing tackle, and boat equipment and services.

The recreational fishing community is significantly larger and generates more economic activity than the commercial fishing sector. A policy that emphasizes abundance over maximizing harvest amounts will benefit both groups through healthy species numbers with yield following abundance. The current policy has emphasized maximizing harvest amounts, and this policy brought the species to its current crisis.

With regard to specific recommendations.

Section 2.5.1 Coastwide Reference Point Options:

The Commission should selection **Option B**, using the 2013 Benchmark Assessment reference points.

Section 2.5.1 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options:

The Commission should select **Option B**: Use coastwide population F reference points as established in Section 2.5.1.

Section 3.0 Proposed Management Program:

The **Option B** time frame is only choice of the four with a meaningful improvement for the fish stock. The impact of reduced harvest will be less pressure on brood stock immediately. This is far superior to the delayed option (Options C or D) and the do-nothing option (Option A).

Single-fish quotas are the only way to have a meaningful impact within the time-frame specified. Therefore, the NMSFC should adopt the following within Option B:

Option B		
Recreational Coastal	B3	(1 fish at 32")
Recreational Chesapeake Area	B10	(1 fish at 18")
Commercial Coastal Fisheries	B16	(25% red. from the Amdt 6 coastal quota)
Commercial Chesapeake Area	B17	(25% reduction from 2013)

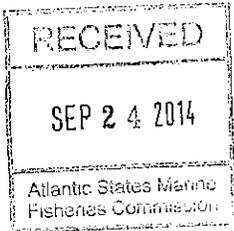
I should state that in my belief the proposed options for the Commercial Sector are too watered down to be effective, and that the committee should consider a greater reduction than is offered in the Draft Addendum. The Draft Addendum itself states that the only option provided for the Coastal Commercial Fishery "does not achieve the proposed 25% reduction." This is an unacceptable disregard of the ASMFC's responsibility.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft addendum. It is my sincere hope that the ASMFC will act prudently by quickly and significantly reducing the harvest of striped bass.

Sincerely,



Charles Kreitler



P.O. Box 1230
Marshfield, MA 02050

September 20, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

The Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association offers the following opinions on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan:

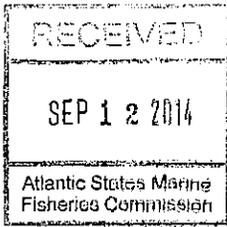
OPTION B. We support the 25 percent reduction in fishing mortality from the 2013 total harvest to a level that is at or below the target within one year. Within the coastal recreational fishery, we support sub option B6; two fish within the 28" – 34" slot. For the coastal commercial fishery, we support B16 for the 25 percent reduction from the Amendment 6 quota. We do not support inter-state commercial quota transfers. And while it's not clear from the document whether "hybrid" preferences are being solicited (different options for the different fisheries), we would also support a three-year reduction period in fishing mortality for the coastal commercial fishery.

It's important to note, however, that any conclusions based on MRIP data are dubious at best. We realize MRIP represents the "best available," but it's woefully inadequate for the important decisions at hand. The prospect of trying to sell striped bass charter trips with a one-fish limit is daunting. Since the same management objective can be realized with a one-fish or two-fish limit as defined in the ASMFC document, it's hard to imagine supporting a one-fish retention limit. Especially given the negative economic impact a one-fish limit will have on charter boat businesses.

The charter boats north of Cape Cod are dealing with extreme reductions in the cod/haddock seasons with a grim outlook for 2015 and beyond. This is also the second year in a row that recreational sized tuna (< 73") have not returned to our coastal waters. The ability to offer customers the chance to retain two bass, as they can do today, will be an important marketing tool as we attempt to keep our businesses viable.

Thank you.

Charlie Wade
President
Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association



474 Terryville Road
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

September 9, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine
ASMFC Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

Enclosed please find my recommended options and comments on the draft Addendum IV.

Please note my concerns that the draft plan openly admits (in italics) that none of the commercial scenarios provided achieve the 25% reduction from the 2013 harvest. This issue needs to be addressed!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chet".

Chester S. Zawacki

Enc.

SUBJECT: DRAFT ADDENDUM IV

The following are the options that I would recommend as the preferred management scenario:

Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment reference point option

Choose Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point

Choose Option B: Uses preferred stock assessment reference point. Allow MD/PRFC/VA to implement as necessary but require a minimum 25% reduction.

Section 2.6: Timeline to reach harvest reduction

Choose Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Proposed management scenario options

Coastal Recreational Fishery

Choose Option B1: One fish at 28" minimum. No trophy allowance since that may only encourage fishermen to continue to fish for a trophy, resulting in additional hook-and-release mortalities on sub-trophy-size fish.

Chesapeake Recreational Fishery

No comment. Allow MD/PRFC/VA to implement as necessary to achieve a minimum 25% reduction.

Coastal Commercial Fishery – Serious concerns exist in that the plan openly admits that none of the commercial scenarios provided achieve the required 25% reduction from the 2013 harvest. This issue certainly needs to be addressed.

Choose Option B16: Take 25% reduction from Amendment 6 quota.

Chesapeake Commercial Fishery

Choose Option B18: Take 25% reduction from 2012 harvest.

Section 3.1: Commercial quota transfers

Choose Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas between individuals or corporations.

Section 3.2: Commercial size limit

Choose Option A: Require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased. Any size limit lower than the recreational fishery should be compensated by the additional mortalities imposed on younger fish.

ASMFC
Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine & ASMFC Commissioners:

I am also the owner and publisher of On The Water Media, which includes On The Water Magazine, On The Water TV, The Striper Cup tournament, and the StriperFest celebration. I am also the Northeast representative of the American Sportfishing Association.

On The Water magazine was launched on Cape Cod in 1996, not coincidentally at the same time that the striper fishery was declared rebuilt. There is no doubt that the striped bass is the iconic sportfish of the Northeast, and that my business, like so many-other fishing- and tourism-related businesses in our region, depends upon the existence of the world-class striper fishery we have enjoyed for the past two 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 and are willing to accept more conservative regulations to maintain a high-quality fishery.

The Striper Cup tournament rules allow for only 1 fish at 36 inches per week and encourage anglers to release fish while they look for their “fish of a lifetime” with a growing number of catch-and-release prizes. Fishermen have embraced these rules, and as a result, in 2014 only 500 fish were weighed in by over 4,000 participants fishing over the five-month tournament.

The season-end celebration of the Striper Cup, the 2014 StriperFest, was held on Cape Cod on September 27. Over 5,000 striper-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, Striper Boats, Quantum and Van Staal reels, Lowrance/Simrad electronics, SpiderWire, Sebile Lures, The Black Dog, 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 want the Striped Bass Management Board to think of the economic importance of an abundant striped bass stock when they sit down on October 29th to vote on Addendum IV.

The fact that the striped bass population has steadily declined in recent years is not news to most striper fishermen. We have been hearing from our readers for several years about the decline in the quality of the fishery, and the overwhelming majority of striped bass fishermen support a reduction in the striper harvest for both commercial and recreational anglers to help reverse this decline.

The manufacturers and retailers of lures, reels rods, surf-fishing gear, light-tackle gear, fly-fishing gear, and boats that were designed and produced with striped bass in mind, not to mention all the advertising revenue such companies produce, will continue to suffer if striped bass are not returned to abundance. Then, there are all restaurants, hotels, and associated tourism businesses in coastal towns that depend on money from visiting fishermen. Without an abundant and accessible striped bass resource, it's only a matter of time before people stop making such trips. The more fish that are in the water, the more people will fish, and the better related businesses will do.

That is why **I urge the ASMFC to implement management scenario Option B, a 25% reduction in total harvest, in one year.**

Re-writing Amendment 6 to allow for a 3-year rebuilding timeframe to reduce social and economic impacts is irresponsible and fails to meet the stated objectives of conserving the 2011 year class and conserving large spawning fish. It also ignores the significant social and economic impacts of delaying the rebuilding of the striper fishery include significant negative effects on the recreational fishing and tourism businesses of the Northeast.

Sincerely,

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

Chris Megan

Christfried Arfsten
44 Clubhouse Dr
Rocky Point, NY 11778

8/27/2014

Michael Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

Upon careful review of the draft addendum to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan and the options provided I have the following recommendations;

Below are what I feel are the best options to preserve the current state of the striped bass fishery and to protect the future of this fishery.

For the Coastal Recreation Fishery Option B4

Chesapeake Bay Recreation Fishery Options: Option B12

Coastal Commercial Fishery Options; Option B16

Chesapeake Commercial Fishery; Option B18

Yours Truly,



Christfried Arfsten

	Schoolies	Keepers	Total	Keeper %	Fish/Hour	Trips
2006	1,764	4	1,768	0.2%	7.00	111
2007	1,756	36	1,792	2%	7.15	110
2008	1,501	79	1,580	5%	5.14	128
2009	757	52	809	6%	3.97	100
2010	526	137	663	21%	3.09	117
2011	316	159	475	33%	2.89	86
2012	821	49	870	6%	4.55	128
2013	731	90	821	11%	4.07	125
2014	983	10	522 993	1%	4.67	79

From: aagonsalves@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV Comments
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2014 1:02:02 PM

Mike,

I have reviewed the provided document and these are my comments:

Speaking for me and several of the friends I fish with, the B3 option for recreational fishermen would be widely supported. Many fishermen I know would gladly return to the one fish at 36" rule that revived the fishery years ago. Too many of us remember the 80's.

I usually keep two fish each year, typically in the 30-33" size range. If needed, I would be willing to release all if that becomes necessary.

Most of my fishing takes place in the Newburyport, MA area, both from boat and shore. I've attached a summary table from the detailed logs I have kept for several years. The declines reported by ASMFC mirror my results. Also, the size distribution we see in MA mirrors the recruitment data from the Chesapeake.

As for the commercial options, I would support a reduction that is in line with the recreational sector, however you choose to implement it.

Overall, I would prefer that a more drastic reduction is introduced, just to be sure. With the low numbers of other species in our area, another striper collapse would be devastating to the recreational sector.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide some input.

Alan Gonsalves

108 Malvern St.

Melrose, MA 02176

Lengyel, Nicole (DEM)

From: robert cooper <bobcooper41@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2014 4:32 PM
To: Lengyel, Nicole (DEM)
Subject: Stripers Forever

I'm concerned that the stocks of breeder size siripers is below that which is necessary to sustain the fishery. I am in agreement with the folks at Stripers Forever that the number of fish killed by recreational and commercial fishermen outh to be reduced significantly. I don't see any reason for recreational fishermen to take more than one fish a day, and the commercial fishery should go to zero in Rhode Island. It just makes sense!

Please consider this opinion when you meet to formulate policy at the fall meeting.

Very truly yours,
Bob Cooper
401 480-6744



Good afternoon,

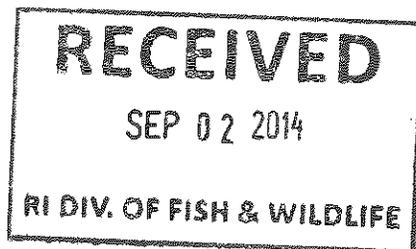
I would like just a few moments of your time to share my thoughts and observations with the council on the current state of the Striped Bass fishery. I have pursued this majestic fish from Montauk to Cape Cod for the past 20 years of my life from both surf and kayak. During the late 90's the striped bass population seemed to be healthy and thriving, and it was. It has only been within the last 8 years or so where I have noticed a steady decline within the fishery. The numbers of fish we used to see in Montauk and up on the Cape simply aren't there anymore. I think that most, if not all, striped bass fisherman would agree with this assessment. The striped bass, quite simply and bluntly, is being overfished; by both commercial and recreational fisherman. I feel that immediate action must be taken by the ASMFC to preserve this valuable gamefish and to delay would cause irreparable damage to the future of the striped bass fishery.

After reading Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to The Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan I would like to provide my input as to what steps need to be taken to preserve this historic and valuable fishery. First, in **Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, Option B** is the most logical choice simply because it adopts the best available science, as set out in the 2013 Benchmark Assessment. In **Section 2.6, Option A** is clearly the most viable as it prevents the three-year phase-in of the harvest reduction from being adopted, and calls for an immediate reduction in harvest for 2015. Finally, I support **Option B** of **Section 3.0** as it affirmatively requires the full reduction to be imposed next year. Under **Section 3.0**, the best options for management of the species are **Option B3** (a one fish bag limit with a 32" size limit for the coastal states, and **Option B15**, a hard quota in the Chesapeake.

I feel that with the above options in place for 2015, the future of the striped bass will be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Thank you for your time.

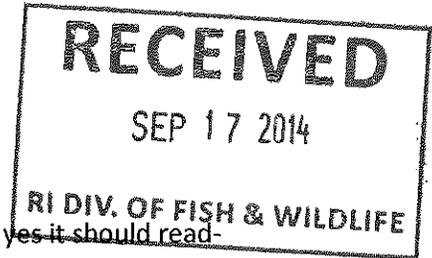
Sincerely,

Brendan Markett



Lengyel, Nicole (DEM)

From: Joe Macari <jmacari1@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 9:05 AM
To: McNamee, Jason (DEM)
Cc: Lengyel, Nicole (DEM)
Subject: RE: Draft Addendum 4



Thanks for catching that; cut and paste snafu, LOL; it should read "increase" and ~~yes it should read-~~

>>It is my belief and other's belief, that this effort has led to the increase in the striped bass mortality along the East Coast<<

Here is the revised submittal (I will copy this email to Nicole)

Nicole-

As you are aware of, the Rhode Island commercial striped bass season is still open as of this time, In fact, one of the open fishing days occurs on Thursday, September 17, 2014, i.e., the same night as the RI Public Hearing on ASMFC Draft Addendum IV. Because of this scheduling conflict, it is necessary that I miss the meeting in order to fish. As you know, RI commercial rod and reel bass fishermen have such a "small window" to participate in the fishery, that it must be my choice to take advantage of this and maximize the economic gain of that choice.

Please take the following statements as my public input on this very important subject.

I am in favor of **option 3** to accomplish the reduction to the target F of the 2013 Benchmark stock assessment:
- A 7% sequential reduction in harvest for three consecutive years starting in 2015 to achieve the necessary reduction in three years.

As you know, the ASMFC Coast Wide commercial quota for striped bass has remained unchanged for several years (I believe since 2003). The mortality for commercial fishing is ACCURATELY tabulated (not like the recreational quota which has no scientific tabulation). As has been stated in the various studies/ fact finding, literature in the ASMFC management plan, the recreational striped bass fishery has increased EXPONENTIALLY ever since the striped bass was declared restored by the ASMFC, at least several years ago. It is my belief and other's belief, that this effort has led to the increase in the striped bass mortality along the East Coast. Any conservation measures that are proposed should take that effort in effect when drawing up any quota reductions for the commercial fishery and bag, size, slot and trophy size limits for the recreational fishery.

Please submit this email as defense of the commercial fishery, and let it be known to the ASMFC and Rhode Island delegation, that this be admitted to the Public Hearing tonight.

Sincerely,
Joseph Macari
RICRRA member
jmacari1@cox.net

From: McNamee, Jason (DEM) [mailto:jason.mcnamee@DEM.RI.GOV]
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 8:26 AM
To: Joe Macari; Lengyel, Nicole (DEM)
Subject: RE: Draft Addendum 4

Hi Joe, we received these comments and will forward them to Mike Waine for you as part of the public record. I would like to ask one clarifying question before I do that though. See the highlighted section below (the sentence that starts "it is my belief..."). Do you mean "increase" instead of "decrease", or perhaps you meant decrease in *biomass* instead of *mortality*? It seems contradictory to me at this point so let me know if this is what you meant or if it was a typo.

Thanks Joe.

-Jay

From: Joe Macari [<mailto:jmacari1@cox.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 8:05 AM
To: Lengyel, Nicole (DEM); McNamee, Jason (DEM)
Subject: Draft Addendum 4

Nicole-

As you are aware of, the Rhode Island commercial striped bass season is still open as of this time, In fact, one of the open fishing days occurs on Thursday, September 17, 2014, i.e., the same night as the RI Public Hearing on ASMFC Draft Addendum IV. Because of this scheduling conflict, it is necessary that I miss the meeting in order to fish. As you know, RI commercial rod and reel bass fishermen have such a "small window" to participate in the fishery, that it must be my choice to take advantage of this and maximize the economic gain of that choice.

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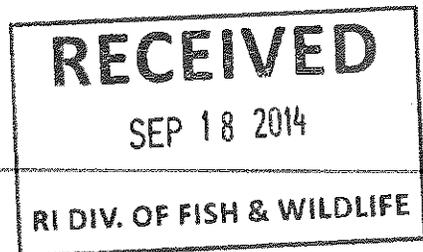
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Please submit this email as defense of the commercial fishery, and let it be known to the ASMFC and Rhode Island delegation, that this be admitted to the Public Hearing tonight.

Sincerely,
Joseph Macari
RICRRA member
[Jmacari1@cox.net](mailto:jmacari1@cox.net)

Lengyel, Nicole (DEM)

From: Ballou, Robert (DEM)
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Drew Ciok
Cc: Lengyel, Nicole (DEM); Mike Waine
Subject: RE: Striped Bass



Will do. Thanks very much for your input.

From: Drew Ciok [<mailto:dcvmd2010@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thu 9/18/2014 7:00 AM
To: Ballou, Robert (DEM)
Subject: Striped Bass

Dear Robert:

In reference to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission's Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan, please register my following comments on the public record.

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option A: Status quo: One year time frame

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B3: 1-fish bag limit with a 32-inch minimum size

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

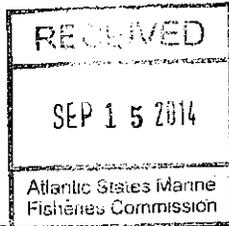
Option B: Status quo with existing size limits

I urge the board to manage striped bass for abundance, to maintain robust and healthy populations of *live* fish. The failed policies of the past – attempting to maximize the number of fish harvested every year are not in the resource's best interest.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Ciok, VMD
62 Cedarcroft Drive

Daniel Johnston
9 Fern Lane
Woods Hole, MA 02543



9/2/2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing to comment on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to The Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan For Public Comment. I have been fishing in the area around Woods Hole, the Elizabeth Islands, and Martha's Vineyard for over 20 years. I have noticed a steady decline in striped bass numbers within a few years of raising the daily bag limit from one to two fish per day. After reviewing the draft, **I strongly favor option B**. The status quo is clearly not a good option. Option B calls for a substantial reduction in the take of striped bass, reaching the new target levels within a single year, rather than 3 years, and with an equal reduction in the quotas for commercial and sport fishing. This seems to be the fairest plan for both constituencies. **I also prefer plan B1**, which has a minimum size limit of 28 inches. This will be the easiest to remember for the Massachusetts fisherman, and perhaps the easiest to enforce. For Massachusetts the size limit for both recreation and commercial would remain the same, but the daily bag limit reduced in half. Please don't wait to make these changes until it is too late and there are no fish left for anyone!

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into this process.

Sincerely,

Dan Johnston

August 25, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Waine,

As a recreation fisherman in CT, RI, NY, and MA waters for the past 40 years, I would like to provide public comment. I have seen the ups and downs of striped bass fishing in my years of fishing. This year has certainly been one of the worst. I believe **Addendum IV** is overdue. Before getting into specific recommendations, I found through my own research a year or two ago that virtually 100% of fish over 34" are female. I have not kept one since. I believe in all amendment options that exclude this SBB population from harvest as long as possible. To that end, I support the following:

I support Management Scenario (B) to accomplish a 25% harvest reduction from 2013 levels to take place in year 2015 to achieve the F target in one year.

I support Coastal Recreational Fishery Option B6 – Bag limit two within a 28" – 34" slot, no trophy fish (females). At least within the slot, there is a 50/50 chance of female harvest vs male. Above the slot limit, all females are harvested.

I support Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery Option B10 – Bag limit one with an 18" minimum length.

I support Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery Option B17 – 25% reduction from 2013 commercial quotas.

Regarding Commercial Quota Transfers, I support Option A – Status quo, no commercial quota transfers. There is a lot of room for abuse otherwise. It's not going to help the population if a quota is transferred over state lines, especially when more than one state line intersects a population in prime harvest areas (as in the CT – RI – NY Long Island Sound border areas).

Regarding Commercial Size Limits, I support Option A – Status quo with Amendment 6 – same size limit for recreational and commercial fisherman. Nothing irks a recreational fisherman more than abiding size limits to help the fishery population, only to learn that commercial fisherman are exempt or have much lower size limitations. Having said this, I do not support returning dead by-catch of any size to the ocean (keep dead by-catch until better, more selective fishing techniques can be achieved).

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh-in on the matter. I sincerely hope the above recommendations are adopted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Clark', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

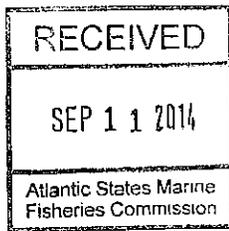
David Clark

3 Charles Place

Burlington, CT 06010

(860) 675-3453

davidclark@ci.bristol.ct.us



David Messerschmid
705 Twin Lakes Blvd
Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087
609-296-0881
September 9, 2014

Mike Waine
ASMFC
1050 H. Highland St.
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Striped Bass Management Program

My Personal history: I am 77 years of age and have been fishing for Striped Bass since the age of 8. I am a resident of New Jersey. I have volunteered my services with Rutgers Marine Field Station here in Little Egg Harbor on several projects. From 2004 through 2007 we did the Striped Bass Tracking Project within Great Bay, our inlet and the Mullica River. The project was managed by Dr. Ken W. Able, director, and Professor Thomas M. Grothues. We were able, through our combined efforts, to electronically tag approximately 120 bass, some of which we were able to track in and out of our gated area for 2-3 years.

Comments: I am a strong advocate of catch and release, the use of circle hooks and the elimination of chumming, especially with clams.

Having read Draft Addendum 1V to Amendment 6 ASMFC and attended the public comment meeting in Galloway on September 4, 2014, I am offering my own opinion. As I stated at the meeting, there has always been large and small bass as long as I can remember. The locations and sizes of the schools have continuously changed down through the years. What concerns me at the present time is the huge quantity of very large bass that are being caught and killed the last few years. In addition to the slaughter in N. Carolina in 2011, I also see too many people taking the very large bass that are all "females". The fishing papers and magazines area filled with fisherman holding 1-2 of these large fish. With today's electronics, it is easy for a head boat, charter or private boat to locate these schools of bass and with 40 or 50 people dropping lines in the water, a school of

large bass can be quickly destroyed. All too often, many of these fish wind up in the garbage can after the bragging show is exhausted.

If the science that the fishery management has been using is reasonably accurate, I would choose Option B4. My reasons are as follows: Let the under 28" spawn at least one time. Aside from the science, I believe the large females can produce many more healthy eggs than the smaller bass. Many fishermen, myself included, feel the large bass don't taste that good compared to the smaller ones. When you consider the head, stomach, tail and frame of a large bass, the amount of edible meat is small in comparison. Keeping one bass per day is more than enough for most families. A catch range from 28" to 40" is more than fair. I could also live with option B6 28" to 34".

There is no need for a trophy or bonus tag with today's technology. A trophy type bass can be quickly measured, photographed and released unharmed. If a mount is wanted, the availability of a fiberglass mount is far superior to a skin mount.

Personal Observation: For the last 14 years, most of my bass fishing has been Little Egg Inlet, Long Beach Island, Brigantine and the Mullica River. Over the last 3 years, the Striped Bass catch has rapidly diminished. Although we still have the herring run up the Mullica in the spring, the Striped Bass presence is almost zero. We do have some small schools of young Striper 14" to 20" that are in the Mullica River. The fall run along Long Beach Island has also been very poor.

Thank you for your efforts regarding this topic.

Sincerely,



Dave Messerschmid

43 Oriole Avenue
Bronxville, NY 10708
September 26, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland Street
Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

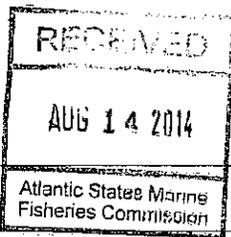
Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6

Dear Mr. Waine:

I am an avid saltwater angler for striped bass. I support an immediate 25% reduction with a one fish per day at 32 inches. I also support prohibiting quota transfers from one region to another. I also support Option A for Section 3.2, which deals with Commercial Size Limits.

Sincerely yours,

/s/David Reich



Aug 9

DEAR SIP

ASMFC HAS TO STEP UP AND MAKE
A MAJOR MOVE ON THE STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 33% CUT PROPOSAL?
I DONOT THINK THAT WAS ENOUGH

THE DRAFT ADDENDUM IS JUST A BAND AID
ON A MAJOR PROBLEM

THE STRIPED BASS ACT IN A MAJOR DECLINE
THE ASMFC HAS TO TELL THE SPECIAL INTEREST NO
THE STRIPED BASS ACT ON THE WRONG SIDE
OF A FUTURE MAJOR COLLAPSE

IF ASMFC DONT DO SOMETHING NOW
ITS GOING TO END UP A COMPLETE COLLAPSE
AS IN THE EARLY 80s

IT SHOULD BE EASY TO SEE THAT THERE IS
A MAJOR PROBLEM. TAKE A LOOK AT THE COMM.
LANDINGS FOR THE YR. SO FAR. AS OF AUG. 8
THE STATE OF MASS. HAD LANDINGS ONLY 39% OF
THEIR QUOTA, MASS. USUALLY GETS OVER THEIR QUOTA IN
ONLY 6 WEEKS. NY. HAS ONLY FILLED A SMALL PART
OF ITS QUOTA.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR A COLLAPSE
BEFORE DOING SOMETHING

Sincerely
[Signature]

Persuader Charters Inc.



Capt Denny Dillon Capt Jim Mcwilliams
110 Avise Street
Narragansett, RI 02822

September 26, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine
FMP Coordinator, ASMFC
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

The purpose of this letter is to have my comments be part of the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP. I own and operate the charter-boat Persuader II out of Point Judith, RI. I have been in the charter fishing business since 1972. It has taken me a long time to build a business that has seen and is going to see hardship caused by fishery management. I was in business during the last striped bass moratorium in the 1980's. My business suffered by not being able to harvest striped bass. I said then and I will say it again. Charter and Party boat operators should be a separate group from commercial and recreation. We should have our own allocations. Now that I have that off my chest here are my thoughts that concern me.

Section 2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Rates

I do not quite understand how on one hand you are going to use reference points (F value) based on a whole coast-wide area (Maine to North Carolina), but then you exempt the Chesapeake Bay Area because they do not quite have it all together. In absence of their poor data collection they should be part of the coast-wide model. North Carolina seems to have it together and their data can be assimilated into the Coast Wide data. In my humble opinion my preferences for assessing mortality rates are :

- 2.5.1 B Option
- 2.5.2 B Option
- 2.5.3 B Option

Section 2.6 Time to Reduce F Target

I strongly feel that the tech committee needs to take its time to come up with a plan that would work. A sudden reduction in the number of striped bass that we as charter-boat operators can harvest would result in an economic hardship that may very well put us out of business. Dealing with the high cost of fuel, government regulations of other fisheries and the general condition of our economy and now the potential of the striped bass management to further put pressure on our industry is ominous. Most of my customers are hard working-class Americans who need to justify to a degree the expenditure of a charter. Taking home a prized food fish is a primary motivator for many of my customers. My recommendation is that you adopt the Option B, which allows a 3-year time span to gather F value data that helps in the implementation of management measures that are based on more current coast-wide information.

Section 3.0 Proposed Management Scenarios

My recommendation is that the 2 Fish Bag Limit remains as is. Now within that basic premise I feel there is room for change in terms of size of fish harvested. My first recommendation is that you adopt Option D1 which allows for a 2 Fish Bag Limit, but with size restrictions that increase from 30" to 31" to 32" size fish over a 3 year period beginning in 2015 and concluding in 2017. Utilizing your own calculations that would result in an approximate F factor of about 21%.

A second scenario that I would recommend is that you consider Option B8, which is still a 2 bag limit but with a 1 slot (1 fish 28-36" slot) and 1 trophy (1 fish 38" min). Utilizing your own calculations that scenario would result in an approximate F factor of about 26%.

Other Scenarios

A third scenario which is not listed, but falls in line with my suggestion of charter boats having their own designation, is that you eliminate the 2 fish bag limit for the captain and mate. The captain and the mate have traditionally been allowed to keep 2 fish per man. The total amount of fish for a 6-pak charter operation is 16 fish. By eliminating the 2 fish per man allowed for captain and mate you reduce the charter boat bag limit by 25%!

Any fishery management program effort assumes equal enforcement effort. This past season in Rhode Island law enforcement was nearly non-existent. Large numbers of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island commercial rod and reel fisherman plundered the striped bass fishery with little or no enforcement. Any plan that is complicated in any way will make limited funded law enforcement that more difficult. Gilling recreational caught stripers might make law enforcement easier. Dealers possessing gilled striped bass would be held liable for breach of law.

Finally, there is another scenario that is not mentioned in the Draft Addendum and that is the coast-wide elimination of striped bass as a commercial fishery for a year! My calculations indicate that you would achieve the desired F value within 1 year. It would be the get back on track year for stripers.

You do not need me to tell you that the economic impact party and charter boats have on Rhode Island is significant. The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation in Rhode Island noted a per salt-water angler expenditure of \$475. One of our party boat businesses has consistently carried in excess of 38000 passengers per season. There is an additional party boat, 2 charter boats that carry up to 14 passengers, and 60 plus 6-pak charter boats that when combined carry many thousands more. Conservatively fifty thousand people cross Rhode Island Party and Charter boat decks annually. Our Rhode Island industry, separate and apart from the recreational and commercial industries and based on the National Survey data, is a twenty-four million dollar plus industry!

Rhode Island has a recreational association that boasts five or six thousand members and that is a good thing. If you take the National Survey data and apply it to their numbers (6000 times \$475) there economic contribution to the recreational saltwater fishing industry is just under 3 million dollars. That pales in comparison to the RIPCBA contribution. Yet at a recent hearing on this Addendum their membership was far more vocal than ours. It's a little difficult to get our passengers to attend a fisheries hearing!

As a state we have been slow to come out of the recession that has plagued this nation. That fact has been documented in Money Magazine, CNBC and our own RI Current Conditions Index that is published monthly by Dr. Lardaro of the University of Rhode Island. Our Rhode Island based industry cannot sustain a drastic reduction in a fish bag limit in a primary fishery like striped bass.

I am smart enough to know that there has to be a management plan for the striped bass fishery. I am all for a plan that is fair, thoughtful, enforceable and has at its heart the preservation of striped bass. Starting with a coast-wide revamping of F values, giving enough time and coming up with a fish bag limit that is conservational achievable and at the same time economically viable to important party and charter boat industries is, I feel, the way a plan should be implemented.

Respectfully,

Capt Denny Dillon

f/v Persuader II

Cc: Rick Bellevance, President, Rhode Island Party Charter Boat Association

1). The suggestion to reduce the F threshold and target is far more conservative than the national standard based on the maximum sustainable yield and can deprive fishers and consumers of reasonable benefits from the restored striped bass stocks.

Desmond M. Kahn, Ph.D.

The national standard biological reference point is based on estimation of the biomass and fishing mortality rate that produces the maximum sustainable yield, that is the yield in terms of pounds landed that is the maximum that can be sustained. The Magnuson-Stevens federal fishing management legislation and its succeeding modifications call for maximum sustainable yield as the basis for fishery management. Yet, the proposed fishing mortality rate threshold is far too conservative to allow for this sustainable approach. While the estimate of the fishing rate allowing for maximum sustainable yield for striped bass is $F = 0.34$, the proposed threshold F is $F = 0.22$. That is a 35% reduction in fishing mortality that would result in a far lower target fishing mortality of $F = 0.18$. No scientific or theoretical justification is presented for this recommendation except that it would more likely keep the stock at the 1995 level.

The problem with this reasoning is that the fishing mortality rate has never approached the F_{msy} threshold of 0.34 and never exceeded the target of 0.30. The F is therefore not the cause for the recent stock decline. Rather, the stock declined because no dominant year class was produced in the Chesapeake Bay for about eight years. One was produced in 2011, and the stock is again increasing at the current target and threshold F levels.

The Commission should study why the national standard of maximum sustainable yield is being avoided by the draft addendum, instead of rushing into a radical new unfounded approach. Fishers and consumers will suffer with these unfounded recommendations.

2). The tag-recapture estimates of striped bass fishing mortality from the peer-reviewed 2013 assessment show that fishing mortality is well below the targets.

Desmond M. Kahn, Ph.D.

The tag-recapture estimates of fishing mortality have not been presented in the draft addendum, although this data was analyzed and included as part of the peer-reviewed stock assessment in 2013. The tag-recapture model is based on sound scientific analysis and was accepted by the peer-review panel. Part of the basis for the tag analysis was the subject of a peer-reviewed scientific paper published in 2000 in the prestigious scientific journal, the *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* (Smith et al. 2000). The method involves the advanced computer program MARK, model-averaging and the use of Baranov's catch equation, one of the foundations of fishery biology. Yet, possibly because the tag-recapture estimates of fishing mortality are lower than those from the catch-at-age model, the Commission Draft Addendum ignores these scientific estimates completely in favor of a highly selective portrayal of the status of striped bass that presents only the biased estimate of fishing mortality from the catch-at-age model. A valid scientific presentation would include all estimates available from different methods, discussing the pros and cons of each and the biases inherent in each. There have been no demonstrated biases found in the tag-recapture approach. In contrast, the catch-at-age model includes biased input age data and a retrospective bias.

Since the Commission has failed to present the tag-recapture estimates of fishing mortality, I have included the graphical portrayal of these estimates from the 2013 peer-reviewed assessment. Figure B8.3 compares the estimates of fishing mortality for the fish greater than 28 inches total length from the producer areas (Hudson River, Delaware River and Chesapeake Bay) with the results for fish tagged out on the coast. Note that the coastal program F averaged about 0.13, while the producer area F averaged about 0.11. Figure B8.4 portrays F estimates for all fish greater than 18 inches, including those over 28 inches. Results are similar to the fish above 28 inches. Coastal tagging programs produced an estimate about 0.15, while producer area programs averaged 0.10. The consistency of these estimates among the different programs and size categories lend credence to the results.

Note that both of these sets of estimates are considerably lower than the catch-at-age model estimates, and are far below either the current or proposed targets and thresholds. The current target is $F = 0.30$ and the proposed target is $F = 0.18$. It is unclear why the Commission has failed to include these highly credible scientific results on tag-recapture estimates of fishing mortality, unless it is attempting to tilt the outcome of the addendum process towards cutting back on landings.

Figure B8.3. Comparison of coastal program (unweighted) and producer area (weighted) mean fishing mortality estimates from IRCR, for fish ≥ 28 inches with 95% confidence intervals.

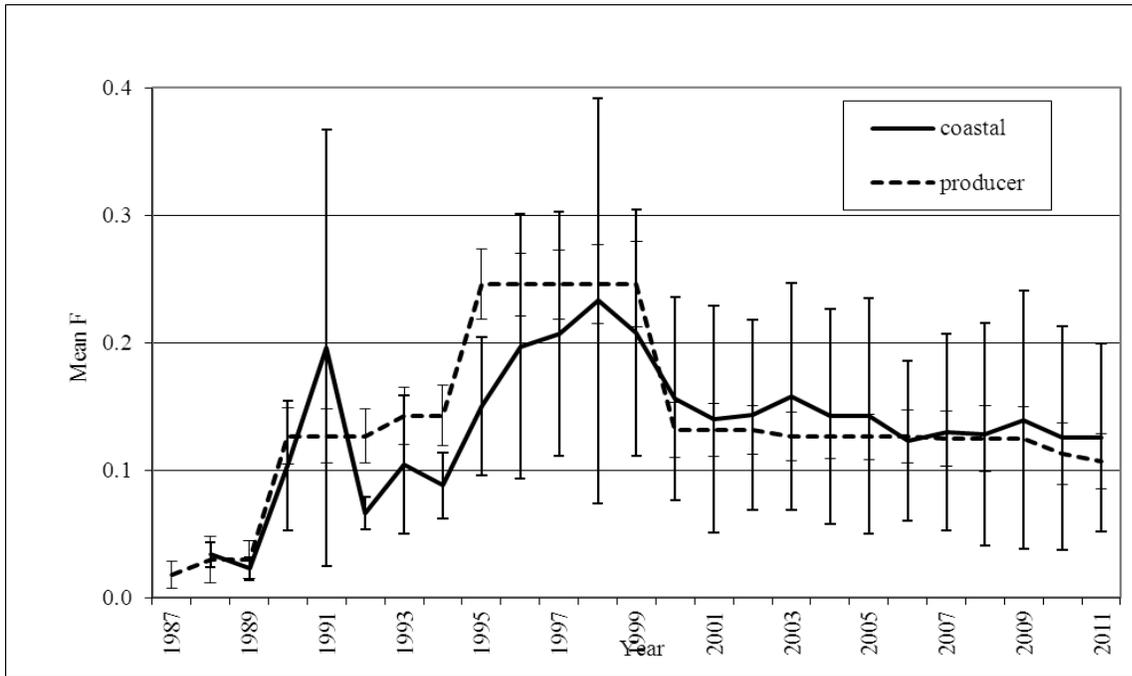
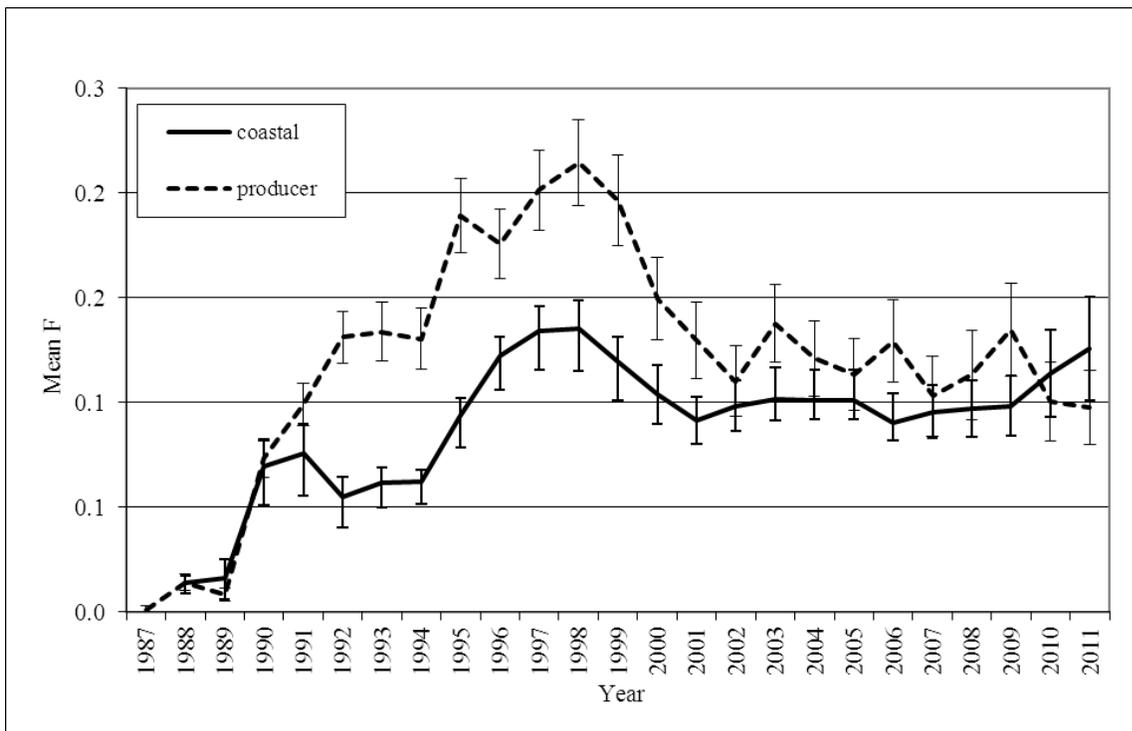
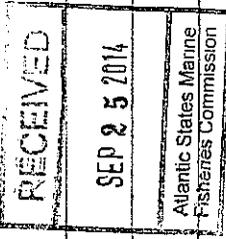


Figure B8.4. Comparison of coastal program (unweighted) and producer area (weighted) mean fishing mortality estimates from IRCR, for fish ≥ 18 inches with 95% confidence intervals.





Sept 20, 2014

1016 NY Ave

Manassquan, NJ

08736

Dear Mr Waine

PLEASE, work to ~~have~~
Striped Bass declared "game fish"
status: No commercial catch/
scale the entire east coast.

And for the sporters; ONE
"slot" fish per day, This slot
size could vary from state to
state depending on the typical
size in that state ie

18" - 24" Maryland - VA - DE

28" - ~~34~~" NJ - New England

This slot, with loved month, has worked well for SNOOK + REDFISH. Time is now for stripers to be managed in a similar manner.

Let the commercials argue --- they'll get over it.

Thanka

Don Cordts

DON CORDTS

FF
KMD

Predictions of environmental disasters

have an inconvenient habit of coming true.

Recovery from the 80' / 90' r
death of ^{BIG} boss
was wonderful -

Testimony to what
can be achieved.

Till recent years, ~~all~~
those recovered stocks of big
stripers have, yet again, been
pounded into sand.

543

When McRenolds caught his
78# record, the stock was
crashing. The new record

82# boss has also been
puffed as testimony to the
current crash. In 68 years
old, have kept one trophy
boss & released all others for
releases to catch, photo &
dumped the carcass. Thank

you for preserving this record!



September 16, 2014

Mike Waine
FMP Coordinator, ASMFC
1050 North Highland St.
Arlington, VA 22201

Both commercial and recreational fishermen need to harvest more rockfish in the Chesapeake Bay region to help save our valuable blue crab industry. The pan size rockfish are eating our small crabs by the millions. Therefore we don't have but a few adult crabs to harvest. The northern states harvest the largest amount of rockfish now, and they can do with less! Cut the coastal quota and increase the Bay quota. That will help save our crab industry.

It is unfair for the citizens of Virginia to sacrifice a valuable natural resource for the selfish reasons imposed by the representatives on the ASMFC from the northern states. Social and economic impact must be taken into account in all fishery management plans.

Why doesn't the ASMFC abide by its charter to the Atlantic coast states? In the charter it mentions that social and economic impact must be a part of the FMP. It also speaks to the fairness and equitable to all states. Bay states need to harvest more striped bass! Not Less! ,

Please make sure that all representatives from all states receive a copy of this.

Thank you.


Douglas F. Jenkins

Virginia Twin Rivers Waterman's Association

2964 Anticoh Rd.
Warsaw, VA 22572
804-493-8833

From: tatyls@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:18:50 PM

Dear Mike Wayne, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

My name is Thomas Tyls, a resident of Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410. I have an Ms in Sanitary Engineering, Retired from NYC Transit, was a part time employee of Quantech, A member of the Montauk Surf Casters Association for 30 years, a Board member of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County, and a Board member of the Manville Rod and Gun Club.

I strongly recommend option C3 as a practical solution. It is one fish with a possibility of keeping a second. It is a strong motivator for a person to hire a charter or book a party boat and yet be a strong conservation measure. Any other proposal would endanger the livelihood of any business or locale that supports sport fishing. I fish New York as well as New Jersey and New York took has had this option C3 (with 40" instead of 35") and it took New York out of a moratorium years ago.

I also recommend a 17% reduction and of course no transfer of commercial quotas.

From: [Walter Koda](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:22:13 PM

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Walter Koda
244 Wentworth Road
Brookfield, NH 03872

As a shore fisherman, this can not be a tolerated!

From: [Toby Lapinski](#)
To: [David Simpson](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 2:43:50 PM

In response to last night's meeting in Old Lyme, please register the following comments on my behalf:

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option A: Status quo: One year time frame

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B3: 1-fish bag limit with a 32-inch minimum size

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B: Status quo with existing size limits

** A correction needs to be made in reference to the 2015 commercial quota referenced in option B16. The 25% reduction from Am6 Quota could actually result in an INCREASE of 13% in the commercial harvest for 2015 if the new quota is met. This should be corrected so that the actual results are a 25% (minimum) reduction in harvest based on the actual 2013 harvest numbers.

**I would also like for there to be a regulation added which prohibits the captain and crew from being included in the total bag limit on for-hire vessels. This should hold true for all species, not simply striped bass, as I regularly see fish of all different species being retained on for-hire vessels in which the "full boat limit" includes fish counted for the crew yet which are taken home by the paying fares.

My position as Managing Editor of the New England edition of *The Fisherman Magazine* provides me with an interesting insight into the current health of the fishery in that I speak to anglers, charter captains and tackle shop employees across the region on a daily basis. They are almost unanimously reporting poor landings of striped bass this season. While there are small concentrations of striped bass being caught—Block Island, Cape Cod Bay, etc...—the population is simply not healthy enough for fish to be present in significant numbers across all traditional grounds.

Toby Lapinski
126 Candlewood Drive
South Windsor, CT. 06074

New England Managing Editor

The Fisherman Magazine

www.TheFisherman.com

Cell Phone - 203-417-4831

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thefishermanmagazine

September 24, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

**RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Comment
In Support of Scenario C (Regulations C3 & C5)**

Mr. Waine:

Please accept this letter as my public comment on “*Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Public Comment.*” I will attempt to keep my comments brief as I tend to get carried away when speaking of my beloved striped bass. Before diving in, I would also like to thank you in advance for both your efforts to create a sustainable fishery and for your review and consideration of my comments.

Although I feel strongly that the proposed size and bag limits could be improved upon, I submit this letter in support of **Option C** with regulations **C3** (coastal) and **C5** (Chesapeake Bay). My belief is that these selections will be the most successful in reducing the F level while allowing this reduction to materialize over a more reasonable time frame and with the least negative impact to the fishing community.

Please note that, in my opinion, a more desirable regulation would consist of a permanent and coast wide *no-kill slot*; something along the lines of a (2) fish bag limit consisting of (1) slot fish at 28”-35” and (1) trophy fish at a minimum of 45”. It has been my experience that it is uncommon to encounter striped bass of largely variable sizes during specific outings, and, that mid-class fish which still tend to school are susceptible to extensive harvest up and down the coast. I believe that these 35-45” fish, which I refer to as mid-class, are the most valuable asset to successful spawning. I also believe that the opportunity to harvest a trophy class fish should NEVER be taken from a striped bass fisherman.

In regards to the additional options presented in Draft Addendum IV, I offer the following brief comments as to why I oppose them.

Option A: I am in agreement that the SSB levels have been decreasing and I believe that maintaining the status quo is foolish.

Option B: Although I am in agreement that action should be taken, I do not support measures which seek immediate⁵⁴⁹ results in chasing potentially conservative

“*cautionary*” goals. I don’t find this to be beneficial to the sport. In addition, I strongly oppose a one fish coastal bag limit (B1 to B4) and any Chesapeake regulation which does not incorporate a bag limit (B14-B15).

Option C: I strongly oppose any Chesapeake regulation which does not incorporate a bag limit (C7-C8).

Option D: Although I am in agreement that action should be taken, I do not support measures which incorporate incremental annual reductions. This not only leads to confusion, but I find it to be unbeneficial to the sport.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment and look forward to a healthy striped bass stock for centuries to come! Should further comment and/or elaboration of these comments be desired please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Firkser', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan M. Firkser, P.E.
124 Sharrowvale Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
rfirkser@gmail.com

COMMENTS ON DRAFT ADDENDUM iv TO AMENDMENT 6 OF STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT PLAN

by

Frederic B. Jennings Jr., Ph.D.

Peak Dawn Anglers, P.O. Box 946, Ipswich, MA 01938-0946

I am a (pretty much former) fishing guide for striped bass in Ipswich, MA. "Pretty much former" because of the decline in the striped bass fishery. When two clients drove from Cleveland for two days of fishing with me a few years ago, and on the second day I finally got one of them into a fish or two, I gave it up...

In terms of your options, though none of them are sufficiently conservative for me, I would support the following:

Option B3: because it seems to be the most conservative of the four 1-fish-per-day options. I would go for **Option B4** if it had a slot targeted at smaller fish, such as 20"-26" or even 28"-34", because we need to lay off the big female breeders. But I could also support **Option B4** for these reasons...

Option B16: A straight 25% reduction in the commercial quotas coastwide.

Option B17: for Chesapeake Bay, because it's more conservative than **Option B18**.

With regard to **Commercial Quota Transfers**, I support **Option A**, the status quo. I am opposed to giving consent to commercial quota transfers, as it represents a move away from conservative management.

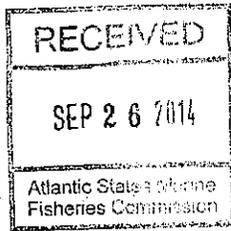
Thank you for your attention and for your efforts to conserve striped bass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Jennings", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Jennings

9-23-14



Michael Waive

Fishery Management Plan Coordinator,

1050 N. Highland St., Suite A-N,

Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waive,

I'm writing to endorse the most restrictive timelines and bag options for the 2015 striped regulations.

I would favor B1 or B4 among the recreational options and CB 1 for the Chesapeake.

Option B4 interests me because it may imply that the larger fish are significant spawning contributors. I can remember this being seriously questioned in the 60's and don't know whether the question was ever resolved. But if there's any chance they do play a substantial role, I'd buy B4.

I think the most important thing is to get the bag down to one fish uniformly.

I caught my first striped bass in 1949 and have been through two significant cycles since then. There was no question recreational fishing greed was widespread during both periods of abundance, if not a quantifiable contributor to the declines.

That's simply to say that this fishery, as many others of course, will be exploited to the fullest extent of the regulations. That may make a one-fish limit an unpopular prospect, despite some of the backing it apparently has. But I can't see the lesser reductions as restrictive enough to have much of a chance of succeeding, notwithstanding the projections. Please clamp down.

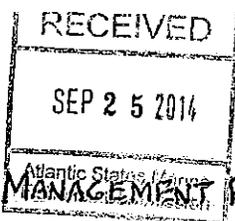
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Kerr". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fred Kerr

665 Cedar Run Dock Rd.,

West Creek, NJ 08092



FRED SCHWAB
3735 DEEP HOLE DR.
MATTITUCK, NY 11952

MIKE WAINIE, FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN COORDINATOR
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
1050 NORTH HIGHLAND STREET SUITE 200 A-N
ARLINGTON, VA. 22201

RE: STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6

BEFORE DISCUSSION OF OPTION CHOICES I THOUGHT IT WORTH WHILE TO MENTION TWO RELATIVE COMMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE APPEARING IN A PAST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY STRIPED BASS RESEARCH STUDY.

1. THERE IS UNCERTAINTY WHEN ESTIMATING FISH POPULATIONS, THUS SUGGESTIONS OF STABILITY AND WELL BEING MUST BE VIEWED WITH CAUTION.
2. HISTORICAL DATA AND ANALYSIS OF THE STRIPED BASS FISHERY DEMONSTRATES THE ENORMOUS POTENTIAL OF RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES TO DEplete THE STOCK.

AS TO THE OPTIONS:

SECTION 2.5.1 COASTWIDE REFERENCE POINT - OPTION B - 2013 BENCHMARK STOCK ASSESSMENT F
 " 2.5.2 CHESAPEAKE " " OPTION B - USE COASTWIDE POPULATION F REFERENCE POINT (FISHING MORTALITY, REGARDLESS OF SIZE AND WHERE IT OCCURS IS MORTALITY).

SECTION 2.5.3 ALBEMARLE SOUND/ROANOKE RIVER REFERENCE POINT - OPTION B - NOTING THAT THE FISHERIES IN OCEAN WATERS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER MANAGEMENT MEASURES AS THE REST OF THE COASTAL FISHERIES, I HAVE NO COMMENT.

SECTION 2.6 TIMELINE TO REDUCE F - OPTION A - WITH 25% REDUCTION IN ONE YEAR IS PREFERRED.

SECTION 3.0 PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - CHESAPEAKE BAY RECREATIONAL FISHERY - OPTION B10 - BAG LIMIT OF ONE (1), MINIMUM SIZE 18" TL,
 COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHERY - OPTION B3, BAG LIMIT OF ONE (1), MINIMUM SIZE 32" TL - NO EXCEPTIONS.

STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT G

CHESAPEAKE COMMERCIAL FISHERY - OPTION B17

COASTAL COMMERCIAL FISHERY - OPTION (B16) RELATES TO QUOTA NOT TO HARVEST. A 25% REDUCTION FROM 2013 TOTAL HARVEST SHOULD RESULT IN REDUCED LEVELS OF THE MOST CURRENT (2013) FISHING MORTALITY RATE AND ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH PRESENT EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMS BEING APPLIED TO QUOTAS.

SECTION 3.1 COMMERCIAL QUOTA TRANSFERS - OPTION A - STATUS QUO - GOAL OF AMENDMENT IV IS TO REDUCE FISHING MORTALITY, NOT TO SEEK WAYS TO MAINTAIN CURRENT LEVELS.

SECTION 3.2 COMMERCIAL SIZE LIMITS - OPTION A - SAME SIZE LIMITS AS RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL WATERS - NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMS.

SECTION 5.0 RECOMMENDATION FOR FEDERAL WATERS - STATUS QUO - CLOSURE OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ) SHOULD REMAIN AS IS. REOPENING THE EEZ, IN PART OR WHOLE, WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO THE EFFORT TO REDUCE FISHING MORTALITY, WOULD RESULT IN INCREASED FISHING MORTALITY OF LARGER, OLDER AND SEXUAL MATURE STRIPED BASS AND BE AN ADDED BURDEN TO LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS. THE EXISTING EXCEPTION - "DEFINED ROUTE TO AND FROM BLOCK ISLAND IN RHODE ISLAND" MAY REQUIRE SOME ADJUSTMENTS IN TERMS OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES RESULTING FROM ADDENDUM IV AND THAT, IF NECESSARY, SHOULD BE THE ONLY CHANGE. REOPENING THE EEZ IN WHOLE OR IN PART IS A BAD IDEA, ONE WHICH SHOULD BE ELIMINATED NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

PRESENT LEVELS OF FISHING MORTALITY MAY RESULT IN THE NEED FOR CRISIS MANAGEMENT, SUCH AS THAT EXPERIENCED DURING THE 1980's. WHILE NO ONE HAS A CRYSTAL BALL, THAT WOULD LIKELY OCCUR IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE IF WE FAIL TO REDUCE THE PRESENT TREND.

AND FINALLY, HAS THERE BEEN ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT CLOSING THE SPAWNING GROUNDS TO FISHING ACTIVITIES DURING THE SPAWNING SEASON SHOULD A SERIES OF POOR PRODUCTION OCCUR, AND POSSIBLY AS A FOLLOW-UP TO IMPLEMENTING ADDENDUM IV? JUST A THOUGHT!

SINCERELY,

Fred Schwab

PS APOLOGIES FOR THE HAND WRITTEN SUBMISSION, MY TYPEWRITER HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS

From: [Gregory](#)
To: [Thomas O'Connell](#); [Thomas Oconnell](#); [Tim Smith](#); [MARTIN GARY](#); [mcdeoff@yahoo.com](#); [langley@olg.com](#); [dave.smith@mssa.net](#); [Brandon White](#); [Brandon White](#); [Mike Waine](#); [chesapeakefishing@juno.com](#); [Andy Turner](#)
Subject: MD Striped Bass 3 to 5 year Commercial Fishing Buyout
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:02:28 PM
Attachments: [sb_projections-5.doc](#)

To Begin, this is the most important e mail I have ever typed in my entire life. One that if spread to enough computer screens could have the utmost impact on the Striped Bass fishery in Maryland and the Economic future to everything related to the sport fishing industry in this state.

It is very concerning to me that with all the recent discussions involving the looming ASMFC Striped Bass reductions Coast-wide and of course in Maryland that there has been no serious discussion about a MD Striped Bass Commercial fishing buyout for a period of 3 to 5 years. In my opinion there is no other option that biologically accomplishes true reduction in fishing mortality in Maryland and does not economically undermine the entire recreational fishing industry in Maryland.

Current ideas on the table in Maryland to reduce fishing mortality in the recreational sector are in reality the very worse possible outcome for the Striped Bass population. This is simply because with the options on the table, fishing EFFORT is drastically increased. Fishing effort (the amount of time that fisherman are actively fishing for Striped Bass) is drastically increased, thus release/discard mortality is drastically increased. In the charter fishing industry. for example, from mid June thru mid October live Spot are used by the vast majority of fishing charters to target and catch Striped Bass. With the exception of only a very few charter operations on the Chesapeake Bay, once a legal limit of Striped Bass are caught (currently 2 fish over 18 inches per person) they stop live lining and target additional species such as Spot, Perch or Bluefish or often times just fish a shorter 1/2 day trip and go back to the dock early with a box full of Stripers and a very happy clients. With the proposed 20 or 21 inch size limits, these short, successful and entertaining 1/2 day charters, will often become a much longer and much more lethal charters. Striped Bass swallow live bait whole and very often hooked very deep and because of this the post release mortality numbers are staggeringly high. 18 to 20 or 21 inch fish that for years have been the life blood of the Chesapeake Bay Charter Fishing Industry are now not of legal size and must be released. The very same group of charter customers who fished July 10, 2014 and had a great time catching a limit of Stripers on a 1/2 day trip, very well might come back July 10, 2015 to catch the same Stripers and only return to port with 2 fish of Legal Size on a much longer trip. And worst of all on this July 10, 2015 charter, these same customers hooked and released 100 Stripers between 18 and 20 inches. Of these 100 Stripers, 80 of these fish were hooked deep and their chances of survival are extremely low, especially with the high water temps of mid summer. The year before, this same

group of 10 customers only caught and released 1 sub legal fish in order to fill/kill their creel limit of 20 fish. In 2015 this group of 10 customers killed approximately 82 Stripers in an all day effort that only allowed them to bring 2 legal fish to port. This crew drove back to Gettysburg, PA with only 4 fillets on ice and when their friends and relatives ask them about their trip, their reply is we only got 2 legal fish all day. With similar rules in place for 2016, this group of customers will not be making the trip to Deale, MD to fish in 2016, they will not be booking 5 hotel rooms at the nearest hotel, they will not be eating dinner at Skippers Pier Restaurant the night before the charter, they will not be eating lunch after their charter at Happy Harbor Restaurant, they will not be buying a bunch of subs and snacks at Wawa in Annapolis, they will not be buying beer at the liquor store in Deale.

And because this charter Captain does not have a trip scheduled on July 10, 2016, he will not be purchasing 8 dozen bloodworms from Tri State Tackle Shop in Deale and he will not need to fuel up with the 45 gallons of diesel fuel that he would have burned.

As one can, hopefully clearly see, biologically speaking and economically speaking the proposed idea for reductions are nothing more than **economically painful, biologically lethal window dressing**. The same is true for the spring trophy season. With the proposed new 36 inch minimum size limit, the crew of 6 passengers that always charters the same boat out of Solomons, MD every spring on the first Thursday AM in May and normally have their limit of 6 stripers in only 2 to 3 hours, now has to fish 8 hours to only bring 3 "keepers" back to the dock. And during this beautiful 2015 spring day of trolling, 23 healthy stripers between 28 inches and 38 inches were brought over the side of the boat, and 20 had to be released. Of these 20 fish, 4 fish were barley hooked and quickly and safely released by the first mate, 10 were hooked very deep and had a 9/0 hook thru their gills, and the other 6 fish were hooked semi deep and quickly released. At the very best only 13 (10 discard deaths and 3 recreational landings) fish were killed during this charter early in May 2015, but there is a good chance that 15 or 16 Stripers, most likely didn't survive. For 5 years in a row this crew of 6 had only ever landed 6 stripers, except for 2013 where fishing was really slow and they only landed 4 fish the entire trip. They had never had to throw a fish back in the past, because as soon as their 6 fish limit was in the boat, lines were reeled in and the charter was heading in. This crew of 6, is now very disappointed and instead of going to Solomons, Pier Restaurant and celebrating a great day and some good eats in their coolers they make the drive back to Virginia very disappointed and saddened that they had to toss back fish that were clearly going to die because they were hooked deeply.

Now to the idea that is not window dressing and actually has a dramatic and very real reduction in harvest at its core, all while having nearly no negligible effects on Maryland's economy or the sport fishing industry.....

In 2014 the MD DNR completely changed the way the commercial Striped Bass fishing

industry is structured. In the past everyone's MD Striped Bass commercial fishing permit/license was the same and had the same value structurally because it was up to the license holder to participate in the fishery as little or as much as he or she wanted to as long as daily or weekly limits were followed. Now each (with the small exception of the common pool commercial fisherman) license holder is assigned a percentage of the overall commercial striped bass harvest according to their past landings. Now there is a set value for the most a commercial fisherman can harvest. This is very key in how a commercial buy out can be successful. Before if the recreational sector were to buy out the commercial sector, it would have taken an astronomical dollar amount to pay all license holders what the max opportunity cost of their license was worth, now the 2014 quotas can simply be used to buy a commercial license holder out. For instance, John Doe, has a 2014 quota that allowed him to harvest 1,000 lbs., for 2015, especially considering the looming cuts, if John Doe was offered \$3.00/lb based off his 2014 quota for a total of \$3,000 to not commercial fish during the 2015 season, he would most likely quickly sign up. If this type of buyout was instated for entire commercial sector for 2015, that would be nearly 2,000,000 lbs of stripers that would be saved and in addition to that, probably 500,000 to 1,000,000 lbs of commercial discards that would also be saved. Because commercial fisherman would be paid a fair price to not fish for striped bass, effort would not go up, and total mortality in the Chesapeake Bay would decrease dramatically even if the recreational limits and seasons were kept status quo. Unfortunately, 1 year of commercial buyouts will not suffice, so this plan would have to be for a minimum of 3 years and possibly as many as 5 years according to what the next stock assessment shows. So this commercial buyout must pay commercial striped bass license holders a fair value for each of these years. John Doe, mentioned above, would receive \$3,000 for 2015 (1,000 lbs x \$3.00/lb), \$3,250 for 2016 (1,000 lbs x \$3.25/lb) and \$3,500 for 2017 (1,000 x \$3.5/lb) and if the most up to date stock assessments show more cuts needed then the 2018 and 2019 values could be the same as the 2017 values. These dollar amounts are just ideas that would seemingly make most waterman happy and allow them to still support their families.

Where is this money to come from and how much \$\$\$ does this idea entail? The commercial sector has a 2014 total Striped Bass Quota of just under 2,000,000 lbs, so the cost of this idea at \$3.00/lb is \$6,000,000. And who is to pay for this? The answer is very simple, The recreational fishing sector as a whole is to pay for this. Examples of how to raise 6 million dollars per year for the next 3 to 5 years.....

- 1) Reinstate the Striped Bass Permit (\$5 for individuals, \$50 for Striped Bass Boat Licenses, \$500 for Striped Bass Charter License) 100% of these funds allocated to the commercial buyout
- 2) Donations from individuals and organizations. It cannot be underestimated how wealthy the recreational fishing body in MD is as a whole. In addition, the general public do not want to see hard working waterman not able to financially stay afloat.

3) Fundraisers, I would personally start up the MONSTER ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT and pledge 100% of the proceeds to the commercial striped bass fishing fund. Other groups such as CCA and MSSA could follow suit and lots of money can be raised

It is seriously time for everyone to stop pointing fingers and stop placing blame on what got us here to this point where cuts are needed. At the end we are all to blame. Now it is time to do what is right and have serious discussion about a plan that has the least financial/economic impact on the state of MD and its citizens and in many ways drastically reduces fishing mortality on the Striped Bass Species.

Please carefully Review the models attached.

Thanks for your time,
Capt. Greg Buckner
301 873 1327

The effect of harvest reduction equivalent to MD annual commercial harvest is explored here by running striped bass projections forward using constant catch scenario.

In 2012 coast-wide total striped bass landings including dead discards was 16,875,406 kg or 37.125 million pounds. 2012 MD commercial harvest was 822,361 kg or 1,809,196.05 lb. Commercial discards coast-wide were estimated to be approximately equivalent to the harvest, so to account for losses due to discards, MD commercial harvest was multiplied by 2: Total MD 2012 commercial losses = 822,361 * 2 = 1,644,723.68 kg.

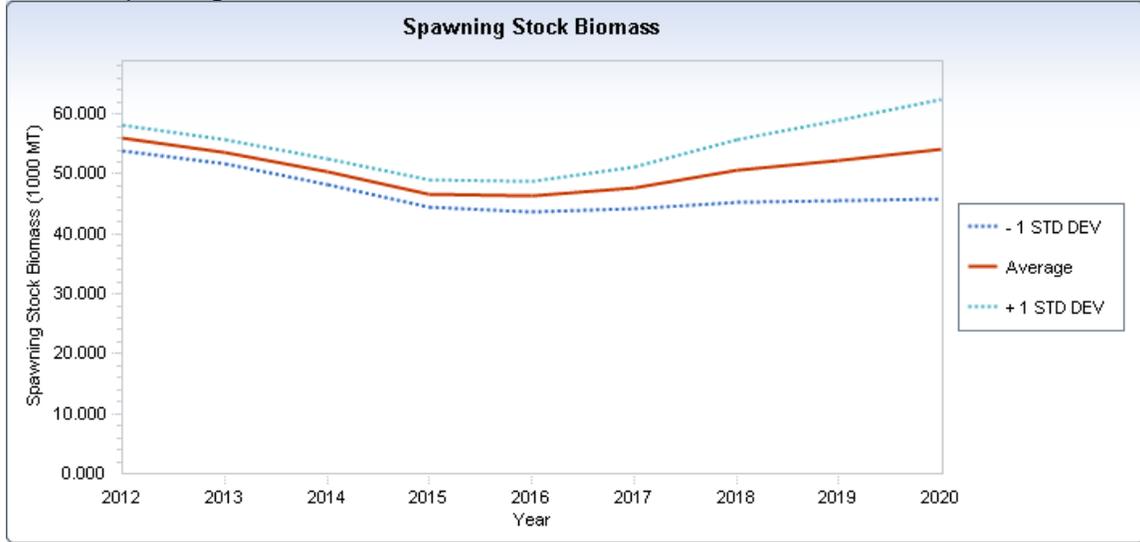
Coast-wide population size and spawning biomass were projected forward through 2020, assuming each year beginning in 2012 total coast-wide harvest is the same and equal to the observed 2012 harvest.

This was followed by the projection through 2020, assuming each year beginning with 2012 total coast-wide harvest is the same and equal to the observed 2012 harvest minus MD commercial harvest and dead discards.

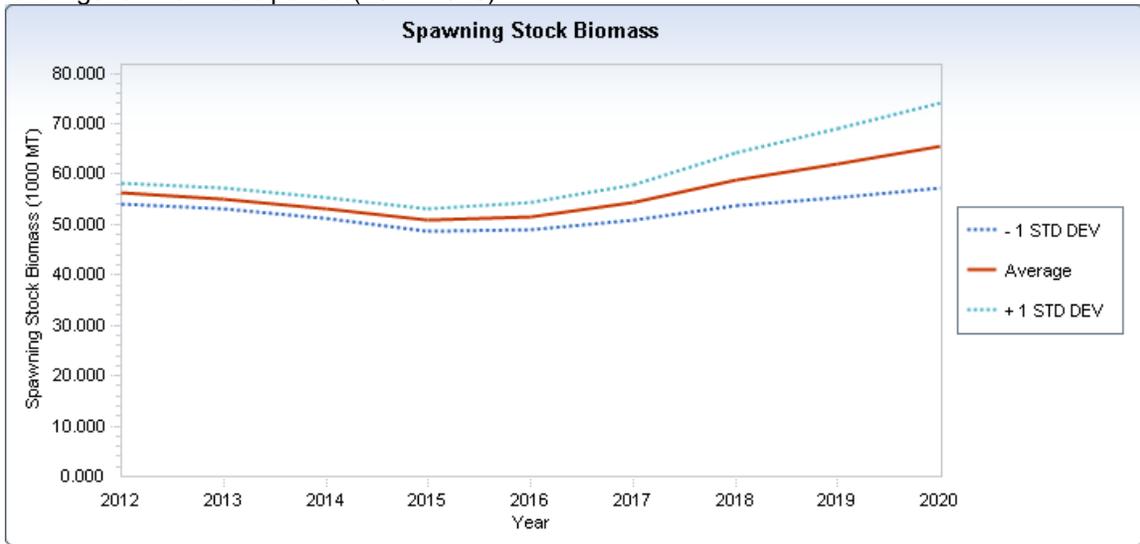
Reduced losses = 16,875,406 - 1,644,723.68 = 15,230,682.32 kg.

Here is the comparison of two outcomes.

This is a spawning biomass trend for constant catch at 2012 level

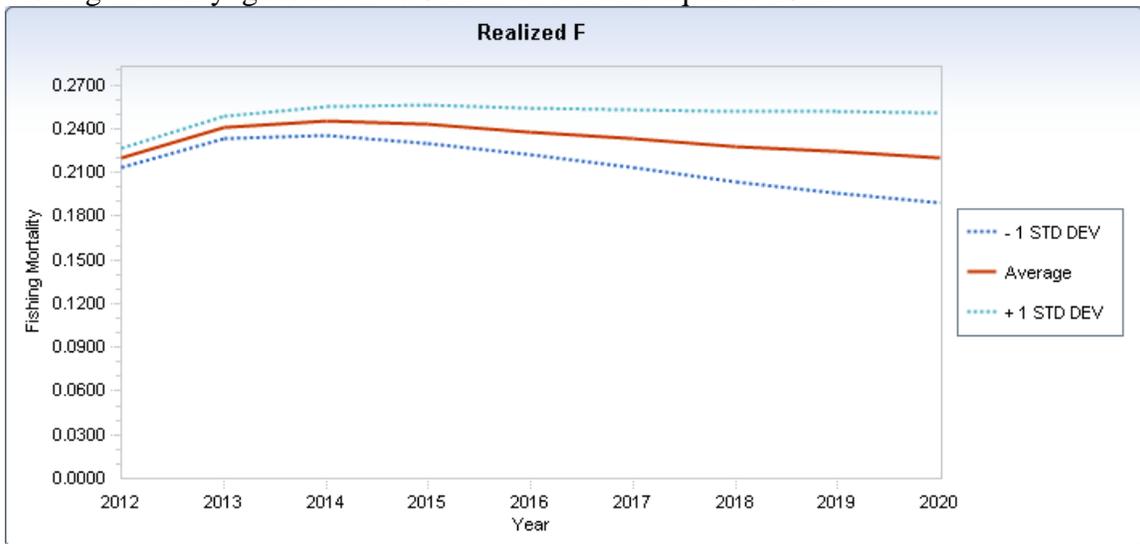


This is a spawning biomass trend for constant catch at 2012 level without MD commercial landings for the whole period (2012-2020)

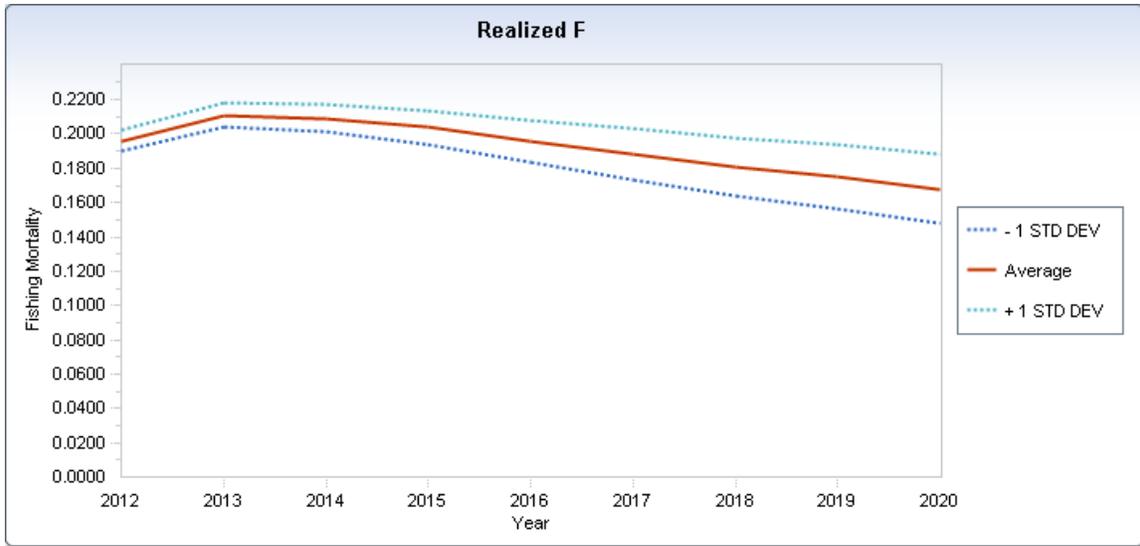


In general there is little difference, the trend is the same, but in the second case (no MD harvest) the SSB grows a tiny bit faster and reaches 65,000 tons (average) by 2020 compared to 54,000 tons in the first case (comm. harvest in MD and elsewhere continues). Our formal threshold currently is 57,000 mt.

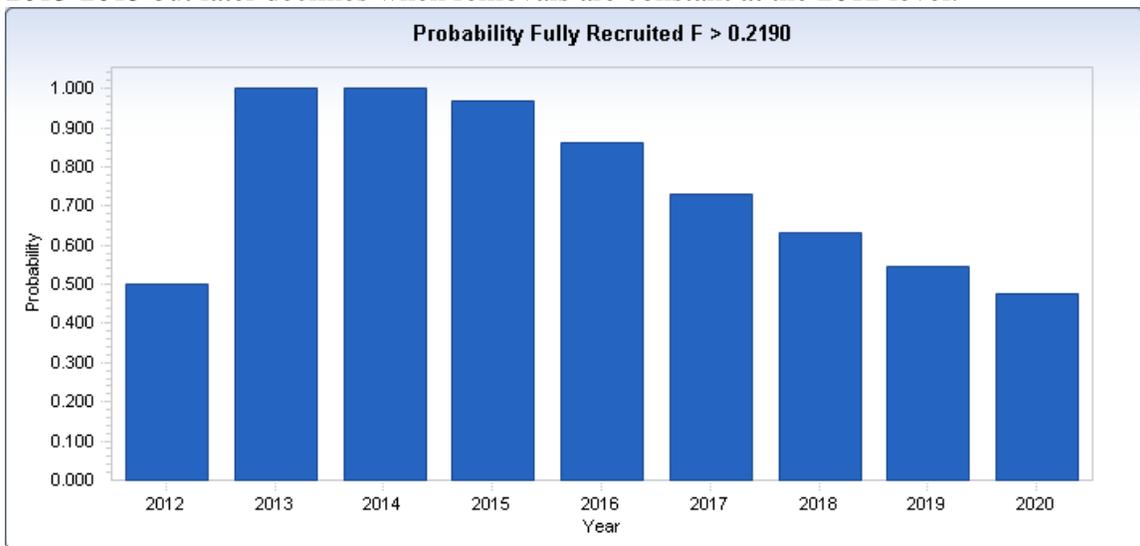
Fishing mortality is declining in both cases, but faster in the absence of MD harvest; Fishing mortality goes down to 0.22 if all remains equal to 2012:



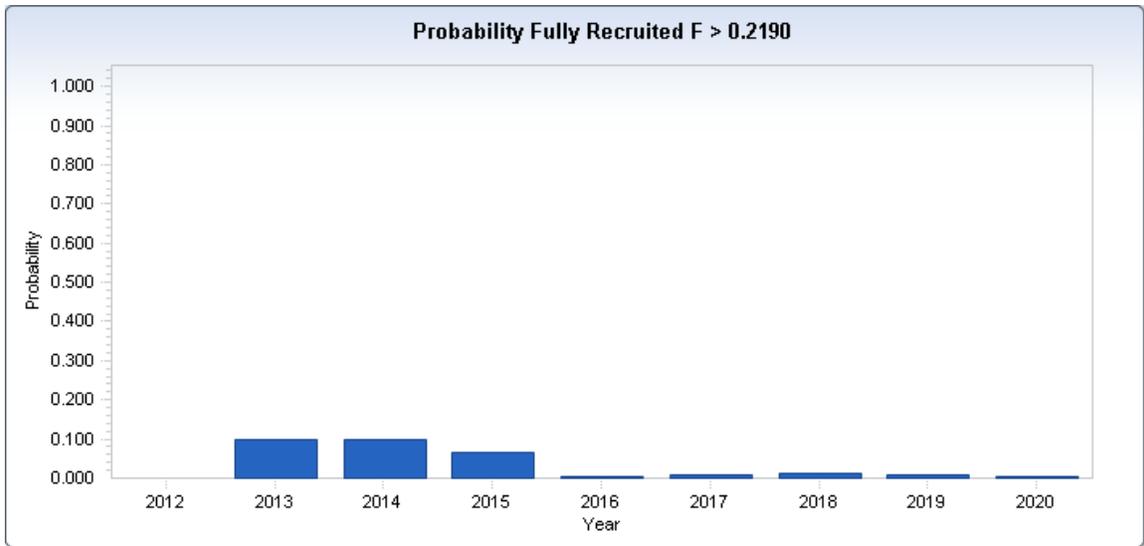
Fishing mortality goes down to 0.17 in the absence of MD comm. fishing :



The probability of overfishing (fishing mortality exceeds the limit of 0.219) is 100% in 2013-2015 but later declines when removals are constant at the 2012 level.



The probability of overfishing (fishing mortality exceeds the limit of 0.219) is low in all years without MD commercial harvest.



The word of caution. These results are based on projections and show the mean values and likely range. There is some uncertainty in all parameters, but in particular the result will depend on what level of recruitment we will have in 2013 -2020. If we get a couple of strong year classes, the SSB will grow faster (clearly there will be a lag of few years because they need few years to grow and mature). If we continue to have medium to low recruitment, the recovery will be slower.



564

Good Morning,

From 2002 until about 2011, the striper recreational fishery was healthy and the source of many fun and productive days for my family and friends. Dare County enjoyed a boom in off season tourism with anglers traveling to target the stripers and usually with success. As popularity grew, so did the demand (and price) for striped bass at fish markets. Soon, commercial vessels became fully engaged.

In January of 2011, I witnessed first-hand the waste resulting from commercial fishing operations. We were targeting stripers south of Oregon Inlet when we came upon a trail of thousands of dead/dying fish discarded from a trawlers overcatch. Stripers school, the price was up and commercial fishermen are equipped to take more than their limit and might do so for many reasons.

I am not sure the exact impact recreational anglers have on the fishery, however when you review the photo attached, you can begin to quantify the impacts of a single commercial boat. A properly equipped boat can kill an entire school of stripers in a matter of minutes.

For this reason, I am requesting that you carefully consider implementation of a ban on commercial striped bass takes in the ocean and sound waters.

Thank you for your consideration,

Greg Loy
91 Osprey Ln
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949



Overloaded Fishing Net Causes Striped Bass Spill

MOREHEAD CITY – An overloaded fishing net prompted fishermen on a commercial trawler to release thousands of striped bass they caught Saturday off of Bodie Island.

After towing through a school of striped bass, fishermen on the commercial trawler Jamie Lynn found the net was so full it was too heavy to bring onto the boat. In order to retrieve the net, the fishermen had to open it and release the fish, the boat captain said.

The boat captain estimated 3,000 to 4,000 fish were released from the net. Many recreational and commercial fishermen picked up the discarded fish. When Marine Patrol officers arrived on the scene, there were approximately 250 dead fish.

The incident occurred Saturday afternoon.

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries confirmed the specifics of the event through an eyewitness account and an interview with the boat captain.

Staff with the division is still investigating the incident but has been unable to confirm reports that commercial trawl fishermen were high-grading. High-grading occurs when a fisherman discards a previously-caught, legal-sized fish in order to keep a larger fish within the daily possession limit. While high-grading is not illegal, it is not an ethical fishing practice and the division does not condone it.

For this reason, the division plans to implement management measures designed to limit discard mortality when it reopens the striped bass trawl fishery for three days beginning Monday.

The division will replace the current 50-fish-per-day commercial trip limit, which has been in place for 15 years, with a 2,000-pound-per-day trip limit. To avoid the need to throw back dead fish, commercial fishermen will be allowed to transfer trip limits to other fishing vessels that hold a striped bass ocean fishing permit for the commercial trawl fishery. The transfers must be made in the ocean.

The new regulations will be implemented by a proclamation that will be released Friday.

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission will review these actions at its Feb. 11 meeting in Pine Knoll Shores.

The division opens and closes North Carolina's commercial ocean striped bass fishery and sets trip limits under a quota system set out in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is a compact of 15 East Coast states that manages migratory fish in state waters (within three miles from shore).

North Carolina's share of the coast-wide commercial ocean striped bass annual quota is 480,480 pounds. It is split evenly between three commercial fisheries: the trawl fishery, the gill net fishery and the beach seine fishery. Approximately 110,000 pounds remains of the 160,160-pound quota for the trawl fishery this year. This is the first time in several years that N.C. commercial fishermen have come close to catching their quota.

Discards are a part of all fisheries, and the division strives to implement measures that minimize waste in all the fisheries it manages.

According to a 2010 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission report, coast-wide commercial landings of striped bass in 2008 totaled more than a million fish; commercial discards were estimated at 395,400 fish. Coast-wide recreational landings in 2008 totaled more than 2 million fish. Recreational discards were estimated at more than a million fish.

Estimated discards are factored into stock assessments, and the most recent stock assessment for striped bass found that the species is healthy.

It is incumbent upon all fishermen – commercial and recreational – to use common sense in the way they fish. Commercial trawl fishermen should limit their tow times to avoid overburdened nets. Recreational fishermen should practice ethical angling techniques. Fishing responsibly today will help ensure there will be fish in the future.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am 62 years of age and grew up on Martha's Vineyard. As long as I can remember, I've fished. Mostly my fishing has been limited to surfcasting.

For about 25 years I have lived and worked off the Island. I returned to live on-Island in 2001. Fishing became a larger part of my life when I returned home. It's been something that I've found enjoyable, peaceful and beautiful. Other than spending time with my family, I can't think of a pastime that has given me as much pleasure. I've gone fishing with my children, friends, clients and made new friends through my time on the beach.

I've had good years fishing and just ok years. The last two years, my striped bass fishing has been much less than good and I'm not alone in this experience. I don't think that there's any one reason why the striped bass stock is down. Like a lot of things in life, the reasons are probably more complicated than I think them to be but I do know that if something isn't done to address the failure of striped bass and other species we stand to lose a source of enjoyment, tourism dollars, the probable loss of another species.

I think the following steps would help the collapse of striped bass that fisherman are seeing-

Limit the daily take of keeper bass from two fish to one

Set limits of size that would protect more breeding females

Limit or eliminate commercial striped bass season

Take steps to eliminate factory fishing close to shore

Enforcement of licenses and size of fish caught. (I've never seen an environmental policeman on the beach. It would be a good thing to see those who take short fish and/or 3 or more fish at a time be fined.)

There's been much less bait in the water the last 5 years. I don't know that cause of this decrease in bait but without bait, the marine food chain is a dead end.

Massachusetts needs to work together with other Atlantic Coast states and agencies on policies that uniformly protect the migration and mating cycles of striped bass and other species.

Examine the rules that are used or impose limits on fishing tournaments and contests.

Thanks for taking time to read my ideas.

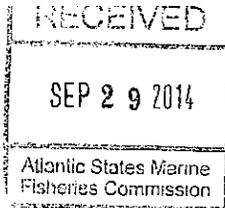
Like many others I'm concerned that striped bass will go the way of the cod fisheries or more frightening still, go the way of the passenger pigeon. The ability to do something is in our hands. It would be shameful if we did nothing.

Sincerely

Greg Orcutt



Greg Orcutt
General Manager
mvyradio
(508) 693-5000 Office
(508) 280-3068 Mobile
gorcutt@mvyradio.com



ASMFC,

As a member of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), I've given thought to the following options being considered by the ASMFC:

Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)

Option	Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction from 2013 harvest
B1	1	28" min	n/a	31%
B2	1	30" min	n/a	greater than 31% ³
B3	1	32" min	n/a	greater than 31% ³
B4	1	28-40" slot	n/a	greater than 31% ³
B5	2	33" min	n/a	29%
B6	2	28-34" slot	n/a	28%
B7	2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-34" slot	1 fish 36" min	28% ³
B8	2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-36" slot	1 fish 38" min	26% ³
B9	2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)	1 fish 28-37" slot	1 fish 40" min	26% ³

I understand RFA's position, and as an individual RFA member and saltwater angler I want ASMFC to know I support the following:

(write option letter/number on space provided) B10 ONE SLOT UNDER 28"

Sincerely,

Name GREGORY L. KIMBALL

Address 15 RANDOLPH RD

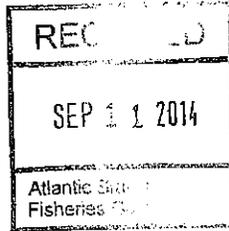
City WEST DEPTFORD State NJ Zip 08096

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

I feel that until the stock has come back - no trophy fish should be taken. You should be allowed to keep one fish under 28". The ones that make it to breeding size should be left alone until the population has fully recovered. And more emphasis on protecting those species that are in the area (menhaden?) should be put at

I FISH • I VOTE

They taste better and are healthier for you. (menhaden?) should be put at



September 5, 2014

Mr. Michael Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Mr. Waine,

ASMFC has again delayed and stalled too long. It is unfortunate that changes to the Striped Bass Management Plan have been proposed, revised, discussed, but then ultimately once again the can has been kicked down the road for several years. Now the time has come for a significant action before we revert backwards the dismal population contraction of the 1980s.

Please, let us do everything possible to preserve the 2011 Chesapeake Bay and 2007 Hudson River year classes. Let us commit to restoring the stocks to population levels that existed between 1995 and 2004.

Therefore we recommend the following:

- Section: 2.5.1** Stock Assessment Reference Point
Option **B**: Uses the 2013 benchmark assessment
- Section: 2.5.2** Chesapeake Assessment Reference Point
Option **B**: Uses a preferred stock assessment point
- Section 2.6** Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option **A**: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year

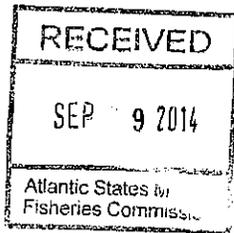
- Section: 3.0** Management Scenario Options
 - Coastal Recreational Fishery: **B-3** One fish per person @ 32"
 - Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: **B-13**
 - Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: **B-17**

- Section: 3.1** Commercial Quota Transfers
 - Option **A**: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one region to another should quotas not be reached in a given region.

Sincerely,

James A. Kerrigan
251-05 71 Avenue
Bellerose, NY 11426-2717

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Kerrigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



James Harrison
PO Box 4380
Eagle, CO 81631
jharrismed@yahoo.com

September 1, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine
Atlantic States Fisheries Comm.
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

Although I live in Colorado, I fish for striped bass for at least two weeks per year in Massachusetts. Please accept these comments on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

Having fished for striped bass every June for the past 15 years, I can attest to the decline in the productivity of the fishery. There is no question that the population is declining. As the population has declined, the fishery has become less and less attractive to me as a destination for recreation. If it continues to decline, I will have to spend my vacation dollars elsewhere.

I support the most radical changes proposed to improve the health of the fishery. I support reducing mortality (F) to a level at or below target within one year. **I support Option B in the draft addendum -- reducing total harvest immediately by 25% to bring F down below its target.** I support limiting anglers to a bag limit of one. I reject the concept that "trophy fish" should be kept. "Trophy fish" are likely the most productive breeding fish and should always be returned to the water. The less productive breeding fish should be the ones that anglers are allowed to harvest. For that reason, **I support option B7. I also support option B16—the 25% reduction from the Amendment 6 quota for the commercial fishery.**

On the issue of commercial quota transfers, **I support Option A – no commercial quota transfers.** With regard to commercial size limits,

Thank you for considering my comments.

Yours truly,

James Harrison

Persuader Charters
Captain James J. McWilliams
1182 Broad Rock Road
Wakefield, Rhode Island 02879
401-789-0511 (H) 401-837-2578 (C)
jamesmcwilliams1@verizon.net

Mr. Mike Waine
FMP Coordinator ASMFC
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22201

September 29, 2014

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP

Dear Mr. Waine,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP. As an owner and captain of Persuader Charters out of Point Judith, RI, and a member of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association, I believe the following:

Section 2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Rates:

Preferred Option B, reference points established that are consistent with SSB Targets and Threshold Values. Use those same coast wide F reference points for the Chesapeake Bay Management area until the T/C can develop appropriate scientific based RP's specific for that management area.

Section 2.6 Time to Reduce to F Target:

Striped Bass Fishing has been the center of Persuader Charter's business for many years and we support responsible management of this species. The economic future of the Fleet depends on practical decision making in this fishery and without it there is none.

We endorse Option B, a three year time frame to reduce F. If the Board selects Option B, it leaves management options open and choose from either the one year or three year timeframe options in Section 3. It clearly makes sense to keep management options open.

Section 3.0 Proposed Management Scenarios:

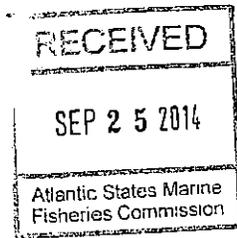
Striped Bass fishing brings thousands of recreational anglers aboard our boats each year who see a clear economic value in the bags of fish that they bring home to eat immediately and/or put in the freezer. Any management measures reducing the 2 fish per person current bag limit would eliminate the value that is brought to by charter fishing. Recreational anglers would also have the option of taking 1 fish or keeping none at all.

As a preferred option Under Section 3, the RIPCBA recommends Option D1 which results in a 21% reduction over 3 years and appears to be the easiest to enforce and understand. As an alternative, Option B8 which results in a 26% reduction in F over 1 year and could be considered, although this option may be more complicated for fisherman. The

important point to take home is that RI's Charter and Party Boats Captains, Crew and Clients recommend that the status quo (2 fish bag limit) be maintained into the future

Respectfully submitted

Captain James McWilliams
Persuader Charters, RIPCBA



James F. O'Leary
115 Bates Avenue
Quincy, MA. 02169

22 September, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA. 22201

re: Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of
the ASFMC Fisheries Management Plan

Dear Mr. Waine,

The following are my comments on, and preferred recommendations to, the referenced document.

After reading this document, it is quite clear that the key to striped bass continuing to existing as a species is what is referred to as fishing mortality (F). It is also clear that the ASFMC Board determines what this value will be. The document is unclear as to the current target of F that the ASFMC Board is using. The Section 1.0 *Introduction* to the document states that the Board will decide on whether to reach a target F in one or three years. However, it does not state a value for this target F. How can the public make an informed recommendation when the most important fact is kept from them?

Deep down in the second paragraph of Section 2.2.1 *Biological Reference Points for Striped Bass*, the text implies that the ASMFC Board is considering a current F target of 0.18. This is the only place in the entire document that seems to state a value for the Board- targeted F value. Is 0.18 the value the ASMFC Board is targeting? If not, what is the targeted F value the Board is considering?

It states on page 10 of the document that neither a one year nor a three year implementation period is sure to meet the targeted F value. The document states that there is only a 50% chance that either scenario will meet the targeted F value. Obviously, this means that there is also a 50% chance that neither scenario will meet the Board's targeted F value. The Board's direction is quite clear that the targeted F value be reached in either one or three years. Yet this 50% probability makes it quite unlikely that either of these scenarios will do that. How is this discrepancy explained? There is no explanation anywhere in the document.

With regard to the preferred management scenarios that are supposed to “meet or exceed” the Board’s targeted F value, the document identifies four Options A, B, C and D. Option A, the status quo, will almost certainly lead to another crash like we had back in the 1980s. I lived through that collapse and fished for years without ever seeing a striper. I will NOT repeat it. I’ll stop fishing first. It is the Board’s job to ensure this does not happen again. Scenario Option A must not be selected by the Board.

Option B, one year to “meet or exceed” target F, is unlikely to attain the Board’s goal for F in one year. It only has a 50% chance of reaching it. However, if the targeted F is not reached in the year, there will still be time to make necessary corrections before the striped bass stock actually collapses like it did in the ‘80s. Although only a 50% chance of meeting the Board’s targeted F goal, this is the best of the four Options that are available. Therefore, scenario Option B must be selected by the Board if other scenarios with higher chances of success are not available..

Both Option C and Option D allow three years to “meet or exceed” the Board’s targeted F value. Three years is too long a time frame. The striper stock could be collapsed in that time. The risk to the striper fishery of a three year wait is too great. The Board will not be protecting our right to fish for striped bass if it selects either of these Options. Scenarios Option C and Option D must not be selected by the Board.

With regard to the preferred management measures for scenario Option B, recreational fishing, there should be no harvest of trophy fish. These large fish are all females and each can produce a million eggs. At this time, the striped bass resource cannot afford to lose the future of the species. It would be like shooting doe deer, not bucks, and then wondering where all the deer have gone. Also the number of fish that may be taken should be limited to one fish per person per day. More than one fish only goes to waste anyway. The first fish usually gets eaten. Then the second one goes in the ‘fridge, is forgotten about and is thrown away weeks or months later. Stop this waste! With regard to size, the best option would be a slot of about 28” to 34”. However, since this is not a one fish possibility, the next best selection is probably one fish from 28” to 40”. It also results in a greater than 31% reduction from the 2013 harvest. Given this, the Board should select B-4 as the preferred management measure under scenario Option B for coastal recreational fishing. For the Chesapeake Bay Area, the Board should select the measure that produces the largest % reduction from the 2013 harvest. This is B-15.

There is only one preferred management measure for the coastal commercial fishery, B-16. But it doesn’t include the same reduction as the coastal recreational fishery. Actually, the document states that there is no reduction. This is totally unreasonable. The commercial sector uses the same striped bass resource as everyone else. They should not be treated any differently. The Board needs to make reductions evenly across both the recreational and commercial sectors. Select a new management measure that evenly applies the percent reduction from the 2013 harvest. Call it *B-16-E*. For the commercial fishery in Chesapeake Bay, B-17 has the largest reduction in the harvest. Therefore, the Board should select B-17 to conserve striped bass before they are gone.

One more item that needs to be addressed is releasing fish that either can't or won't be kept. With so many more fish being released, it only makes sense that reasonable measures should be undertaken to ensure these fish survive to reproduce and maybe fight another day. To help ensure this, the Board must require that true, non-offset circle hooks be used with all baits, alive and dead. These hooks greatly reduce gut hooking which is a major cause of fatal injuries to striped bass and other released fish caught with bait.

In summary, the Board must select scenario Option B, to reduce fish mortality (F) to the target within one year. But the target F must be chosen so that the probability of the evenly applied and much needed reductions are greater than 50%. This does not mean raising F so that it can be attained with a higher probability (this won't meet the needed reductions). The Board must also select preferred management measures B-4, B-15, B-16-E (yes E) and B-17 to try to ensure the striped bass resource does not collapse.

Thank You for the opportunity to provide input to the Board during their decision making process.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim".

9-18-2014

Mr. David Simpson

David.Simpson@CT.Gov

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Mr Simpson,

Thank you for hosting the public hearing on August 22, 2014 at the DEEP Headquarters in Old Lyme, Conn. Not being familiar with the Addendum, I appreciated the opportunity to become informed about the amendment and also your availability to answer questions.

Following are my suggested votes for the various options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Best Regards,

John Cusick Jr

September 30, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Draft Addendum IV

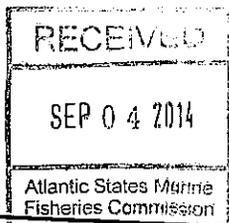
I am writing to strongly support the 30% reduction in the harvesting of striped bass proposed by the ASMFC Technical Committee. I recognize the need to reduce the harvesting of striped bass and that is why I have taken the 1@32 Pledge. I practice catch and release fishing, and in those instances where I may wish to keep a fish for the table, I have pledged to only take one fish per day at no less than 32".

I am in favor of the ASMFC Technical Committee's recommendation for a 30% reduction in the harvesting of striped bass. I have been noticing firsthand the reduction in striped bass available in Massachusetts. In particular, the Fall Run in the Greater Boston area has been significantly off from what it was just 5 years ago. This resource is very valuable to me and to local businesses and it must be preserved for generations to come.

I encourage the NYSFC Striped Bass Management Board to enact a new regulation to reduce the harvesting of striped bass namely, one striped bass at no less than 32" per angler per day regardless of venue.

Sincerely,

John DeBenedictis
72 Lubec St , #18
East Boston, MA 02128



John J. Bello, Jr.
22125 Highview Trail Place
Ashburn VA, 20148

September 2, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Subject: Draft Addendum I

Mr. Waine,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum II to Amendment 6 of the ASMFC's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan. I believe the reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time.

Striped Bass are one the most sought after game fish on the Atlantic coast. The keys to managing any fishery are access and abundance. Striped Bass abundance has declined dramatically since the mid-2000s while the harvest limits have stayed level despite a documented decline in the species, and in particular the big fish or breeders. I believe this must be addressed sooner rather than later.

Additionally, recreational releases have plummeted from a high of 23.4 million fish in 2006 to a low of 5.4 million fish in 2012. . Often the dominant fish in the recreational catch are those of the dominant year classes in the stock. The most abundant ages are the ones that end up being caught most often. As you know, the 2011 year class was very strong, with poor year classes prior to and after 2011. The 2011 year class will suffer disproportionate harvest levels if it is not unprotected. Protecting this strong year class could help jump-start the recovery of striped bass abundance. I believe the Board should consider further management measures protecting the 2011 class until they have entered spawning size.

Accordingly, I support the 25% reduction in quota in year 1 and conservative maximum size reductions protecting fish over 34" in length.

My comments on each Option are below:

2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options

I support Option B. This is the option recommended by the Technical Committee, and makes the Fishing Mortality Reference points internally consistent with the Spawning Stock Biomass reference points. They are more conservative and should allow for increased abundance (under average recruitment regimes) than previous reference points and should help to expand the age structure of the striped bass population.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options

I support Option B. Until we receive better guidance from the Technical Committee, the coast wide reference points represent the best available advice for management.

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options

I support Option B. The Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River stock contributes little to the coast wide striped bass stock; therefore it makes sense to allow for management under an approved North Carolina Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
September 2, 2014
Pg. 2

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

I support Option A, requiring the reducing F to a level at or below the target within one year. The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced; the sooner abundance can begin to be restored. History over the last 30 years of fishery management should have taught us that delayed management often has little or no management effect. Taking the necessary reductions as early as possible is usually the best solution.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

I support Option B, reducing F to a level that is at or below the target within one year. I fully understand this represents a 25% reduction from 2013 total harvest. The desired reduction would be achieved by approximately equal relative reductions to both the commercial and recreational fisheries. I see no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality. As stated previously, the sooner fishing mortality can be reduced the sooner abundance may begin to rebound.

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options

I support a bag limit of one fish per day Coast and Bay, and letting the individual states determine the size.

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

I support a 25% reduction in 1 year.

- a. The projections are based on 2013, so the commercial reductions must be taken from that year's harvest level to be effective.
- b. I understand the Chesapeake Bay's rationale, and can support taking a 25% reduction from the 2012 harvest levels.

In summary, I support implementing the maximum reduction at the earliest opportunity. I believe we are long past the point of making small changes; this should've happened 3-4 years ago.

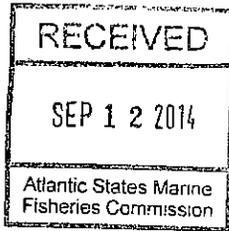
Respectfully,



John J. Bello, Jr.

Cc: John Bull
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607

Martin Gary
Potomac River Fisheries Commission
222 Taylor Street
Colonial Beach, Virginia 22443



September 9, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing you to express my opposition to the proposed 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers of striped bass from one state to another. I am all in favor of Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers. I believe that if this proposal were to be enacted it would severely affect the striped bass fishery for many years to come. I am an avid saltwater fisherman for over 50 years and I would like to see the striped bass fishery survive for many generations to come. I am a member of the Berkeley Striper Club and a member of the Seaside Heights Fishing Club and a member of the NJ Beach Buggy Association. Please do not enact proposal 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers for striped bass this year or any other year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Bruhetti". The signature is stylized and overlaps the printed name below it.

Jon Bruhetti
451D Portsmouth Dr.
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Joseph Denig
PO Box 918
Riner, VA 24149

September 17, 2014

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

Next week my wife and I are taking our annual fall trip to fish for striper in the Chesapeake Bay. Over the last several years I have noticed the decline in striper numbers and especially larger stripers. I was disappointed with the results of our spring trip, catching and releasing only one class of small fish (approximately 14 to 16 inches). I think it is important for the economy to have a viable Striped Bass Fishery for both commercial and recreational fisherman. If we continue with current course of action I don't see much hope for either commercial or recreation striped bass fishing.

I believe the ASMFC should act immediately to halt the current decline in Striped Bass Fishery. Even with good management it will take a long time to improve the fisheries.

Looking at the current take, and to be effective, there needs to be a reduction in the commercial and recreational take. The proposals in Draft Addendum IV are all aimed at bringing fishing mortality down to the new target level and that means reducing the total recreational (controlled through bag and size limits) and commercial (regulated by quotas) catch of striped bass by 25% or more, coast-wide and in the Chesapeake Bay (striped bass chief spawning grounds). The 25% reduction in catch for recreational and commercial should occur within a one year time frame starting with 2015 season.

My specific preferences are.

2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options – I support Option B, adjusting the reference points to the recommendations of the 2013 benchmark stock assessment.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options – I support Option B, using the coastwide population F reference points as established in section 2.5.1.

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options – I support Option B, allowing North Carolina to operate under their fishery plan. Up to a year and one half ago I was a North Carolina resident, their management has resulted in a much more vibrant striper fishery.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F (Fishing Mortality) to the Target – I support Option A, the faster the reduction, the faster the recovery.

3.0 Proposed Management Program - I support Option B, inaction or delayed is not an appropriate response to this decline; a partial reduction will only give a partial response. It will hurt all parties involved.

-Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options - I support Option B2 for the Coastal fishery and B10 for the Chesapeake Bay.

-Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options - I support Option B16 for the Commercial Coastal Fishery and B18 for the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Joseph Denig

C. Malcolm Cochran, IV
302-651-7506
Cochran@rlf.com

September 30, 2014

VIA EMAIL

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Members of the Commission:

This firm represents Mr. Craig Pugh, an active commercial waterman and commercial fishing license holder who lives and fishes out of Leipsic Delaware. Mr. Pugh annually fishes for striped bass in the waters of the Delaware Bay.

Mr. Pugh submits this letter in opposition to Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan (the "Proposed Striped Bass Addendum"). This letter is submitted in accordance with the procedures for public comment, set out in the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum.

Introduction

Mr. Pugh objects to the proposals set forth in the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum. In summary, (i) the proposals constitute a denial of due process, because the Commission has failed to take into account the social and economic impacts and benefits of the proposals as required by the IFMP Charter; (ii) ASMFC's failure to follow its own procedures is grounds for appeal; (iii) the population data on which the proposals are based is inaccurate, and was derived using inadequate scientific data and methodologies; and (iv) the proposals are inequitable in that they fail to account for recovered striped bass populations in the Delaware River and Bay region, and further fail to allocate separate quotas for the Delaware River and Bay that would account for the region as a separate management area (in addition to that represented by coastal migratory stock) as is done for the Chesapeake Bay and Albermarle Sound/Roanoke River management areas.



Discussion

I. The ASMFC Has Failed To Follow Its Own Procedures In Considering The Striped Bass Addendum.

A. The Striped Bass Addendum Constitutes a Denial of Due Process.

The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution require that citizens be afforded due process of law before being deprived of property or liberty interests by the government, or agencies thereof. *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 332 (1976); *see also J. McIntyre Machinery, Ltd. v. Nicaastro*, 131 S. Ct. 2780, 2786 (2011) (“The Due Process Clause protects an individual’s right to be deprived of life, liberty, or property only by the exercise of lawful power.”); *District Attorney’s Office for the Third Judicial District v. Osborne*, 557 U.S. 52, 67 (2009). Holders of commercial fishing licenses possess property interests in those licenses, and in rights and privileges associated therewith. *Barry v. Barichi*, 443 U.S. 55, 64 (1979). The reduction of quotas in these circumstances constitutes the deprivation of a property interest, entitling Mr. Pugh and those similarly situated to due process of law. *See, e.g., id.*

Among other procedural rights, commercial license holders (inclusive of Mr. Pugh and those similarly situated) have a right to expect that an administrative body in the position of the ASMFC, will adhere to the terms, process(es) and procedures set out in the body’s governing documents. *Morton v. Ruiz*, 415 U.S. 199, 235 (1974) (“Where the rights of individuals are affected, it is incumbent upon agencies to follow their own procedures.”). The Interstate Fisheries Management Program Charter (the “IFMP Charter”) is one such governing document. At Section Six, the IFMP Charter states: “Social and economic impacts and benefits *must* be taken into account” when fishery management measures are adopted. (Emphasis added).

Mr. Pugh has repeatedly asked, at no fewer than five public hearings (inclusive of hearings relating to menhaden, eels and striped bass) for disclosure of the specific social and economic impact data considered by the ASMFC in formulating its quota proposals. He asked again for this information as it relates to the new management options set out in the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum. No data (or relevant information) has been identified or received. The 32 page Proposed Striped Bass Addendum nowhere references—or even mentions—*any* social or economic impact data that was considered by the ASMFC. From the substance of the document, it appears that social and economic impact data was *not* considered.

Our conclusions in this regard are further evidenced by the failure of the ASMFC to identify, in response to Mr. Pugh’s request at a hearing on the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum, the Delaware representative to the Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (“CESS”). Section 5(n) of the IFMP Charter provides for the establishment of the CESS as a “standing Commission committee.” According to the IFMP Charter, “[t]he purpose of the CESS is to provide socioeconomic technical oversight for both the ISFMP [the Fish Management Plan] and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program.” The duties of the CESS include, among others (i) the provision of social and economic advice and information to the Board; (ii) the

provision of technical support and development of socioeconomic data for sections of FMP's "including amendments and addenda" and; (iii) to function as the technical review panel for social and economic analysis. *See* IFMP Charter § 5(n)(1)-(7).

The Proposed Striped Bass Addendum contains no analysis or input from the CESS; the ASMFC has failed to identify the Delaware member of the CESS despite repeated requests, and; we can find no evidence that the CESS has ever been called upon to consider the specific social and economic impacts of *any* of the proposed fish management options set forth in the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum. In fact, Mr. Pugh has been unable even to obtain information regarding the identity of Delaware's member on the CESS (assuming one has been appointed).

As things stand, it appears that the ASMFC has failed to consider the social and economic impacts and benefits of the quota reductions set out in the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum. Commercial fishing in Delaware produces and supports critical blue collar and other employment throughout the State. These quota reductions come at a time when the State is urgently in need of blue collar employment opportunities. The proposed reductions would cut the commercial striped bass catch by 25 percent in as little as one year (and in no more than 4 years). These reductions would result in substantial adverse impacts, to Mr. Pugh personally and to the various communities that support the Delaware commercial fishing industry. Data supporting this conclusion may be found on the website of the Delaware State Housing Authority. *See* www.destatehousing.com (Attachment B to the Delaware CDBG Program Guidelines, incorporated herein by reference). As reported there, the communities in Kent and Sussex Counties that support Delaware's commercial fishing industry are among the most economically challenged in the State. *Id.* (e.g., Leipsic 45.5% low/mod income; Smyrna 44.1%; Milford 47.5%; Little Creek 44/6%; Bowers 42.1%; Slaughter B. 40.9%, etc.).

It appears that none of this information (and no other relevant socio economic data) has been considered by the ASMFC in connection with the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum. In these circumstances, to reduce the striped bass quota(s) so substantially (as proposed) without first satisfying the mandate(s) of the IFMP Charter works a denial of due process that directly and adversely impacts Mr. Pugh and all similarly situated commercial fishing license holders.

B. The ASMFC's Failure To Follow Its Own Procedures Is Grounds For Appeal.

The ISFMP Charter provides for a right of appeal. Pursuant to the Appeals Process, adopted by the ISFMP Policy Board in 2004, management measures established through the addendum process are subject to appeal. ASMFC Appeals Process, available at: <http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/ASMFCAppealsProcess.pdf>. An appeal is justified where, *inter alia*, there is a failure to follow process. *Id.* For the reasons discussed above, the ASMFC has failed to follow its own established process by failing to consider the social and economic impacts and benefits of the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum. Failure to consider these impacts and benefits before adopting the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum, is grounds for an appeal.

Also, as discussed in the next sections of this letter, the quota reductions proposed, and the adverse socio economic impacts that would follow, are not justified or otherwise supported by valid, scientific data, or analysis. They further fail to properly account for the recovered Delaware River stock (as declared in 1998). The Commission's use of insufficient, inaccurate, and incorrect technical information constitutes additional grounds for appeal.

II. The Proposed Striped Bass Addendum Is Based on Inadequate Scientific Data And Analysis.

We have attached hereto (and incorporate herein by reference) three documents (designated herein as Exhibits A through C) submitted by Dr. Desmond Kahn to the Striped Bass Management Board this year during the Board's consideration of drafts of the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum. Dr. Kahn is well known to the Commission, having served as (i) a member of the ASMFC Striped Bass Stock Assessment Subcommittee, (ii) Chair of the ASMFC Striped Bass Tag Subcommittee, and (iii) Chair of the ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee. His background and experience qualify him as an expert.

In his letter to the Commission of January 28, 2014 (attached hereto as Exhibit A), Dr. Kahn wrote that the recent peer reviewed striped bass stock assessment (which is attached to this letter as Exhibit C) supports the conclusion that the management parameters used by the Commission in its Statistical Catch at Age model "were unstable and unreliable"¹ Specifically, as additional years of data were added to the model the estimate of biomass (so called "spawning stock biomass" or "SSB") increased, as each additional year of data was added. Using the estimates for 2005 as an example, it was determined that the estimate of biomass actually increased by 37% if data for the years through 2012 were added to the model. According to Dr. Kahn, "[t]his result is of serious concern. It indicates that the terminal year's estimate of spawning biomass, which is the one that managers such as yourself normally base decisions on, are biased low and are not reliable estimates of spawning biomass."

Dr. Kahn further concluded (in his January 28 letter) that the estimate of fishing mortality—the second principal "biological reference point" used by the Commission—was overestimated, for similar reasons. As more years of data were added to the terminal year, the estimate of fishing mortality ("F") actually *declined*. At a minimum, Dr. Kahn's analysis demonstrates the lack of reliability of the model used by the Commission in formulating the quota targets set out in the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum. Further, based on his work, it may be concluded that the spawning stock estimates derived by the Commission are too low—and that the fishing mortality estimates are too high--directly supporting the view that striped bass populations in the Mid Atlantic region are significantly higher than estimated by the ASMFC.

Similarly, in his paper entitled "The Draft Addendum is Based on Highly Biased Estimates of Spawning Stock Biomass and Fishing Mortality Caused by Use of Scale Ages"

¹ See Figure B7.9 "Retrospective analysis of average fishing mortality for ages 8-11, female spawning stock biomass, *+ abundance and age 1 recruits" contained in the attached peer-reviewed stock assessment.

(Exhibit B, attached), Dr Kahn states that the method used to determine the age of fish for the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum is fundamentally flawed—as the Striped Bass Technical Committee determined years ago. The method involves the analysis of scales to determine age, yet it is known that the use of scales “underages” bass of eleven years of age or older. At that age, “the annual rings tend to pile up at the edge of the scales as growth slows in these older ages” making it very difficult to correctly determine the age of older fish (beyond approximately eleven years). The net result is a biased study that indicates that fish are younger than they actually are. When this biased age data is input into the catch-at-age model, it results in an overestimate of fish mortality. The method also tends to underestimate the amount of spawning biomass, since older females are underaged in the input data. As noted by Dr. Kahn in his paper, a recent (2013) peer reviewed article by Liao et al. (2013) has estimated that this “aging bias from scales resulted in underestimates of population abundance (15%) and female spawning stock biomass (19%) and overestimates of fishing mortality in the terminal year (19%). . . .” Furthermore, this bias due to underaging was documented in the peer reviewed stock assessment in Figure B7.18, entitled “Comparison of average F for ages 8-11, female spawning stock biomass estimates and recruitment from the 2012 base model and the scale aging bias corrected models with age 13 and 15 plus groups.” Thus, as illustrated in Figure B7.18 in the recent peer-reviewed stock assessment, when models were re-run based on “unbiased otolith data, the F estimates were significantly lower and the estimates of female SSB were increased by about 50%.

These flaws in the models employed by the Commission in drafting the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum are material. They render the analysis on which the proposed quota reductions are based (as related in the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum) inaccurate, unreliable and (potentially) misleading. The four proposed “management scenarios” (options A, B, C and D) described beginning at page 11 of the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum are thus arbitrary, and not based in the best available scientific information available.

In that regard, it should also be noted that under Article IV, Sec. 3 of the Compact, “[T]he ISFMP Charter shall provide that fishery management plans, and any actions taken according thereto . . . use the best scientific information available” The scientific information used here is not the best available. Rather, as discussed above, the Commission appears to have selectively chosen data that present a biased picture that overestimates fishing mortality and underestimates spawning stock biomass--while failing to include in the document information that demonstrates the lack of reliability in the models used. Among other things, the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum fails (entirely) to inform the reader of the existence of another set of scientific estimates in the peer-reviewed stock assessment that found that fishing mortality (in reality) has been lower, based on tag-recapture data. Specifically (and in contrast to the catch-at-age model) the tag-recapture estimates have not been shown to be biased, and were (reportedly) developed by widely accepted scientific methods.²

² Namely (according to Dr. Kahn) Brownie tag-recapture models, model averaging and Baranov’s catch equation.

The failure of the Commission to consider all of the evidence in its analysis (including, for example, the tagging data) is (itself) evidence that the proposals are arbitrary.

These failures of the ASMFC to follow its own charter requirements (i.e., to use the best scientific information available) evidence further violations of the due process rights of license holders in the position of Mr. Pugh, and all others similarly situated. *Morton v. Ruiz*, 415 U.S. at 235. Indeed, insufficient, inaccurate and/or incorrect application of technical information is grounds for appeal pursuant to the Appeals Process adopted by the ISFMP Policy Board.

III. The Proposed Striped Bass Addendum is Otherwise Inequitable.

The Proposed Striped Bass Addendum is otherwise inequitable because (i) it fails to account for the recovery of the Delaware River spawning stock, and (ii) it fails to account for the Delaware River and Bay as a separate and distinct fishery, in addition to that represented by coastal migratory stock, as has been done in the case of the Chesapeake Bay and the Albermarle Sound/Roanoke River management areas.³

In 1998, the Delaware River striped bass population was declared fully recovered by the Commission. It has since been estimated, in the peer-reviewed scientific literature, that the Delaware River and Bay contribute as much as one fifth of the total coastal migratory stock.⁴ Yet the Delaware quota has never been adjusted to reflect this dramatic recovery. This is plainly reflected in the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum, which allocates (for example) to Maryland a coastal quota of 131,560 lbs, and a separate share of the Chesapeake Bay quota which (in total with Virginia and North Carolina) was more than 7.5 million lbs in 2013.⁵ By contrast, the entire quota for the State of Delaware was just 193,000 lbs in 2013--reflecting (apparently) only a share of the coastal stock, and no allocation based on the recovered Delaware River and Bay population.

The Proposed Striped Bass Addendum compounds this inequity. As reflected beginning at page 12, *all* of the options proposed in the addendum are based on commercial fishing management areas that include *only* (i) coastal, (ii) Chesapeake, and (iii) the Albermarle Sound/Roanoke river regions--*with no allocations for the Delaware River and Bay*. Further, the coastal allocations are based on "100% of the base period (1972-79) average coastal commercial landings" (p.12) which was well before the Delaware River recovery--thus entirely excluding the recovered Delaware River and Bay populations from consideration in setting the proposed quotas.

³ These also constitute grounds for appeal, under the ASMFC "Appeals Process" adjusted on August 18, 2004. *See* p. 1, criteria 1, 3, 4.

⁴ Kneebone et al. (2014), attached as Exhibit D.

⁵ *See* D Proposed Striped bass Addendum p. 23 Table 2 (including both commercial and recreational).

The methodology is thus entirely unfair to the industry in the Delaware River and Bay region. It is, moreover, ecologically unsound: It is well established that striped bass are a dominant species that prey on other finfish, such as weakfish and shad. Failure to account for the increased Delaware River and Bay population places undue pressure on these (and other) species.

The failure to base the proposed quotas on actual and updated population data that properly accounts for Delaware River and Bay striped bass populations renders the proposals set out in the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum arbitrary, and subject to appeal.

Conclusion

We appreciate the Commission's consideration of our views and request that (i) approval of any of the proposals described in the Striped Bass Addendum be deferred (or denied), (ii) that accurate and complete socio economic data be collected and analyzed, as required by the Commission's governing documents, and (iii) that accurate and complete scientific data be collected and analyzed by the Commission, prior to any adjustment of the current quotas.

Sincerely,



C. Malcolm Cochran, IV

CMC/gmu

cc. Mr. Craig Pugh (via email)

EXHIBIT A

Board Letter Jan 2014

January 28, 2014
916 Rahway Drive
Newark DE 19711

Striped Bass Management Board
ASMFC

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to draw your attention to a point made in the recent peer-reviewed striped bass stock assessment. The retrospective analysis in that document examined how stable and reliable the estimates of spawning stock biomass and fishing mortality from the Statistical Catch at Age model were as additional years of data were added. The estimates for 2005 were examined as an example. These estimates were based on data through 2005.

What this retrospective analysis showed was that, as additional years of data were added, the estimates of these management parameters were unstable and unreliable in the Statistical Catch at Age model. The estimate of biomass increased as each additional year of data was added, until by the time the 2012 data was added, the estimate of biomass had increased by 37%.

This result is of serious concern. It indicates that the terminal year's estimate of spawning biomass, which is the one that managers such as yourself normally base decisions on, are biased low and are not reliable estimates of spawning biomass. These estimates for 2012, for example, will increase as additional years of data are added.

By the same token, the retrospective analysis in the assessment showed that the estimate of fishing mortality is overestimated, since the estimate of F for 2005 decreased as more years of data were added.

Consequently, the retrospective analysis indicates that the model estimates of spawning biomass and fishing mortality for the most recent years have become unreliable and unstable.

My final point is that a dominant year class was produced in the Chesapeake Bay in 2011, which has already caused some increase in total coastal recreational catch-per-unit effort, although these fish were only two years old in 2013. This year, they will begin to move out onto the coast and abundance experienced by the recreational fishery will increase. To increase female spawning stock biomass, they will have to grow up and mature, however.

Yours Truly,

Desmond M. Kahn, Ph.D.

former member, ASMFC Striped Bass Stock Assessment Subcommittee
former Chair, ASMFC Striped Bass Tag Subcommittee
former Chair, ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee

EXHIBIT B

The Draft Addendum is Based on Highly Biased Estimates of Spawning Stock Biomass and Fishing Mortality Caused by Use of Scale Ages.

Desmond M. Kahn, Ph.D.

The draft addendum prepared by the Plan Development team has misleading aspects that the Management Board should be aware of. Specifically, the document is misleading about the biases in the SCAM model results. While it is normal for estimates from a model to have some degree of uncertainty, or lack of precision, the demonstration of a bias is different. A bias means the estimates are consistently either too low or too high. The charts of SSB and fishing mortality in the Draft Addendum give no hint of uncertainty, let alone bias. Instead, the charts portray the estimates as lines with no variance around them. In fact, these estimates have both a variance and a bias. While the retrospective bias has been discussed previously in the assessment and by this Board, the Draft Addendum ignores it completely, which is misleading to the general reader.

A second bias demonstrated in the stock assessment was an aging bias caused by the use of scales to determine the age of striped bass. When I was on the technical committee, we conducted a thorough evaluation of the aging method and determined that our use of scales under-aged bass of eleven years of age and older. That is because the annual rings tend to pile up at the edge of the scales as growth slows in these older ages.

Consequently, the primary data set input to the model, the catch-at-age matrix, is biased. The model is given a misleading picture that the stock of bass contains fewer old fish than it actually does. This would probably cause the model to estimate survival as lower than it is, conversely causing an overestimate of mortality. Since the model assumes natural mortality is constant, the resulting estimates of fishing mortality are too high. It also tends to underestimate the amount of spawning biomass, since it calculates that the fish are younger than they actually are, on average.

A peer-reviewed paper published in 2013 by Hongsheng Liao, Alexi Sharov, Cynthia Jones and Gary Nelson (note two Technical Committee members) was titled, "Quantifying the effects of aging bias in Atlantic striped bass stock assessment" (Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 142:193-207). This paper showed that the use of scale ages in the assessment caused biased estimates of spawning stock biomass and fishing mortality. It showed that the use of scales overestimated the age of young fish and overestimated the age of old fish, while otoliths did not produce any bias, or tendency. The paper stated that "aging bias from scale ages resulted in underestimates of population abundance (15%) and female spawning stock biomass (19%) and overestimates of fishing mortality in the terminal year (19%)..."

The 2013 stock assessment illustrated this effect in Figure B7.18 , reproduced below as Figure 1. When the SCA model was rerun using ages based on the unbiased otolith data, the F estimates were significantly lower and the estimates of female SSB were increased by about 50%, from roughly 60,000 MT to roughly 90,000 MT.

Both in the stock assessment and in the peer-reviewed paper, the clear conclusion is that our use of scale ages produces serious bias, producing the misleading estimates that this addendum is based on. Consequently, this Draft Addendum, which gives no hint of this drastic bias, is highly misleading to both

the Board and the general public. Use of the unbiased otolith ages, as opposed to the biased scale ages, would have eliminated the occasion for this Draft Addendum.

Figure 1. A reproduction of Figure B7.18 from the Peer-Reviewed Striped Bass Stock Assessment Conducted in 2013, showing the much higher estimate of Female Spawning Stock Biomass and the lower estimate of fishing mortality when scale ages were corrected with otolith ages. Compare lines labeled “2012 Base Model” with the lines labeled “Scale Bias Corrected 13+”.

“Figure B7.18. Comparison of average F for ages 8-1, female spawning stock biomass estimates, and recruitment from the 2012 base model and the scale aging bias corrected models with age 13 and 15 plus groups.”

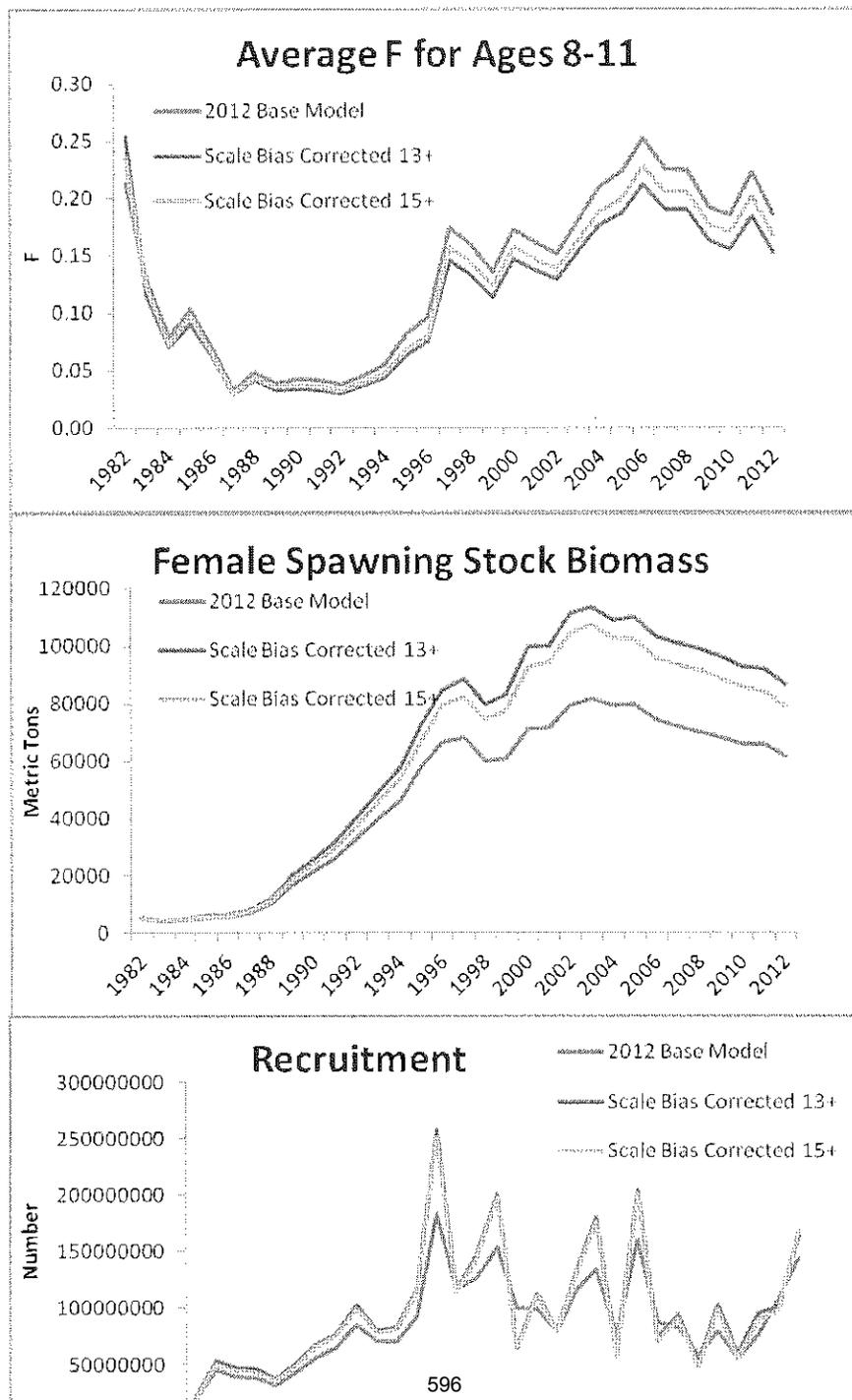


EXHIBIT C

ARTICLE

Quantifying the Effects of Aging Bias in Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment

Hongsheng Liao*

Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology, Old Dominion University, 800 West 46th Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23508, USA

Alexei F. Sharov

Fisheries Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, USA

Cynthia M. Jones

Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology, Old Dominion University, 800 West 46th Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23508, USA

Gary A. Nelson

Division of Marine Fisheries, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930, USA

Abstract

The effects of aging bias on stock assessment have been evaluated in many simulation studies. However, simulated data cannot be used to quantify the magnitude of aging biases in a real data set and thus their effects on an ongoing stock assessment. In this study, we validated scale and otolith aging using Striped Bass *Morone saxatilis* of known age collected from the Chesapeake Bay between 1997 and 2006. Otoliths provided more accurate (74% agreement) and precise (average CV = 1.9%) age estimates than scales, which overestimated the ages of young fish and underestimated the ages of old fish (22% agreement; average CV = 9.8%). Based on their accuracy, otolith ages were subsequently used to quantify aging biases in the scale ages and effects of bias in the stock assessment of Atlantic Striped Bass. We converted scale-age to otolith-age input using paired scale and otolith ages of Striped Bass collected by commercial fisheries in Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the mid-Atlantic from 1999 to 2010. A statistical catch-at-age model was run with the scale- and otolith-age input data and the results were compared. We found that aging biases from scale ages resulted in underestimates of population abundance (15%) and female spawning stock biomass (19%) and overestimates of fishing mortality in the terminal year (19%) and made strong age-1 recruitment years appear weaker and weak ones stronger. Our study demonstrates how aging bias in a large scale-age sample can be corrected with a relatively small sample of paired scale–otolith ages and provides fisheries management with a quantitative evaluation of aging bias and its effects on the assessment of the Atlantic Striped Bass stock.

The Striped Bass *Morone saxatilis* is one of the most important species targeted by recreational and commercial fisheries on the Atlantic coast of the United States. The population was depleted during the early 1980s but was fully restored by 1995 (Richards and Rago 1999). Currently, the Atlantic States Ma-

rine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) conducts Striped Bass stock assessments using a statistical catch-at-age (SCA) model (ASMFC 2011). Although the SCA model is an age-structured forward-projection model that is capable of incorporating errors in catch-at-age data (CAA) into one of its objective functions,

*Corresponding author: hliao@odu.edu
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it could still provide biased estimates of population parameters due to biased estimates of ages (hereafter referred as aging bias) in the CAA. Therefore, quantification of the effects of aging bias on stock assessment becomes crucial to understanding and interpreting the population parameters estimated by the SCA model, along with improving stock assessment and providing more effective fisheries management advice.

It is difficult to quantify the effects of aging bias on population parameter estimates derived from age-structured models because true-age data with a reasonable age range and a sufficiently long time series are often lacking for species of interest. Therefore, simulation studies have become a popular alternative in examining the potential effects of aging bias on stock assessment. For example, simulation studies have reported that aging biases account for biased estimates of population parameters derived from age-structured stock assessment models (Lai and Gunderson 1987; Rivard 1989; Bradford 1991; Reeves 2003; de Pontual et al. 2006; Bertignac and Pontual 2007). However, because simulation studies assume aging biases, they lack the ability to specifically examine and quantify the effects of aging biases embedded in real data from an ongoing stock assessment.

A scale-based CAA has been used in the Striped Bass stock assessment (ASMFC 2011). However, previous studies found that scales provide less accurate and precise age estimates than otoliths for many fish species, including Striped Bass (Erickson 1983; Libby 1985; Boxrucker 1986; Barber and McFarlane 1987; Heidinger and Clodfelter 1987; Welch et al. 1993; Lowerre-Barbieri et al. 1994; Secor et al. 1995a; Brown et al. 2004; Brouder 2005; Decicco and Brown 2006). Therefore, otoliths should be a more reliable structure for aging and stock assessment. Due to their low cost, minimal impact on fish, and the requirement for a large sample, scales are used for aging by most state and federal agencies in the stock assessment of some species (such as Striped Bass and Summer Flounder *Paralichthys dentatus*), while available otolith-based age samples are insufficient to detect temporal and spatial variations in the age distributions. One possible solution to this problem would be to examine and quantify aging biases induced by scales and their effects on stock assessment with a smaller data set of paired otolith and scale ages.

The stock assessment of Atlantic coast Striped Bass provides a good example of how to empirically quantify the effects of aging bias on stock assessment for three reasons: (1) the sample size and age range of known-age fish have increased since 1995 (Secor et al. 1995b); (2) we have collected large samples of paired scale and otoliths ages for the past 12 years; and (3) the Atlantic coastal Striped Bass stock has varied dramatically over the past 29 years (Richards and Rago 1999).

In this study, we examined aging biases in scale and otolith ages using known-age Striped Bass and then compared the population parameters estimated using both scale and corrected-scale input data with those estimated using otolith-based input data in the SCA model. Our objectives were to (1) validate the scale and otolith aging of Atlantic Striped Bass using known-age fish

to see whether the otolith ages can be treated as approximations of the true ages; (2) quantify the level of bias in Atlantic Striped Bass catch-at-age data introduced by scale aging; and (3) quantify the level of bias in estimates of Atlantic Striped Bass population abundance, female spawning stock biomass, fishing mortality for ages 8–11, age-1 recruitment, and retrospective patterns from the scale-based SCA model.

METHODS

Data collection.—Striped Bass were collected by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) from the commercial fishery in Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic coastal area from 1999 to 2010. Fish were captured mainly with pound nets (23%) and gill nets (58%) from January to December each year. Fish were measured to the nearest millimeter of total length and weighed to the nearest 0.5 g, and both scales and otoliths were collected from each fish. We define this collection as the Virginia data. We also obtained scales and otoliths of known-age Striped Bass from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR). These fish have been coded-wire-tagged and released from the MD DNR's Joseph Manning Hatchery since 1985 and were recaptured through commercial gear monitoring and fishery-independent surveys in Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River between 1997 and 2006.

Preparation of hard parts.—Scales were impressed on acetate slides with a hydraulic heated press for 7 min with 1.03×10^8 Pa at 77°C. Otoliths were thin-sectioned (0.5 mm) with a Buehler Isomet low-speed saw. The otolith section was baked in a Thermolyne 1400 furnace at 400°C for 2.5 min to a light caramel color and then mounted on a microscope glass slide. Lerner Laboratories flo-texx was used as the mounting medium to increase the clarity of the otolith section.

Aging.—The acetate impressions of the scales were viewed with a standard Bell and Howell R-735 microfiche reader equipped with 20-mm and 29-mm lenses. Sectioned otoliths were aged with a Leica MZ-12 dissecting microscope with transmitted light and dark-field polarization at between 8 and 100 × magnification. Our aging procedure consisted of two rounds. In the first round, two readers aged all samples separately in chronological order based on collection date without any knowledge of specimen lengths. In the second round, both readers sat together to re-age the fish for which there were different ages in the first round. Consensus ages between two readers were assigned to the fish. When a consensus could not be reached due to the quality of the scales or otoliths, the fish was excluded from further analysis. The percentage agreement between the two readers was calculated by dividing the number of fish for which there was agreement in the first round by the total number of fish aged in both rounds. This agreement was used as an indicator of the difficulty of aging a specific calcified structure (scale or otolith).

Conversion of scale-based SCA model input data.—The ASMFC used an adaptive framework of virtual population analysis model for the coastwide stock assessment of the migratory stock of Atlantic Striped Bass between 1996 and 2007 and switched to the SCA model in 2008 (ASMFC 2011). The CAAs and most abundance indices were collected between 1982 and 2010 from the area over which the stock is distributed, which ranges from Maine to North Carolina. Some young-of-the-year (age-0) and age-1 abundance indices were collected as early as 1970. All of the age-specific input data were derived from scale ages and therefore are referred to as scale-based data.

We developed a year-specific conversion matrix from the Virginia data. A conversion matrix contains the frequencies of otolith ages given a scale age collected during a calendar year. Each element in a conversion matrix is calculated as

$$p_{ji} = \frac{A_{ij}}{T}, \quad (1)$$

where p_{ij} is the proportion of fish with otolith age i and scale age j , A_{ij} is the number of fish in the data set with otolith age i and scale age j , and T is the total number of fish aged for the calendar year.

We used this conversion matrix to convert the scale-based CAAs collected from the coastwide assessment to the otolith-based CAAs. To do so, we assumed that there was no spatial variation in the relationship between scale and otolith ages among states. This assumption was based on the results from two Striped Bass workshops held by the ASMFC in 2003 and 2008. The 2003 workshop found no evidence that any state aged Striped Bass scales significantly more accurately than the others (ASMFC 2003). The 2008 workshop reported a similar relationship between scale and otolith ages in Striped Bass collected in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Maryland in 2008 (Hoover and Sharov 2009).

The specific conversion is as follows:

$$CAA_{ij} = C \times p_{ij} \quad (2)$$

$$CAA_i = \sum_{j=\min}^{\max} CAA_{ij}, \quad (3)$$

where C is the total catch in the year, CAA_{ij} is the catch with scale age j and converted otolith age i , and CAA_i is the catch with converted otolith age i .

Unlike the adaptive framework of virtual population analysis model, the SCA models an annual total index of relative abundance (I) and scale-based age composition separately. Therefore, we first estimated an index (I_{ij}) with scale age j and converted it to otolith age i by replacing C with I in equation (2). Second, we estimated an index (I_i) with otolith age i by replacing CAA_{ij} with I_{ij} in equation (3). Finally, the otolith-based age composition was calculated by dividing I_i by I . The indices

of abundance and otolith-based age composition were modeled separately.

Because of cohort progression and recruitment fluctuation over time, pooling all paired scale–otolith age data over time will smooth the magnitude of different cohorts, making strong cohorts appear weaker and vice versa. Therefore, we did not pool Virginia scale–otolith age data to make a year-aggregated matrix for converting the scale-based CAAs to otolith-based ones for the period before 1999. The conversion matrices could not be applied to the age-aggregated, age-0, and age-1 indices. Because there were no age-1 fish collected in Virginia waters, the number of age-1 fish in the scale-based CAAs could not be converted to otolith-based age-1 fish. As a result, the age-aggregated, age-0, and age-1 indices and age-1 fish in the CAAs were kept as scale based. Besides the age-0 and age-1 indices, other indices are from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS), Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Connecticut CPUE (CT CPUE), Connecticut trawl (CT trawl), Delaware spawning stock number (DE SSN), Maryland spawning stock number (MD SSN), New Jersey trawl (NJ trawl), and New York ocean haul seine (NY OHS).

The otolith-based weight at age (WAA) between 1999 and 2010 were directly borrowed from weight at otolith age in the Virginia data. Because Virginia otolith-based WAAs before 1999 and age-1 fish for all years were not available, the WAAs for those fish were kept as scale based.

SCA modeling.—We conducted four SCA modeling runs by combining different time series and conversion completions of the CAAs, WAAs, and age composition indices: (1) the long base run, in which the CAAs, WAAs, and age composition indices were scale based from 1982 to 2010 (this is the ASMFC stock assessment setting); (2) the long corrected run, in which the data were scale based from 1982 to 1998 and otolith based from 1999 to 2010; (3) the short base run, in which the data were scale based from 1999 to 2010; and (4) the short corrected run, in which the data were otolith based from 1999 to 2010. Because the forward-projection procedure in the SCA model requires recruitment indices for 12 years prior to the first year for the CAAs (1982 and 1999 in the long and short runs, respectively), Maryland age-0 and age-1 indices from 1970 to 2010 and from 1987 to 2010 were used in the long and short runs, respectively. The parameters compared among the four runs were the population abundance, female spawning stock biomass, fishing mortality, and recruitment. The effective sample size (ESS) was used for data-weighting in the SCA model. We used an iterative weighting approach in which the ESS was updated until the input and output ESS values converged, assuming a different uncertainty in age composition for each run.

Diagnostics of model fit.—We examined the model fit for the indices and total catch within each run by means of root mean square errors (RMSEs) and that for the CAAs by means

of annual residual sums of squares (RSSs) and their total across all years.

Retrospective analysis.—To compare the stability of the SCA model's performance in estimating population parameters among the four runs, we first conducted retrospective analyses of the population abundance and fishing mortality from the four runs from 2010 back to 2005 with the built-in retrospective analysis function in the SCA model. Then we compared the retrospective patterns among the four runs using the Mohn's ρ statistic (Mohn 1999), namely,

$$\rho = \sum_{y=1}^{npeels} \frac{R_{2010-y} - S_{2010-y}}{S_{2010-y}}, \quad (4)$$

where R and S are estimates of the population parameter of interest for a modeling year from reduced and full time series data, respectively. The term *npeels* is the number of years backward from 2010 (five in this study). When the ρ statistic equals 0, there is no retrospective pattern. The larger the ρ statistic deviates from 0, the stronger the retrospective pattern is. A negative value of ρ indicates that the parameter is underestimated in the terminal year, a positive value that it could be overestimated.

Data analysis.—Three statistical analyses were used to examine the accuracy and precision of scale and otolith ages and their relationship. First, we used ordinary-least-squares regression analysis to compare the scale and otolith ages with the true ages obtained from Maryland known-age Striped Bass. Then we compared the mean annual coefficients of variation (CVs) between the scale and otolith ages of Virginia Striped Bass from 1999 to 2010 using a paired t -test. The CV is defined as follows (Campana 2001):

$$CV_j = 100 \times \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^2 (X_{ij} - X_j)^2}}{X_j}, \quad (5)$$

where X_{ij} is the i th age determination ($i = 1$ and 2 for reader 1 and 2, respectively) of the j th fish, X_j is the mean age estimate between the age estimates of reader 1 and 2 for the j th fish. Therefore, mean annual CV is:

$$CV = \frac{1}{N} \sum_j^N CV_j, \quad (6)$$

where N is the total number of fish aged with both scales and otoliths in a particular year. Finally, we examined the relationships between the scale and otolith ages of Virginia Striped Bass by year from 1999 to 2010 using ordinary-least-squares regression. All statistical analyses were conducted with SAS (SAS Institute 1988) statistical packages.

RESULTS

The MD DNR collected 50 scales and 53 otoliths from known-age Striped Bass between 1997 and 2006. The true ages of these fish ranged from 5 to 19 years. The agreement between our otolith age estimates and the true ages was 74%, with an average CV of 1.9%. The very low CV of 1.9% indicates not only low percentage disagreement but also small differences between the true and otolith ages. For example, only 2 of 53 (3.8%) fish ages differ by more than 1 year. However, the agreement between our scale age estimates and the true ages was 22%, with an average CV of 9.8%. The intercept and slope of the regression of the otolith ages on the true ages were not significantly different from zero ($P = 0.9843$) and 1 ($P = 0.9348$), respectively, whereas the intercept and slope of the regression of the scale ages on the true ages were significantly different from zero ($P = 0.0056$) and one ($P < 0.0001$) (Figure 1), indicating a systematic bias in the scale age estimates. The scale ages tended to overestimate the ages of younger fish and to underestimate the ages of older fish.

The VMRC collected 4,469 Striped Bass from Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coastal area from 1999 to 2010, from which paired scales and otoliths were obtained. Of these pairs, 60 (1.3% of the total collection) were removed due to poor scale and/or otolith quality, leaving 4,409 for further analysis (Table 1). The average agreement between the two readers was 55% (average CV = 5.6%) for scale ages, higher than the average agreement of 48% (average CV = 9.3%) among the readers from six Atlantic states participating in the 2003 ASMFC Striped Bass Aging Workshop, but less variable (Table 2). However, the average agreement between the two readers was 81% (average CV = 1.7%) for our otolith ages (Table 1). The precision was significantly higher for the estimates of the otolith ages than for those of the scale ages ($t = 11.18$, $df = 11$, $P < 0.0001$). The intercepts and slopes of the regressions of the scale and otolith ages by year were significantly different from zero (all P s < 0.0001) and one (all P s < 0.0001), respectively (Figure 2). The patterns of the differences were similar to those between the scale and true ages of the Maryland known-age fish (intercept > 0 and slope < 1), where the scale ages tended to overestimate the ages of younger fish and to underestimate those of older fish.

Strong and weak year-classes were more identifiable in the otolith-based CAAs than in the scale-based CAAs (Figure 3). For example, the 1993 year-class was identified as a very strong cohort by the Maryland and Virginia juvenile seine indices (ASMFC 2011). Its progression could be followed in the otolith-based CAAs until 2004, when it was 11 years old. In contrast, the progression of this cohort in the scale-based CAAs was difficult to follow beyond 2000, when it was only 7 years old. The magnitude of different cohorts was smoothed by using scale-based CAAs, whereas several strong and weak cohorts could be clearly followed by using otolith-based CAAs.

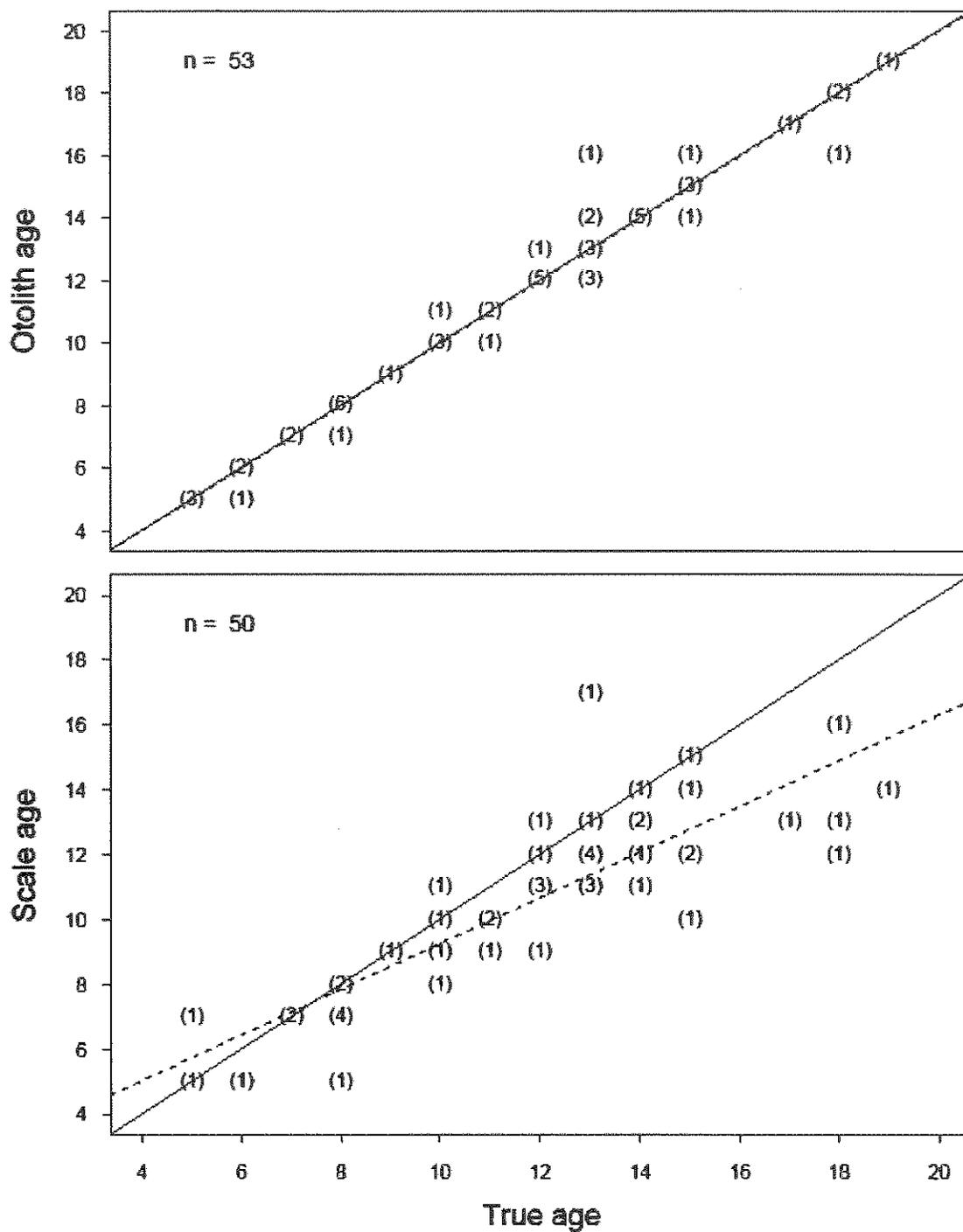


FIGURE 1. Results of regressions of scale and otolith ages on the true ages of known-age Striped Bass released since 1985 and recaptured between 1997 and 2006 by the Maryland DNR. The numbers of fish aged are given in parentheses. The solid lines represent one-to-one correspondences between the scale or otolith ages and the true ages. The dashed lines are the regression curves. The solid and dashed lines overlap in the first panel; n = total sample size.

TABLE 1. Agreement between two readers and average annual coefficients of variation (CVs) for scale and otolith ages of Virginia Striped Bass from 1999 to 2010. The number of fish analyzed is the number for which both scale and otolith ages were used to estimate agreement; the number of fish removed is the number whose ages could not be estimated due to damage to their scales and/or otoliths.

Year	Scale		Otolith		Number of fish	
	Agreement (%)	CV (%)	Agreement (%)	CV (%)	Analyzed	Removed
1999	46	7.9	78	2.1	347	5
2000	52	5.7	79	1.7	345	5
2001	63	4.3	78	2.5	241	3
2002	62	4.2	87	1.4	284	5
2003	67	3.8	86	1.5	448	8
2004	63	5.3	83	1.7	571	8
2005	40	8.6	77	2.1	324	8
2006	38	7.5	76	2.0	334	1
2007	60	4.4	78	1.8	532	3
2008	65	3.9	84	1.1	258	11
2009	49	6.6	82	1.3	261	1
2010	53	5.5	84	1.3	464	2
Mean	55	5.6	81	1.7	4,409 ^a	60

^aTotal.

In the long base run, the terminal year estimates of population abundance and female spawning stock biomass were underestimated by 15% and 19%, respectively, while fishing mortality was overestimated by 19% (Figure 4). In addition, a maximum underestimation of 25% in the long base run for the population abundance occurred in 1994 when the strongest cohort (the 1993 year-class) appeared as age-1 recruitment for the first time since the population depletion in the early 1980s (Figure 4d). A

TABLE 2. Agreement (%; coefficients of variation in parentheses) between readers and states. The results are from the 2003 ASMFC Striped Bass Aging Workshop, which representatives from five states attended. There were two readers each from states A, B, D, and F and one reader each from states C and E. State D also reported its final readings which were agreements between reader 1 and reader 2 whereas states A, B, and F didn't report their final readings. (By permission of ASMFC.)

State and reader	State A, reader 1	State A, reader 2	State B, reader 1	State B, reader 2	State C, final	State D, reader 1	State D, reader 2	State D, final	State E, final	State F, reader 1	State F, reader 2
State A, reader 1	100 (0.0)										
State A, reader 2	69.9 (5.2)	100 (0.0)									
State B, reader 1	45.6 (8.0)	38.8 (9.3)	100 (0.0)								
State B, reader 2	55.3 (6.6)	54.4 (6.7)	40.8 (10.6)	100 (0.0)							
State C, final	28.2 (12.0)	46.6 (7.4)	28.2 (15.0)	38.8 (11.2)	100 (0.0)						
State D, reader 1	64.1 (4.2)	56.3 (5.4)	60.2 (6.8)	58.3 (7.1)	29.1 (12.8)	100 (0.0)					
State D, reader 2	62.1 (4.3)	56.3 (5.2)	60.2 (7.1)	58.3 (7.4)	35.9 (11.5)	72.8 (4.2)	100 (0.0)				
State D, final	63.1 (3.9)	59.2 (4.3)	60.2 (6.3)	57.3 (7.1)	34.0 (11.3)	80.6 (2.7)	89.3 (1.2)	100 (0.0)			
State E, final	53.4 (5.4)	54.4 (5.5)	52.4 (9.0)	50.5 (8.7)	35.9 (11.3)	71.8 (3.8)	69.9 (4.5)	72.8 (4.1)	100 (0.0)		
State F, reader 1	26.2 (13.1)	35.0 (9.8)	28.2 (16.9)	35 (11.1)	52.4 (7.3)	35.9 (12.0)	35.0 (13.4)	35.9 (12.6)	38.8 (12.3)	100 (0.0)	
State F, reader 2	34.0 (12.8)	25.2 (15.8)	52.4 (10.6)	38.8 (14.2)	15.5 (21.4)	45.6 (11.5)	42.7 (12.7)	43.7 (11.9)	34.0 (14.1)	18.4 (19.5)	100 (0.0)

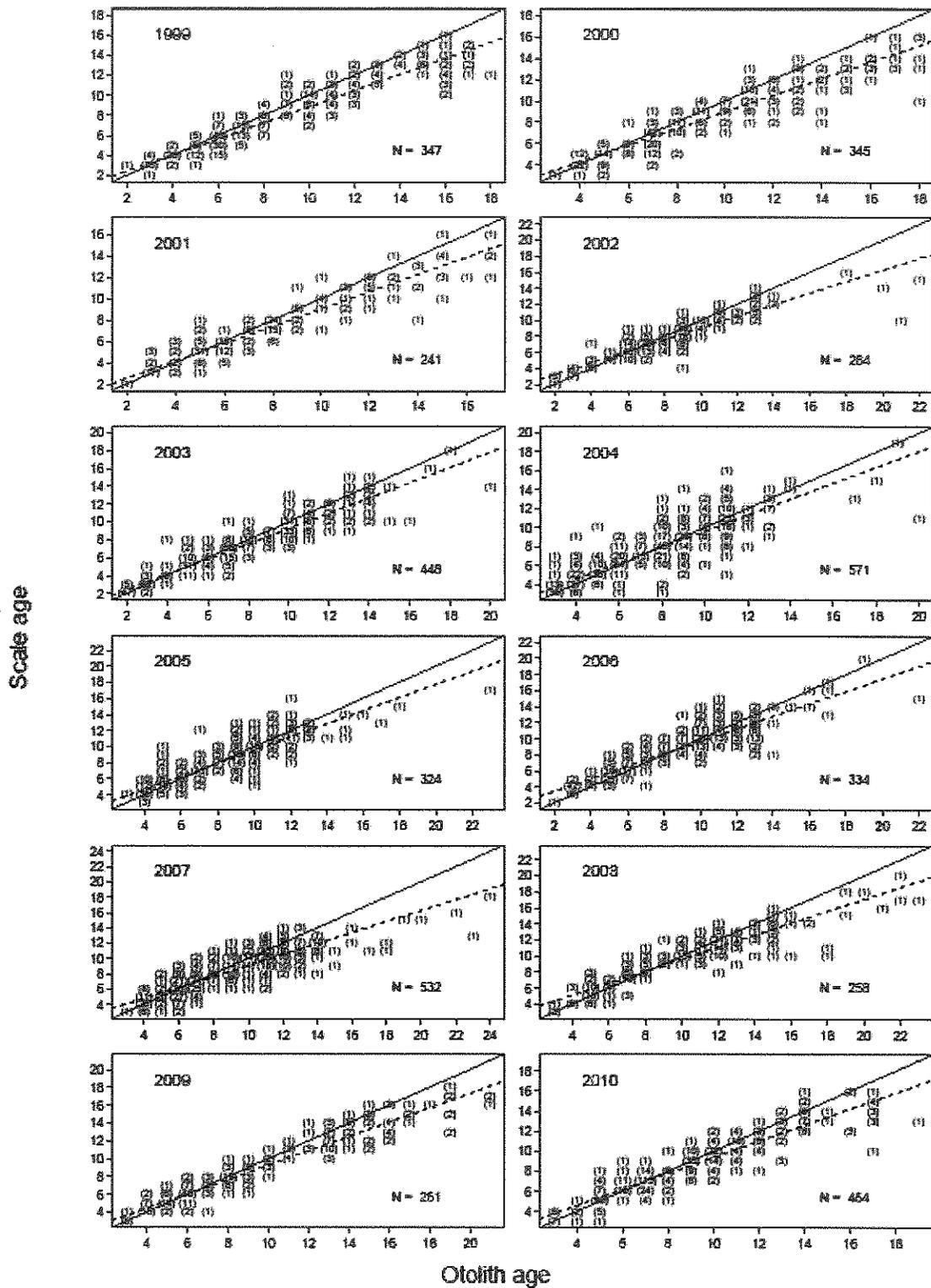


FIGURE 2. Results of regressions of the scale ages of Striped Bass on the otolith ages for fish collected by the VMRC in the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia waters of the Atlantic from 1999 to 2010. See Figure 1 for more information.

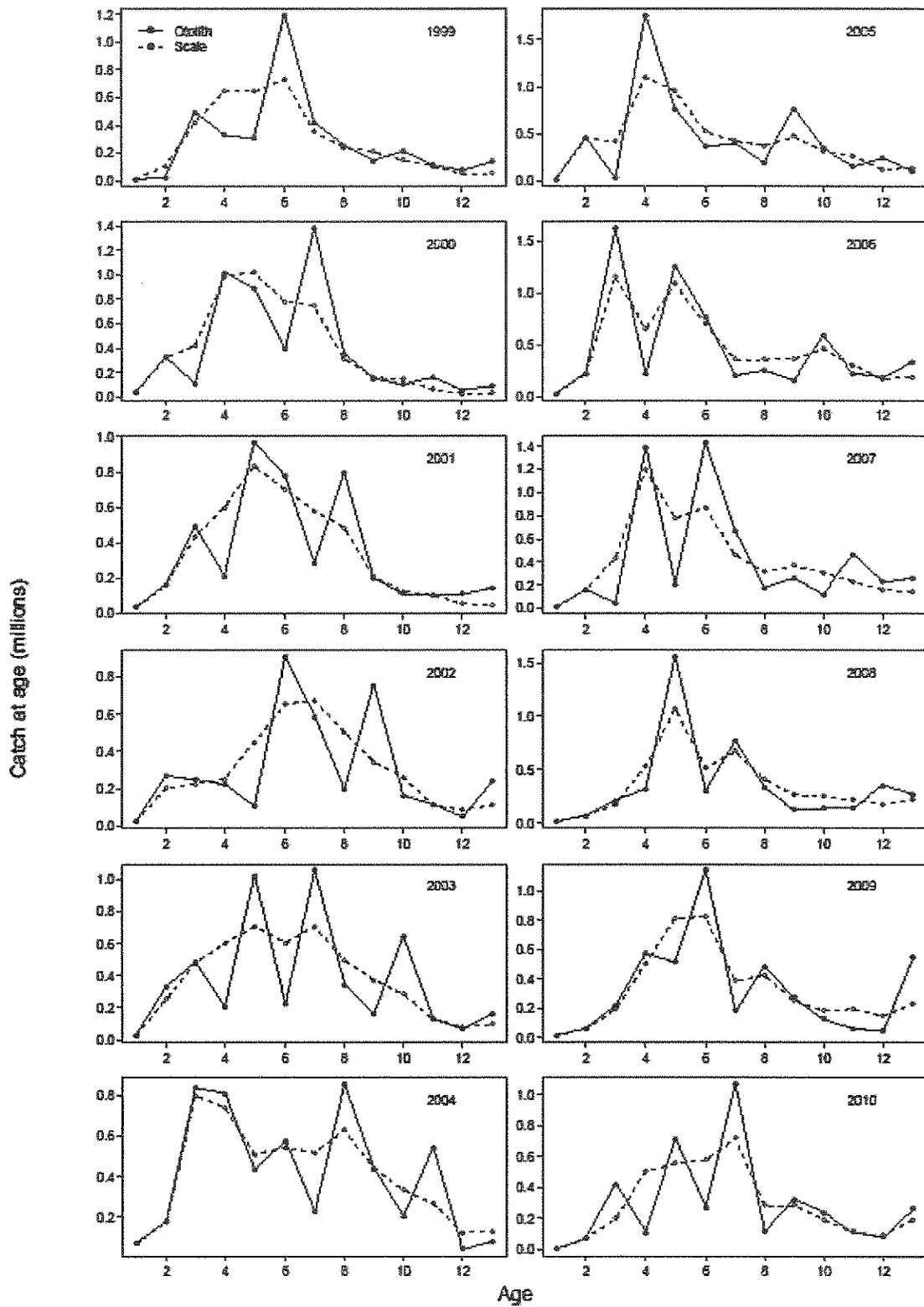


FIGURE 3. Comparisons of the scale-based and otolith-based catches at age (CAAs) of Striped Bass between 1999 and 2010. The otolith-based CAAs were converted from the scale-based CAAs using year-specific conversion matrices.

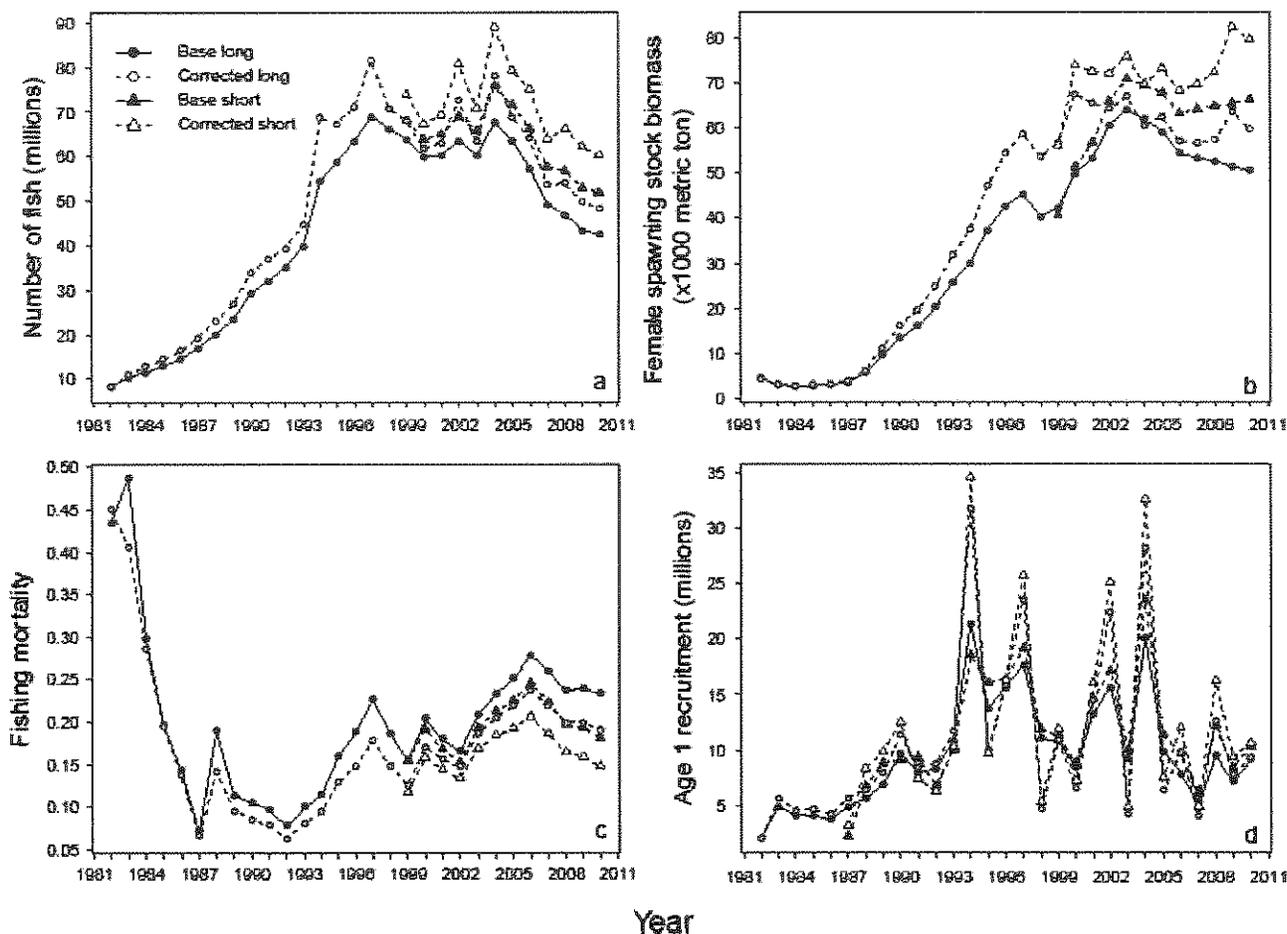


FIGURE 4. Estimates of (a) Striped Bass population size, (b) female spawning stock biomass, (c) fish mortality, and (d) age-1 recruitment from the long base, long base-corrected, short base, and short base-corrected runs of the SCA model (see text for details).

maximum underestimation of 33% in the long base run for the female spawning stock biomass occurred in 2000, when about 90% of the females in the 1993 year-class became mature (Figure 4b; ASMFC 2011). The magnitude and direction of difference in the estimates of population abundance, female spawning stock biomass, and fishing mortality between the short base and corrected runs were very similar to those between the long base and corrected runs for the period 1999–2010. However, the differences in those estimates between the long and short runs (both base and corrected) were slightly larger than those between the base and corrected runs (Figure 4a–c), most likely because of the significantly shorter time series in the short runs than in the long runs.

The magnitudes of the annual fluctuation in recruitment were dramatically different between the long base and corrected runs (Figure 4d). First, recruitment was very low with little annual fluctuation and similar magnitude between the long base and corrected runs from 1982 to 1993. Second, recruitment fluctuated more dramatically in the long corrected run than in the

long base run between 1994 and 2004, which resulted from the strong year-classes being stronger and the weak year-classes being weaker in the long corrected run. More specifically, the strong year-classes of 1993, 1996, 2001, and 2003 increased 45, 34, 42, and 40%, respectively, whereas the weak year-classes of 1994, 1997, 1999, and 2002 decreased 27, 50, 21, and 50% from the long base to the corrected run. Finally, recruitment in both runs decreased dramatically, with less annual fluctuation, from 2005 to 2010. The magnitudes of the annual fluctuation in recruitment were very similar between the long and short base runs and between the long and short corrected runs (Figure 4d), indicating that the length of the time series had less effect on the estimates of recruitment than on those of population abundance, female spawning stock biomass, and fishing mortality.

The total RSSs across all years for the CAAs in the long and short corrected runs were smaller than in the long and short base runs (Table 3). More specifically, the annual RSSs in 20 of 29 years were smaller in the long corrected run than in the long base run whereas in 7 of 12 years they were smaller in the short

TABLE 3. Sums of squared residuals of CAAs for 1982–2010. The terms “long” and “short” refer to the models from 1982 to 2010 and 1999 to 2010, respectively. The terms “base” and “corrected” are defined in the text; “difference” = the value from the base model less the value from the corrected model.

Year	Long			Short		
	Base	Corrected	Difference	Base	Corrected	Difference
1982	13.1	10.6	2.5			
1983	27.3	18.3	9			
1984	41.5	24.6	16.9			
1985	38.4	25.6	12.8			
1986	16.4	9.9	6.5			
1987	50.7	34.4	16.3			
1988	24.8	16.1	8.7			
1989	39	28.2	10.8			
1990	16.8	11.7	5.1			
1991	17	11.7	5.3			
1992	4.7	3.2	1.5			
1993	10.9	6.7	4.2			
1994	21.7	16.3	5.4			
1995	19.7	7.7	12			
1996	24.9	27.6	-2.7			
1997	27	44.5	-17.5			
1998	3.8	22.2	-18.4			
1999	10.9	16.1	-5.2	7.3	14.4	-7.1
2000	28.6	18.7	9.9	27.3	13.1	14.2
2001	12.9	11.7	1.2	11.5	10.1	1.4
2002	35.4	20.3	15.1	33.5	15.4	18.1
2003	9	25.4	-16.4	11.6	20.4	-8.8
2004	7.8	16.4	-8.6	6.4	11.9	-5.5
2005	9.6	21.1	-11.5	8.5	18.7	-10.2
2006	12.8	17.6	-4.8	11	14.2	-3.2
2007	19.5	21.7	-2.2	24.4	16.6	7.8
2008	25.6	22.7	2.9	29.1	16.7	12.4
2009	30.4	21.8	8.6	38.1	17.2	20.9
2010	27.5	13.1	14.4	39.3	10.8	28.5
Total	627.7	546.3	81.4	248	179.4	68.6

corrected run than in the short base run (Table 3). The RMSEs for the total catch were smaller in the long and short corrected runs than in the long and short base runs (Table 4). The RMSEs for 7 of 14 indices were smaller in the long corrected run than in the long base run, and the same change was found between the short corrected and base runs (Table 4). However, there were decreases in the RMSEs all four age-specific indices (NY OHS, NJ trawl, MD SSN, and DE SSN) in the long corrected run and in 3 of the 4 age-specific indices (NJ trawl, MD SSN, and DE SSN) in the short corrected run. Interestingly, the uncertainties in the age composition were larger in the corrected runs ($ESS = 172$ in the short run and 212 in the long run) than in the base runs ($ESS = 335$ in the long run and 393 in the short run).

There were very similar retrospective patterns in the estimates of population abundance and fishing mortality between the long base and corrected runs (Figure 5). However, the

retrospective pattern was stronger in the fishing mortality estimates (Mohn's $\rho = 1.252$ in the long base run and 1.129 in the long corrected run) than in the population abundance estimates (Mohn's $\rho = -0.341$ in the long base run and -0.344 in the long corrected run). Population abundance in the terminal year tended to be underestimated (negative Mohn's ρ), whereas fishing mortality tended to be overestimated (positive Mohn's ρ) in both the long base and corrected runs. However, the retrospective patterns in the estimates of population abundance and fishing mortality were more variable in the short base and corrected runs (Figure 6). The retrospective pattern was the weakest for population abundance (-0.02) in the short base run, followed by fishing mortality (0.178) in the short corrected run, population abundance (0.246) in the short corrected run, and fishing mortality (0.465) in the short base run.

TABLE 4. Root mean square errors for indices and total catch. Abbreviations are as follows: NY = New York, NJ = New Jersey, MD = Maryland, VA = Virginia, CT = Connecticut, DE = Delaware; MRFSS = Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey, NEFSC = Northeast Fisheries Science Center, OHS = ocean haul seine, and SSN = spawning stock number. See Table 3 for more information.

Component	Long			Short		
	Base	Corrected	Difference	Base	Corrected	Difference
Total catch	1.04	0.85	0.20	0.41	0.07	0.34
NY, age 0	7.96	8.56	-0.60	6.80	7.20	-0.40
NJ, age 0	2.89	3.54	-0.65	3.04	3.65	-0.61
MD, age 0	4.01	4.08	-0.07	3.25	3.00	0.25
VA, age 0	4.10	4.51	-0.40	3.87	4.20	-0.32
NY, age 1	2.50	3.11	-0.61	2.37	3.19	-0.82
MD, age 1	2.47	2.24	0.23	2.13	1.65	0.47
MRFSS	1.56	1.51	0.05	2.19	2.14	0.06
CT CPUE	2.15	2.18	-0.03	2.34	2.36	-0.03
NEFSC	2.37	2.43	-0.06	2.40	2.44	-0.04
CT trawl	2.78	3.17	-0.38	2.93	3.42	-0.49
NY OHS	6.29	6.16	0.14	2.19	2.21	-0.01
NJ trawl	2.32	2.27	0.05	2.83	2.81	0.02
MD SSN	3.03	3.00	0.03	1.30	1.24	0.06
DE SSN	2.70	2.49	0.21	1.55	1.54	0.01

DISCUSSION

Following Secor et al.'s (1995b) validation work on scale and otolith aging for Striped Bass, our study enhanced validation by taking advantage of the larger sample size and the broader age range of known-age Striped Bass collected for more than a decade. Our results are consistent with those of Secor et al. (1995); otoliths provided more accurate and precise age estimates for Striped Bass, whereas scales overestimated the ages of younger fish and underestimated the ages of older fish. The overestimation for younger fish is probably due to the misinterpretation of false annuli on the scales of those fish and the underestimation for older fish to the difficulty of interpreting narrow annuli on the peripheral fields of older scales (Barnes and Power 1984; Lowerre-Barbieri et al. 1994; Secor et al. 1995b).

The low agreements and CVs between readers found in this study and the 2003 ASMFC aging workshop indicate that it is very difficult to obtain accurate estimates of Striped Bass ages with their scales and emphasize the necessity and importance of correction for the aging bias inherent in scale age data. Most importantly, our validation with the true ages provides evidence that the otolith ages of Striped Bass have much smaller errors than the scale ages. Therefore, our validation of otolith aging allows us to quantify the effects of aging bias in the scale ages on the SCA stock assessment of Atlantic Striped Bass.

The ability of CAA to track the temporal progression of year-classes plays a crucial role in determining the reliability of population parameter estimates in stock assessment (Megrey 1989). Our study found that the otolith ages of Striped Bass are incomparably superior to the scale ages in tracking year-class progression. Aging bias erroneously assigns fish to adjoining

year-classes and results in the strong cohort appearing weaker and the weak cohort stronger (Bradford 1991). As a result, a substantial amount of information on cohort progression could be lost in the scale-based CAAs and the SCA model would provide biased estimates of the population parameters for Striped Bass. In contrast, otolith-based CAAs permit the SCA to model cohort progress more accurately. Likewise, the SCA is better able to predict future declines in a timely fashion should these occur.

A simulation study is an effective tool with which to explore the relationships between aging bias and the estimation of population parameters in general. Heery and Berkson (2009) found that when length frequency was biased toward small fish fishing mortality would be overestimated and thus fisheries policy would be more restrictive than necessary. Yule et al. (2008) used otolith ages as the reference and simulated scale ages to quantify the effects of aging bias in scale ages on the stock assessment of Ciscoes *Coregonus artedii*. They concluded that underestimation of Cisco ages could be responsible for the collapse of these fisheries in Lake Superior. Reeves (2003) reported that aging bias could significantly influence catch forecasts and management advice, such as total allowable catch and effective fishing mortality. Bradford (1991) warned that aging bias not only caused biased estimates of recruitment but also masked environmental effects on recruitment. Using Monte Carlo simulation, Lai and Gunderson (1987) reported that aging bias could result in biased estimates of length at age and further change estimates of the age composition in a Walleye Pollock *Theragra chalcogramma* population, accounting for biased estimates of its population parameters. However, no simulation studies were capable of quantifying the actual aging bias embedded in a particular set

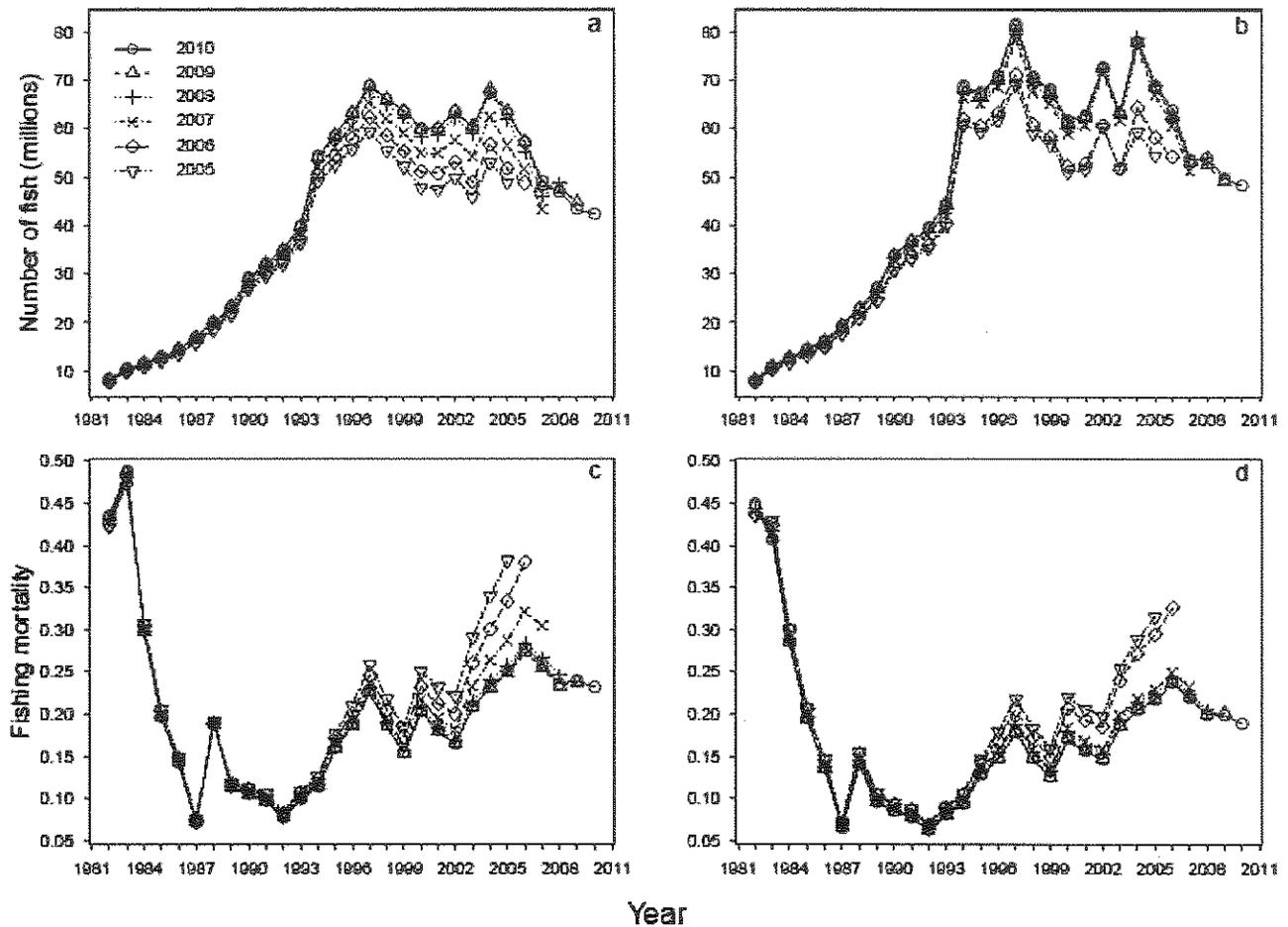


FIGURE 5. Retrospective analyses of the estimates of population size from (a) the long base and (b) long base-corrected runs of the SCA model and those of fishing mortality from (c) the long base and (d) long base-corrected runs. The data for 2010 are from the full time series and those for the years before 2010 from reduced time series. The years on the *x*-axis are those for which *N* was estimated from a time series.

of age data used for stock assessment. As a result, fisheries scientists still face challenges in assessing the effects of aging bias on estimates of population parameters derived from an ongoing stock assessment. Our study specifically targeted those challenges using paired otolith and scale ages from the same specimens with reasonable sample sizes across multiple years.

The comparisons between the long base and corrected runs and between the short base and corrected runs quantified the effects of aging bias in terms of underestimation of population abundance and spawning stock biomass, overestimation of fishing mortality, and fluctuation of recruitment over time. Such quantification is especially important when the estimate of a parameter in the terminal year plays a crucial role in fisheries management. The 2011 stock assessment with the long base run concluded that Striped Bass were not overfished and that overfishing was not occurring (ASMFC 2011). At this time, the estimates of female spawning biomass and fishing mortality for the terminal year from both the long base and corrected runs

are above and below their thresholds, respectively. Therefore, no immediate management actions are required. However, it would be challenging to the management of Striped Bass if the thresholds had fallen between the estimates of a population parameter from the two runs. This once again emphasizes the importance of quantifying aging bias in an age-structured stock assessment.

There was minimal difference between the estimates of recruitment from the long and short runs. Therefore, we will focus our discussion only on the differences between the base and corrected runs. The low recruitment before 1994 and after 2003 may be responsible for the smaller differences in estimated recruitment between the base and corrected runs, indicating that the SCA may not be able to detect the effects of aging bias on recruitment estimates when recruitment is low and more constant over time. During the period 1994–2003, when recruitment was high and variable, both runs were able to identify strong and weak recruitment well. However, the base run tended to make strong recruitment appear weaker and weak recruitment appear stronger

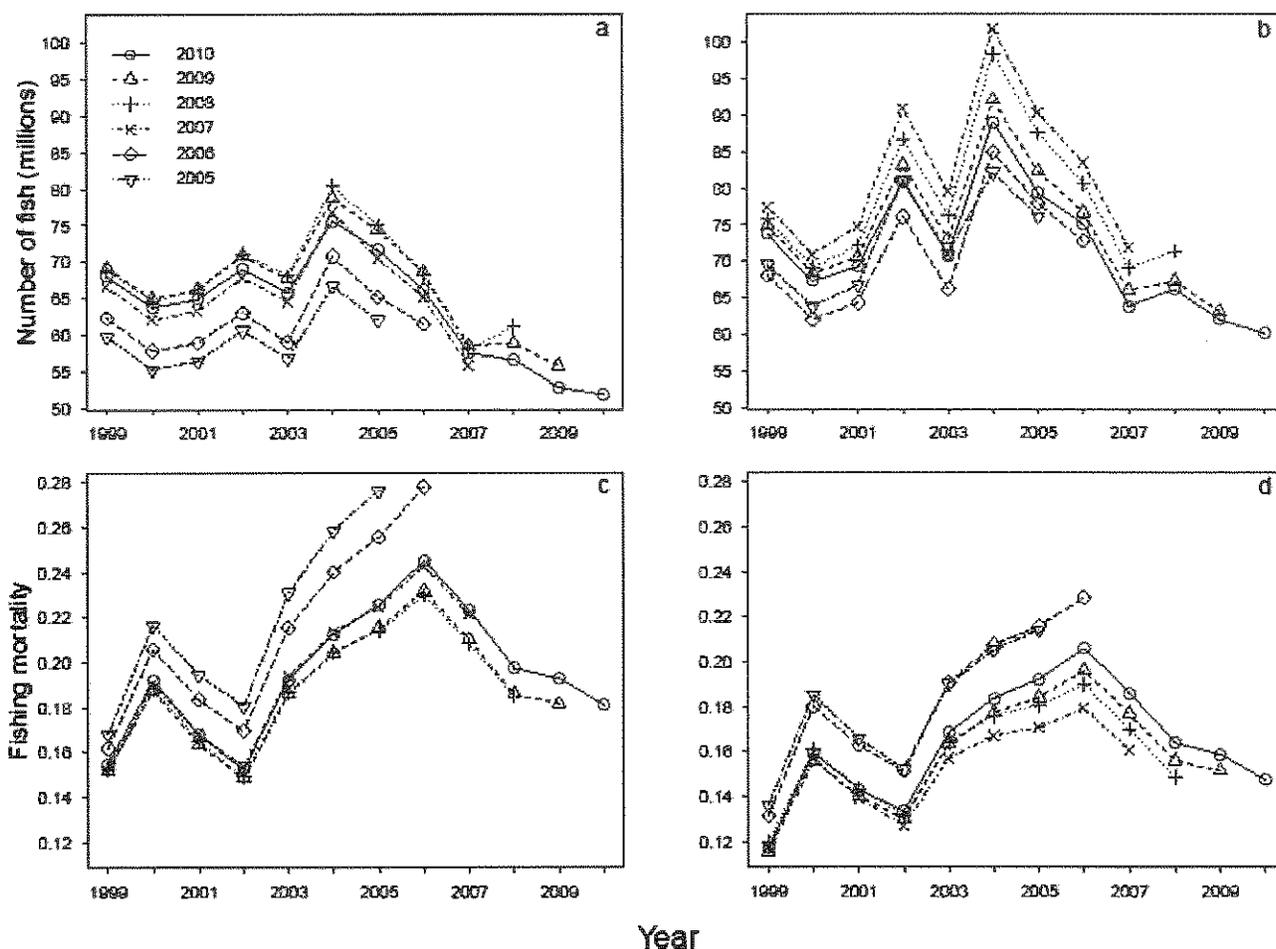


FIGURE 6. Retrospective analyses of the estimates of population size from (a) the short base and (b) short base-corrected runs of the SCA model and those of fishing mortality from (c) the short base and (d) short base-corrected runs. See Figure 5 for more information.

because of the aging bias. Bradford (1991) reported that aging biases could significantly reduce the variance in recruitment in sequential population analysis. Our result is not only consistent with Bradford's study (1991) but also indicates that age-structured models such as the SCA can be made more sensitive to a sudden change in recruitment (recovery or failure) between years by correcting the aging bias embedded in the input data.

The aging bias induced by scale ages could result in two opposite possibilities in Atlantic Striped Bass stock assessment and management. When the Striped Bass population was recovering from depletion, the underestimation of abundance, female spawning stock biomass, and the first strong recruitment could have resulted in management advice which allowed the population to have more time to recover in 1980s and early 1990s before exploitation occurred. However, once the population was completely restored by the mid-1990s, management advice based on such biased estimates of population parameters would have unnecessarily constrained Striped Bass harvests.

The correction of aging bias influenced the results of the SCA modeling. First, the smaller RMSEs for the total catch and age-specific indices and the smaller RSSs for most of the CAAs in the long and short corrected runs indicated that correction of aging bias could improve the model fit of age-specific modeling components. However, the model fit of those non-age-specific indices was not relevant to the correction of aging bias with an increase of the RMSEs for some indices and a decrease for the others in the long and short corrected runs. Second, we found that the retrospective patterns were more consistent between the long base and corrected runs than between the short base and corrected runs. We believe that the length of time series input data makes a more significant contribution to the retrospective pattern than does aging bias in the SCA modeling. In addition, Cadigan and Farrell (2005) reported that several factors (such as natural mortality) rather than biases in catch-at-age data could cause retrospective patterns in age-structured population analysis. Finally, the age composition was subject to larger

uncertainties in the corrected runs than in the base runs. However, such an increase of uncertainty in the corrected runs is not necessarily due to aging error because uncertainty in age composition in age-structured modeling can also be due to measurement error, observation error, process error, and model specification error (Hulson et al. 2012). It is not clear at this point what errors caused the increase in uncertainty in the corrected runs.

Three concerns raised in this study may deserve more attention in future stock assessments. First, a composite 13+ age-group is used in Atlantic Striped Bass stock assessments because scale ages older than 13 are unreliable (ASMFC 2008). Because the purpose of this study was to examine the effects of aging bias instead of the effects of different age-groups, we made a parallel comparison by keeping the same 13+ age-group in all the runs. However, our study indicates that otolith ages are reliable up to age 19. Therefore, future stock assessments may explore a variety of plus age-groups (up to 19+) and identify the one that provides the most reliable estimates of population parameters in the SCA modeling. Second, although the Striped Bass aging workshops suggest that there is no spatial variation in the relationship between scale and otolith ages among states (ASMFC 2003; Hoover and Sharov 2009), we believe that direct comparison of the conversion matrices developed by different states will enhance understanding of how our empirical method works and how stock assessments can be improved. Finally, the short time series of CAA resulted in much higher estimates of population abundance and spawning stock biomass and lower fishing mortality in the short base and corrected runs than in the long base and corrected runs. These differences are not relevant to the correction of aging bias but could have a significant influence on stock assessment and fisheries management. Therefore, it may be necessary for stock assessment scientists to evaluate the effect of the length of the time series on estimates of population parameters in an age-structured model.

Our study is the first to empirically quantify the effects of aging bias on an ongoing stock assessment (Striped Bass fisheries on the Atlantic coast) using real data sets (paired scale and otolith ages from each specimen). When more accurate age estimates are limited temporally, spatially, and financially, aging bias correction can be used to improve age-specific input data for an age-structured model. More reliable management advice and policies will then be possible.

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EXHIBIT D

ARTICLE

Movement Patterns and Stock Composition of Adult Striped Bass Tagged in Massachusetts Coastal Waters

Jeff Kneebone, William S. Hoffman,* and Micah J. Dean

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station,
30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930, USA

Dewayne A. Fox

Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Delaware State University,
1200 North DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901, USA

Michael P. Armstrong

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station,
30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930, USA

Abstract

The coastal migratory stock of Striped Bass *Morone saxatilis* has supported fisheries off the Massachusetts (MA) coast for centuries. However, despite this historical importance, limited information is available regarding Striped Bass seasonal movement patterns or migratory pathways within MA coastal waters and beyond. Using passive acoustic telemetry, we evaluated the seasonal residency, coastal migration, and stock composition of 159 adult Striped Bass (65–110 cm TL) by using a network of fixed acoustic receivers deployed from 2008 to 2012 in MA coastal waters and along the U.S. East Coast as part of the Atlantic Cooperative Telemetry (ACT) Network. Seasonal monitoring of tagged individuals indicated that adult Striped Bass were present in MA coastal waters north of Cape Cod annually during May–November, moving into and out of the region via the Cape Cod Canal and along the east side of Cape Cod. Of the 159 tagged individuals, 125 (79%) were detected outside of MA coastal waters by the ACT Network and were observed to make seasonal migrations along the coast to overwintering areas of the mid-Atlantic and major spawning areas (Chesapeake Bay, Delaware River, and Hudson River). Numerous tagged individuals exhibited interannual fidelity to summer foraging habitat in MA coastal waters, returning to the region for up to 2 years after tagging. Detection of tagged individuals in known spawning areas revealed that Striped Bass from each major stock were present within MA coastal waters during the summer months, with the Chesapeake Bay stock appearing to be the largest contributor to the population from 2008 to 2010. Collectively, these observations suggest that the seasonal population of adult Striped Bass in MA coastal waters has a diversity of origins, demonstrating the importance of the health of each spawning component to the MA seasonal fishery.

Striped Bass *Morone saxatilis* have supported fisheries off the Massachusetts (MA) coast for centuries. First targeted by Native Americans in the region, the species was highly prized during colonial times and continues to support valuable commercial and recreational fisheries, with over 400,000 fish landed annually (ASMFC 2013a). Although Striped Bass have occasionally been harvested in MA coastal waters during the winter

months (Bigelow and Schroeder 1953), the fishery primarily occurs in the late spring to early fall (Koo 1970; Collette and Klein-MacPhee 2002) and is supported by the migratory population of subadult and adult Striped Bass that are distributed throughout the region during the summer.

Seasonal movement patterns of subadult and adult Striped Bass are remarkably complex, ranging from localized seasonal

*Corresponding author: bill.hoffman@state.ma.us
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movements near natal river systems or estuaries to broad-scale coastal migrations (Merriman 1941; Clark 1968; Dorazio et al. 1994; Wingate and Secor 2007). In New England, the seasonal Striped Bass population is composed predominantly of fish from the coastal migratory stock (Collette and Klein-MacPhee 2002), which migrate to the region from overwintering grounds and spawning areas (Chesapeake Bay, Delaware River, and Hudson River) in the mid-Atlantic (Merriman 1941; Clark 1968; Boreman and Lewis 1987; Waldman et al. 1990; Dorazio et al. 1994). Movement patterns of this “stock” are highly diverse, with strong evidence for the existence of migratory contingents that display unique seasonal movement patterns and habitat use (Secor 1999). For example, Clark (1968) described a contingent of Striped Bass that migrated annually from the Hudson River in spring to forage in marine waters of New York City harbor and western Long Island Sound during the summer months, and those observations were later confirmed by Zlokovitz et al. (2003) and Wingate and Secor (2007).

Despite the historical importance of Striped Bass within MA coastal waters, limited information is available regarding their seasonal movement patterns or migratory pathways. In several studies, Striped Bass that were tagged in major spawning areas of the mid-Atlantic were later recaptured off the MA coast during the summer (e.g., Chapoton and Sykes 1961; Clark 1968; Waldman et al. 1990; Dorazio et al. 1994); however, these observations provide little information on the seasonal residency of fish in MA coastal waters or potential migratory routes between spawning and foraging habitats. Recently, Mather et al. (2010) and Pautzke et al. (2010) described movements of subadult and young adult Striped Bass tagged within the Plum Island Sound estuary, and those authors provided some evidence of the existence of migratory contingents that return to the estuary annually to forage. Collectively, these tagging studies suggest that the seasonal mixed stock of Striped Bass encountered off the MA coast potentially consists of individuals from multiple spawning stocks that exhibit unique movement patterns into and out of the region. The objectives of the present study were to utilize passive acoustic telemetry to (1) describe the seasonal residency of adult Striped Bass in MA coastal waters; (2) describe spatial

and temporal characteristics of the coastal migration of adult Striped Bass tagged in MA coastal waters; and (3) estimate the stock composition of Striped Bass in MA coastal waters.

METHODS

Fish capture and tagging.—Using conventional rod-and-reel tackle aboard Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MDMF) research vessels, we captured adult Striped Bass (individuals > 65 cm TL; Berlinsky et al. 1995; ASMFC 2013a) at several locations throughout MA coastal waters in 2008–2010, predominantly during June and July. Immediately upon capture, each fish was placed ventral side up on a V-shaped table, and a 69-kHz acoustic transmitter (Vemco Division, AMIRIX Systems, Halifax, Nova Scotia) was surgically implanted in the abdominal cavity through a small (2–3 cm) incision that was made slightly lateral of the ventral midline and anterior to the pelvic fins (see Table 1 for information on transmitter models, nominal delay, battery life, and dimensions). A laminated internal anchor tag (Model FM-84; Floy Tag, Seattle) was then inserted into the incision before it was closed by three to four interrupted sutures (2-0 FS Silk; Ethicon, Somerville, New Jersey). Total length (cm) was then recorded, and the fish was placed in a 960-L holding tank with recirculating seawater. Once the fish was responsive and could be confirmed to have recovered from the surgical procedure, it was released. All surgical procedures were completed within 3 min, and holding time averaged 15 min.

Receiver deployment and acoustic monitoring.—Seasonal residency and movement patterns of adult Striped Bass in MA coastal waters north of Cape Cod were monitored via a primary array of fixed acoustic receivers (Model VR2W; Vemco Division, AMIRIX Systems) deployed from 2008 to 2012 (Figure 1). Prior to deployment of the array, the maximum working detection range of the receivers was calculated by using range testing techniques recommended by the manufacturer (http://vemco.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/range_testing.htm). An acoustic transmitter that was specifically designed for range testing (Model

TABLE 1. Tagging locations, sample sizes, TL range (mean \pm SD in parentheses), and acoustic transmitter specifications for adult Striped Bass that were captured and tagged in Massachusetts coastal waters during 2008–2010.

Year	Tagging location	<i>n</i>	Fish TL (cm)	Vemco tag model	Nominal delay (s)	Battery life (d)	Tag dimensions (mm)
2008	Chatham	5	74–91 (81 \pm 9)	V16-4H	30–90	830	16 \times 68
	Salem Sound	26	65–107 (79 \pm 12)	V13TP-1H	30–90	196	13 \times 45
	Stellwagen Bank	25	68–107 (93 \pm 8)	V16-4H	30–90	830	16 \times 68
2009	Stellwagen Bank	50	74–109 (93 \pm 8)	V16P-4H	30–90	815	16 \times 71
2010	Stellwagen Bank	50	71–110 (86 \pm 9)	V16P-4H	30–90	673	16 \times 71
	Salem Sound	3	66–68 (67 \pm 1)	V9-2H	30–90	398	9 \times 29
Total		159	65–110 (88 \pm 11)				

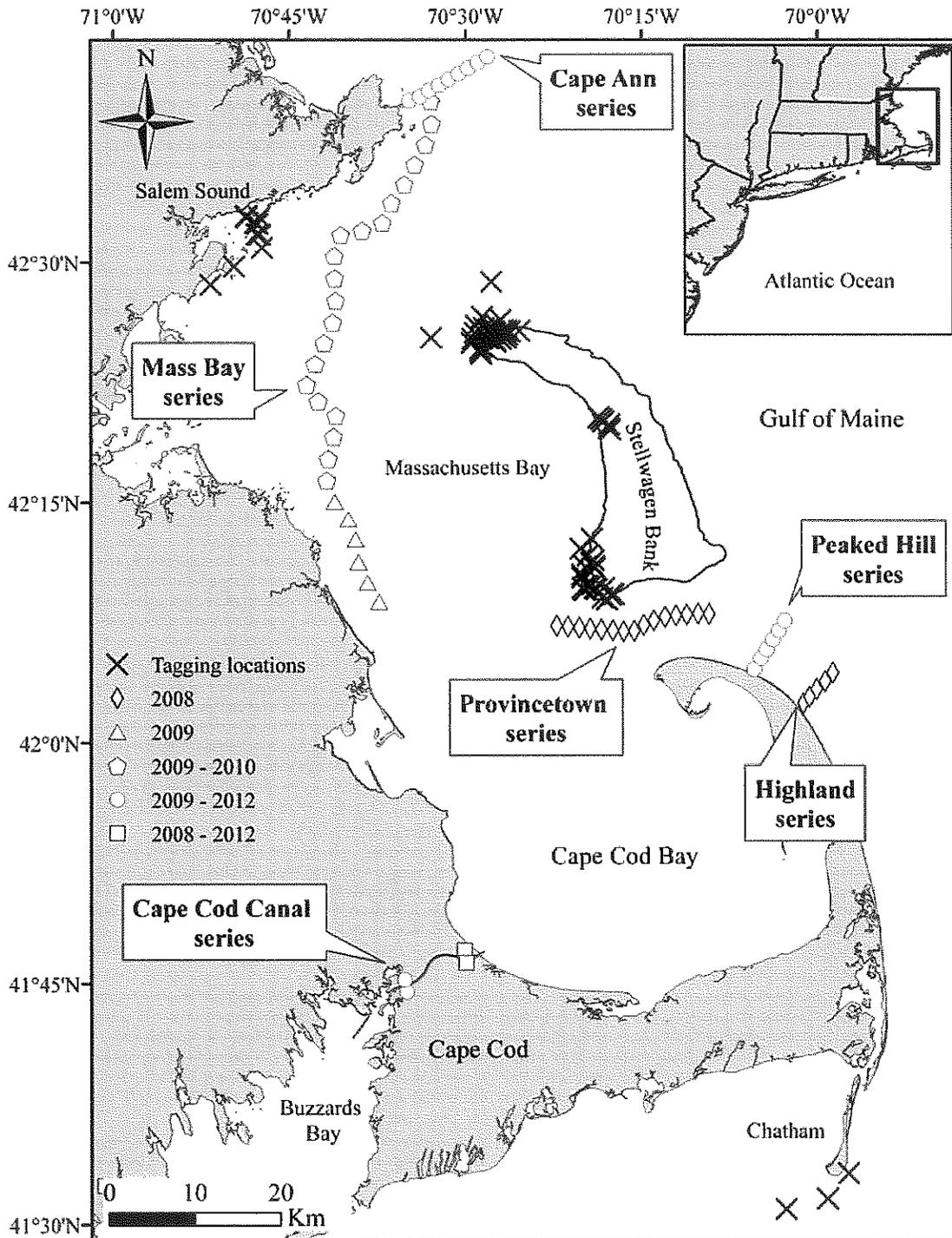


FIGURE 1. Locations of acoustic receivers deployed as part of the primary array within Massachusetts coastal waters (Mass Bay = Massachusetts Bay). Individual receiver locations within each receiver series are indicated by polygons that correspond to the years during which each receiver was deployed. Release locations of all tagged Striped Bass are also presented.

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V16-4H; nominal delay = 5 s) was moored 2 m above the ocean floor at a fixed position in a depth of about 55 m. Six receivers were then attached to a vertical line (suspended 2 m off the bottom) and secured to the seabed with 45-kg steel weights and a 10-kg Danforth anchor. Preliminary tests indicated that the maximum working range of the receivers was greater than 400 m, so receivers were placed 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, and 1,000 m away from the transmitter. To account for a variety of variables that can impact transmitter detection range (e.g., weather, currents, boat traffic, and salinity), tests were conducted over a 14-d period within the boundaries of the primary study area. During this period, receiver detection range fluctuated from less than 500 to 1,000 m but generally was on the order of 600–700 m. Based on these observations, the maximum theoretical working range of the receivers was estimated at 650 m. This was consistent with the manufacturer's predicted range in typical ocean conditions and confirmed that the equipment and array were functioning as designed.

In general, receivers within the primary array were deployed in strategic locations to monitor the movement of Striped Bass into and out of the region, although the total number and locations of receivers varied between years. Receivers were downloaded and cleaned monthly throughout their deployment period as time and weather conditions allowed. From June to November 2008, receivers were deployed within three series: Provincetown (PT), Highland (HL), and Cape Cod Canal (CCC). Based on the calculated maximum working detection range derived from range testing, receiver stations in the PT and HL series were positioned 1,300 m apart to achieve theoretical overlapping receiver coverage.

Several changes were made to the primary array from 2009 to 2012. Due to extensive receiver loss in the PT series from gear conflicts with commercial fishing vessels, strong currents, and boat traffic in 2008, this series was not deployed in subsequent years. To reduce interactions with commercial fishing gear, the HL series was also relocated further north to Peaked Hill (PH) for the remainder of the study. To enable the monitoring of Striped Bass movement through the CCC, two additional stations were deployed at the western end of the canal. Two series of receivers were also deployed within Massachusetts Bay (MB; 2009–2010) and off Cape Ann (CA; 2009–2012) to monitor fish movement throughout the region (Figure 1). The six southernmost stations in the MB series were not deployed in 2010 due to high receiver loss and minimal detection data. In the absence of active tagging, this series was also not deployed in 2011 or 2012. Receivers within the CA series were deployed in a straight line, with overlapping theoretical working detection ranges (1,300 m apart) beginning 600 m from shore and extending out to 11 km offshore (9 receivers).

Movements of acoustic-tagged Striped Bass outside of the primary array in MA coastal waters and along the U.S. East Coast were monitored through collaboration with the Atlantic Cooperative Telemetry (ACT) Network (www.theactnetwork.com), which is a network of researchers

from several institutions and agencies that maintain arrays of Vemco acoustic receivers in numerous locations along the East Coast. Functionally, the ACT Network operates by encouraging researchers to upload transmitter detection information to an online database that is shared among all members of the network. In the event that any user obtains detection data from a transmitter that is not their own, a query of the ACT database enables the detector to determine the identity of the transmitter (i.e., tagged species and initial tagging location) and to obtain contact information for the tagger. Accordingly, detection data obtained from this network can be used to examine large-scale movement patterns of individuals (or groups of individuals) over extended periods (i.e., months to years; e.g., Mather et al. 2010; Kneebone et al. 2014).

Analysis.—Prior to analysis, all detection data were examined for quality control, and any false detections were removed using criteria established by the equipment manufacturer (Pincock 2012). Single detections that were isolated in time and/or space (i.e., detection of a single transmitter code on only one receiver within a period 30 times the average transmitter delay interval) were removed from consideration, as were detections of transmitter sensor codes (i.e., depth or temperature) without accompanying identification codes.

The seasonal occurrence of adult Striped Bass within MA coastal waters north of Cape Cod was assessed by identifying and comparing the timing and location of the first and last detection events that were logged by the primary array during a given year. A detection event was defined as any discrete period during which a tagged fish was detected at least two consecutive times within a receiver series. Since the timing of arrival north of Cape Cod for each Striped Bass during its year of tagging was unknown, “first” detection events were assessed solely for fish that were detected by the primary array in the years after tagging. The location (receiver series) that logged each first and last detection event was also noted for each fish and compared among individuals and between years. The proportion of first and last detection events that occurred in each month (May–November) was also calculated for each year and examined for interannual movement patterns.

To elucidate seasonal movements of Striped Bass along the U.S. East Coast, detection data from the primary array were combined with detection data obtained from the ACT Network during 2008–2012. For this analysis, a detection event was defined as any period in which a tagged fish was detected at least two consecutive times by an acoustic receiver(s) within a discrete area. Since detection data were often available from multiple receivers deployed within a broad area (e.g., Delaware Bay), the receivers were grouped into 40 discrete areas for simplicity (Figure 2). To examine potential spawning activity within the Delaware, Hudson, and James (Chesapeake Bay) rivers, each river was split into several areas based on physical features of the system, receiver deployments, locations of purported spawning areas, and distance (river kilometer [rkm]) from the river mouth (Hudson River: lower area = rkm 0–60, middle

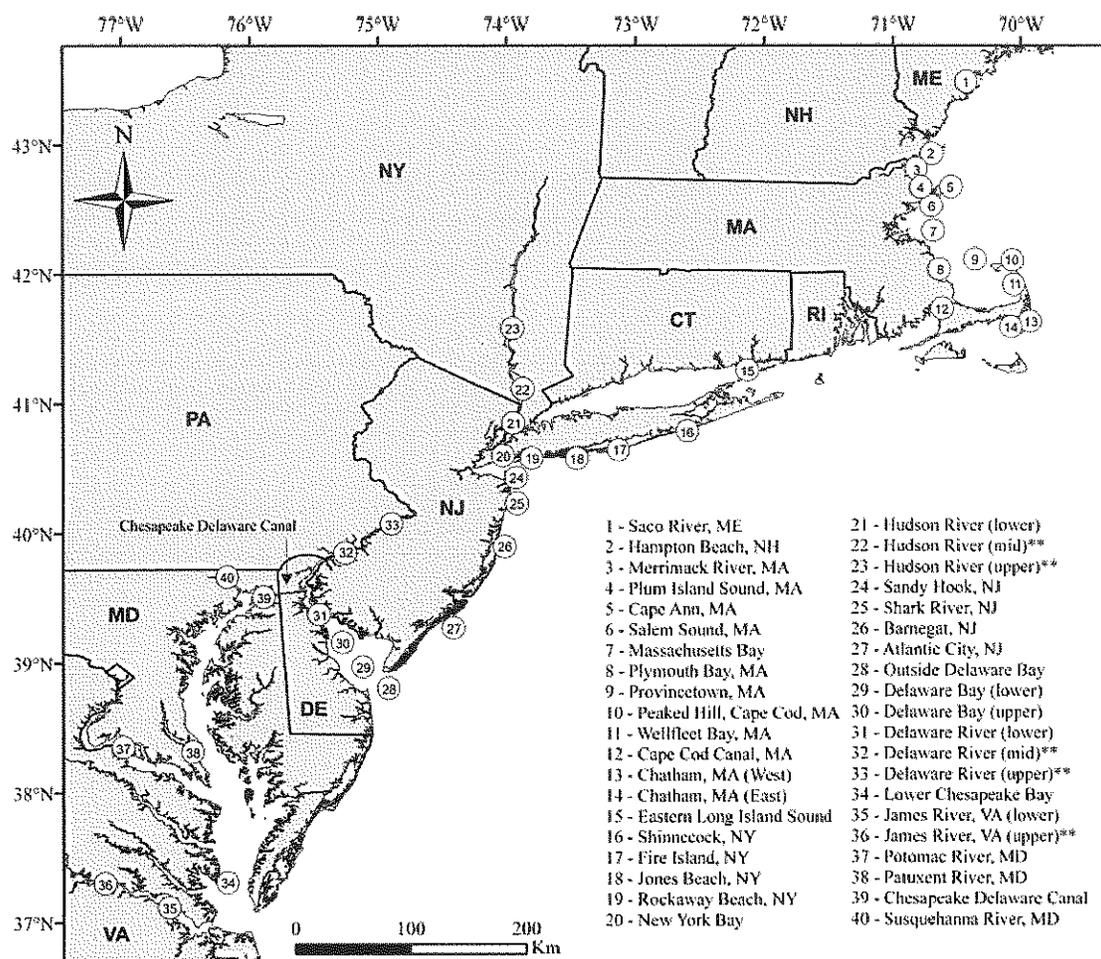


FIGURE 2. Locations of receiver series (white circles) deployed as part of the primary array and locations of receivers belonging to the Atlantic Cooperative Telemetry (ACT) Network, from which Striped Bass detection data were obtained (** = spawning areas with receiver coverage).

area = rkm 60–120, and upper area = rkm 120–180; Delaware River: lower area = rkm 0–50, middle area = rkm 50–100, and upper area = rkm 100–150; James River: lower area = rkm 0–75 and upper area = rkm 75–150). Monthly detection histories were then constructed for each individual by using data from all 40 areas and were pooled over all years (2008–2012) to examine seasonal movement patterns along the U.S. East Coast.

The migration interval (d) between MA coastal waters and the New York Bight (receivers deployed at Rockaway Beach, New York Bay, and Sandy Hook) or Delaware Bay (receivers deployed outside Delaware Bay and in lower Delaware Bay) was assessed for both the northward (spring; March 15–July 15) and southward (fall; September 1–December 15) migrations. To accomplish this, the total number of days between detection events in MA coastal waters at the CCC, PH, and Chatham series (Figures 1, 2) and detection events at each southern array during each migratory period was calculated.

To assess the stock composition of adult Striped Bass in MA coastal waters, we attempted to assign each tagged fish to a spawning stock based on detection history and/or fishery-dependent recaptures in putative spawning areas. To accomplish this, we established a set of criteria for three of the major spawning areas (Chesapeake Bay, Delaware River, and Hudson River), and all criteria had to be met in order for a fish to be assigned to a specific stock: (1) the fish must be confirmed, by detection or recapture, to have been alive during at least one spawning period after release; (2) since the receivers near the Hudson River spawning grounds were not deployed in 2009 (D. Fox and L. Brown, Delaware State University, personal communication), all fish that were detected only in 2009 and not detected or recaptured in Chesapeake Bay or the Delaware River during spring 2009 were removed from consideration because there were insufficient data to link those fish with any one stock; and (3) since all individuals tagged throughout this study were adults and were assumed to be capable of spawning, any fish

TABLE 2. Criterion utilized to assign individual Striped Bass to major spawning stocks based on detections in known spawning areas (arrays) during the spawning season in respective years of the study. Any fish that was detected at a given array during the defined spawning season was considered a member of that stock (CDC = Chesapeake Delaware Canal).

Stock	Array(s)	Spawning season	Years
Chesapeake Bay	Elk River/CDC	Mar 15–May 15	2009–2012
	Susquehanna River	Mar 15–May 15	2009–2012
	Patuxent River	Mar 15–May 15	2009–2012
	Potomac River	Mar 15–May 15	2009–2012
	James River (upper)	Mar 15–May 15	2009–2012
Delaware River	Middle and upper	Mar 15–May 15	2009–2012
Hudson River	Middle and upper	Apr 15–Jun 15	2010–2012

that met the previous criteria and were detected or recaptured in a “spawning area” during the spawning season (Collete and Klein-MacPhee 2002) were assigned to that spawning stock (Table 2). Fish that met criteria 1 and 2 but were not detected in any spawning area during the spawning period were classified as being from an “unknown” stock.

To account for the impact of skipped spawning, the number of individuals assigned to each respective stock (i.e., “observed”; fish that met the three criteria presented above) was corrected based on two theoretical levels of skipped spawning (low = 18%; high = 45%) derived from Secor (2008) using the equation

$$N_{corrected} = \frac{N_{observed}}{1 - (\% \text{ skipped spawning})}$$

The number of additional fish that were assigned to each stock was then summed over all stocks and subtracted from the number of fish in the unknown group. Next, given the rather extensive receiver coverage in both the Delaware River (2009–2012) and the Hudson River (2010–2012) throughout the majority of the study period, it was reasonable to assume that the remaining unknown individuals were most likely members of a “southern stock” consisting of fish from the Chesapeake Bay spawning stock or (less likely) the Roanoke River stock. Relative stock composition was then calculated for each stock as the number of individuals assigned to a given spawning stock divided by the total number of individuals for which stock status could be assigned ($n = 108$).

RESULTS

In total, 159 adult Striped Bass ranging in size from 65 to 110 cm TL (mean \pm SD = 88 \pm 11 cm TL) were captured, tagged, and released off Chatham, MA ($n = 5$); in Salem Sound ($n = 29$); and on Stellwagen Bank ($n = 125$) during three summers spanning 2008–2010 (Table 1; Figure 1). Of these fish, 152 (96%) were detected on at least one occasion within the primary array during the study period: 141 individuals were detected during the year of tagging (Y0), 96 were detected 1 year after tagging (Y1), and 46 were detected 2 years after

tagging (Y2). Of the 11 fish that were not detected during Y0, nine returned to MA coastal waters in either Y1 or Y2. Ninety-nine fish were detected in MA coastal waters during at least 2 years, and 24 fish were detected during three consecutive years. Twenty-one fish were reported as having been recaptured during the study period: of these, 4 fish were re-released, and 17 fish were harvested (Table 3).

Seasonal Residency North of Cape Cod

Seasonal monitoring of acoustic-tagged Striped Bass indicated that adults were present in MA coastal waters north of Cape Cod during May–November in each year of the study (Table 4). Of the individuals that returned to MA coastal waters in the year(s) after tagging (i.e., Y1, Y2, or both), the majority were first detected between May and July in each year (Figure 3). Returning fish were first detected by the CCC, PH, CA, and MB receiver series, indicating that movement northward occurred around Cape Cod as well as through the CCC; however, the greatest percentage of fish appeared to move north through the CCC in each year (Figure 4). Seven returning individuals (2009: $n = 2$; 2010: $n = 1$; 2011: $n = 4$) were first observed during brief (min) detection events within the PH series in August ($n = 2$), September ($n = 2$), or October ($n = 3$; Figure 3). Two of these individuals were also detected at receivers off Chatham, MA, prior to the PH detection events, suggesting that they were present along the east side of Cape Cod before being detected by the primary array (i.e., north of Cape Cod).

Adult Striped Bass generally moved south of Cape Cod by early November, but the exact timing of emigration varied slightly depending on the year (Figure 3). The majority of fish were last detected during September and October in 2008 and 2009; however, a relatively large number of fish were last detected during July in 2010 and during June in 2011. Tagged individuals were last detected by receivers in the CCC, PH, CA, and MB series, although the greatest number of individuals appeared to move south around Cape Cod (i.e., PH series) in each year (Figure 4).

TABLE 3. Tagging and recapture information for all conventional fisheries-dependent recaptures of Striped Bass observed throughout the study period (NR = not recorded).

Tagging			Recapture				
Date	TL (cm)	Location	Date	TL (cm)	Location	Days at liberty	Fate
Jun 23, 2008	77	Chatham, MA	Oct 17, 2008	84	Jones Beach, NY	116	Harvested
Jun 25, 2008	79	Salem Sound, MA	Jul 19, 2008	NR	Plum Island Sound, MA	24	Re-released
Jun 25, 2008	70	Salem Sound, MA	Jul 9, 2008	69	Salem Sound, MA	14	Re-released
Jun 26, 2008	84	Stellwagen Bank	Nov 7, 2009	85	Cape May, NJ	499	Harvested
Jun 27, 2008	96	Salem Sound, MA	Jul 30, 2008	96.5	Salem Sound, MA	33	Harvested
Jul 3, 2008	107	Salem Sound, MA	Aug 20, 2008	107	Plum Island Sound, MA	48	Harvested
Jul 3, 2008	78	Salem Sound, MA	Jul 6, 2008	79	Salem Sound, MA	3	Harvested
Jul 10, 2008	101	Stellwagen Bank	Apr 20, 2009	113	Chesapeake Bay	284	Harvested
Jun 26, 2009	98	Stellwagen Bank	Jan 16, 2010	94	Oregon Inlet, NC	204	Re-released
Jun 30, 2009	95	Stellwagen Bank	Feb 28, 2010	NR	Chesapeake Bay	243	Harvested
Jun 30, 2009	97	Stellwagen Bank	Apr 20, 2010	99	Annapolis, MD	294	Re-released
Jun 30, 2009	85	Stellwagen Bank	Mar 2, 2011	96.5	Rappahannock River, VA	610	Harvested
Jun 30, 2009	91	Stellwagen Bank	Nov 8, 2009	NR	Belmar, NJ	131	Harvested
Jul 8, 2009	100	Stellwagen Bank	Apr 23, 2011	104	Point Lookout, MD	654	Harvested
Jul 8, 2009	85	Stellwagen Bank	Jun 5, 2010	NR	Jones Inlet, NY	332	Harvested
Jul 1, 2010	83	Stellwagen Bank	Feb 3, 2012	NR	Chesapeake Bay	582	Harvested
Jul 1, 2010	94	Stellwagen Bank	Jul 19, 2011	95	Plymouth Bay, MA	383	Harvested
Jul 1, 2010	78	Stellwagen Bank	May 6, 2012	91	Connecticut River, CT	675	Harvested
Jul 1, 2010	97	Stellwagen Bank	Feb 1, 2012	92	York River, VA	580	Harvested
Jul 1, 2010	71	Stellwagen Bank	Jan 18, 2011	86	Virginia Beach, VA	201	Harvested
Jul 1, 2010	80	Stellwagen Bank	Feb 27, 2011	109	Oregon Inlet, NC	241	Harvested

Coastal Movements

Of the 159 acoustic-tagged Striped Bass, 125 fish (79%) were detected by acoustic receivers deployed along the U.S. East Coast as part of the ACT Network. Receiver detections ($n = 161,664$) were logged in all months of the year from the Saco River, Maine, south to Chesapeake Bay, Virginia (Figure 2). Combined with detection data from the primary array ($n =$

25,182 detections), a total of 186,846 detections were available for use in examining movement patterns (see Supplementary Table S.1 in the online version of this paper). Individual Striped Bass were detected during 1–34 monthly detection events, with detections occurring on 1 to 30 d within a given month.

The majority of adult Striped Bass tagged off the MA coast made seasonal migrations to overwintering areas and spawning rivers in the mid-Atlantic (Figure 5). From June to October, tagged Striped Bass were detected primarily throughout MA coastal waters ranging from Chatham north to the Merrimack River; only two individuals were observed north of this area during the study period. One individual was detected intermittently in the Saco River, Maine between July 14 and August 4, 2010 (2,146 detections), before moving back into MA coastal waters during early October. A second individual was detected briefly (3 detections) off Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, on June 8, 2011, before returning to MA coastal waters on June 11. Aside from a single fish that was detected in the lower Hudson River from June 4 to July 16, 2010, no detections were received from areas south of MA between June 8 and October 4 in any year (Figure 5). By the fall (October–November), adult Striped Bass began moving southward along the coast and were detected as traveling through the eastern Long Island Sound, the New York Bight (off Long Island and New Jersey), and

TABLE 4. Total number of tagged Striped Bass that were detected at the primary array in Massachusetts coastal waters north of Cape Cod throughout each year of the study. Detection periods represent the period between the first and last detections of any tagged Striped Bass. Data from the last detection period in 2012 are not presented due to the cessation of battery life shortly after fish returned to waters north of Cape Cod during May (returns = fish that returned to the region 1 year after tagging [Y1] or 2 years after tagging [Y2]; i.e., Y0 = year of tagging).

Year	Number of fish			Detection period	
	Tagged	Returns	Total	First detection	Last detection
2008	47	—	47	—	Nov 10
2009	47	21	68	May 18	Nov 2
2010	41	50	91	May 6	Nov 15
2011	—	60	60	May 4	Oct 25
2012	—	8	8	May 11	—

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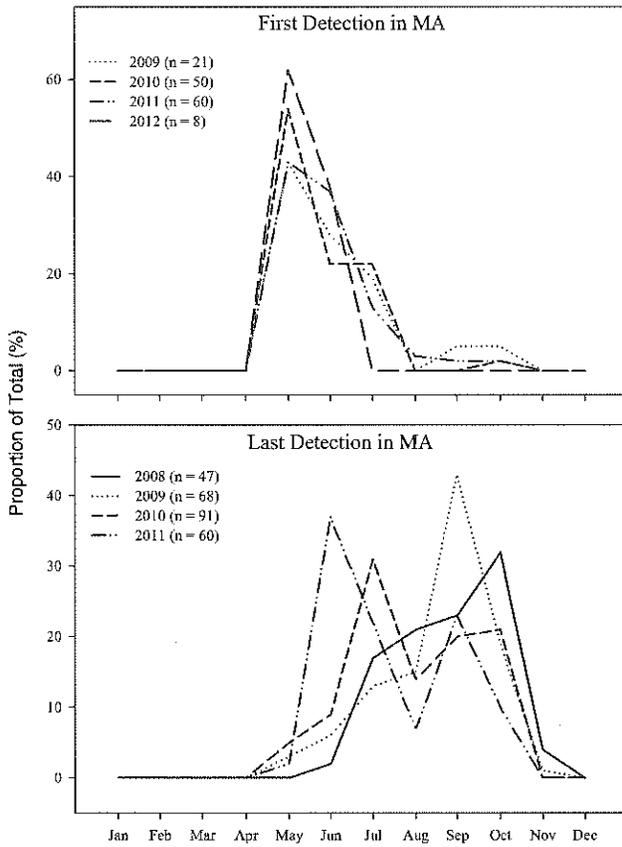


FIGURE 3. Monthly breakdown of the frequency and relative percentage of first and last detection events for tagged Striped Bass at the primary receiver array (in Massachusetts [MA] waters) during each year of the study. Data from the last detection period in 2012 are not presented due to the cessation of battery life shortly after the fish returned to the area north of Cape Cod during May.

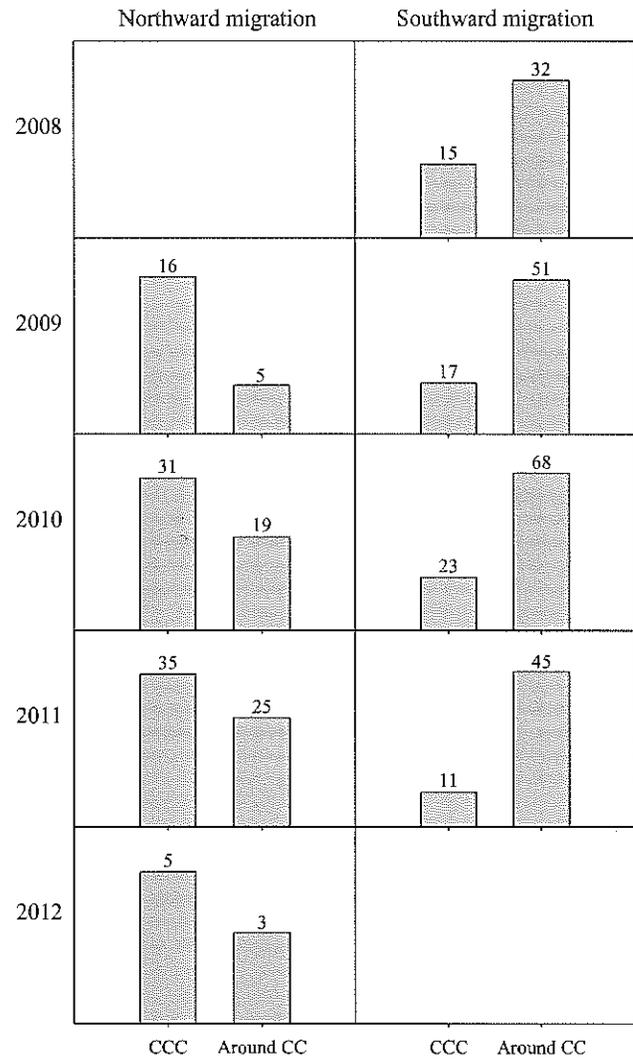


FIGURE 4. Comparison of pathways taken by tagged Striped Bass during northward (spring) migration into Massachusetts coastal waters and southward (fall) migration out of Massachusetts waters. Bars represent the number of Striped Bass that moved into or out of the region through the Cape Cod Canal (CCC) or around Cape Cod (CC). Fish that were not observed as moving into or out of the region by either the CCC receiver series or the Peaked Hill series were assumed to have moved around CC.

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the mid-Atlantic (Delaware and northern Maryland). Migration intervals observed during this period were variable, with individuals moving between MA coastal waters and the vicinity of Delaware Bay in 14–92 d (Table 5). By December, all tagged fish were distributed south of New Jersey, although numerous individuals were detected in Delaware Bay and/or the Delaware River during this month. Limited data were available from January (2 fish) and February (4 fish), and all detections from these individuals came from Delaware Bay, the Delaware River, and Chesapeake Bay. Beginning in late February and early March, tagged individuals began moving into spawning areas of Chesapeake Bay (e.g., Elk River/Chesapeake Delaware Canal [CDC] and the James, Patuxent, Potomac, and Susquehanna rivers) and the Delaware River. Movement into the Hudson River was not observed until mid-April. Detected fish generally remained within putative spawning areas during the spring (April–June), and emigration from spawning areas occurred earlier in Chesapeake Bay (by mid-May) than in the Delaware River (late May)

or Hudson River (early June; Figure 5). After the spawning period, Striped Bass exhibited northward movement along the coast and reached summer foraging habitat off the MA coast beginning in early May. Of the fish that were detected on spawning grounds in Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River, the earliest detection in MA coastal waters occurred on May 7 in 2010 and on May 4 in 2011, whereas fish that were detected in the Hudson River were not observed in the region earlier than May 28 (2011). Migration intervals during the northward migration

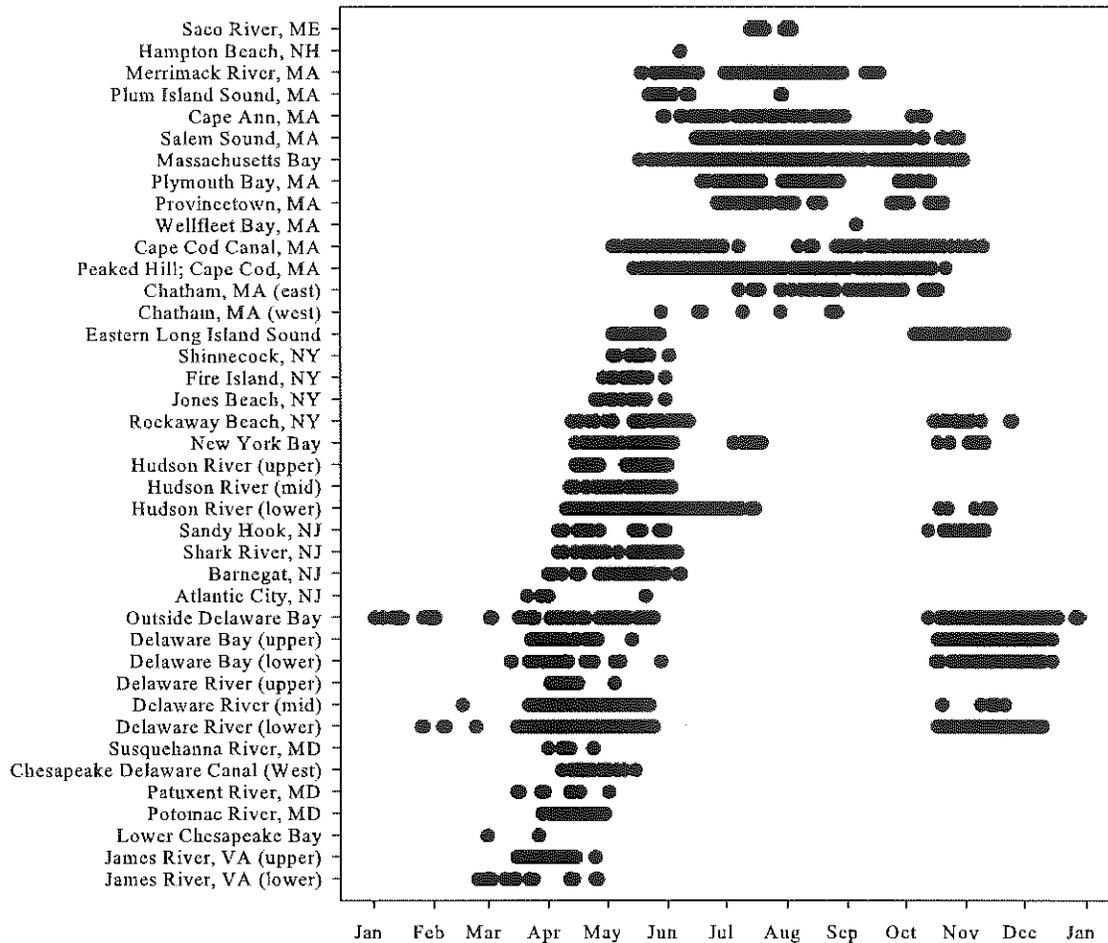


FIGURE 5. Timing and locations of all acoustic detections of tagged Striped Bass at receivers deployed in the primary array and at Atlantic Cooperative Telemetry Network receivers (sites from north to south are presented from top to bottom).

were also highly variable, although several individuals exhibited relatively rapid movements to MA coastal waters (Table 5).

Stock Composition in Massachusetts Coastal Waters

Overall, 44 tagged individuals met the established criteria and were assigned to a spawning stock. Of these, 21 were identified as members of the Chesapeake Bay stock (five fish were included in this group based on fisheries-dependent recapture data), 12 were identified as members of the Delaware River stock, and 11 were identified as members of the Hudson River stock (Table 6). It is important to note that observation (detection) of fish in these areas does not necessarily confirm that spawning activity occurred. However, for the purposes of this analysis, given the fact that migratory Striped Bass are not regularly observed within these areas except during spawning periods, spawning activity was inferred. Fifty-seven fish were classified as “un-

known” due to the absence of detection or recapture data in known spawning areas. Assuming that these fish were members of the southern stock, adjusted stock composition estimates (after correction for the two theoretical levels of skipped spawning) were 55–67% for the Chesapeake Bay/Roanoke River southern stock, 14–20% for the Delaware River stock, and 12–18% for the Hudson River stock (Table 6). Seven fish met criteria for classification in multiple stocks (i.e., they were observed in multiple spawning areas within and/or between years) and could not be confidently assigned to any single stock (Table 6). Six of the seven individuals were detected in known spawning areas of both Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River during the same year ($n = 4$) or consecutive years ($n = 2$). A single individual was detected in the Susquehanna River (Chesapeake Bay) in consecutive years (April 2010 and 2011) but was also observed on spawning grounds in the upper Hudson River during May 2011.

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TABLE 5. Migration intervals for Striped Bass during northward (spring) and southward (fall) migrations along the U.S. East Coast (CCC = Cape Cod Canal; NY Bight = New York Bight; PH = Peaked Hill).

Movement direction	No. of fish	Migration interval (d)			
		Min	Max	Average	SD
Southward migration (Sep 1–Dec 15)					
CCC to NY Bight	4	14	43	28.5	13
PH to NY Bight	3	24	52	41	15
Chatham, MA, to NY Bight	13	10	53	25	14
CCC to Delaware Bay	23	15	89	43	17
PH to Delaware Bay	29	21	92	49	23
Chatham to Delaware Bay	15	14	65	35	14
Northward migration (Mar 15–Jul 15)					
NY Bight to CCC	12	6	22	11	6
NY Bight to PH	14	11	90	32	24
Delaware Bay to CCC	25	9	68	22	15
Delaware Bay to PH	9	19	85	45	25

DISCUSSION

The results of this study provide new insights into the dynamics of the seasonal mixed stock of adult Striped Bass that are encountered in MA coastal waters. Owing to the continually expanding ACT Network and the cooperation of its participants, we were able to document that adult Striped Bass tagged in MA waters were members of the coastal migratory stock (e.g., Chapoton and Sykes 1961; Boreman and Lewis 1987) and exhibited seasonal movements between foraging habitat off the MA coast and overwintering and spawning grounds at more southerly latitudes. As part of this migration, adult Striped Bass occurred off the MA coast north of Cape Cod from May to November, with migration to and from the region occurring both around the east side of Cape Cod and through the CCC. This seasonal population also comprised fish from each of the three

major Striped Bass spawning stocks, with the Chesapeake Bay stock being the largest contributor to the assemblage. Our results provide strong evidence supporting the existence of migratory contingents that originate from each of the major spawning areas. Additionally, some individuals exhibited behavior that was indicative of spawning in multiple locations within and between years. Collectively, this diverse mix of stock components and the complexity of their movements have broad implications for Striped Bass management in MA and beyond.

Seasonal Residency North of Cape Cod

Throughout this study, adult Striped Bass were observed off the MA coast north of Cape Cod from late spring to early fall (April–November), consistent with published reports for this region (Bigelow and Schroeder 1953; Collette and Klein-MacPhee 2002; Pautzke et al. 2010). Although immigration north of Cape Cod occurred primarily during the period from April to early July, the timing of emigration south of Cape Cod was highly variable within and between study years. In general, tagged fish were last observed north of Cape Cod in late October (2010 and 2011) or early November (2008 and 2009), coincident with the purported timing of their southward migration from the region (Collette and Klein-MacPhee 2002). However, in some years (2010 and 2011), a marked number of fish were last observed at the primary array during June and July, well before the expected start of their southward migration. All such observations (2010: $n = 36$ fish; 2011: $n = 35$ fish) occurred at the PH series, suggesting that these individuals shifted their distribution southward along the east side of Cape Cod during 2010 and 2011. Dramatic increases in Striped Bass commercial fishing effort and harvest rates off the east side of Cape Cod during 2010 and 2011 (Nelson 2012) support this assertion. These observations, coupled with the detection of 18 individuals off Chatham during July 2011 (receivers were not deployed east of Chatham in 2010; G. Skomal, MDMF, personal communication), provide some evidence that adult Striped Bass remained off the MA

TABLE 6. Estimates of the relative stock composition of adult Striped Bass observed within Massachusetts coastal waters throughout the study period. The number of fish assigned to a spawning stock based on established criteria (observed) was corrected to account for two theoretical levels of skipped spawning (SS; derived from Secor 2008). Relative stock composition percentage is calculated as the number of individuals assigned to a given spawning stock divided by the total number of individuals for which stock status could be assigned. See the text for further information on this analysis.

Stock	Observed	Low SS (18%)		High SS (45%)		Relative percent composition
		+ SS	Adjusted	+ SS	Adjusted	
Chesapeake Bay ^a	21	26	73 ^d	38	59 ^d	55–67
Delaware River	12	15	15	22	22	14–20
Hudson River	11	13	13	20	20	12–18
Uncertain ^b	7	7	7	7	7	7
Unknown ^c	57	47	—	21	—	—
Total	108	108	108	108	108	—

^aAdjusted values are representative of the southern stock (Chesapeake Bay and Roanoke River).

^bRepresents fish that met criteria for inclusion in multiple stocks. See the text for details.

^cRepresents fish that could not be assigned to any one stock when accounting for skipped spawning.

^dAssumes that the “unknown” fish were members of the southern stock.

coast after being last observed by the primary array during June and July, although it is impossible to confirm their consistent presence in this general area.

The CCC and PH series were both highly effective at detecting the movements of tagged Striped Bass into and out of MA waters north of Cape Cod. From 2009 to 2012, these two series failed to detect tagged fish during only few of the apparent movements northward (5%) and southward (7%) of Cape Cod, thereby allowing for a thorough assessment of individual migratory patterns. However, several factors suggest that the CCC series was more effective than the PH series at monitoring the movement of tagged individuals north and south of Cape Cod. Throughout the majority of the study, two receivers were moored at fixed positions in the east and west ends of the CCC (receivers were only deployed at the east end of the CCC in 2008), providing two separate coverage areas within which fish could be detected during their movement through the CCC and thereby enhancing the probability of detection. In contrast, although receivers in the PH series were deployed with (theoretically) overlapping receiver detection ranges, this series extended only 5.5 km from shore, allowing for the possibility that tagged fish passed further offshore than the series extended. In addition, any temporary reduction in the detection range of individual receivers (i.e., below the theoretical working range of 650 m) or any loss of receivers (which was relatively common in this series) created gaps in coverage that may have allowed a fish to pass through the PH series undetected. In contrast, no receivers were lost from the CCC series over the course of the study. Taken together, these circumstances suggest that any fish not detected while moving into or out of the region was more likely to exhibit movement around Cape Cod as opposed to movement through the CCC (Figure 4).

The CCC was identified as an important migratory pathway for adult Striped Bass during their seasonal migration to MA waters north of Cape Cod. Throughout the study, the majority (62%) of returning fish moved northward into the region through the CCC during May–July. In contrast, the vast majority (70%) of fish were observed to emigrate from the region by moving around Cape Cod during September to early November in each year. Investigation of the factors influencing this difference in behavior was beyond the scope of the present study; however, the choice of migratory pathway appears to be due in part to habitat use by individual fish during their seasonal occupation of MA coastal waters. For example, the percentage of all monitored fish that migrated southward through the CCC decreased annually from 32% in 2008 to 18% in 2011 (percentages were calculated by assuming that all fish that were not last observed at the CCC series moved around Cape Cod). This reduction in movement through the CCC was concomitant with the apparent shift by a large number of tagged fish to habitat on the east side of Cape Cod during 2010 and 2011 and a southward shift in tagging effort (which was related to the observed shift in fish distribution), indicating that individuals distributed along the north and east sides of Cape Cod may not utilize the CCC during

their southward migration in the fall. Numerous environmental factors (e.g., temperature, tide, and prey distribution) also likely influence the movement patterns of Striped Bass during their southward fall migration; nevertheless, the CCC is clearly an important migratory corridor for this species in New England coastal waters.

Coastal Movements

Acoustic detection data obtained through the ACT Network enabled a relatively robust characterization of the seasonal migration patterns of adult Striped Bass that were tagged in MA coastal waters. In general, the movement patterns were consistent with those previously described for the species along the U.S. East Coast (Merriman 1941; Clark 1968; Boreman and Lewis 1987; Waldman et al. 1990; Dorazio et al. 1994; Mather et al. 2010), with latitudinal migration between summer foraging habitat and overwintering or spawning habitat clearly evident. During the spring and fall migratory periods, tagged individuals appeared to make latitudinal movements along the coast (Collette and Klein-MacPhee 2002), often being detected or recaptured within 5 km of the shoreline, particularly between Delaware Bay and Cape Cod. It should be noted that the apparent lack of detections at receiver stations along the Long Island, New York, and New Jersey coasts during the fall months (Figure 5) was due to the absence of receivers in these areas prior to 2012 (K. Dunton, Stony Brook University, personal communication) and to the expiration of battery life in all transmitters by fall 2012 and does not imply an absence of southward migration through this area. To this end, it was unrealistic to solicit detailed information (i.e., from participants of the ACT Network) on individual receiver detection ranges and deployment periods for all receivers at which tagged Striped Bass were detected throughout the study. Consequently, the observations of coastal movements and regional distribution presented herein are based solely on the acoustic detection data that we were provided and do not necessarily mean that the lack of detection at a given area or time indicates the absence of Striped Bass at that area or time (e.g., areas and/or time periods with no detection data; as evident in Figure 5). Additional research is required to assess the spatial and temporal distribution of Striped Bass within many of the areas in which fish were detected during this study. Nonetheless, the movement patterns and fish distribution observed here certainly provide a strong indication of the general movement patterns and seasonal distribution of adult Striped Bass encountered in MA coastal waters.

Migration intervals observed during both the northward (spring) and southward (fall) migratory periods were highly variable. This finding suggests that some Striped Bass exhibit relatively directed and rapid movement along the coast, whereas others seemingly spend considerable time in one or more areas along the way. For example, three individuals traveled from the mouth of Delaware Bay north to the CCC in 9 d, a straight-line distance of nearly 500 km. Although there were no available detection data between Delaware Bay and the CCC to provide

insight into the exact migratory route of these individuals (i.e., inshore versus offshore movement), other Striped Bass were observed to move along the coastline of New Jersey and Long Island during 12–16-d transits between these areas (in spring 2012), thus providing evidence of directed movement. In contrast, other individuals were detected for brief periods (hours to days) in Delaware Bay, New York Bay, and eastern Long Island Sound during their northward transit to MA coastal waters, suggesting that they made brief stops along the way; this finding is consistent with the results of previous studies (Able and Grothues 2007; Grothues et al. 2009; Pautzke et al. 2010).

Detection of tagged Striped Bass nearly exclusively within MA coastal waters during summer months (mid-June to late September) suggests that individuals displayed a relatively high degree of fidelity to their summer foraging area, which is consistent with previous studies (e.g., Able and Grothues 2007; Ng et al. 2007; Wingate and Secor 2007; Pautzke et al. 2010). Throughout the study, only three individuals were observed either north (Hampton Beach and the Saco River) or south (lower Hudson River/New York Bay) of the region during summer. Notably, four individuals were detected in MA coastal waters during Y0 and Y2 but not during Y1, indicating that these fish utilized summer foraging habitat elsewhere (presumably to the south or offshore) along the coast during Y1. In addition, the single individual that was detected in New York Bay during June and July of Y2 (and not detected at all by the primary array during Y2) was present in MA coastal waters for the entire summer during Y0 and Y1. Limited detection data from north of MA coastal waters may be indicative of infrequent movements into the northern Gulf of Maine (i.e., Maine waters and the Bay of Fundy) given the presence of acoustic receivers in numerous areas throughout this range during the study period (ACT Network, unpublished data). In contrast, the lack of receiver coverage in known Striped Bass summer foraging habitats south and west of Cape Cod (e.g., Buzzards Bay, Nantucket Shoals, Vineyard Sound, and Block Island Sound) precludes our ability to assess the distribution of all tagged individuals throughout their seasonal inhabitance of New England coastal waters. Regardless, the results of this study clearly indicate that MA coastal waters north of Cape Cod serve as a desirable summer foraging area for Striped Bass.

Limited detection data from the winter months precluded a more thorough characterization of the overwintering grounds utilized by tagged individuals. Adult Striped Bass have been documented to overwinter in several areas along the coast, including the Hudson River (Clark 1968); however, the majority of individuals are thought to overwinter off the coast from New Jersey south to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (Bigelow and Schroeder 1953; Chapoton and Sykes 1961; Clark 1968; Waldman et al. 1990). During this study, the majority of tagged individuals (94%; of those that were detected by the ACT Network) were not detected from mid-December to mid-February, suggesting that they were present in offshore waters where receivers were not deployed (Figure 2). The few individuals (8

fish) that were detected during the winter were distributed along the coast from southern New Jersey to northern Maryland (in the vicinity of Delaware Bay). Six additional individuals were also recaptured during January and February in lower Chesapeake Bay ($n = 3$); off Virginia Beach, Virginia ($n = 1$); and off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina ($n = 2$), providing further evidence that tagged individuals overwintered in this region. Interestingly, although receivers were deployed off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, during each overwintering period of the study (A. Dell'Apa and J. Cudney, East Carolina University, personal communication), the lack of Striped Bass detections within this array suggests that tagged fish overwintered north of this area. Clearly, additional receiver coverage in putative Striped Bass overwintering habitat is necessary to examine the spatial and temporal distribution of individuals during winter. Regardless, despite limited data, it appears as though adult Striped Bass that occur in MA coastal waters during the summer are present at more southerly latitudes over the winter.

Stock Composition in Massachusetts Coastal Waters

In this study, problems stemming from the lack of receiver coverage in the Chesapeake Bay region, our inability to assess the occurrence and frequency of skipped spawning, and the inability to confirm spawning activity during detection in spawning areas collectively created considerable uncertainty around the absolute contribution of each stock to the mixed-stock population off the MA coast, with the greatest uncertainty surrounding the contributions of the “southern stock.” Nonetheless, the available data undoubtedly demonstrate that Striped Bass from each major stock are present within MA coastal waters during the summer, and the Chesapeake Bay stock apparently was the largest contributor to the population from 2008 to 2010. Previous studies have suggested that the Chesapeake Bay and Hudson River stocks are the largest contributors to the migratory population (Merriman 1941; Berggren and Lieberman 1978; Wirgin et al. 1993), with other spawning areas (e.g., Albemarle Sound and Roanoke River) contributing considerably fewer individuals to the migratory population (Berggren and Lieberman, 1978; Collette and Klein-MacPhee 2002). Given the relatively high degree of confidence with which individuals were assigned to the Delaware River and Hudson River stocks (i.e., due to extensive receiver coverage in those spawning areas), our findings provide firm support that unknown individuals (that did not skip spawning) were indeed members of the Chesapeake Bay stock, offering some degree of validation of our stock composition estimates.

Our estimates of relative stock contributions to the adult Striped Bass population in MA coastal waters differ somewhat from previous estimates for the region. Berggren and Lieberman (1978) also suggested that the majority (~94%) of the fish sampled from MA waters north to southern Maine during May–October 1975 were of Chesapeake Bay origin and that the remaining fish were members of the Roanoke River stock (~6%). Interestingly, Berggren and Lieberman's (1978) best

estimates of stock contribution indicated that no fish from the Hudson River stock were present in the sample, but those authors noted that fish from the Hudson River stock were known to exist in the region based on tag returns. In contrast, Fabrizio (1987) suggested that the Hudson River stock contributed 30–85% of individuals sampled in MA coastal waters during spring and fall of 1984 and 1985, with 15–70% of individuals originating from a “southern group” comprising the Chesapeake Bay and Roanoke River stocks. It is important to note, however, that the relative contribution of the Chesapeake Bay stock as described by Fabrizio (1987) may have been reduced, as sampling was conducted during a period when the Chesapeake Bay stock was at record-low levels (Richards and Rago 1999). At present, no empirical data are available on the relative contribution of the Delaware River stock to the mixed-stock population anywhere along the U.S. East Coast; however, contributions from this stock are thought to be increasing as the stock continues to recover from a century of low productivity (Waldman and Wirgin 1994; Collette and Klein-MacPhee 2002). Indeed, the near-equal contributions of the Delaware River and Hudson River stocks to the seasonal mixed-stock population observed in MA coastal waters suggest that Delaware River fish are a major component of the broader coastal migratory stock.

Observations of interannual fidelity to summer foraging habitat in MA coastal waters by Striped Bass from multiple stocks or origins provide evidence that the seasonal mixed-stock population comprises fish from individual migratory contingents that originate from each of the major spawning areas. As proposed by Clark (1968) and Secor (1999), contingents are defined as “groups of fish that engage in distinct movement patterns between foraging, overwintering and spawning areas not shared with other individuals from the same stock.” Throughout this study, multiple individuals were observed to move between summer foraging habitat in MA coastal waters and spawning locations of the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware River, and Hudson River for up to 2 years, suggesting that they engaged in unique and repeated movements between foraging and spawning areas. Such movements have been identified as contingent behavior by Clark (1968) and Zlokovitz et al. (2003), who suggested that the Hudson River Striped Bass stock is composed of three contingents that utilize different summer foraging areas (1) within the river itself (Hudson River estuary contingent), (2) in western Long Island Sound and New York estuary (Hudson River–west sound contingent), and (3) in the New York Bight and/or southern New England (Hudson River–Atlantic contingent). Based on this definition, tagged individuals in our study that were designated as members of the Hudson River stock were apparently members of the Hudson River–Atlantic contingent. However, it is also possible that these individuals constitute their own contingent, exhibiting regular movements between the Hudson River and MA coastal waters (i.e., like the movements of the Hudson River–west sound contingent). Although there is some evidence for contingent behavior in the Chesapeake Bay stock (e.g., Chapoton and Sykes 1961; Dorazio et al. 1994; Secor and

Piccoli 2007), additional data are necessary to explore the potential connection between each of the major spawning areas and foraging habitat in MA coastal waters.

Detection data provided some evidence that adult Striped Bass may spawn at multiple locations within and between spawning seasons. Atlantic Striped Bass are traditionally thought to return to their natal rivers to spawn (Nichols and Miller 1967; Moore and Burton 1975; Collette and Klein-MacPhee 2002); however, throughout this study, several individuals were observed in spawning areas of Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River during the same spawning season for 1–4 weeks, consistent with published residence times on spawning grounds (Hocutt et al. 1990; Carmichael et al. 1998; Wingate et al. 2011). Previous studies have documented the movement of adult Striped Bass through the CDC into the Delaware River during the spawning period, suggesting a potential link between the two spawning areas (Nichols and Miller 1967; Koo and Wilson 1972). Unfortunately, the aforementioned limitations in receiver coverage within Chesapeake Bay (including the CDC) preclude determination of whether detection (presence) in Chesapeake Bay spawning areas was indicative of spawning activity or simply represented a point at which an individual was traversing the area on its way to spawn in the Delaware River. For example, Wingate et al. (2011) postulated that acoustic-tagged Striped Bass monitored for brief periods in the lower Patuxent River may have been “visitors” that belonged to populations spawning in other systems and were simply captured (and tagged) during brief excursions into the river. Able and Grothues (2007) also suggested that Striped Bass test and reject areas as spawning sites due to unfavorable environmental conditions, a behavior that may lead to spawning in alternate locations. Furthermore, the lack of detection during a spawning period (spring) does not necessarily indicate that spawning occurred in an area with sparse or no receiver coverage (e.g., Chesapeake Bay) but instead may simply reflect the absence of spawning activity during that year (i.e., skipped spawning). Skipped spawning has been suggested to occur in Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass (Secor and Piccoli 2007; Secor 2008; Wingate et al. 2011) and appears to be relatively common in iteroparous fish species (reviewed by Rideout and Tomkiewicz 2011). Clearly, further research is needed to investigate the occurrence and prevalence of skipped spawning in Striped Bass as well as individual use of multiple spawning locations.

Management Implications

The findings of this study have important implications for the management of Striped Bass within MA coastal waters and beyond. Given the high degree of site fidelity that individuals displayed to MA coastal waters on an annual basis, there is some evidence that the mixed stock of adult Striped Bass observed annually in MA coastal waters may consist of discrete groups that return to this area each year to forage. Consequently, excessive fishing mortality on these fish by commercial and recreational fisheries may result in a reduction in the relative seasonal

abundance of Striped Bass within MA coastal waters. Furthermore, given the apparent mixed-stock composition, fishing mortality experienced by this population will ultimately result in differential levels of exploitation rates among the component stocks. Currently, stock assessment models treat the migratory Striped Bass population as a single stock; thus, such fine-scale population structure and the relative exploitation rates of each spawning stock are not incorporated into the assessment. The finding that the general migratory population may contain groups of subpopulations (e.g., fish that move between spawning areas and foraging habitat in MA coastal waters) challenges the efficacy of this approach and suggests that a restructuring of the assessment model is warranted. In fact, the Striped Bass Technical Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission recently called for the incorporation of updated information on spatial dynamics and movement patterns of Striped Bass, stating that such information will allow for the tracking of population dynamics and substocks, thereby improving the accuracy of the assessment model (ASMFC 2013b). Additional research on the fine-scale population structure of the migratory Striped Bass stock is warranted to thoroughly assess the need for finer-scale population management (i.e., individual spawning stocks). Regardless, our observations demonstrate the importance of the health of each spawning component to the MA seasonal fishery for Striped Bass.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to acknowledge the members of the ACT Network who generously provided extensive receiver detection data, including Lori Brown (Delaware State University), Keith Dunton (Stony Brook University), Micah Kieffer (U.S. Geological Survey), Martha Mather (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Julie Devers (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland Fishery Resources Office), Dave Secor (University of Maryland), Matthew Balazik (Virginia Commonwealth University), Tom Savoy (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection), Steve Leach (Normandeau Associates), Amanda Higgs (New York Department of Environmental Conservation), and Matthew Bolus (University of Massachusetts Amherst). This work was supported by Grant F57 awarded to MDMF under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. This is MDMF Contribution Number 45.

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178 Pequot Avenue
New London, CT 06320

September 30, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

The following are comments and recommendations to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission draft addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. You are well aware that this is a very complicated matter but I believe we must all share in the fight to keep the striped bass fishery viable for our generation as well as subsequent generations. No one wants to see the fishery close like in the 1980's so there needs to be a readjustment from all parties, both recreational and commercial, on how we regulate this valuable commodity.

I have a few thoughts for you to consider in your deliberations;

- a. All recreational and commercial striped bass must be caught using hook and line. No netting, no gaffing, no pots, no nets.
- b. Reduce the number of months striped bass can be caught. I believe there are commercial seasons whereas the recreational season is open year round.
- c. Commercial quotas should be adjusted to reflect the state of the current fishery. My understanding from attending a recent hearing is that these numbers are based on 1972-1978 figures when the fishery was very healthy.
- d. Every state charters licenses should exclude the captain and mate from counting fish (usually two per person) on a trip.
- e. Encourage anglers to use circle hooks and champion catch and release methods.
- f. Place a moratorium on the charter/party boat industry. This industry has grown by leaps and bounds in the last twenty years. As the number increases, so does the amount of fish taken per day increase. Nowadays, anyone can become a "Captain" and unless they belong to a charter boat association these new captains can be operating like lone wolves out on the seas.
- g. How do we limit technology? The fish don't have a fighting chance with the latest "fish finders" and GPS.

The following is my option recommendation to the addendum:

Section: 2.5.1. Stock assessment reference point option: Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

Section: 2.5.2. Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point Option: Option B: Use coastwide population F reference points as established in section 2.5.1

Section: 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target: Option A: One year time frame

Section 3.0 Proposed Management Scenario Options: Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year; a 25% reduction from 2013 total harvest.

Coastal Recreational: B5 (I support this option in support of the CT Charter Boat Association)

Chesapeake Bay Management: B11

Coastal Commercial Fishery: B17

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers: Option A

Section 3.2 Commercial Size Limits: Option A

Good luck in your deliberations and I look forward to the outcome of your decision.

Sincerely,

Karen Westerberg
AW Marina (Bait & Tackle Shop)
www.awmarina.com
Recreational Angler
860.443.6076
kfwesterberg@gmail.com

Dear Jim,

After attending last weeks public comment session on the draft addendum IV to amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate fishery management plan I have a few additional comments I would like to make on the subject.

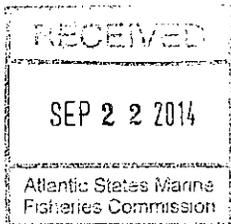
Firstly I question the accuracy of the scientific findings regarding the fish stock and would like to see more tangible evidence as well as further study before as what I see as decision based a knee jerk reaction is made. I urge that we put in place a status quo limit of two fish for our industry for one more year.

I feel that the Party/Charter boat Industry is subject to a lot of animosity caused by our two fish limit, this jealousy was certainly present at last weeks meeting. The mostly sport fishing and surf fishing private anglers who were in attendance have zero interest in the economic impact of a one fish limit that will devastate all facets of the fishing industry and would be happy to see us all fail. The fact that all charter/ party boats pay a \$250 license fee in order to avail of this limit was overlooked by most. Fishing on a party boat is the only opportunity for working class people to experience the joy and excitement of fishing. We need the advantage of the possibility of catching two fish to entice customers to spend the considerable sum to come fishing with us. Rarely do customers on a party boat land two Striped Bass but the thrill of perhaps doing so keeps customers coming and keeps the love of fishing alive for future generations.

The party/ charter industry is a business and a huge employer, cutting back the limit to one fish will seriously damage our business. For what I ask ? Please think long and hard before voting in favor of one Striped Bass across the board. It will be detrimental to the Long Island fleet and like I said for no reason. The fish are not overfished , We have never seen fishing like we did this past year in Montauk. The Striped Bass are everywhere, especially in the EEZ zone where we are not allowed to fish. There was no mention of the fact that fish have fins and they swim, most people who spoke at the meeting expect the fish to stay in the same spot. Where the bait is you will find the fish. The bait is offshore and so are the Striped Bass, check with the commercial fleet who are landing so many Striped Bass as a by catch that it is a major nuisance.

My suggestion is the installation of a pilot program with New York State DEC and industry using a slot limit for Party and Charter boats only. We would suggest one Bass to 28 inches and one a second one that needs to be over 40 inches. That way we can collect accurate and controlled data from the fish actually caught. Our industry is regulated and subject to enforcement , the private anglers are not and therefore their date is negligible. We can't survive on one fish, we need the potential to catch two in order to catch customers!

Capt. Ken Hejducek- My Joyce Charters Montauk NY



Kenneth F. Warchal

17 Bay Point Harbour
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
732.295.5909
kmwarchal@aol.com

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
ASMFS
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mike,

I am an officer and trustee of Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, active within the JCAA and involved with various other saltwater fishing conservation organizations. I do not speak for them however. The choices made below are my personal choices. I applaud the ASMFC and NMFS for being proactive in trying to maintain a healthy, sustainable striped bass fishery and feel the choices below will help achieve that status.

- 2.5.1 I support Option B adjusting the F reference points
- 2.6 I support Option A using a one year time frame
- 3.0 I support Option B7, 2 fish (one slot at 28-34" and one fish at 36" minimum)
- 3.1 I support Option A No transfer of commercial quota.

In addition, I recommend the bonus tag program in NJ be discontinued. It is unregulated, highly abused and serves no purpose in trying to manage and conserve the stock. I would also like to see a requirement to use circle hooks when bait fishing. I've been using them for years with great success. Lastly, I would like to see the practice of charter boats utilizing "boat limits", whereby the captain and mate(s) include themselves in the possession limit, prohibited. This practice has a significant impact on the number of fish caught.

Best regards,


Kenneth F. Warchal

ASMFC
Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine & ASMFC Commissioners:

I am the executive editor of On The Water Media, a Massachusetts-based business that, like so many other recreational-fishing-related businesses, has come to depend on an abundant striped bass resource.

I am also a passionate recreational fisherman. I fish for striped bass from shore, kayak and boat. I spend a great deal of my free time and my disposable income in the pursuit of striped bass. This includes money spent on tackle, bait, gas, travel, lodging, and food.

What follows are my personal comments on Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan and the reasons why I support Proposed Management Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year through an immediate 25% reduction in 2013 striped bass harvest.

I. Further Delay of Meaningful Conservation Will Have Significant Economic Impacts

The crux of Addendum IV is in Section 2.6, the motion to modify Management Trigger 3 to “provide management flexibility to reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.” However, delaying meaningful conservation through a 3-year time frame (Option B) will ultimately have the greatest social and economic impacts if the Board considers the loss of income to all the businesses that have benefited from this once abundant resource.

Commercial fishermen have already received a gift in the removal of the option of reducing the 2013 catch by 25% and instead making the reduction from Amendment 6 quotas, so further delay to soften economic impacts to commercial fishermen is unwarranted. While large for-hire operations and charter associations have voiced their concern that a reduction in recreational catch could hurt their businesses, I believe that delaying conservation will eventually have much more devastating effects on these operations in the years to come – especially when such delay leads to even more significant harvest reductions that require closed seasons and higher minimum sizes.

While there has been plenty of talk about the loss of income to the commercial and the party/charter boat fleets if they have to endure a reduction in harvest, managers must understand that striped bass abundance has become immensely important to the recreational fishing community and the economy it supports.

The manufacturers and retailers of lures, reels rods, surf-fishing gear, light-tackle gear, fly-fishing gear, and boats that were designed and produced with striped bass in mind, not to mention all the advertising revenue such companies produce, will continue to suffer if striped bass are not returned to abundance. Then, there are restaurants, hotels, and associated tourism businesses in coastal towns that depend on money from visiting fishermen. Without an abundant and accessible striped bass resource, it's only a matter of time before people stop making such trips. The more fish that are in the water, the more people will fish, and the better related businesses will do.

II. The Stock is Likely Already Overfished

I am aware of the fact that, technically, striped bass is not overfished. The December 2013 update showed that Spawning Stock Biomass was just above the overfished threshold. Yet, it also stated that there is a 46% probability we were below that threshold; in other words—not quite 50-50—that the stock was already overfished in 2012. If this was the case, where are we likely to be now? I'd say it is nearly certain that the stock was indeed technically overfished in 2013/2014. Regardless, projections show that both fishing mortality and SSB thresholds could be exceeded as early as this year and almost certainly next year. Thus, it would seem that there is a requirement to significantly reduce fishing mortality now.

I am also aware that fishing mortality is not the only or even the primary reason for the decline. I understand that we've had almost a decade of average to well-below average Chesapeake Young-of-the-Year indices, with the notable exception of 2011. However, why we'd even consider not significantly reducing fishing mortality when there are simply fewer fish around, whatever the cause, is beyond reason. Fishing mortality certainly has more of an impact on a depleted stock. It is the only thing managers can control, and they have an obligation as stewards of a public resource to control it. Betting the future on a single (2011) year class seems like a risky bet. If anything, we should be doing everything in our power to protect the 2011s.

III. Managers Should Account for Increased Efficiency

The striped bass fishery has changed in recent years. The fishery is now composed of almost all large fish and marked by brief periods of good fishing among long periods of slow fishing. These fish are, of course, the last of the good year classes moving up and then down the coast. What we don't have is the wide geographic distribution of fish you would find from a healthy, abundant stock. What we don't have is a consistent fishery that would be beneficial to so many businesses.

We have also seen that these geographically isolated bodies of fish are highly susceptible to increased fishing pressure. Thanks to better social networking among fishermen, word is quickly shared about fish aggregations, and party boats, charter boats and private anglers readily travel to areas where discrete populations of fish can be found. Anglers are more mobile than ever before and are willing to travel to where striped bass can be caught.

Fishermen also have access to far more advanced tackle and technology than they did just 20 years ago. From braided line to side-scanning sonar and chartplotters, fishermen can find and catch striped bass with much greater efficiency. These factors can disguise a reduction in abundance as catch efficiency remains high.

IV. The ASMFC Will Suffer Total Loss of Credibility if Conservation is Delayed

Striped bass are often held up by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) as a fishery management success story. If the Striped Bass Management Board continues to delay conservation, the next stock assessment will almost certainly lead to headlines and press coverage about how striped bass are overfished and the ASMFC failed to protect a public resource that is the keystone of the Northeast's recreational fishing economy.

Management Trigger 3 as currently written in Amendment 6 forces the board to reduce the fishing mortality rate to a level at or below the target level within one year. The Board should be embarrassed that they have elected to include an option to rewrite Amendment 6 in order to delay meaningful conservation.

The fact that the Striped Bass Management Board released four options to reduce striped bass harvest and the most conservative option has only a 50% probability of achieving the Board's own stated

management goal of achieving F Target within one year is surprising. **Managers looking for a “middle-of-the-road” compromise should be aware that Option B, a 25% reduction in striped bass harvest from 2013 (that will certainly be less than 25% for commercial harvest) already is a middle-of-the-road solution, and that projections estimate this option would still not return SSB to the Threshold level any time before 2018.**

Thank you for scheduling 19 public hearings and holding a 6-week public comment period giving stakeholders like me the opportunity to provide feedback. Having attended several meetings, I am certain that the Striped Bass Management Board has received the overwhelming response in support of meaningful striped bass conservation from the Northeast angling community. We will be watching on October 29th to see if you heard it.

Below are the options I personally support. They are the most conservative options offered.

SUMMARY OF PREFERRED OPTIONS

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

- **Option B:** Use the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point Option

- **Option B:** Uses the preferred stock assessment reference point.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

- **Option A:** Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

- **Option B3:** one fish per person per day at 32 inches. This is the most conservative and most precautionary option.
- **Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Option B10**
- **Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Option B17**

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

- **Option A:** Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another. The purpose and goal of Addendum 4 is to reduce fishing mortality on striped bass. Option B would not reduce fishing mortality, but will most likely increase it.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

- **Option A:** Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Sincerely,

Kevin Blinkoff
PO Box 696
Bourne, Massachusetts 02534

**Laurence Galvin
29 Briar Brae Road
Darien, CT 06820
203-316-9234**

September 30, 2014

Dear Sirs;

I agree with the comments submitted by Raymond Ryan with regard to the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Striped Bass Plan.

I ask that you strongly consider Mr. Ryan's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Galvin', written over the printed name.

Laurence Galvin

**Raymond B. Ryan Comments on
Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Striped Bass Management Plan
September 26, 2014**

Background

For 26 years, I have resided in Connecticut. Today, I own a small business located in Connecticut. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, I was a partner in a national accounting firm. My outdoor memberships include the Coastal Conservation Association, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited and Stripers Forever. My saltwater fishing began in 1992 and I have been an avid angler in the salt ever since. I participate in the Connecticut Volunteer Angler Survey each year. In the late 1990's I was President of CCA-CT. As such, I was part of a team that lobbied for the law to exclude "bunker boats" from Connecticut waters and for a separate piece of legislation to rid Connecticut of the obstructive stationary commercial fish traps. During that time, I got to know, admire and become friends with some of the Connecticut conservation legends – Doc Gunther, Ed Parker, and Ernie Beckwith.

Response to Draft Addendum IV

Option B is the only viable management choice of the alternatives proposed. With respect the sub-options, the correct choices are:

- Coastal Recreational Fishery – Option B3;
- Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery – Option B10;
- Coastal Commercial Fishery – Option B16;
- Chesapeake Commercial Fishery – Option B17;
- My comments are set forth below.

Nowhere Is It Written

Nowhere is it written that a few hundred commercial fishermen have the same slice of the pie as do a million plus recreational fishermen. The U.S. courts have consistently held that when it comes to a scarce public resource, there is no standing for that person claiming to gather for some distant party. Any allocation of striped bass to commercial fisherman is gift from society – and one that should be gradually reduced. Notwithstanding, commercial fisherman are given a huge bias by the ASMC. It is time to reverse that bias.

When Amendment 6 was proposed, the ASMC representatives said that target harvest sharing would be in range of 20% to the commercial fishermen and 80% recreational. We should be going back in that direction and lower. The average harvest since 1995 has been about 32% commercial and 68% recreational. This is the time get that ratio back to where it was promised.

In the Connecticut hearing on Addendum IV, David Simpson said that option B 16 was in error since it gives commercial fisherman a 25% reduction based on the Amendment 6 allocation. The correct base for reduction is the 2013 commercial harvest of 2,532,558 lbs. Thus the allocation should be $2,532,558 \times 75\% = 1,899,419$ lbs. The roundly 1.9 million pounds is 50% of the Amendment 6 allocation of 3.8 million lbs. Obviously, using the Amendment 6 allocation benchmark means that a 50% reduction is appropriate to be comparable to the reduction for recreational fishermen.

I would like to think that the bad numbers in the proposal was not a purposeful give away to commercial interests. At any rate, my approval of B 16 assumes that the error will be corrected and commercial interests will share the same percentage reduction of harvest as do the recreational fishermen.

Less than a Zero Sum Game

Study after study has proven that popular game fish such as striped bass produce economic benefits to their adjacent communities and to society at large that exceed many times over the value added by commercial fishing. Why does not the ASMFC recognize this basic fundamental fact? Translated roughly, **recreational fishing for striped bass creates more jobs than commercial fishing does**. Unfortunately, the recreation fishermen are poor political lobbyist and get this message across.

The Canadians on the Pacific coast get it. They have a management waterfall. First, they ask what is best for the species. Next, what is the allowable harvest that leaves the fishery with ample abundance? After determining an allowable harvest, then that harvest is allocated based on economic value added to society. They even have a computational model to determine value added. For Coho and Chinook salmon, the allowable catch is allocated first to recreational fishing – “commercial harvest of Chinook and Coho will occur when abundance permits.”¹

Allocating striped bass to kill by commercial fishing is taking jobs away from US hotel/motel operators, recreational charter boats, restaurants, marinas, etc. Go to Montauk and see with your own eyes the people who are supported by the recreational fishing industry versus the handful in commercial fishing. Every 8 plus year of age and older (“8+”) striper harvested by commercial means reduces net economic benefit to our society.

In 2011, we went through the process of commenting on a proposal to allow commercial interests to carryover the harvest of unused allocations from one year to the next. Connecticut’s ASMC representatives voted for the proposal – but changed their vote after a vicious outcry from recreational fishermen at the hearings. I was there and I remember. The proposal died. Why is its ugly head coming out again?

Why is the ASMC asking if the EEZ should be opened? It my understanding that President Bush put into law the closure of the EEZ to fishing for striped bass. Is that not true? Of course we want the EEZ to stay closed as refugee for large striped bass. It seems that the EEZ closure is well beyond the authority or prerogative of the ASMFC.

Fanning “Water Rage”

The ASMFC needs to know that where commercial and recreational striped bass fishermen share the same waters, there are constant conflicts. To date, I have not heard of any physical injuries, but a number of close calls have been reported. I have experienced these conflicts myself many times while in my boat on fishing trips to the Montauk, NY waters. Commercial fishermen have run their boats – out of their line of travel - through my location to purposefully ruin my fishing. If the bite is very good, they return and set their nets where I am fishing. The NY DEP is unresponsive to complaints.

What do Recreational Fishermen Want?

Unfortunately, the ASMC does not understand and is not responsive to its major constituency – the reactional fishermen. At the end of the day, the ASMC measures success in the number of dead fish caught and kept by fishermen. But the top priority of recreational fishermen is not fish filets - It is fish in the water. Strict harvest limits are welcomed because we know that there will be more fish to catch tomorrow. The allowance of catch and release fishing during the ‘80s and early 90’s proved that there is little mortality from released fish. Their odds of survival are better than lying in a boat fish box. The management goal then should be just that – a minimum number of striped bass 8 years and older. Looking to the 2004 census, that minimum number of fish 8 years and older should be 11 million or greater. Recreational fishermen needs are simple – fish in the water are more important than dead fish on the shore or dock.

So how are we doing? Table 15 in the **October 2013 Stock Assessment Report for Atlantic Striped Bass** tells part of the story:

¹ A report to Sharing the Fish 06 Conference, Freemantle, Western Australia by Gordon Gislason titled, **COMMERCIAL VS RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ALLOCATION IN CANADA: Pacific Herring, Salmon, and Halibut.**

Year	Striped Bass 8+ Years of Age
2000	7,428,000
2001	9,834,000
2002	10,090,000
2003	10,539,000
2004	11,321,000
2005	10,214,000
2006	9,231,000
2007	7,775,000
2008	7,644,000
2009	7,968,000
2010	7,234,000
2011	8,601,000
2012	7,741,000
2013	Not yet published

Despite the ASMC's self-congratulations on its ability to generate dead stripers, it is failing recreational fishermen. Between 2004 and 2012, the 8+ population of striped bass declined by 32%. Today, in 2014 it is doubtful that we have 50% of the number of Striped Bass 8+ we had in 2004. The ASMC should have a target that Striped Bass 8+ count **in the water** does not fall below 11 million fish 8 years and older. That point was reached in 2004 and with less aggressive killing of stripers, could have easily been maintained to this date.

Note that the current population of striped bass does not reflect what would be in nature. Any study of fish species (occurring without man's interference) reveals that biomass is predominately mature and large fish. Since we have an east coast "fish farm" for striped bass out there, there are few large fish and many small fish.

The ASMFC needs to make the definition of a "quality fishery" a high priority – not a low priority as it is now. A quality fishery is one with more than 11 million 8+ age bass **in the water**.

What is Right for Wild Striped Bass?

With ugly disease affecting striped bass in Chesapeake Bay, poor young of the year reports and a substantial reduction of 8+ fish **in the water** it does not take a scientist to see that there is a collapse of the striped bass population. Addendum IV is too little too late. Given the number of intelligent people at the ASMFC, my only conclusion is that there is serious jawboning from selected Congressmen who are beholden to the commercial fishing industry. What needs to happen now is an immediate and substantial reduction in striped bass mortality, however that occurs. Addendum IV is not enough.

Also, it is time that the ASMFC recognize that no one - commercial or recreational fisherman - has a property right in striped bass or any other wild fish species, for that matter. Buying a boat only gives a person title to the boat, not a title to the fish. The Canadian model is the right way to manage a popular game fish. In other words, AMSFC's priority should be what is right for the preservation and natural presence of the species. If there is abundance available for harvest, that harvest should be allocated to the people on the basis what is best for society.

What Do We See on The Water?

We see a disaster. In addition to my own fishing, I have guide friends and fellow fishermen here in Connecticut and in Massachusetts. This year, it is very hard to find a striped bass – large or small. I have not caught one striper all season. A friend from Chatham tells me that the Monomoy rips hold no fish, Pleasant Bay is vacant. My trips to Watch Hill have been as fruitless as fishing in the Western Connecticut waters. Yes – the occasional very large bass is caught by the individual who stays out nights, but that is the exception. Striped bass fishing was bad last year, but this year it is a complete bust. Tackle shops post the odd encouraging report, but frankly it is mostly fiction. There is a population crash – due to overfishing permitted by the ASMFC.

As a result, I am extremely concerned about the game fish, striped bass. If the species is to have any hope for abundance again, the ASMC must manage the striped bass fishery as a game fish, not a farmed fish.

Raymond B. Ryan
Darien, CT
rbr@realemail.net
September 26, 2014

CC: Congressman Jim Himes
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Chris Murphy
CT Congresswoman Terry Woods

From: cuibono7777@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [John A. Arway](#); [REP. MIKE VEREB](#); [Robert Beal](#); [Deke Tompkins](#)
Subject: "public comment/feedback" - Last night's meeting at the Silver Lake Nature Center regarding Amendment IX to the A.S.B.I.F.M.P.
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 2:07:03 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

As was stated by someone during last night's comment period, this document, Amendment IX to the A.S.B.I.F.M.P., appears to be nothing more than an adjunct to the U.N. plan for Sustainable Development and Wildlands Project, also known as Agenda 21 or LA21.

Please take ten (10) minutes to educate yourself on the matter by viewing the associated YouTube videos:

Agenda 21 for Public Officials.avi - YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujuLC682Azg>

Henry Lamb on Wildlands Project - YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vW9ORaIR_w

Thank you for your efforts. I hope you find my input illuminating.

Best regards, A. Nonymous

From: [captainpetefarrell](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 1 @ 32
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 4:40:32 PM

Dear Mike, I wanted to comment again following last Wednesday's hearing in Rhode island. First off, the asmfc representative was a woman. Although sexist, I feel this is a dismissive statement made by asmfc toward the fisherman of Rhode island. Do you take us seriously? Obviously not. I'm not going to take her seriously. My observation is that certain groups represented at the meeting are in the dark ages. Why RISES supports plan b at 2 fish is beyond. Also, the RI Charter Boat Association is archaic supporting the plan b 2 fish plan. They're the problem. They kill way too many fish and liken everything to economics. Too bad, everyone has to make sacrifices to help this fishery recover. Like JFK Said 50 odd years ago, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. I implore you to choose plan A with 1 fish at 32 inches or larger for 2015. Otherwise we'll be in a moratorium in 3 years which no group will benefit from.

Thank you,
Peter j. Farrell

From: fondew21@gmail.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 1@32
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 2:36:20 PM

Mike,

I went to the meeting in Buzzards Bay. I just wanted to send an email to support the [1@32](#)". I really feel the striped bass is in decline and needs to go to a one fish limit. I think the charter captains can handle one fish per angler limits. They should be in support of sustaining the resource even if it means going to one fish per angler. I don't believe it will hurt them at all.

Thanks,
Pete Wells

From: [Frank E Roosma](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 2015 Fishing Regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 11:37:20 AM

Please consider leaving the limit for striped bass the same as 2014. If they are changed I will fish a lot less. You're killing my charter captain and all charter captains if the changes proposed are instituted.

Frank Roosma
24 Sunset Rd
Pompton Plains NJ 07444

From: [Ed Salge](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 2015 Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 6:00:57 PM
Attachments: [image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)

Mike: I am writing you to voice my concerns about the upcoming discussions relating to reducing the Striped Bass harvest in NJ. I am a Charter Boat Captain and an avid striper fisherman for 40 years. I truly believe that it is noticeable that the Bass population has declined over the last 10 years. I feel that the fish slaughters and the practice “upgrading” by the commercial fishermen off Virginia are in part responsible for the decline. The rest of the problem is with the recreational fisherman.

I have an opinion that may not be too popular with some fishermen. I think that if we want to restore the stocks, which we have proven can be done, I would suggest the following:

- Changing the limit to 1 fish at any size will cripple the party and charter businesses. (and of course all the coastal business that benefit from fishermen stopping in to buy gas, food, tackle and bait.)
- Do NOT change the 2 fish at 28” limit. (** see below) Most 28 inch fish are males anyway. You don’t need as many males as females to create a good spawn.
- Now here’s where I really make the other fishermen mad.
 1. I would strongly recommend that there be a complete moratorium on ALL Striped Bass tournaments for 2 years. This would eliminate the need to catch and kill all the large spawning fish. If this is not “acceptable” follow the southern redfish circuit model where they only allow slot fish in their tournaments.
 2. To further help with the reduction, all fish over 44” MUST be released unharmed. This means that any fish over 35 pounds (which are always mature females) would be released to spawn again. Most sportsmen already release these fish anyway. We just need the rest to adopt the practice.
 3. Allowing 2 fish 28 to 44 inches would be a compromise that the paid captains can sell.

I hope that the folks that make the rules will truly recognize the value that recreational fishing brings to the coastal communities.

Thank you,

Ed Salge
BOOMER Fishing
Highlands NJ

Ed Salge
Executive Director, Operations & Information Technology



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From: [wayne lumsden](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: ACTION ALERT ASMFC ADDENDUM IV
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 10:40:04 PM

Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I believe the ASMFC should act as quickly as possible to halt the current decline in Striped Bass Fishery. The proposals in Draft Addendum IV are all aimed at bringing fishing mortality down to the new target level and that means reducing the total recreational(controlled through bag and size limits) and commercial(regulated by quotas) catch of striped bass by 25% or more, coast-wide and in the Chesapeake Bay(striped bass chief spawning grounds). The 25% reduction in catch for recreational and commercial should occur within a one year time frame starting with 2015 season. The immediate reductions will restore striped bass to the target abundance level sooner but even then not likely before the end of the decade.

My preferences on the specific options are as follows.

2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F (Fishing Mortality) to the Target - I support Option A

3.0 Proposed Management Program - I support Option B. I see no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality. The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced the sooner abundance may begin to rebound.

-Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options - I support Option B2 for the Coastal fishery and B10 for the Chesapeake Bay.

-Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options - I support Option B16 for the Commercial Coastal Fishery and B18 for the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for your consideration,

Wayne Lumsden
7307 Dickenson Street
Springfield Virginia 22150



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Capt. R. Todd MacGregor](#)
To: [Jared Silva](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV -- Striped Bass -- My Comments
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 6:02:52 PM

Gentlemen:

My name is Todd MacGregor. I am a licensed Master and have been charter fishing from Fairhaven, Dartmouth, New Bedford and Cuttyhunk for over 30 years. I formally held the contract for Striped Bass tagging with the Mass DMF and USFWS from 2000-2002. I know a lot about all of our local fish, fishing in general, and have focused on the Striper and Blue fisheries for most of my life.

I have seen all states of fishing around Buzzards Bay, the Elizabeth Islands and Martha's Vineyard. Trips where we caught 1900 pounds and trips where I rode around in circles making the oil companies happy and wondering why I couldn't catch my ass with both hands. And everything in between....

After spending over 80 days on the water this year, *I do not believe that there are any issues with the health of the Striped bass stock or the overall numbers of fish.*

There is no doubt that this has been a unusual year. The season started slow. Offered crappy fishing around the Elizabeth islands and MV and simultaneously offered incredible fishing along the Dartmouth shoreline in June and early July. There have been less large fish in 2014, and for about 2-1/2 week during the early summer, there were very few bass to catch and even less bluefish available.

My friends, who fish lobsters offshore, have been telling me about huge schools of large bass from 10-25 miles southwest of Gay head. These fish started slowing up in early June and are still there. I know guys who have caught and releases multiple fish from 35 - 65 # caught on cod jigs.

Why are these fish offshore? You tell me but it probably has something to do with food. I think they were set up to move when, as weather often does, a curve ball was thrown at us. A late June heat wave hit and the inshore water temp increased 7 degrees in 4-5 days. This, in turn, sent the droves of squid offshore. This is part of the reason that held this huge group of fish offshore.

Why can't we go there to get them? 1) These fish are in the EEZ and it is illegal and 2) even if it was legal, \$4/gal fuel will not allow us to profit on 15 fish and not being allowed to sell fish off charters.

The school bass were also curiously absent early this year. We had them in the harbor and rivers early. These were locally spawning fish and then they were gone. The huge drives of small bass entered Buzzards bay around August 15th. There were mile long schools on 20-27" fish with almost no Bluefish in the schools. We were taking 45-60 fish per hour on white umbrellas with the charters. These fish remain all along the shoreline of Nashawena and Pasque. If we catch 30 fish, we may get 1 keeper.

I will tell you that N B harbor has lots of 8" stripers now. I think these fish spawn in the Acushnet river.

The bottom line is that fish don't always do the same things every year. They don't always go to the same ledges, harbors or beaches. This is why it is called fishing and not catching. Good fisherman hunt and find fish. This is why people pay charter captains and guides. Shitty fisherman go fishing 3 or 4 times and fail, generally lack insight and creativity, and then start complaining. They start fishing from their computers instead of from a boat or the shore.

I urge you not to listed to all of these people who have little experience and little perseverance. They should not even call themselves fisherman.

We need 2 recreational fish per day to keep the Charters coming. Up until 1997 when we were only allowed 1 fish/day, we lost business to Rhode Island. We are now allowed to compete on an even basis. If a reduction is deemed necessary, which is NOT needed, please make the recreational fisherman's limit at 1 fish except for those on charter boats, who can keep 2 fish.

Remember the economic impact is not just lost charter but includes loss of hotel room nights and taxes paid on such to our towns, fuel and tackle purchases, marine repairs, etc...

In closing, I just need to tell you that there is NO IMMEDIATE COLLAPSE of the stock. They are just in different places and most people are too lazy or lack the talent to find them and catch them.

Sincerely Submitted -- Todd Mac

--

Capt. Todd MacGregor; USCG licensed Master
MAC-ATAC Sportfishing
P. O. Box 68 Fairhaven, MA 02719

508.992.9189 Cell: 508.243.8559

macatac.sportfishing@gmail.com

www.macatacsportfishing.com

<https://www.facebook.com/welcomeback/requests/#!/macatac.sportfishing?fref=ts>

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From: [Mason Horn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV ASMFC Letter
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 8:02:22 PM

Mason Horn
30 Amherst Court
Mystic Ct, 06355

16 September 2014

Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Va. 220201
E-mail: mwaine@asmfc.org Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

Please find my positions on the Draft Addendum IV below:

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options:

Option B: Adopt the reference points recommended in the 2013 benchmark assessment, $F_{\text{threshold}}$ of 0.22 and F_{target} of 0.18

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options

Option B: Use the coastwide population F reference points as established in sections 2.5.1

2.5.3: Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options

Option B: Manage the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River stock using the reference points from the latest A/R stock assessment accepted by the Striped Bass Technical Committee. Atlantic Ocean fish to operate under the same management measures as the rest of the coastal fisheries.

2.6: Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option A: Status quo: One year time frame.

3.0: Proposed Management Program

Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within a year. This represents a 25% reduction from the 2013 total harvest.

Specifically, I would like to see **B3** implemented, with a bag limit of 1 and size limit of 32" minimum

The commercial fishery must also have an equivalent reduction to its quota as the recreational harvest.

3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers:

Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers

From: [Ron Stearns](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV to amendment 6 comment
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:06:08 PM

Mike Waine,
I'll try to keep this as succinct as possible. I have been avidly fishing striped bass since 83'. I live in Seaford Long Island NY where have a light tackle charter business. Since the mid nineties the bay I fish (and grew up on) had a healthy population of resident fish (mostly fish under 30" and some to 40") until 2008 when I noticed a decline. Since then I have seen a precipitous decline to almost a complete collapse of our bays resident striped bass population. The lack of these smaller fish that were prolific in my area has me extremely concerned because its reminiscent of the early eighties.

I want to support
option A section 2.6
option B section 2.5
option A section 3.1

I also would support a Universal (all states and party boat or not) bag limit of one fish of ANY between 34" and 40"
I would also support any regulation requiring circle hooks when fishing bait for stripers.

Thank You
Captain Ron Stearns.

From: [John Schoenig](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV to Amendment 6
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 12:06:36 PM

My name is John S. Schoenig and I am the Conversation Chairman of the 150 members of the Imperial Sportsmen's and Suffolk Senior Fishing Club's located on Long Island New York. I actively attend all the meetings of the Marine Resources Advisory Council and I attended the ASMFS meeting at Stony Brook.

We believe that the following choices are the best to preserve the Striped Bass.

- Section 3.0 option B reduce 25% in 1 year.
- Section 3.0 option B1. 1 fish at 28"



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: bill-theobald@att.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [TOM FOTE](#)
Subject: Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 8:27:16 PM

Dear Messrs. Waine & Fote,

I am a surf fisherman that resides in New Jersey and primarily target Striped Bass. During the season I fish up and down the "Striper Coast" in pursuit of my favorite fish. During the last few years it has become clear that the Striper population has began to contract. This seems to be reflected in the ASMFC's own data and I believe that we have reached a critical juncture to ensure that the Striped Bass population rebounds and continues to be a viable fishing target. I urge you to take action before the fishery totally collapses and you are forced to implement another moratorium like we experienced during the late Eighties.

In that vain I strongly urge you to adopt a 25% reduction in the mortality in ONE year. I urge you to adopt option B3 which would impose a 1 fish limit for fish between 28 inches and 40 inches. My second choice would be option B3 which is also a 1 fish limit with a 32 inch minimum size. In my opinion we need to PROTECT the larger female fish which are the future of the fishery we all love.

Please contact me via e-mail or on my cell at (908) 907-0010 if you would like to discuss my thought in greater detail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

William Theobald

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Peter Wagner](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 9:30:00 AM

Mr Waine,

I am full time charter boat operator in New Jersey for 18 years. Striped bass is our main industry and for many others in this area as well. The last few years the two at 28 has seemed to sustain the stock in our eyes, and obviously myself along with most in the for hire industry would prefer to leave it at this. However, if this would mean harsh regulations down the road a few years then I would vote for B7 to achieve a reduction in harvest, hoping that in the future we could relax the regs back to current status.

Thank you for taking the for hire charter, party boat operators into account on these options.

Pete Wagner

[Facebook.com/hyperstripersportfishing](https://www.facebook.com/hyperstripersportfishing)

Hyperstripercharters.com

From: [John Kolia](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum to previous email
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:47:27 PM
Importance: High

Mr. Waine,

Obviously you have read my previous email, but something else crossed my mind that I thought I should share with you.

As you can see I am a charter boat captain. Operating a charter fishing business here in NJ for the past 10 years is very hard work. Trying to maintain a client base will be almost impossible if I have to tell my customers that they will only be able to catch and take home 1 fish. Who would spend \$100.00 to \$140.00 per person, depending on what boat you take out, for a fishing trip when all they can expect to take home is 1 fish? Not many....if anybody.

What this regulation might do, or probably do, is usher in, in my opinion, the collapse of the recreational fishing business as we've known for many, many years. I'm well aware that we ALL should do our part to try to maintain a healthy Striper stock and Lord knows, I've done my part as I always encourage my anglers to return to the water the big females that we catch. Most times we do. But every once in a while a big female goes in the cooler because as I've heard "I've paid my money, I want my fish".

Anglers like that usually don't get repeat trips on my boat. But reducing the keeper rate to 1 fish would have a devastating effect on the ENTIRE recreational fishing industry....not only charter and party boats, but bait and tackle shops, hotels and motels, marinas, restaurants and so on. The ripple effect, economically, would potentially be catastrophic.

Hasn't New Jersey been through enough since Hurricane Sandy? How much more are we all to bear? So I'm asking you to find some sort of middle ground compromise. My suggestion, from my previous email, is 2 fish at 24-28" per angler. Give 2 fish to the angler and release all breeder size fish.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on this matter. I trust you will do what's best for the State of New Jersey and the recreational fishing interests.

Once again, Respectfully Yours,

Capt John Kolia
Reel Fun Sportfishing

From: [Robert J. Woods Jr.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: rwoods5589@aol.com
Subject: Adendum
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:10:00 PM

I highly recommend a slot limit where one could keep a fish over 40 inches long with another fish of a daily limit size of your choice. 28" 32" you pick ill live with it.

Robert Woods
158 Chase St
N. Dighton MA

Sent from my iPad

From: [Brendan Richards](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Amendment IV to Reduce Striped Bass Mortality Public Comment
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 7:43:12 PM

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council,

My name is Brendan Richards and I am an avid recreational fisherman of striped bass in the state of Rhode Island.

Over the past five years, both myself and many of my fellow anglers have noticed a sharp decline in abundance of striped bass in our waters. This holds true for neighboring states as well.

This has resulted in a drastic decrease in the time myself and others spend fishing, as well as the money we spend on fishing gear. Over the past few years I have greatly constrained my tackle purchases. Contrary to popular belief, recreational fishing is in fact an industry. Relying on the abundance striped bass are countless tackle shops, rod manufacturers, and lure makers. I can assure you that all of them are feeling the pinch from this lack of angling effort.

I find this greatly alarming. Therefore, I am writing you to voice my comment on the Addendum IV sections as follows:

Section 2.5.1: Coastwide Reference Point: I am supporting Option B, the use of the 2013 Benchmark Assessment reference points. Regulations should be based on the most recent and up to date science.

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options: I am supporting Option B, the use of coastwide population *F* reference points as established in Section 2.5.1.

Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction: I am supporting Option A, mortality should be reduced by 25% in one year. **Out of all of this amendment's potential outcomes, I firmly believe that this is by far the most crucial for the conservation of the striped bass.**

Section 3.0: Proposed Management Program: I am supporting Option B3, a bag limit of one fish at 32", Option B10, a bag limit of one fish at 18" for the Chesapeake recreational fishery, and Option B17 for the Chesapeake commercial fishery.

Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers: I am supporting Option A, which prohibits the transfers of quotas from one region to another should their quota not be reached.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits: I am supporting Option A, which would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thank you for your time, and please take my comments into your sincere consideration,

Brendan Richards

From: [Robin Hurley](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: ASMFC Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 public comment
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 8:48:40 PM

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6
To the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan
For Public Comment
Attention Mr. Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Mr. Waine,

I am a recreational surfcaster from Long Island. I have fished these waters for 40 years, from party boats, private boats and from the surf. I have fished during the days of no limit, 16" minimum size, through the Moratorium, and up to the present. I have noted a distinct reduction in quantity and quality of my catch in recent years, leading up to this year, which has been one of the worst in my memory. I have kept detailed records of my fishing efforts since I started fishing. I am an environmental scientist whose observational skills are an important part of my job. I also have access to 60 years of detailed catch records from the surfcasting club for which I am fish committee chairman. If you or any of your technical staff would like to view this information, I have permission to share it with you.

I would like to add my comments and preferences to the proposed draft addendum IV to Amendment 6. I have studied your position paper thoroughly and have also attended the September 16th public comment hearing that you presented at Stony Brook University. I appreciate the opportunity you have granted for comment and recommendation. Your own presentation in verbal and paper form was informative, if a little confusing to the layman. I was encouraged to note your sincere attempts to educate the audience in the data collection process. You afforded ample time in your presentation to answer questions and your answers were direct. I also commend the presentations made by many members of the audience at the public comment hearing. It was a combination of your presentation and my fellow fishermen's' comments that helped me craft the choices outlined below.

My recommendations for courses of action, which would improve the long-term quality of the striped bass stock, are as follows:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point – Option B use the 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point – Option B use the coast-wide stock assessment points established in the 2013 Benchmark above.

Section 2.5.3 Albermarle/Roanoke Reference Point – Option B allow North Carolina to manage based on their most recent stock assessments.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reductions – Option A, reduce mortality by 25% in one year, which is status quo.

Section 3.0: Proposed Management Options – Recreational - either B4, 1 fish at 30" **or B5**, 1 fish at 32". (Note: Either option was purported to reduce harvest by 31%; I practice catch and release, bag and size limits do not impact me.)

Section 3.0: Proposed Management Options – Commercial – B16 25% reduction from the 2013 harvest.

Section 3.0 Management Options – Commercial, Chesapeake Management Area – Option B17 25% reduction from the 2013 commercial quota.

Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers- Option A, status quo, no transfers

Section 3.2: Commercial Size limits – Option A, status quo with Amendment 6

Section 5.0: Issue 8, recommendation for Federal Waters – Status quo, keep the EEZ closed for all striped bass fishing.

I sincerely hope that the measures you implement will bring a sustained positive effect on the population of the striped bass coastwide. If they do not, I recommend immediate action on stronger methods, which will stem the downward trends before it's too late.

Thank you for the opportunity to add my comments to this discussion.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robin Hurley

Baldwin, NY 11510

Robvila@optonline.net

From: [Scott Wilson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:33:43 PM

ASMFC
Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine & ASMFC Commissioners:

As a life long Rhode Islander, surf fisherman and in my current role and employment interacting with the local and coast wide recreational fishing public I would encourage you to consider a bag limit of 1 striped bass per angler to help address the current decline in the stocks. This decline has been noticeable and barring a reduction in catch combined with a serious consideration and action regarding enforcement of the vibrant black market for these fish I fear we are headed for another disaster for this species. I sincerely appreciate your efforts and the willingness to entertain public input on this topic.

Scott Wilson\

Portsmouth Rhode Island

From: [DeMello](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 7:25:04 PM

To whom this may concern,

As fisherman, we are all for conservation of the species of striped bass, but it cannot be done in such a harmful matter with just a one fish limit. The best approach to the situation is using the B7 option (1 slot fish 28-34" 2nd fish 36" and greater). Without the second fish limit, many customers will drop charters for next year, greatly hurting the livelihood of hundreds of other fishermen. Thank you for your time, and I hope B7 will be chosen as the option.

Thanks,
Greg DeMello

From: [Greg DeMello](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 7:24:08 PM

To whom this may concern,

My name is Greg DeMello and I work on a charter boat out of Point Pleasant. As fisherman, we are all for conservation of the species of striped bass, but it cannot be done in such a harmful matter with just a one fish limit. The best approach to the situation is using the B7 option (1 slot fish 28-34" 2nd fish 36" and greater). Without the second fish limit, many customers will drop charters for next year, greatly hurting my livelihood and hundreds of other fishermen. Thank you for your time, and I hope B7 will be chosen as the option.

Thanks,
Greg DeMello

From: [Robert Bielitz](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 3:57:38 PM

Gentlemen: It is my understanding that the Federal Fisheries Commission is anticipating a change to the striped bass regulation for the coming 2015 season. I have heard that there are several options on the table and would like to make a few comments:

- 1) I believe that there is much controversy about just how healthy the striped bass stock is and no one knows for sure how good or bad that current stock is based on your numbers,
- 2) Your actions will not only effect the future of this population but also will have a tremendous effect on those individuals who make a living as party boat operators, charter boat operators, tackle shops and those business which supply goods to those businesses.
- 3) Placing the most restrictive catch limit for 2015 will have a tremendous effect on those individuals and business who rely on this fishing for their livelihood.
- 4) I would hope that you would either maintain the status quo or if a new regulation is implemented that it provides for one slot fish (28" to 34") and a 2nd fish greater that 36" (Option B7).
- 5) I believe that your responsibility is not only to the striped bass population but also, perhaps more importantly, to those who make there living from paid recreational fishing.

Thank you,

Robert D. Bielitz
93 Portland Road
Highlands, New Jersey
07732-1955
732-291-5264
rbielitz@me.com

From: [Derek Bielitz](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 10:23:09 AM

Dear Mike,

My name is Capt. Derek Bielitz. I own and operate the for hire vessel Fisher Price IV out of Highlands, NJ. I have recently attended several meetings about the proposals for the striped bass fishery. I have been in business for 8 years and this is my full time occupation and I am very concerned about the proposed regulations. I feel that if the for hire vessels were cut to 1 fish per person per day it would have a great impact on my business as well as the local economy. I am in full support of staying at status quo (2 fish 28" or greater per person). As a second choice, I feel that option B7 would be the best solution as it would give us a 28% reduction. As long as my customers have the chance of catching a 2nd fish to take home, they will continue to support my business as well as other for hire boats in the area.

Thank you for your time,

Capt Derek Bielitz
Fisher Price IV
732-861-3394

From: [William Moody](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:42:50 PM

Hello Mr. Waine,

I'm just writing in hope that you will keep the 2015 striper limit as is, or possibly consider option B7. I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

Will Moody

From: [Frank Meyer](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 2:25:20 PM

Mike,

Listed below are the changes I would like to see for the 2015 fishing season, Striped Bass need our help now.

- 2.5.1 Option B
- 2.5.2 Option B
- 2.6 Option A
- 3.0 Option B1 & B10
- 3.1 Option B

Thank You
Frank Meyer

From: [Lawrence Sehnal](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 6:02:24 PM

Two fish between 28"and 32" let the big girls live.

From: [Thomas Rapone](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comment on Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:54:38 PM

September 29, 2014

Michael Waine

Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mr. Waine:

I have been a charter captain on Martha's Vineyard for fifteen years, and my primary target is the striped bass. I fish with artificial lures, bait, and flies, and I hold a Massachusetts commercial fishing license. I live on an island steeped in striper tradition, and I stand in awe of its many anglers who have pursued these fish for longer than I have and, invariably, know more about the striped bass than I ever will. Yet, despite my relative inexperience, I have a few observations that may be relevant in light of my daily work.

Even casual anglers have finally noticed that striped bass are, by and large, absent from Vineyard waters. I, for one, am absolutely astounded the scope of the decline—and by the Commission's failure to address the problem.

Many deflect this grim reality of the striper decline with various theories about changes in migration patterns. But, to draw the problem into better focus, it may be helpful to consider the fish we have lost rather than those that, I am assured, flourish elsewhere.

For instance, some recall the great herds of stripers that would rise to a pencil popper at dawn on the southeast corner of Nomans Island. Or Muskeget Channel in May, where a seemingly endless stream of twenty-pound bass could wear the paint

off a Smilin' Bill Bucktail in a single tide. The Wasque Rip in June, where thousands of large bass staged on sandbars in neat battle formation, waiting for the next wave of squid to course through the shoal. Deep holes on the North Shore, where a lively scup could be converted to a serious striped bass with no trouble at all. The Elizabeth Islands—oh, the Elizabeths. What could be better than fighting a forty-inch fish in the rocks while her schoolmates try to pluck the mangled eel off your leader? Or Devil's Bridge on a foggy dawn, where waves of thirty-inchers slurped sandeels on a slick westerly swell. Our estuaries, which nearly bubbled over with small striped bass eating silversides, worms, and herring fry.

These were bright, strong, beautiful fish. They often came in schools so large, they were like a force of nature. These fish swam hundreds of miles and through countless pitfalls to reach this outpost. It is an utter tragedy that most of them are gone.

Again, some deny the problem. Most of them have a friend or cousin who is catching "plenty of fish." Of course, history has proven that some will argue until the bitter end that there are plenty of fish around—"You just gotta know where to look."

But these naysayers miss the point. One of the hallmarks of the striped bass rebirth of the nineties was that the fishery was accessible by anyone with a Joppa Jig and a bike, skiff, or boots. Great days could be had by anyone and everyone--in countless spots along the eastern seaboard. Now, sadly, the fishery has evolved into one where catching striped bass with any consistency requires a level of sophistication that the casual angler simply does not possess. Sure, there are still pockets of fish out there; and, yes, the Massachusetts commercial quota was filled. For the most part, however, those pockets of fish do not exist on Martha's Vineyard—along with many other areas within the striper's traditional range.

The time for the commercial-versus-recreational debate is long past. We simply must stop killing what remains of our large striped bass. I implore ASMFC to take the most aggressive possible measures to curb this decline. Please do not delay.

Sincerely,

Capt. Thomas J. Rapone

www.highlymigratoryfishing.com

From: [Jan Jamrog](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comments - Fisheries Management Plan
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:27:53 PM

Hello,

I wanted to provide my comments to the proposals.

1 Any reduction program for recreational fishing must be matched on the commercial side. Size limits should be equal between the two.

2 I support the option to reduce mortality by 25 % in one year.

3 I do not support the transfer of quotas from one region to another.

4 Use 2013 as the benchmark assessment.

Thank You,
Jan Jamrog

From: [Barry Sullivan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comments on Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:39:53 AM

Dear Mr. Waine:

My name is Barry Sullivan, and I am currently a member of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club on Cape Cod, MA. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A for the commercial fishery and the 1 32" fish, Option B3, in Section 3.0 for the recreational fishery. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barry Sullivan
P.O. Box 1149
East Dennis, MA 02641
508-385-8849

From: [Phil Simon](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [TOM FOTE](#); [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Comments on the options for Striped Bass Management (Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 5:40:53 PM

Date: September 17, 2014

Memo To: the members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)

From: Philip L. Simon, Ph.D.

Subject: Comments on the options as presented in the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I recently attended the public comment session at Toms River NJ on September 15, and was given an opportunity along with my fellow anglers to offer my opinion, which I much appreciate. I did not provide specific comments to the individual options, and after listening to the other opinions, I am glad I did not, as I heard some viewpoints that I had not considered. Thus I would like to now present my specific recommendations, and to also outline my thinking as to the necessity for the ASMFC to adopt a more proactive and expanded stance in managing the striped bass fishery.

1. Of the 4 management scenarios, Option B is the clear choice. Option A is not really a choice at all, as it does not address the problem of a shrinking striped bass population. Option C presents too small an impact, and Option D is too complex to manage and too slow.
2. I do not have enough information on the specific Chesapeake Bay and Albermarle/Roanoke options to render an opinion, but my gut reaction is that we need to tighten up the harvest in the Chesapeake.
3. Among the options under scenario B, I recommend B4, with a bag limit of 1 fish and a size limit of 28-40". Fish in this range provide good tasty table food, more so than the big girls in my opinion. Hopefully this will provide an overall strong impact on the SSB, and will maintain the population of large females at a high enough level to support the fishery, even if overall numbers continue to decline, which they are likely to do. We need to be able to move the various striper tournaments (and the mindset of the recreational fisherman) to catch and release.
4. Allowing for exchange of commercial quotas will result in more dead striped bass. What were they thinking to allow this into the options? Reject this.

I understand the position of some of the party and charter boat captains, who want to allow their customers to keep more fish; their interest is in maintaining happy customers, and their business, which is understandable. I think that many of their customers understand the problems, and can live with the right solutions, at least judging by what I heard the other night at the meeting. I do support their call to restore their input as to daily catch as it was before. The party and charter fleet have a much better feel for what's going on than MRIP surveys can ever achieve.

I do have some doubts that there will be much difference in the outcome whether we choose B1 or B9 or whatever; the differences in projected outcome are too small

to be seriously detectable within the time frame of 2 - 3 - 5 years. So as I said at the meeting, pick an option that seems fair, and that can be reasonably monitored.

The commercial fishery for striped bass is like all commercial fisheries; they will fish and fish and fish until the last striped bass is caught. We have seen this behavior time and again. We need to keep them in check.

Unfortunately, regardless of how we tweak the numbers, I believe we are in for some serious times regarding this fishery. Because as you know the fishery is challenged not just from fishing pressure from the recreational and commercial fisherman (and women), but equally from the loss of habitat for spawning and rearing of young fish, especially in the Chesapeake Bay, and from the loss of critical food sources for the striped bass, including menhaden. I believe this is a major factor as to why the current F and SSB values and the models from which they are derived failed to keep the striped bass fishery stable, and why we are now trying to catch up with a declining striped bass population. During the last ten years we have seen the young of the year levels show a pattern of declining survival of newly hatched striped bass, in spite of the fact that the SSB was clearly above the estimate needed to maintain the population. In the period after the 1985-1989 striped bass moratorium on catching, we had a more healthy Chesapeake Bay that allowed for a full recovery within 5 years. Don't count on this next time. The path to recovery of our coastal estuaries is well known, but resistance to following it is well financed by commercial agriculture and land developers. It will be many years before things improve (climate change notwithstanding) so in the meantime we need to think ahead and anticipate what's going to happen to the striped bass and adjust our fishing pressure in advance of any chance for a total collapse as occurred in the 80's, because there may not be a recovery next time. I may be an alarmist and a pessimist, but I can read the tables and graphs and see what's happening.

Some additional recommendations for the ASMFC:

1. End the Virginia Menhaden reduction fishery yesterday. Have the Feds buy them out. Convert the site into a fish hatchery and research institute. Why this hasn't happened yet is easy to understand but impossible to comprehend.
2. Consider supporting the establishment reserve areas of the Chesapeake, Delaware and Hudson Rivers for striped bass spawning. Encourage more effort into research and development of striped bass fish hatcheries. Support re-introduction of striped bass into estuaries where they once thrived but have disappeared.
3. Take an active stand in supporting the efforts to clean up the Chesapeake and other coastal estuaries. Support the 25 point Action Plan of the non-governmental volunteer Chesapeake Bay Action Plan organization. Push the EPA to do a better job; they have failed miserably so far. Let everyone know that we have a big stake in this.
4. Encourage the transition of the commercial fishery to aquaculture (not using fish meal for the food source!!).

I suspect you believe that some of this is not within the scope of the activities of the ASMFC. Think again. People will listen to you. If you want to manage this fishery for the future you have to think and act outside the box of catch limits and threshold values. Even if you don't have the mandate to act, advocacy works. I know you are

doing a lot. Make more noise.

Please be aware that although I am a member of a number of fishing and conservation and scientific organizations, I am speaking strictly for myself, as a recreational fisherman, and as a retired research scientist.

I apologize for the long-winded memo.

Sincerely,

Philip L Simon, Ph.D.
Captain of the Bayfillet out of Waretown, NJ

From: phma@verizon.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comments regarding Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan (ASBIFMP)
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:55:24 PM

To: Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
From: Phil Coates, long retired fishcrat and current Massachusetts striped bass fisherman
Date: September 29, 2014

I'm adding these brief comments to what I hope is a significant body of comments that reflect growing concern over some of the options in the proposed addendum that, in my opinion, deviate from the strong conservation principals that have guided the development and implementation of the ASBIFMP.

For the coastal recreational fishery, I support Option B1, one fish at 28 inch minimum size. This option accomplishes the 25 % catch reduction with minimum change in the current plan..I am not a fan of any options containing slot lengths because of the increased complexity of compliance and enforcement they pose . Also, the one fish/larger size limit options (B2&3) go an undefined level beyond the 31% catch reduction estimated for Option B1

I recognize and appreciate the difficulties of estimating precise reductions of harvest of marine resources such as striped bass, particularly for the recreational fishery, hence my support for the simplest and most direct option.

Concerning the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery, I support Option B11- 2 fish bag at 21 inches. My overly simplistic perspective on this option is that a lone recreational fisher may not be able to feed his family with one 21" fish. This option may be some of the basis of Bay fishers' anxiety and efforts to stretch out the one year implementation.

For the coastal commercial fishery, I support Option 16 or the quota reduction necessary to attain equivalency to the recreational coastal reduction. I realize,a greater level of accuracy is present with the advent of quota management, assuming reporting compliance and adherence by fishers to the harvest bag limits and fishing hours. Unfortunately, in Massachusetts based on direct observation and reliable reports of others, too many commercial harvesters have engaged in actions ranging from rule violations such as jumping legal fishing hours, and/or accumulating fish destined for later commercial sale on non commercial fishing days to crossing state lines with fish caught illegally in jurisdictions with smaller bag limits or closed commercial fisheries. Needless to say, those of us in the commercial fishery that support and adhere to the rules and regulations are concerned about cheaters' efforts to thwart catch rate rules or worse add illegal fish to the Massachusetts quota in the face of reduced future state commercial allocations.

I have no comments on the Bay commercial options although their reductions should be equitable with whatever is finalized for the coastal commercial fishery.

Lastly, I strongly oppose Options C and D in their entirety. Any deviation from a one year implementation of this addendum will, in my opinion, significantly jeopardize the goals of the ASBIFMP. Speaking from personal experience, the recovery of the Atlantic striped bass resource was accomplished by the willingness of the coastwide melange of diverse resource users to agree to and work together to craft and implement a recovery and management plan worthy of this magnificent species. I truly hope I'm wrong but given the variability of striped spawning success in recent years, I fear that any deviation from this needed stringent action will only postpone the inevitable, an overall harvest reduction three years hence far greater than the currently proposed one year implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and convey my regards to the old timers on the staff and Commission who recall the old days.

From: [Peter Schwind](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comments to addendum IV to amendment 6
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 1:53:49 PM

'PAUL.DIODATI@STATE.MA.US''SARAH.PEAKE@MAHOUSE.GOV''DAN.MC'WAA.BMCRY@GMAIL.COM'KIERNAN@STATE.MA.US'

Comments to Draft Addendum IV

I am a commercial striped Bass fisherman from Massachusetts and I have the following comments to draft addendum IV to amendment 6:

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

I support Option B with the understanding that the F target and threshold values will be adjusted annually based upon updated stock assessments. (Target now at 0.34 to 0.22 and threshold now at 0.30 to 0.18) This is a very large reduction but is consistent with stock assessment.

2.6 Timetable to Reduce F to Target

I strongly support Option B. The three year time frame will reach the goal desired with a reduced economic impact as compared to the one year time frame.

My preferred Management Option would be Option D. A 7% reduction in each year for three years.

I support Options D1(recreational bag limit of 2 fish with increasing size limit, 30 inch in 2015, 31 inch in 2016 and 32 inch limit in 2017 and D6 (a commercial 7% sequential reduction for three years.)

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers.

I strongly support Option B. (allows transfer of quotas between states)

General Comments

The commercial quota in Massachusetts was filled in 16 days in 2011, 2012, and 2013. This year the commercial season was stretched by reducing the days per week and the fish per day. The consistently short time to fill the quota demonstrates the abundance of Striped Bass in our waters. The large recruitment year in 2011 (4th large on record) also shows that the SSB was sufficient in 2011 to produce a record year. I understand the most recent data shows a need for action to reverse the trend in SSB but it seems logical to me that a modest reduction, over time, would achieve the desired goals with a minor impact on the recreational folks and allow most folks in the commercial sector to survive.

Transfer of quotas would be consistent with other fisheries and makes a great deal of sense. It is very difficult to predict the catch rate to determine when the season should be closed. This year Massachusetts is 0.7% under our quota but in past years we have been over and it is very disappointing to see our next year's quota reduced because some dealers were late reporting their data when other state(s) are dramatically under their quota.

Captain Peter Schwind, 290 Salem Street, Andover, MA (summer 1090 Samoset Road, Eastham, MA)

From: [CHRIS FRENCH](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: COMMENTS TO DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS INTERSTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:57:42 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

Please accept the following comments as my opinions and input on the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

I urge members of the Commission to take the most responsible actions for conservation available now and put their energy into developing more aggressive, equitable measures to sustain the striped bass population for all.

Future addenda should be more straightforward and provide clear connections between data, interpretations, and impacts. Recommendations of scientists should be followed and time to respond should be shortened, not extended.

<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->

<!--[endif]-->

Responses to Options

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point – Option B, adjust reference points for F to 0.22 for Fthreshold and 0.18 for Ftarget.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point – Option B, use coastwide F reference points due to lack of data on sex ratio that exists in the Bay.

2.5.3 Albermarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point – Option B, operate under North Carolina's FMP.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target - Option A, one year time frame.

3.0 Proposed Management Plan

Coastal Recreational - B3, 1 fish bag limit, 32" min. size

Chesapeake Bay Recreational - B10

Coastal Commercial - B16

Chesapeake Bay Commercial - B17

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A - no commercial quota transfers.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B

Every stakeholder and individual in this process needs to participate for conservation to be successful, but first they need to understand the true situation. This begins with the policies set forth by the Commission, which has been entrusted to manage the fishery with the highest degree of prudence and integrity. It is the vision, mission, and expectation. We are counting on you.

Sincerely,
Chris French

From: [John Carpenter \(Capt Jack\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: confirmation
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:58:39 PM

Mike,

I know I am not a huge commercial or recreational fisherman, but I am a licensed charter boat out of RI, Ct and N.Y..

I would like to say I like some others really do believe some of the efforts that you guys do will help in the future.

From what we can see in the waters the stripers have come back a long ways and in abundance.

However this rule of 1 fish at 30" I believe will cut into our business drastically and I don't see the need to cut the limit and add the length requirements. I run one boat in New York waters and one in R.I. waters. When I let the customers know that NY will only allow one fish per person they say they will fish R.I. instead. If the regulation changes in R.I. the customer would then stay in N.Y. and fish. If I didn't have the boat in R.I. I would have lost almost 50% of my business. I look at what it cost me to run this operation for the year and I take out of my pocket an additional \$ 5,000.00 every year. That is monies spent here in the local communities every year.

I only do it because it brings joy to people that really enjoy the sport or the beginners that have never been fishing in the ocean.

But the biggest complaint I get is they can only take two fish per person.

What will happen if it is cut down to one. At that point I will have to put my boats on dry dock.

Without customers to fish I am out of work, but more importantly the state and local community is out the extra income that they make as well. We are talking a pretty good amount of monies every day that we go fishing. Even if it was only \$ 20.00 per person per day, think about how much that brings to the state and local communities.

I sure hope you will look this over with great detail since it does effect a lot of us out here and from all over the states.

John Carpenter
Capt Jack
Jackhammer Charters
www.jackhammercharters.com
401-744-2804 (cell)

From: [Robert Berger](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Decline Of Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 11:48:27 AM

Dear Mike,

Unfortunately i have been very busy between work and school and have not been able to attend the meeting that was recently held in Toms River. I consider this a very important matter and would like to do what i can since I've been busy. I am writing to you today because i support the 1@32' limit, option b3 i believe, and no commercial quota between states.

I am a young, avid, striped bass fisherman who would like to see the fishery expand and i would also like to see further generations have the ultimate experience of catching a striped bass. I have noticed a very hard time for recreational fisherman to catch and find striped bass locally on our beaches, and i am concerned.

Sincerely,

Robert Berger
rberger317@aol.com

From: [Ken Sass](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 4:01:52 PM

Dear Mr. Waine:

Please be advised that I favor a plan that allows for two stripers per person per day within a slot limit of 25 – 30 inches or one per day over 30 inches. This way trophy hunters can choose to release slot fish to pursue larger game. This would also help divers who must make sure of the size of fish they shoot. Harvesting one that is inside a slot limit would be very difficult. I am told by divers that if they can at least get a big one that would be ok. Last year between myself and my boat partner we caught over 200 stripers, we caught over 20 keepers and kept one or two. This year I expect about the same. Although we have already caught about 30 keepers, but have only retained 2 or 3. I am personally sick of seeing people keep large fish that are not record size. The rebounding of the striper population has been a singular success, owed largely to the efforts and sacrifice of sportsmen. I do not want to see us go back to the old days of 34 in. limits. To me that would just target the breeders.

Sincerely,
Ken Sass

From: [Bigdk7k](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: draft addendum iv
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:20:15 AM

As a longtime Massachusetts resident and Striped Bass fisherman I have experienced the severe decline of the fishery over the last decade. While I practice catch/release I strongly support the immediate 25% reduction going forward to 2015. Delaying this action or any lesser conservation policy could clearly jeopardize the bass stock for all. Use this new baseline, determine the results of its impact and then make policy adjustments in future years as required. We certainly don't need a repeat of the 80's.

Dave Kennedy
North Reading Mass

From: [Kevin Hipko](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 12:37:09 PM

Option 7 1 fish at 28-34 inches and one fish over 36 inches is the option that would be most fair to recreational anglers

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Malcolm Gilbert](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum 1V Striped Bass Management
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 1:16:31 AM

Sirs,

I have fished for striped bass since 1998, regularly making two annual trips of two to three weeks duration from the UK where I live. Typically, I fish Cape Cod area in May/June and Montauk in the fall but occasionally I visit Block Island, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

I advocate the most conservation orientated management possible. This attitude stems in part to having had to endure the most appalling degradation of marine fishery resources here in UK waters, imaginable. Even though I live more than 3,000 miles from the USA east coast, the striper fishing is now an integral part of my life and I care passionately about the striped bass resource.

Consequently, my favored option is Option B.

For Coast wide waters (Recreational) I favour option B4 and for Chesapeake B10

For Coast wide waters (Commercial) I favour option B16 and for Chesapeake B17

Malcolm Gilbert
Nance Farm House
Trink
St Ives
Cornwall
TR26 3JF
UK

From: [Joe Cummings](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum 4
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 3:16:49 PM

Sir; I would like to add my opinion to the striped bass proposals. I am advocating for the maximum reduction possible in striped bass mortality ,more specifically, option b-3 under the coastal recreational choices,option b-10 under the Chesapeake bay recreational choices,option b-17 for the Chesapeake Bay commercial options and option A for the commercial quota transfers -none allowed. As a recreational fisherman (member Mass. Striped Bass Association) I practice catch and release. It disturbs me to see those with commercial licenses keeping every fish they are allowed and often some that are not allowed. I have observed "fishermen" catch their limit and then hide others up on the wooded banks of the Cape Cod canal for the express purpose of selling them for even more money. Others simply transport the fish to coolers in their vehicles and return to catch more fish. Enforcement of the regulations is random if in fact there is any. If we are to preserve this prized sport fish serious consideration should be given to eliminating the commercial taking of striped bass. If Maine and New Hampshire have the will to do it then Massachusetts should be able to also. Thanks for taking the time to read this .

From: [Margaret Scarcella](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum 4
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:54:05 PM

Mr. Waine , hope you are well

just this past weekend , i landed a couple of northern kingfish on eastern long island , thank you for your work

With regards to addendum 4, please note I'm in favor of the following :

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.
Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.
Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.
Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.
Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

thank you ,

james scarcella, 400 delaware ave, staten island, ny, 10305

718-873-4291

From: [Andrew Connors](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - let's reduce the take!
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 1:12:00 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015 from the 2013 take (not quota). Let's do as much as possible to reduce the take both commercially and recreationally.

Sincerely,

Andrew Connors

From: r.newhouse@stolt.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [David Simpson](#); [James Gilmore](#); [Russ Allen](#); r.newhouse@stolt.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Option B3. 1 over 32"
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:59:13 AM

Mike,

I am a Connecticut based surfcaster. Often travelling to New York and New Jersey with the fish. I typically spend three weeks in Montauk and three to five weekends in New Jersey through the course of a season. I support Option B3. 1 over 32". I believe corrective action must be taken this year to protect the stock. I have noticed a significant reduction in my catch ratio since 2008 despite increasing my time fishing, knowledge and skill level. The sustained lack of fish has lead me to choose to stay home in situations where I would have normally not blinked an eye to spending the weekend fishing in Island Beach State Park or Camp Hero. Please support the responsible management of this species by taking decisive action to stop the depletion of this natural resource.

Best regards,

Robert Newhouse
Ship Broker
STJS-POS/TPW
Stolt Tankers



Phone+1 203 299-3817
Fax+1 203 299-3923
Mobile+1 203 278-2744

800 Connecticut Avenue 4th Floor East
Norwalk, CT 06854
United States

<http://www.stolt-nielsen.com>

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From: [Erik Zlokovitz -DNR-](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Public hearing in MD last week
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:51:23 AM

Hi Mike,

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the hearing on Draft Addendum IV last week, held at Chesapeake College. Does ASMFC post transcripts or summaries of the public meetings?

regards,

Erik

--

Erik Zlokovitz
Maryland DNR-Artificial Reef Program/MARI
MDDNR Fisheries Service, Tawes State Office Building, B-2
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: 410-260-8324
FAX: 410-260-8279
*NEW EMAIL: Erik.Zlokovitz@maryland.gov

From: [Chris Windram - Saltwaterflies.com](http://Saltwaterflies.com)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 9:36:18 AM

To: Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator.

Mike,

I hope that this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you today to urge you to enact the strongest and most immediate measures possible to restore our striped bass fisheries to a healthy state for the sake of the public good, and all interested parties.

I am the proprietor of Saltwaterflies.com, and I am in the business of selling saltwater fly fishing goods.

My business was started in the early 1990's, and was founded on the abundance of striped bass available at that time.

In the past 10 years, the amount of business that I do that is related to striped bass has declined significantly - year by year. I would estimate that I have lost thousands of dollars due to the decline in striped bass numbers. I understand that there may be some debate about what the numbers are - what is undeniable to me is what my customers tell me, which is that they are seeing and catching far fewer striped bass than previously.

My customer base includes members of the general public, as well as many charter boat captains who are on the water daily, and they are reporting a very significant decline in striped bass catches. My own fishing experiences mirror those observations, to the point that on many fishing excursions I have stopped targeting striped bass due to lack of catching, and as a measure of conservation.

I hope that you will take immediate strong steps to conserve what should be an excellent fishery that benefits all interested parties, as it seems clear that these steps are necessary and urgently needed at this time.

Sincerely,

Chris Windram

Saltwaterflies.com - Got Backing?
www.saltwaterflies.com

Tight Lines
PO Box 362
Housatonic, MA
01236
413 274-6143

From: [David Weaver](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Striped Bass
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:16:49 AM

Dear Mr Waine,

Please consider this message a vote in favor of reduction of striped bass harvest. In particular, I favor:
COAST: B1 - one fish @ 28"
CHESAPEAKE BAY: B10 - one fish @ 18"

Thank You,
Dave Weaver
Gettysburg, PA

From: [Vin Bresnaider](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV (Striped Bass)
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:07:57 PM

Mr. Waine:

First off, thank you for allowing “regular Joe” fishermen like me the opportunity to be heard during this critical moment in striped bass management. As I’m sure you are receiving plenty of letters on this subject, I will keep this brief.

I have been an avid recreational fisher of striped bass for the past 25 years or so, pursuing this species from both boat & shore. Although my efforts pursuing this species have recently declined some, mostly due to poor fishing, there were years when I logged over 150 trips from April through December. So my perspective on this fishery goes back a ways & I’m on the water frequently enough to recognize changes over time. What I have witnessed is a slow, steady decline in striped bass numbers over the years. This decline, from my personal observations & experiences, began not long after most states went to the 28” size limit. However, the past 10 years have seen the most dramatic decline & this is again based on my personal observations & experiences on the water. Most, if not all, of my fishermen friends express a similar opinion regarding the decline in striped bass numbers.

I respectfully request that the ASMFC adopt measures to reduce striped bass mortality in accordance with the following guidelines:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased

Thank you for your time in reading this & I hope that we can all work together to restore the striped bass population for future generations to enjoy!

Sincerely,

Vin Bresnaider
1645 Stevens Avenue
Merrick, NY 11566

From: [Nick Gove](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV Gove
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 3:46:05 PM

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. Thank you.

Nick Gove

Sent from my iPhone

From: [James Mouldsdale](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV Public Comment
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:43:32 PM

Hello Mr. Waine,

I am writing to indicate my support for a 25% decrease in striped bass harvest in 2015. I also support the implementation of slot limits to protect the large female fish. As an avid recreational angler, i feel it is prudent to conservatively manage our fisheries to avoid over-exploitation of these valuable resources.

Thank you,

James M. Mouldsdale
20 Silver Hill Ct
Perry Hall, MD 21128
443-465-3886

From: [Alex Kissel](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV Query
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 12:50:32 PM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-2.tiff](#)
[Screen Shot 2014-09-18 at 12.29.59 PM.png](#)

Hello Mr. Waine,

My name is Alex Kissel. I am a New York State Resident and an avid bayman/fishing enthusiast of Long Island's South Shore. I, along with many other members of our fishing community, are always concerned for our Striped Bass population, as the species is truly an iconic example of the beauty and variety of marine life found in our local waters.

I have read through the Proposed Addendum IV and am very grateful to know that so much thought and care has been placed on the continued management of our Striped Bass. It is not very often that we as a community, can find a forum to voice our concerns, or find such readily available resource of information regarding our stripe bass.

I did have one question regarding the legal harvesting of bass in our area (NY State): In regards to the chart entitled "**Summary of Atlantic Striped Bass Recreational Regulations in 2013**", the method of harvest is defined as "**Angling or spearing only**" (See attached chart below).

This regulation has been under some scrutiny in our area, as **the definition of legal "spearing"** is vague. Currently, there is no legal regulation or statement defining any differentiation between types of spears used (mechanical / trigger / sling / etc.) for legally harvesting Striped Bass. Despite this ambiguity, law enforcement has been issuing tickets and stating that the use of 'mechanical spearguns' (which have been defined as any spear with a trigger) are illegal. I have contacted several enforcement agencies and wildlife departments that cannot give a definitive answer, nor a document stating clearly that this is the law.

As a spear fisherman, this is an important distinction to be clarified. Our local group of anglers prides itself on harvesting in accordance with the law, and with the intent to release or consume any wildlife taken. Unclear or ambiguous regulations can be costly for both the fish populations, and our adherence to the law.

I apologize if this is the incorrect forum for this, but I have had little success in finding assistance through other conservation outlets. Please let me know if this query should be directed to a different person, and if so, whom.

Thank you for your work and your time.

Kindest Regards,

Alex Kissel
Center Manager
Saint Anthony's High School
www.UTPhighschools.com
Alex@unitrackprep.com



NY	Ocean Private: 1 fish 28-40" & 1 fish > 40" Ocean Charter: 28" min Hudson River: 18" min DE River: 28" min	Ocean: 2 fish Hudson R.: 1 fish DE River: 2 fish	Angling or spearing only	Ocean: 4.15 – 12.15 Hudson River: 3.16 – 11.30 Delaware River: All year
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From: [Christopher Rowbottom](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV- Striped Bass
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:45:15 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Waine,

I am writing to you today regarding the Striped Bass fishery. I would like to suggest, as many others have done, to reduce the overall catch significantly. I would also like to see an allowance for spearing striped bass in Massachusetts. These two statements might seem counteractive, but I assure you they are not. Breath-hold spearing is very selective! Mortality from catch-and-release is obviously reduced, by-catch is minimized, and mostly the manner of harvest is very challenging. I don't have hard numbers, but I bet the mortality of catch-and-release fisherman is 100x greater than the bass harvested in NY, RI, NH, etc by spearfishing.

I have fished for striped bass from NJ to Maine for the past 10 years. I encourage catch-and-release, in fact, I have only kept 3 bass in 10 years! I also employ single barbless hooks, rather than barbed trebles. These actions can really help the fishery. I used to fish more, but as the near-shore population dropped, I changed my focus. I currently drive south to RI to harvest Black Sea Bass, Tog, etc, or Cape Ann for lobsters and flounder. The population has shifted to a point where I didn't see the point to Bass fish.

I would encourage a reduction of catch, both rec and commercial, as well as restriction on tackle (barbless, single hooks), and allowing spearfishing at the same requirements as a surfcaster.

I'm sure we both have seen people do a terrible job at catch-and-release. Mandate some restrictions, and help save our Bass.
Why 32" minimum? Protect the brood stock! All I see in the water are dinks and 30# bass, not a lot in the middle.

Thank you for your consideration.
Chris Rowbottom

From: [SCOTT LUNDBERG](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum iv to Amendment 6 of the striped Bass FMP
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:13:04 PM

Capt. Scott Lundberg
Reel to Reel Sportfishing Charters LLC
PO Box 637
Slatersville Rhode Island 02876
(508)450-1112
www.ReeltoReelSportfishing.com
Mr. Mike Waine September 16th, 2014
FMP Coordinator ASMFC
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP

Dear Mr. Waine,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP. I am the owner operator of Reel to Reel Sportfishing Charters Llc in Point Judith, RI and a member of the RI Party and Charter Boat Association. I am a full time charter boat captain and the biggest part of my business is catching striped bass. On behalf of myself and the two mates I employ plus the hundreds of recreational anglers I transport every year, I offer the following.

Section 2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Rates:
Preferred Option B, reference points established that are consistent with SSB Targets and Threshold Values.
Use those same coast wide F reference points for the Chesapeake Bay Management area until the T/C can develop appropriate scientific based RP's specific for that management area.

Section 2.6 Time to Reduce F Target:
At this time, Striped Bass are the most important species to the economic vitality of RI's Charter Boat Fleet and an important component of the Party Boat Fleet. We support aggressive responsible management of Striped Bass with a vision for the future. At the same time we recognize that without practical economic considerations as part of management, the Party Charter Fleet has no future.

We would recomend adopting Option B, a three year timeframe to reduce F. This timeframe gives the Board significantly more options to choose from for management measures. If the Board selects Option B, The Board can choose management measures from either the one year or three year timeframe options in

Section 3. Considering the retrospective patterns that underestimate SSB and overestimate F values and projections, as well as above average recruitment in recent years, it clearly makes sense to keep management options open.

Section 3.0 Proposed Management Scenarios:

The thousands of recreational fishermen that fish aboard RI's Charter and Party Boats need to find value in their purchase and that value generally comes in the form of a big bag of fresh fish to bring home to eat or put in the freezer. Any management measures that reduce the current bag limit from 2 fish per person run the risk of eliminating the value that our customers need. The Board should consider that under a 2 fish per person bag limit, a recreational fishermen can still choose to take one fish or zero fish, but under a 1 fish bag limit a fishermen who may buy 1 charter a year, loses the value he or she needs make that purchase. Options that reduce F while maintaining the current bag limit will not discriminate against those who wish to bring fish home. Most of our customers charter a boat once or twice a year. As a preferred option Under Section 3, we recomend Option D1 which results in a 21% reduction over 3 years and appears to be the easiest to enforce and understand. As an alternative, Option B8 which results in a 26% reduction in F over 1 year could be considered, although this option may be more complicated for fishermen. The important point to take home is that RI's Charter and Party Boat Captains, Crew and Clients recommend that status quo (2 fish Bag Limit) be maintained for bag limits into the future.

We appreciate the chance to comment on this significant addendum and we look forward to working with the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife, Commission Staff, and the Striped Bass Management Board in the future.

Sincerely yours
Capt. Scott Lundberg

From: [Lynn Smith](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:31:56 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I'm taking this opportunity to offer comments on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP. I am one of the owner operators of C-Devil II Sportfishing in Point Judith, RI and I serve as the Secretary of the RI Party and Charter Boat Association.

I fully support the proposal brought forward by our RIPCBA President, Rick Bellavance.

Section 2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Rates:

Preferred Option B, reference points established that are consistent with SSB Targets and Threshold Values. Use those same coast wide F reference points for the Chesapeake Bay Management area until the T/C can develop appropriate scientific based RP's specific for that management area.

Section 2.6 Time to Reduce F Target:

At this time, Striped Bass are the most important species to the economic vitality of RI's Charter Boat Fleet and an important component of the Party Boat Fleet. RIPCBA supports aggressive responsible management of Striped Bass with a vision for the future. At the same time we recognize that without practical economic considerations as part of management, the Party Charter Fleet has no future.

The RIPCBA recommends adopting Option B, a three year timeframe to reduce F. This timeframe gives the Board significantly more options to choose from for management measures. If the Board selects Option B, The Board can choose management measures from either the one year or three year timeframe options in Section 3. Considering the retrospective patterns that underestimate SSB and overestimate F values and projections, as well as above average recruitment in recent years, it clearly makes sense to keep management options open.

Section 3.0 Proposed Management Scenarios:

The thousands of recreational fishermen that fish aboard RI's Charter and Party Boats need to find value in their purchase and that value generally comes in the form of a big bag of fresh fish to bring home to eat or put in the freezer. Any management measures that reduce the current bag limit from 2 fish per person run the risk of eliminating the value that our customers need. The Board should consider that under a 2 fish per person bag limit, a recreational fishermen can still choose to take one fish or zero fish, but under a 1 fish bag limit a fishermen who may buy 1 charter a year, loses the value he or she needs make that purchase. Options that reduce F while maintaining the current bag limit will not discriminate against those who wish to bring fish home.

As a preferred option Under Section 3, the RIPCBA recommends Option D1 which results in a 21% reduction over 3 years and appears to be the easiest to enforce and understand. As an alternative, Option B8 which results in a 26% reduction in F over 1 year could be considered, although this option may be more complicated for fishermen. The important point to take home is that RI's Charter and Party Boat

Captains, Crew and Clients recommend that status quo (2 fish Bag Limit) be maintained for bag limits into the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration as this vitally important to our fishery and our livelihood.

Respectfully,

Capt. Lynn Smith, Secretary
RI Party and Charter Boat Association

From: [Bonnie and Jim Charles](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 7:47:06 PM

Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I starting fishing on the Chesapeake Bay as a teenager in the mid- 70s and currently have a house on Ingram Bay, VA.

I have seen the up and downs of the Striped Bass over the last 40 years and the last 10 plus years has been a steady decline in the quality and quantity of Striped bass I have caught on numerous fishing trips.

I believe the ASMFC should act as quickly as possible to halt the current decline in Striped Bass Fishery. The proposals in Draft Addendum IV are all aimed at bringing fishing mortality down to the new target level and that means reducing the total recreational(controlled through bag and size limits) and commercial(regulated by quotas) catch of striped bass by 25% or more, coast-wide and in the Chesapeake Bay(striped bass chief spawning grounds). The 25% reduction in catch for recreational and commercial should occur within a one year time frame starting with 2015 season. The immediate reductions will restore striped bass to the target abundance level sooner but even then not likely before the end of the decade.

My preferences on the specific options are as follows.

2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F (Fishing Mortality) to the Target - I support Option A

3.0 Proposed Management Program - I support Option B. I see no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality. The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced the sooner abundance may begin to rebound.

-Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options - I support Option B2 for the Coastal fishery and B10 for the Chesapeake Bay.

-Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options - I support Option B16 for the Commercial Coastal Fishery and B18 for the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jim Charles
9407 Creek Summit Circle
Richmond , VA 23235

From: [Paul Gross](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:34:15 PM

I've been fishing for striped bass since the early 1970's in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and I'm very concerned about the degradation and decline of the striped bass fishery over at least the last 5 years. I think the fishery is in serious trouble and needs serious regulation, now! No delay!

Here are my recommendations for the new proposed regulations:

Section 2.5.1 & Section 2.5.2 Option B is best. We should be referencing the best, most recent science when deciding courses of action

Section 2.6 Option A We have a serious problem with striped bass management and need to deal with it immediately

Section 3.0 Option B3 There should be a one-fish limit, 32" limit on the coast. No one needs more than one fish that size per day.

Option B15 (hard quota) in the Chesapeake

Section 3.1 Option A we need to prohibit quota transfers from one region to another

Section 3.2 Option A Commercial size limits should be the same as recreational

Thank you,
Paul Gross
217 Conant Lane
East Thetford, VT 05043
802 785-2207
Paul.L.Gross@valley.net

From: [Greg Shute](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Thomas Oconnell](#); [Greg Shute](#)
Subject: DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:31:46 PM

To whom it may concern.

I am writing regarding striped bass reductions as described in Draft Addendum IV. As a licensed and active charter boat captain on the Chesapeake Bay and one who also has worked in sales for a manufacturer of recreational boats in Maryland, I ask that the striped bass board move to the 25% reduction across the board in all sectors within the first year in a move to manage for more abundance and ensure the species does not reach an overfished status. Striped bass are a highly valued as a gamefish along the Atlantic states both socially and economically. Because of this, the fact that sportfishing participation is best driven through abundance/angler success, and balancing conservation with socio-economic benefit, **I ask that the board move forward with coastal recreational option B1 or B7 and Chesapeake Bay Recreational option B11. I also request that an equal 25% reduction be applied to the commercial fisheries for 2015.**

I also want to make note that I believe for proper management of this species so vital to our economy that the technical committee continue to **work towards Chesapeake Bay reference points** and draft another addendum as soon as one is available.

Sincerely,

--

Capt. Greg Shute
410-533-1435
www.iFishMD.com

For reports and current charter info, "Like" us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/iFishMD

From: Craigwd916@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 9:29:28 AM

Mike-

I've been a recreational striped bass fisherman for 50 years and experienced the '80s shock to the striper population. My catch over the last several years has declined to the point that I once again fear for the future of this great fish.

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest for 2015 and I hope my voice will help you to vote in support of this measure. Thanks.

Craig Wood
Barrington, RI

From: [lou_defonteny](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum iv
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 10:27:57 AM

Dear Mr Waine,

I am a Surf fisherman that lives in New Jersey. Specifically South Seaside Park, outside the gates of Island Beach State Park. I'm retired so I spend a lot of time in the park My passion is surf fishing for Striped Bass. I am 68 years old and have been pursuing my passion since I was released from the army a lot years ago. I fished thru the moratoriums and size changes during the 80's and we brought these fish back to a healthy abundance. We did it once and we can do it again. There are more challenges this time other than over fishing. The Chesapeake a major spawning ground must also be cleaned up but that is another issue.

I have noticed the striper decline over the last 5 - 10 years and I'm on the beach most days during the season and see that we have a problem with the Striper population. I'm not sure if these fish are getting overfished or pollution is to blame ? Does it really matter? All indications are we have to protect these fish and get them back on track no matter who or what's to blame for their decline! I urge you please to change the current laws to B3 1@32 and protect this fish so it has a future! This is also the option our club is endorsing, allowing the 2011 year fish to spawn several times before harvesting.
Sincerely,

Lou deFonteny

BSC Berkeley Striper Club
Seaside Park, NJ

From: [Mike Mills](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:03:18 PM

Hi mike.

Just want to let you know that I and Jamestown Distributors support bass conservation.

Thank you for all of your help.

Best Regards,

Michael Mills

President
Jamestown Distributors

Office 401.396.5121
Cell 401.559.3124

From: [James Bailey](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:13:28 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,
please support the immediate reduction in striped bass harvest. The striped bass is a critical fishery for both commercial and recreational fishing. Instant gratification will cost us more in the future financially between recreational and commercial fishing. Please have the courage to look at the resource in the long term. We do not want to go back to the past when stripers were scarce.
I want to enjoy the beauty of this fish and share it with our children.
Support the Striped Bass and vote for reductions!

James Bailey
42 Marc Drive
Watertown, Ct 06795

From: homeinspt@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:45:25 PM

JOSEPH ZANGHI
47 GOLDENROD AVE.
FRANKLIN SQUARE, NEW YORK 11010
516-413-7207 CELL
homeinspt@aol.com

To: Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201;

As a recreational angler concerned about the long term sustainability of Atlantic striped bass and health of the recreational fishery it supports, please accept the following comments on Draft Addendum IV

I SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING.

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

From: [Lou Tabory](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 3:33:36 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I received an email from Connecticut DEEP Marine Fisheries concerning the Draft Addendum IV, ASFMC Striped Bass Management. It instructed interested parties to respond to you.

I have been an outdoor writer for over 40 years with striped bass on fly one of my major topics.

This Draft states that fishing mortality rates for both general fishing and female spawning stocks are too high. And the female spawning stocks have been declining since 2006. Yet, in the next sentence you state that overfishing is not occurring. And a similar decline in the total harvest has been observed. These statements seem to contradict one another. And it seems that Fisheries Management does not want to face the facts. We are over harvesting the striper population and have been for years. From New Hampshire to New Jersey both the commercial and recreational anglers target the breeding population--fish over 28 inches are almost all spawning fish. This puts too much pressure on a fishery that relies on ideal spawning conditions to survive. Several years of no harvest then a slot limit of one fish a day 22 to 26 inches would be a good start. The fish came back during the moratorium and several years after with tight regulation. But when the regulations of 2 fish a day over 28 inches were imposed the breeding stocks were doomed. Unless we stop killing the female stripers we will continue to lose our striper fishery.

Sincerely,

Lou Tabory

From: [Bill Gauch](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 1:18:06 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to provide my comments on the Striped Bass - Draft Addendum IV. I have been a recreational shore fisherman in Rhode Island from the time I was 15. In the last 25 years, the striped bass fishery went from non-existent to over abundance. Now, it appears that the health of this fishery is on its way back down. I am aware of the different pressures and deciding factors with respect to this fishery and realize what a challenge it must be to try to please everyone. That said, my own personal experience is that I haven't caught a single striped bass in almost 3 years. I only fish for food consumption so I don't specifically target "fun" recreational catch of sub-legal fish and I don't pay for charters to pursue large cow fish. Having reviewed the options for size/bag limit adjustments, my preferred option is for 1 fish at 28" or greater. However, as I said, I realize there are other considerations than the needs of 1 recreational shore fisherman.

Since many people book charter boats to target larger fish, the option for a second "trophy" fish (greater than a certain size) would be an acceptable option. I object to all options which set the minimum size of the fish greater than or equal to 32", as the larger fish are higher in heavy metals, PCBs and parasites. Further, I object to the slot limits. It's possible that I don't understand the science/statistics of slot limits, but to me, they would result in a decimation of a particular year-class of fish which would turn the fishery into a highly cyclical thing where the breeding stock from the decimated year(s) would produce fewer juvenile fish. In addition, the slot/trophy options are so closely spaced (2-3" between the upper slot and the lower trophy) that I anticipate many people stretching a fish or stretching a tape to keep non-compliant fish with a reasonable expectation of getting away with it. As a final comment, given that most of the

striped bass along the Atlantic coast are coming from the Chesapeake Bay, it seems that a significant size increase and/or a reduced bag limit/quota would make a significant improvement to the entire striped bass fishery along the entire Atlantic coast.

Sincerely,
William F. Gauch

From: [William Marmo](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [TOM FOTE](#); [David Chanda](#); [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:36:00 PM

As a recreational fisherman in New Jersey I would like to voice my opinion on the impending striped bass limit changes. I would like to see the limit changed to option B4, one slot fish between 28"-40". Thank you for your consideration of all of our opinions.

Sincerely,
Billy Marmo

Sent from my iPad

From: [James Mulholland](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:17:34 PM

Dear Mike Waine,

In reference to ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass management options to reduce fishing mortality.

B7 option where all states/jurisdictions implement the same size limits with a 28% reduction from '13 with NO reallocation between states and NO reallocation between recreational and commercial quotas.

Amendment 6 where the sports and commercial minimums are the same in my opinion mandatory.

IMHO maximum bio-mas is best achieved with a larger number of smaller fish as they are more resilient to environmental factors that a smaller number of large fish.

Also missing from the 2015 SB Reg's was any mention of the health of the breeding environment(s). The Chesapeake breeding ground is not what it once was. Recently I have been reading about brown tide/oxygen depletion (nitrogen loading) in the Chesapeake Bay that is killing off fish (aka breeding grounds). States surrounding the Chesapeake responsible for not putting measures to help control the run off need to pay a price. The Reg's didn't detail how the F mortality was calculated. Does it take brown tide breeding habitat losses into account?

PS: for those Chesapeake and other 18" limit fisheries where they can't seem to get the science right and come to an agreed scientific conclusion - those areas need to have the same limits as the general coastal states do. This will do one of two things: compel them to come to an agreement or eliminate the appearance of a scientifically unjustifiable stance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jim Mulholland

From: ethanjaskulski@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:04:02 PM

Mr. Waine,

Please take these stock assessment suggestions seriously. I have been fishing for 4 years now and have noticed a severe decline in the lack of fish I catch from year to year even though I continue to grow and learn as an angler. I participate in a catch and release tournament (www.GoTight.net) which runs the length of the year and records fish lengths from anglers all over the New England coast. I would strongly advise you to look at the standings this year compared to last. (2014 - <http://www.gotight.net/classic-standings.html> / 2013 - <http://www.gotight.net/2013-stats--standings.html>). The fisherman fishing this tournament are some of the best along the coast, and personal opinions and theories aside, **the numbers do not lie.**

Below are the options I support.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thank you,

Ethan Jaskulski

From: [Matt LaPenta](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:58:19 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on draft addendum IV. I am a recreational angler who is concerned that regulators will not act quickly enough to halt the decline in the striped bass stock. The time for action is now, not after the population is in deeper trouble. Please adopt the most stringent option of an immediate 25% reduction in the harvest. Please choose the management option that will have the greatest reduction in harvest. I assume this is B3, but I could support B4 if it is likely to reduce the harvest more. Act now so more drastic measures later are not necessary. The data on the stocks are only available with a lag. You must listen to the many anglers like me who can see that stocks are declining before it shows up in the data.

Best Regards,

Matt LaPenta

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Thomas Krug](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:37:01 PM

I am all for having a slot limit. One fish between 24 to 30. Let the big fish breed.
Sent from my iPad

From: [Mary Jo Blumenfeld](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:20:12 PM

I support an immediate 25% cut in across the board cut in rockfish harvest as outlined by cca of Maryland. The decline in the rockfish population must be halted. both recreational and commercial actors must contribute to this critical effort.

Andrew BLUMENFELD
2051 Hermitage Hills Drive
Gambrills, md 21054
301 395 5261
Blumenfeldfamily@comcast.net

Sent from my iPad

From: [Robert Knowlton](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:19:06 PM

Mr. Waine,

I would like to let you and the Striped Bass Management Board know that I strongly support the most conservative option on the table: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. Along with the 25% reduction in harvest, I support Management Option B3 for recreational fishing.

Over the last 14 years I have kept a logbook of my fishing on the Kennebec River for the Maine DMR. In these 14 years I have seen firsthand the steady and consistent decline of the Striped Bass fishery. It is long past time to take the most effective measures possible to restore this fishery to what it once was.

Thank you,
-Bob

Robert Knowlton PLS

Broken Stone Land Surveyors

113 Oak Street
Oakland, ME 04963
office: (207) 465-9050
mobile: (207) 649-6663

From: [Christian Gomes](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Douglas Grout](#); [SEN. DAVID H.WATTERS](#); [G. RITCHIE WHITE](#); [Dennis Abbott](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:16:43 PM

Hello all,

My name is Christian Gomes and I wanted to voice my opinion on Draft Addendum IV regarding the management of striped bass on our waters.

I am a very passionate sport fisherman of striped bass that we are blessed with each summer. I fish extensively in NH, Massachusetts, and maine. Living in New Hampshire I an fortunate enough to travel a small distance north or south in chase of the bite. Being on the water a good deal of each summer, I know when we are experiencing a good year in comparison to the rest. Starting last year and most notably this year, the fishing has begun to decline. This year was by far the worst year I have experienced in at least the last ten or so years. It's sad to see the fishery in a decline. I fully support the most conservative approach offered with a minimum of option B3: 1 fish over 32"

There is a big difference in a fish at 28" versus 32". The vast majority of the fish I catch are 26-29". The numbers decline steeply when you talk about fish over 32". This means to me that the majority of our fish are not reaching their potential.

The big thing as well is enforcement of these regulations. I have never once been questioned about my license, the fish I have taken, or any other regulations. I know I have seen many people keeping fish that are probably 27" because no one enforces the laws. These people are not friends of mine!

I believe most fisherman are honest and abide by the laws. And I also know a good amount of people who are there for the sport, chasing the fish of a lifetime. Well I don't know how often we will be catching trophy fish if this continues. Please support the most conservative management option available. Thank you.

Christian Gomes
Merrimack, NH 03054

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Shane Manning](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:15:49 PM

I support one fish over 32" and a 25% reduction in the commercial fishing quota. I fish recreationally 4-6 times a week for 20-30 hours each week. I have noticed less and less fish being caught each and every year for a while now and something needs to be done to stop this decline. This has happened to the striped bass fishery during the moratorium and the biomass rebounded then, it might not have the same effect now. We were lucky the populations of striped bass came back there is no reason to take this chance again.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jon Conner](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:01:47 PM

I support these changes, I spend three weeks on the Cape every year fishing for stripers which are a disappearing presence.

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Jon Conner
Spring Brook Farm
2230 Quimby Mtn Rd
Sharon VT 05065
802-763-2929
Mobile 802-698-3116

From: [Jeff Boswell](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:35:53 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my support of striped bass conservation in relation to draft addendum IV, in particular the reduction in harvest by 25% in 2015. I grew up fishing for stripers with my father and hope to be able to enjoy doing so with my daughter one day. For some time now it seems to me that the schools of fish that come into the waters I fish in SE Mass have diminished. I believe it is imperative that action is taken swiftly to assure long term success of the species. I support any of the options that result in the catch limit being reduced to 1 fish, as I feel this is the most crucial component to reduction in the harvest.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Boswell
Plymouth, MA

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ryan Dubay](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:07:38 PM

Hello,

My name is Ryan Dubay I am a long time and passionate angler from westport Massachusetts to make this short and sweet. I fully support, and would like to see the 25% or more reduction regarding the taking of striped bass...

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Ryan Dubay

From: [Frank Macdonald](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:57:06 PM

Dear Mr Waine,

I am writing to voice my support for option B2 for striped bass fishery management.

Thank you.

Regards,
Frank Macdonald
Massachusetts

From: [Njal Larson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:45:50 PM

I support Option B4: 1 slot between 28"-40". I also support sport fish status and an end to all commercial striped bass quota.

Njal Larson
46 woodland rd.
Scituate, ma

From: [Thomas D'Angelo](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:45:11 PM

**Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
Commission 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201**

Mike
Hi

As a Recreational angler I support the immediate 25% reduction with a one fish option with 32" inches as in Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery

And as in Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction I support Option A: That reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Thankyou for doing the right thing to minimize the impact on our Striped Bass population.

Tom

**Thomas A. D'Angelo
ECO Systems Environmental Consulting
17 Indian Terrace
Lafayette, NJ 07848
Phone: 973-875-8585
Fax: 973-875-8080
Web: <http://www.njeco.com>**

From: [Njal Larson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:43:54 PM

Since 2007 I have release 80-120 legal sized striper per season, typically retaining 2-3 per season, this season I caught only 2 legal sized fish in total! The stock is in real trouble. I would like to see an end to commercial striped bass fishing entirely and recreational limits set to 1 fish slot 28 to 40". This will ensure the best and most prolific breed stock will have a chance to repopulate the biomass.

Thank you,

Njal Larson
46 Woodland rd.
Scituate, ma

From: [jvmonahan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:40:16 PM

Dear Mike Waine:

I would urge you to support Options B1 and C4, In addition, I believe the ASMFC should continue its efforts to press the Technical Committee to agree on Chesapeake Bay reference points and initiate another draft addendum as soon as possible.

Regards,
James V. Monahan

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

From: [Ken Mulder](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Sen. Susan Sosnowski](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:33:02 PM

Hi my name is Ken Mulder, I am a former Rhode Island resident who grew up on Aquidneck island and have fished from shore for striped bass my entire life. 8 years ago I moved to Kansas. Every year since that move my family vacation has been back to the island every September to fish for striped bass. I spend thousands of dollars in RI on my 3 week trip every year. I keep in touch with all of my old fishing buddies about what is going on in RI and am very well aware of the pressure the fish stock is under. In my opinion there are three major reasons fish stocks for striped bass and many others are suffering. The largest is commercial fishing, While some in the industry talk a good talk most do not walk the walk. I have seen first hand the common practice on commercial boats of sticking by catch. It is very common for them to use a short broom stick with a nail driven thru it to stick fish and thro them back, most if not all of these fish will not survive. They do this to every species of fish including stripers. This is a huge problem with net and trap boats as there mode of fishing is indiscriminate. This is a HUGE problem. One trap boat in one day will kill more fish in one day than and 50 shore anglers will in a full season and those fish will have no benefit to anything but the crabs. I have seen this first hand on a drag boat and in video from a fried who works on a trap boat as well as numerous videos posted on youtube. Untill something is done about the commercial fleet and how they catch and handle fish they will remain the biggest problem with the fish stock of every species. The next largest problem in my opinion is lack of enforcement of size and catch limits for recreational fishermen. When I lived in RI I had DEM's number programmed into my cell and would make a call at least 1 time a week to report poaching. Time and time again I would be told there was no one in the area to come out. When they did bother to come out they would do nothing about it. Yep dump the dead fish out of you cooler and we won't right you a ticket. DEM leaves and they would be right back at it keeping shorts and way over the daily catch limit. Last would be the recreational anglers who target schoolie bass for fun, this is an educational issue. Yes it is fun to catch 40 fish in 2 hours but it does a lot of damage to the juvenile stock that we need to have a good catch in years to come. As I said I come every year. I bring my freezer every year (you cant find good sea food in Kansas) and fish for Stripers, Black sea bass, Bluefish, Fluke and Tautog to bring home. I spend between 3 and 5 thousand dollars on the island between lodging and fishing supplies. Limiting the number of fish from 2 per day to 1 is a huge deal to someone like me. I believe that cleaning up the commercial fishing practices and having better enforcement will have a far greater impact on fish stocks than cutting the recreational limit from 2 down to 1. I understand the large amount of money in the commercial industry but also believe there is a larger amount of economical benefit to the state from recreational fishermen.

If you have any question's or would like to speak with me I can be reached at

Ken Mulder

531 Washington St

Auburn KS 66402

(785) 817-9899

From: lcisreading@earthlink.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [TOM FOTE](#); [David Chanda](#); [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:28:58 PM

Option b1

Laura Compton
Holgate , long beach township nj

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Everett Bramhall](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:16:49 PM

Hi Paul, I support the 25% reduction in striped bass harvest effective immediately.. Additionally I would be in favor of one fish over 32", however, I believe a better solution would be a slot between 24-28". These fish are way more prevalent and do not produce as much young as a 32" bass. Having fished for over 45 years in the waters surrounding Martha's Vineyard, it goes without saying that we have severely depleted this incredible resource...

I truly appreciate all that you are doing to protect striped bass.

Sincerely, Everett Bramhall

From: [John Landers](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:15:15 PM

I grew up fishing the shores of Long Island and Newport R.I. and have enjoyed years of fishing for striped bass. It is clear that our favorite fish is under significant pressure due to overfishing along the entire Atlantic coast/ Something must be done NOW to protect these fish for the future generations. I personally believe Option B3 is best but anything to reduce the mortality rates and preserve the fish that has made our coasts world famous.

Please protect our fish!

-John Landers
59 Princeton St.
Garden City, NY 11530

From: [Greg McSharry](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:20:53 PM

Dear Sir,

My name is Greg McSharry and I am avid fisherman. I work at a trout hatchery for Masswildlife here in the state of Massachusetts. I also have a part time job at Red Top Sporting Goods in Buzzards Bay. At Red Top most of our customers are striped bass fisherman who target the species in the Cape Cod Canal. It is a tremendous fishery for striped bass which has it's upside and downside. Upside is that the fishery exists and some epic fishing has taken place over the years. The downside of this is that the fish can become an easy target and once word gets out it can get out of hand quickly. Lots of anglers end up taking more than their share and can easily put a hurting on a particular pod of fish. I believe a major change is in order before any more damage is done to this species.

I am in favor of

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and take my recommendations into consideration on this matter.

Greg McSharry

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jim O'Dowd](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:20:12 PM

1@32 to save the fisheries
Jim O'Dowd
Mattapoisett ma

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Harvey Simon](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Bill Cole](#); [REP. CRAIG A.MINER](#); [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:59:48 PM

What's the diff when u have charter Capts down south takin 12 fish at a time. It's not us good Capts or the recreational sharpies. We respect the fishery. You can never stop the whores. It's like welfare!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Paul Santa Barbara](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Bill Cole](#); [REP. CRAIG A.MINER](#); [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:55:39 PM

To whom it may concern,

One fish over 28" will allow recreational and charter boats more than their fair share of fish and will be easiest to enforce.

Sincerely,

Paul Santa Barbara
Recreational fisherman

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Edward Higgins](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:39:43 PM

Mr Waine:

I fish the waters of Rhode Island, NJ, Florida. along with the fresh waters of NJ, NY, PA, & FL.

Over the past few years I have noticed our catch of striped bass declining rapidly.

I would recommend reducing the catch of striped bass by using a slot limit..say of 1 fish between 28 & 32 inches.

I would recommend doing something like that with the commercial fisheries...possibly with the allowable size net they use (?)

If the baitfish could somehow be protected...that would also be a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time

Edward L. Higgins
2 Notch Road
Green Pond, NJ 07435

From: [John Mlodynia](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:36:05 PM

Mike Waine,

I consider myself a hardcore surfcaster who fishes the waters of Long Island, NY. My fishing & research tells me the Striped Bass stock is in trouble and in needs an immediate conservation effort to preserve the most important game fish to many fisherman, the Striped Bass.

I am in support of a "Striper Coast" wide regulation change for recreational fishing to one fish a day at 32". I do not believe special consideration should be extended to party & charter boats as is current in NYS. Due to the well documented wasteful practices and poaching of commercial Striped Bass "fisherman" I support a coast wide end to the commercial take of Striped Bass.

Sincerely,

John Mlodynia
324 Vets. Mem. Hwy.
Commack NY 11725
johnmlodynia@gmail.com

From: [Javier Velez](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:33:59 PM

Option B3. 1 over 32"

--

*Javier Velez
President
J&J Real Estate
86 Shrewsbury St.
Worcester , MA 01604
P. 508-799-3700
F. 508-799-3778*

From: [Schneekloth, Brian](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:30:31 PM

Mike,

As you consider multiple options before you to help manage the striped bass population, I hope that you will support the immediate 25% reduction of the harvest in 2015. As a recreational fisherman that spends thousands of dollars a year in the commonwealth (between fueling my boat as well as my addiction to fishing at various tackle shops), I can tell you that I saw way less stripers this year than years past and can only surmise that the stock is lower than what is being reported. I did see some big numbers of large stripers on the monamoy rips but as soon as the commercial season opened up again, the entire school was harvested within a week or two. Granted, there is a possibility that they just swam away but my instinct (and the couple of hundred boats pulling striper upon striper over their gunwales tell me otherwise).

I believe that the quickest way to reduce the harvest is to cut back the commercial limit and licenses, however, I am completely willing to reduce the recreational limit to 1 striper over 28 inches, I believe this is option B1.

I am the father of two kids 10 and 11 and want to ensure that they have a lifetime of stripers to hunt. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Best,
Brian

Brian P. Schneekloth
Vice President/Manager
Katz Radio Group - Boston
20 Park Plaza, Suite 212
Boston, MA 02116
PH: (617)213-7211 Fax: (917)206-8501 Cell: (917)828-0767
E-mail: Brian.Schneekloth@Katz-Media.com



"America's Largest Radio Streaming Network"

From: [Dr Paul Marshall II](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:25:44 PM

Something must be done to improve the striped bass population. This season (2014) was the worst in nearly 40 years of fishing for me, a recreational angler. Who fishes a lot. I am in favor of a slot program where you have a minimum and a maximum size. With this scenario you spare the breeders, at least the ones that escape the Virginia culling. Just my humble opinion. Thanks.

Dr Paul K Marshall II

Sent from my iPad

From: [Alex Glenn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:22:00 PM

Hello, just a quick email to show I believe the most effective way to reduce the pressure anglers like myself put on striped bass would be to allow first of all, one fish per person no matter what. As someone who keeps maybe 3-5 striped bass a year, one 20 pound fish, maybe somewhere from 35-40 inches depending on the season, can feed my family of four for 3 dinners. I kept a 35 pound 45 inch fish once for a tournament that was about 5-6 dinners. There is no need to allow people to keep a fish that is going to provide 6 meals for recreational anglers. The second point I would like to make is that these big fish are far more likely to be females and produce far more eggs than a fish just five inches shorter than them self. You should only allow people to keep fish in a slot somewhere between 30-40 inches. Honestly the fish taste better when they are shorter. If you could keep shorter than 28 inch fish and fishing pressure wasn't a problem I would only keep 24 inch fish as they are literally like veal is to a full grown cow. There was a week at the cape cod canal this year where probably one hundred people kept two fish over 20 pounds because they can. That is terrible. While most days you're lucky to get one that big, a big week long blitz can put a serious dent in the population. If I could write the rule, it would be one fish from 30-40 inches, similar to how Maine handles it.

Thank you for your time

From: jkamoen@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Bill Cole](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:13:48 PM

Mike,

Option B1 has my vote.

From: [Roy Snide](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Patrick Keliher](#); [REP. WALTER KUMIEGA](#); [Terry Stockwell](#); [Stephen Train](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:09:57 PM

B7

From: jt0791@yahoo.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 9:09:44 PM

Hey Mike

I support the reduction of the striped bass harvest at its strictest level . I am an avid sport fishermen we need to help replenish the declining stock of this magnificent game fish. Im at times disgusted at what I see on the water ...poaching is out of control. I hope that the striped bass be managed as a gamefish some time in the near future it deserves this title and makes a lot of sense economically I know much to the chagrin of commercial fishermen but we need to work together and find a happy medium before its too late

Thanks John

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Steve Fleming](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:09:09 PM

Hello Mr Waine,

I have been fishing striped bass recreationally for decades now and continue to be shocked at the blind eye the commercial interests and management turn to the decline of the stock. We (I should say they, as I release all my bass) need to stop killing breeding females NOW. What we really need is gamefish status, but at a minimum, the recreational catch should be reduced to one fish at 28, and the commercial take should be cut in half.

As those are not current options, I throw my support behind the following recommended options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Let's save the striped bass!

Thank you,

Steve Fleming

Duxbury, MA 02332

Fishing Duxbury Bay, Cape Cod Bay, Buzzards Bay, and the Islands

From: [Jacques](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:02:43 PM

2 fish per person, keep the same look at the by catch on commercial draggers that just slaughters big numbers! Possibly head boat limits to 1 fish per person cause one boat will slaughter 80 bass or so if they get over some good fish!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dan Bryant](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:54:21 PM

Dear Mr. Waine:

I have read the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 for striped bass and options under consideration to reduce fishing mortality. In consideration of the options presented, and that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, I would recommend maintaining the "status quo" with no changes in the current regulations for the coastal recreational fishery. If, however, a reduction in mortality is implemented, I prefer Option B7 with two fish including one slot 28-34 inches and a second fish greater than 36 inches. This would continue to allow a healthy fishery and will not cripple our recreational fishing fleet or the tackle shops, charter captains, and party boats that rely on the striped bass fishery for their livelihood.

-Dan

James D. Bryant

1907 Sherwood Drive

Wall, NJ 07719

(732) 974-0344

From: [James Angley](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:48:18 PM

Dear Mark Waine of the ASMFC and whomever else this may concern,

I am writing here today because I am a concerned angler and conservationist. Although my striped bass angling career is only several years to this point I have read enough and physically have noticed a problem with the striped bass population. Being in obvious decline the striped bass species needs immediate attention. The striped bass is a fish far more valuable as a game fish as compared to table fare. From Virginia to Maine there are tackle shops, tackle companies, guide services and even hotels and other various businesses in fishing friendly communities that rely on the striped bass for income. Many anglers from all over the world flock to areas just for opportunity to catch striped bass and pump thousands of dollars into local communities. I for one would like to see more strict commercial and recreational regulations for striped bass and all other species.

I am not going to state facts because you are obviously at a position where you should know them. I hear the horror stories of the striped bass population crash of the 1980s and I do not want that to happen in my lifetime. I myself am 24 years old and surfcasting is my life passion, I do want to have to tell my future kids or grandkids horror stories of population crash that is well on its way to taking place. The slaughter commercially that goes on in the Chesapeake makes me sick and to see these dozens of party boats come in 75 people on board all with 3 dead stripers on a daily basis is enough to make you want to throw up. The striped bass, especially here in New Jersey, already has to deal with polluted waters, dredging, lack of forage among many problems and over harvesting is in my eyes is the icing on the cake. I believe all states on eastern seaboard should follow in New Jersey's footsteps and outlaw all commercial fishing.

I would love to see a recreational 1 fish slot limit of 26"-32" throughout all states and a 25 or even 50 percent reduction in commercial harvesting but that seems like it will never happen. Although the following proposed options are a good start to aiding the recovery of the striped bass species population.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

I thank you for taking the time out to listen to me, although my voice may not mean much I can only hope that many voices speak up and someone will listen. Any information or other ways to help can be sent to me via this email address or the info listed below.

James Angley
28 Southside Avenue
South River, NJ 08882
(908)421-4875

From: [Carothers, Michael](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:16:22 PM

Please support conservation of Striped bass by voting for immediate 25% reduction in harvest for 2015. Additionally, please support option B3; one fish over 32".

Thank you

Mike Carothers

Harwich Port, MA

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From: [Joseph Popchak](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 4:34:28 PM

I reviewed the options for the daily striper limit change for 2015. I believe option B7 is the best for all interested parties.

Joseph Popchak

From: [Gary and Judith Gonyea](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 4:07:37 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed amendments for the management of striped bass. While the stock may appear to have "recovered" from the low abundances observed in the 1980s, protection of the strong 2011 year class and reduced harvest of older spawning fish are key to the continued successful management of this species. To that end I strongly recommend sharp **immediate** reductions especially in the Chesapeake Bay commercial and recreational fisheries which target juvenile fish and in the New York and Massachusetts commercial fisheries which target large breeding females.

The options presented in Option B of the draft addendum IV appear to most closely meet these goals.

Specifically, I'd recommend adoption of the following Options presented in the Draft Addendum IV:

- 1) **B3 – Bag Limit 1 – Size Limit 32”;**
- 2) **B15 – 25% Reduction from 2012 harvest, 18” minimum size;**
- 3) **B16 – 25% Reduction from Am6 Quota; and B17 - 25% reduction from 2013 Harvest.**

B

I would also urge the Commission to consider instituting an upper size limit (40") on both recreational and commercial harvests to protect older breeding female striped bass.

Thank you for your ongoing management efforts.

Gary Gonyea

From: [Miller, Drew V.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:51:17 PM

Please support conservation of Striped bass by voting for immediate 25% reduction in harvest for 2015. Additionally, please support option B3; one fish over 32”.

Thank you

Drew Miller. M.D.

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From: [Scott Doty](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:50:21 PM

Dear Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator:

While I am unable to attend the upcoming hearing on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6, I would like to write in support of this addendum. As a Maryland resident living on the Chesapeake Bay and an avid recreational fisherman, I recognize the importance of features of this addendum to support healthy Atlantic striped bass populations. Specifically, I feel that the following options represent what will most enhance the long-term quality of striped bass fishing, conserve the population, and are the most practical to implement.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option - Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction - Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery - Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers - Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits - Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

I appreciate your efforts and look forward to measurable progress being made to protect this valuable resource for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Scott Doty
Havre de Grace, MD

From: [DAVID REVILLE](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:47:22 PM

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

Mr. Waine,
I would like to add my voice to those urging the Commission to immediately and dramatically expand protection for striped bass along the Atlantic Coast. As a surf fisherman living and fishing in Rhode Island for nearly 20 years, I have watched the quantity and average size of striped bass ebb and flow, but on a meaningful downward slope over years. Beyond personal observation, I am convinced by the available data that we must take dramatic action now to tighten limits on both recreational and commercial take so that my 12-year-old son, and the rest of his generation, has a chance at the lifetime of fishing I sincerely wish for him.

As such, I urge the commission to adopt the following options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Sincerely yours,

David Reville

136 Barney Street
Rumford, RI 02916
(401) 434-2858

From: [Chris Cryder](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:21:36 PM

September 29, 2014

Dear Mr. Waine:

Save the Sound is located in New Haven, Connecticut, and we work on a number of fisheries issues, both locally and regionally, with many diverse partners. Striped bass, whether caught recreationally, or by charter boats, are big business in Long Island Sound. We believe that the best option in order to ensure a reversal in the current decline in the striped bass population, leading to a long-term, healthy and stable population, is the implementation of **Option #1: reducing fishing mortality to its target in one year with a 25% reduction from 2013 harvest in 2015**. Although more can be done to improve and add specific Chesapeake Bay reference points for female stock mortality, quick science-based action can still be taken to result in the best percentage chance of reaching long-term viability of the striped based population along the eastern coast. This approach, too, will lead to the best chance of achieving long-term economic stability for those businesses dependent on a healthy striped bass population.

Thank you for your work,

Chris Cryder

Chris Cryder
Special Projects Coordinator
Save the Sound,
a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment
142 Temple Street, Suite 305
New Haven, CT 06510
203.787.0646 ext. 127
860.395.7016 cell
203.787.0246 fax
www.savethesound.org

Champions for Long Island Sound

From: [Stephen Spargo](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 5:28:04 PM

Mike , my name is Stephen Spargo, Born and raised in R. I., and I have been an avid salt water fisherman for the past 40 years. I have a viable interest as a recreational fisherman in keeping the striped bass a strong and healthy fishery. I still remember the population crash in the 1980's. Hopefully, lessons learned, we won't let history repeat itself. I would be in total support of an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on this mater. Stephen Spargo

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lester Smith](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:07:31 PM

Hi, I've seen the big breeder bass taken for years and years, those are the females , cripes!! We should consider doing what they do with red fish, red drum, you can catch but not keep one over 34 inches I believe. This has been in effect for years and it works because it saves the breeders, and you can only keep one fish under 34 inches. I have a face book page of Chris's bait and tackle in Va., down by the bay bridge tunnel. An amazing amount of bass of 30,40,50,60 plus pounds were on the scales last year and this is only one tackle shop!!!if we are to preserve the striped bass we have to consider doing what saved the red fish, and save our striped bass. I've been a bass fisherman for over 55 years, all of my big bass always go back; I'm not known as a bassmaster because I have little to show for it but we have to stop taking the big ones for trophies and photo ops, thank you, lester Smith
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nicholas Christy](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [The Saltwater Edge](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:06:26 PM

Dear Mike,

Like every other recreational fisherman I know, I'm very concerned with what I've seen lately (re: the Striped bass population) on my nightly rounds of the fishing spots in South County. Keeper fish are very scarce and the schoolie count seems way off as well. There are places of former abundance where a skunking is the usual result these days and I can't remember seeing so much bait swimming around unmolested. As I approach my 6th decade fishing these waters, I'm once again very worried about the state of my favorite fish, to catch and to eat.

I urge you to support:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thanks for your time and commitment,

N. Pete Christy
Westerly, RI
(917)709-0114

From: [Mitch Buck](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:30:32 PM

Hello Mike,

My name is Mitchell Buck and I am an Ocean Engineer with a fishing addiction! I am writing you to voice my opinion on Draft Addendum IV in regards to the proposed action to be taken on striped bass. I am and have been an advocate for 1 striper at 32 inches. Both scientific and recreational/commercial fishing indicators show that the stock is on a downward trend. Whether this trend is due to anthropogenic (fishing) or natural sources (or a combination) is difficult to assess, but we need take a conservative action to ensure the long term viability of the striped bass stock. We need to be responsible sportsmen and be proactive instead of reactive. The following are my preferred options for the following Sections:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

I hope you will consider my comments,

Sincerely,

Mitchell Buck

From: [Michael Forden Walker](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:01:30 PM

Dear Mr. Waine:

I am writing to support the most conservative options across the board in Draft Addendum IV.

Specifically, I support:

The new, more conservative Fishing Mortality Reference points which are internally consistent with recommendations of the 2013 stock assessment, as well as the ASMFC Technical Committee's recommendations.

- **Reducing Fishing Mortality to the Target within a one year timeframe.**
- **Achieving a 25 percent harvest reduction.**

I also support a **28" - 40" slot limit with a 1 fish / day bag limit coastwide for recreational fishing.**

I support the **most conservative measures that will reduce the commercial harvest** both coastwide and in the Chesapeake / Albemarle sound fisheries.

I support **changing the Chesapeake bay regulations to bring them into line with the rest of the Atlantic coast** (28" minimum especially).

Thank you for your time. In the interests of the health of the fishery, it is essential the ASMFC not bow to commercial interests and **should NOT extend the timeframe to three years for reducing fishing mortality.**

Michael Walker

=====

Michael F. Walker
284 Sidney Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
mfw@pinkmantis.com

From: [Atherton, Jon](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 1:32:43 PM

For the attention of Mr. Mike Waine:

After about eight years of a noticeable decline in striped bass abundance, I wanted to send you formal comment on the draft version of Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV, which seeks to reduce fishing mortality on striped bass. As a long time angler and conservationist here on the Connecticut and Rhode Island coast, I have been alarmed at the decline of striped bass these past few years.

In respect of the options presented in Draft Addendum IV, I write to support adoption as follows. First, in Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, I support Option B, which adopts the best available science, as set out in the 2013 Benchmark Assessment. In Section 2.6, I support Option A, which would prevent the three-year phase-in of the harvest reduction from being adopted. Option B of Section 3.0 affirmatively requires the full reduction to be imposed next year, and I support that, too, and oppose any option to stretch out harvest reductions over three years. More delay is clearly NOT an option. As far as size and bag limits go, I support a mandatory catch and release policy throughout the fishery. In the event that this is not feasible, I support the most precautionary option: Option B3 – a one fish bag limit and a 32” size limit—on the coast, and B15—a hard quota—in the Chesapeake.

Thank you,

Jon Atherton
9 Wheeler Path
Guilford,
Connecticut
06437
Email: jon.atherton@yale.edu
Tel: 203 240 9664

From: [Connor Roelke](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 1:20:58 PM

Section 2.5.1 and Section 2.5.2 – I am in favor Option B. We should be referencing the best available, most recent science (as set out in the 2013 Benchmark Assessment) when determining courses of action.

Section 2.6 – Option A. I have seen a rapid development of this problem and feel it needs to be immediately addressed.

Section 3.0 – Option B. I am strongly opposed to any option that stretches out harvest reductions over three years.

Size and bag limits – I am in favor of Option B3 (a one-fish bag limit and a 32" size limit on the coast) and Option B15 (hard quota) in the Chesapeake.

Thanks,
Connor Roelke

From: [Nick Noyes](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 12:56:58 PM

Regarding concerns and measures for protecting our Striped Bass fisheries management, I am deeply concerned. I fish both the waters of MA and CT, and have noted a significant decline in the past five years (at least) in the striped bass populations where I fish (Martha's Vineyard and Elizabeth Island in MA).

Please support conservation of Striped Bass by voting for immediate 25% reduction in harvest for 2015. Additionally, please support option B3; one fish over 32".

Thank you
Nick Noyes

From: [Guillermo Nunez](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 12:22:21 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I support a 25% reduction in the 2015 striped bass harvest. I also support a one fish over 32" per day limit for recreational anglers.

Thank you,

Bill Nunez

From: [Dean, Rachel](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:21:52 AM

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Draft Addendum IV

Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in

the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels.

If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable.

Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass

increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

Please strongly consider option D8.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

Rachel Dean

382 Dogwood Court

Lusby, Maryland 20657

301.672.3509

From: [Rachel Dean](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:21:16 AM

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Draft Addendum IV

Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels.

If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable.

Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

Please strongly consider option D8.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard

mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

Dale "Simon" Dean
P.O. Box 507
Lusby, Maryland 20657

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From: [Davenport, Samuel](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:19:14 AM

Please support conservation of Striped bass by voting for immediate 25% reduction in harvest for 2015. Additionally, please support option B3; one fish over 32”.

Thank you,

Sam Davenport

Samuel F. Davenport | Member
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
One Financial Center | Boston, MA 02111
Direct: (617) 348-1670 | Fax: (617) 542-2241
E-mail: SFDavenport@mintz.com
Web: www.mintz.com



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From: [paul keith](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 4:16:16 PM

Hi I support the immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. We need to slow down the catching until they can achieve a balance of the fish to replenish itself.

From: [Stephen Sheriff](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:03:21 PM

Dear Mike,

I would like to state my position on the Striped Bass addendum IV. As a charter captain with the Rhode Island Party and Charter Association, I truly believe it is essential to maintain a minimum of a 2 Striped Bass bag limit per person. Our Charter clients who travel from all over the country to enjoy their annual fishing excursion would probably decide not to make the trip if they knew they could only keep 1 fish. With a 2 fish bag limit and the slot options available, clients may only end up catching 1 keeper bass anyway. We, as a fishing charter association already struggle with economic situations and high fuel prices. Striped Bass fishing charters account for approximately 85 % of my fishing charters and I believe the association is probably in that range as well. Option D1 is the option myself and the association are highly in favor of. The other 2 Striped Bass bag limits options available would still be an more economically feasible option for our industry than a 1 fish Limit.

Respectfully,

Captain John Sheriff
Captain Sheriff's Fishing Charters
[Http://www.Fishingchartersri.com](http://www.Fishingchartersri.com)
401-450-2549

Sent from my iPad

From: [Carothers, Matt \(Boston\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:13:23 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Please support conservation of Striped bass by voting for immediate 25% reduction in harvest for 2015. Additionally, please support option B3; one fish over 32”.

Thank you

Matt Carothers
Vice President, Business Development

Right Management
155 Federal St
Boston MA 02110
United States

Phone 6175569103
Mobile 6173726403
matt.carothers@right.com
www.right.com



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From: [Meny Elgadeh](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:50:28 AM

Dear Mr. Waine

I support the following changes:

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Regards,

Meny Elgadeh

1080 east 21 street

Brooklyn, NY 11210

From: [gigi.st.john](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:22:13 AM

Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels. If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of

strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region. Please strongly consider option D8.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

From: [Mitchell Soviecke](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:38:26 AM

Hi, I am writing to support your enactment of a 25% reduction in the harvest of striped bass. I am a life long avid fisherman 70 years of age and have seen both the results of over harvesting and the results of good management. Also I deeply question the need for a commercial season for this great game fish and would support any action to eliminate this practice. I would leave it to the management experts on how to best save this species from yet another decline. Thank you, Mitchell Soviecke Rowe, Mass.

From: [James Beirnes](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:39:16 AM

Dear Sir,

As a recreational angler I feel it is very important that the ASMFC pursue the heaviest reduction to create immediate preservation of the striped bass. The Coastal Conservation Association Delaware Chapter is striving to help increase the fishery in our waters and the entire east coast. We feel it is important to make drastic changes to the striped bass limits now and not over a period of 3 years. I would like you to consider implementing the option B1 ... a bag limit of 1 fish per angler at a 28 inch minimum with a 31% reduction. This immediate reduction I feel is the fastest way to help increase the stocks.

Thank You for your time, Jim Beirnes

PS: Please accept my apologies for the way you were treated at the Dover, Delaware meeting. It was unacceptable and I was embarrassed for Delaware.

From: [Travis Ligon](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 10:36:41 PM

Dear Mr. Waine -

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. I am a 29 year old Maryland resident and recreational fisherman who thoroughly enjoys striped bass fishing. In summation, I would prefer to see the fishery managed in the most conservative way possible, to preserve a healthy population and robust recreational fishery for my lifetime and generations to come. I believe that the social and economic impacts of the recreational fishery are incredibly important and while difficult to measure, play a very large role in the economy and culture of all the Atlantic states from Maine to North Carolina, especially my home state of Maryland. Myself and countless others like me contribute to the economy by buying boats, gas, tackle, spending money on hotels, etc. based on our enjoyment of a good striped bass fishery. I believe that with proper management and an improvement in the striped bass population, that this fishery could draw in more participants and more tourism thus increasing its contribution to the economy. It is with these opinions in mind that I recommend the following options offered within the Draft Addendum:

- Section 2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options: I am in support of Option B, updating and reducing Fishing Mortality (F). I believe that continuing to use the 2011 values, while the evidence has clearly shown us that the Spawning Stock Biomass has decreased since then, would be irresponsible.
- Section 2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options: I am in support of Option B, utilizing the new lower Coastwide reference points.
- Section 2.5.3: Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Reference Point Options: I am in support of Option B
- Section 2.6: Timeline to Reduce F to Target: I am in support of Option A, I believe the reduction in mortality rate when the over fishing triggers are met should be done with an aggressive timeline in order to best protect the Striped Bass population.
- Section 3: Proposed Management Program: I am in support of Option B, a 25% reduction in the mortality rate effective next year. Management Options: Coastal Recreational Fishery: Option B1: A bag limit of one 28 minimum. Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery: I am in support of Option B11. Coastal Commercial Fishery: I support Option B16. Chesapeake Bay Commercial Fishery: I support Option B17.
- Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers: I support Option A, Status Quo
- Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits: Option A

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that the Commission will take the necessary course of action to preserve the largest possible Striped Bass population and a healthy fishery for generations to come.

Regards,
Travis Ligon

From: [Nick Walker](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 3:31:59 PM

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Nick Walker

617-226-8105 Desk

617-510-5974 Cell

Bostonia Global Securities LLC

A Bostonia Group Company

699 Boylston St., Suite 7

Boston, MA 02116

www.bostonia.com

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From: [William Vranos](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 2:57:15 PM

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015

William Vranos MD

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From: [Gerry Pearce Jr](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 1:11:09 PM

I support an immediate 25% (or more!!!) reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Please act now to save this fishery. It is going to crash w/o immediate action.

Gerry Pearce

104 Mile Common Road

Easton CT 06612

--

Gerry Pearce
203-814-0015
gpearcejr@gmail.com

From: [Mark Zaleski](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 12:37:33 PM

Dear Mike,

I am writing you to express my concern about the current state of the striped bass fishery. This fisher is far to valuable to keep allowing the harvest to continue at the current levels. How many times has the US, and the Northeast in particular, seen a fishery crash because of over harvesting? Please help avoid this by supporting the immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

As a sportsman I fully support taking this, needed, step to ensure this incredible resource is around for our grandchildren. Without this immediate reduction I feel we might be one of the last generations to have anything like, the declining, fishery we see today.

Best Regards,

Mark Zaleski

From: [Chris Uранеck](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 3:41:34 PM

Hello Mike, I recently attended the ASMFC public comment session in Maine for striped bass. It was very informative and I am glad I went. The one complaint I have is that the meeting wasn't very well attended and I feel like this event could and should have been better advertised. I found out about the meeting through a posting on an internet website. But if I hadn't checked that site I would never have known about the meeting. I am on a Maine Department of Marine Resources email notification list but I didn't receive anything through that and when I checked the ASMFC website I couldn't find anything where I could sign up to get email notifications from them either.

As far as the management options go I would vote for B1 (1 fish at 28 inches or the equivalency). The fishery has definitely declined in the past few years and I would rather be proactive and act to turn around the decline now. We have seen too many of our other fish stocks disappear due to inaction around here and I would hate to have it happen to striped bass.

Thank you,

Chris Uранеck

South Portland, ME

207-317-0265

From: [Jim M](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:51:32 PM

Hello Mr. Waine. I am an avid fisherman and I have seen a steady decline in the striped bass fishery. I would like to thank you and the ASMFC for listening to the concerns of recreational fisherman.

I have reviewed the options in Draft Addendum IV and I believe option **B1 (1 fish at 28")** is the best option if we are to rebuild the striped bass fishery.

Thank you,

Jim Tyrrell

From: [Robert Blackburn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 11:47:35 AM

I prefer option B, in order to restore the striped bass stock more quickly.

Comment -- I would like to see a restriction, preferably elimination, of the use of planer boards to fish for striped bass. A single boat pulling 15 lines is ridiculous. The fish don't stand a chance.

I look forward to hearing the ASMFC decision.

Thank you,

Robert Blackburn
7311 Hidden Lake Estate Dr
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

From: [Michael Binder](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 11:22:27 AM

To whom it may concern,
I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. I have recently introduced my son to striped bass fishing and I practice and teach very conservative catch and release methods, keeping just a few mortally wounded fish per year. I believe that most anglers are more interested in catching/releasing larger and more abundant bass than keeping and eating fewer/smaller ones.

thank you for your consideration,
Michael Binder

From: [Jeff Deem](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Rob O'Reilly](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 10:18:27 AM

Mike:
Good morning.

Thanks again for the presentation yesterday evening. I thought you did a particularly good job of presenting the material you had to work with and handling the responses from the committee and audience.

After giving it considerable thought last night and this morning, I would like to add a vote for status quo, at least for the next few years. I believe there is evidence that the desired stock size is not sustainable. It may be simply due to the amount of forage currently available or the randomness of weather events that produce favorable recruitment events, but it is clear that simply trying to maintain a large SSB does not insure we can maintain an artificially large population. If you look at Figure 2 from a slightly different perspective, it could present a picture of a futile attempt to maintain an unsustainable stock size. A nice attempt by dedicated striped bass fishermen, but at what cost?

As I mentioned last night, it could represent the typical graph of any rebuilding population, a peaked recovery followed by a settling out at a sustainable level. I believe this is evidenced by the largest recruitment having occurred with a female stock size that was slightly less than one half of what we had at the peak in 2003. Since then, despite that peak and with a substantially larger SSB, recruitment has since been anything but consistent and the stock size is declining. It could be said that this indicates that we are trying to maintain an unsustainable spawning stock in a desperate attempt to have more fish than the environment can handle. As I and others also mentioned last night, the affect on other species may not be of any consequence to striped bass fanatics in the northeast, but is having a negative effect on many fishermen in the mid-Atlantic and other components of the ecosystem.

If we consider the following issues with this addendum:

1. The differences between the Chesapeake Bay population and the coastal population are no longer recognized,
2. There is a need for more work by the technical committee to insure that some states do not actually see an increase in quota while others are severely cut,
3. The failure to consider the retrospective bias (if it was recommended by the experts as claimed by Mr. Place).

With these and other issues mentioned last night, I have to say that this was not ready for public comment. How can the public be expected to support a document with so many discrepancies in the details?

Although I realize and appreciate that this is an important fishery, especially in the northeast, there needs to be considerably more consideration of the negative effects of trying to maintain the target population.

Thanks again for your time,
Jeff Deem
VMRC/FMAC Chair.

From: [markbass0241](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 9:52:17 AM

Please save the stripers.
Worst season ive seen

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G Android Device

From: jamesnewsom@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 9:29:10 AM

Re: Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mike,

Thank you very much for taking comments and managing our beloved striped bass. I would like to put my vote in for the immediate reduction in take of striped bass. However, I would be in favor of more and deeper management efforts.

I am coming at the problem from the point of view of a recreational angler who fishes from shore, from friends' boats, and from charter boats. I target striped bass in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. Most of my catch is released, but I will often keep a fish for dinner. As such, and as logically follows, I would like to see a strong, healthy and vibrant striped bass population for me to fish today, and for my children to fish into the future. I believe that the federal government shares this goal, but must manage this population with varied interests in mind.

The easy part is stating one's goal. The hard part is setting policies in place to achieve the desired results. My view point on the subject is these assumptions: (1) in order to achieve a stable and growing population, fish must be able to reproduce. (2) In order to reproduce, fish must reach sexual maturity. (3) In order to reach sexual maturity, fish must be allowed to grow to that age, and beyond. (4) Furthermore, in order to reproduce, spawning grounds must be available.

Now to the underlying facts that get plugged into the above framework to result in my desired management regime: (a) Female striped bass reach maturity between ages 4 and 8; while males mature between 2 and 4 years old.

(<http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/fish-facts/striped-bass>). (b) According to a commonly available size-age chart, an 8 year old striped bass is at least 31 inches long; and a 10 year fish at least 35 inches long. The copyright of this chart is owned by 1998 - 2013 StriperSurf Enterprises, LLC - See more at: <http://www.stripersurf.com/ageweight.html#sthash.CNiKfv5h.dpuf>.

Unfortunately, I do not have specific and current spawn rates, recruitment rates, or mortality rates. However, looking at recent information on striped bass numbers, the population is declining which means that mortality exceeds recruitment. In order to change the result of this equation, recruitment must increase, and/or, mortality decrease. Personally, I favor an approach that aims at both sides of the equation.

As for the regulations to set to achieve the desired results, I will combine my assumptions and underlying facts together to conclude that any limit to striped bass must be at least 35 inches. Such a size limit allows each and every killed bass the opportunity to spawn at least twice. Of course, many bass will never be caught, and many will be caught and released to spawn another year as clearly evidenced by the

current recruitment rates and current size limits which are as small as 18 inches (a three year old fish). Additionally, some undersized fish will be caught and released, caught with release mortality, and caught and poached. Such undersized fish most likely have not spawned. In order to maximize recruitment, these young fish need to stay in the population. Again, I would recommend a limit of at least 35 inches.

As to the creel limit, that is a tougher question for me to answer without access to better data. However, I would like to think that a logical approach would involve viewing the population as a whole as it migrates north and south. As such, the take limits should be shared equitably across all states sharing the resource and actively managed as such. This migration wide approach is similar to migratory birds and migratory tuna, sharks, and billfish. An overall population quota should be instituted instead of states having the opportunity to individually manage the fish as they swim through their waters.

Another consideration is to enact season limits per person, in addition to daily limits. Season limits would be hard to monitor and enforce, but I do believe that most fisherman care about the resource and are law-abiding so that some benefit would be gained by such a limit. Limits can be reduced due to the availability of farmed striped bass (or striped x white hybrids) as a viable food source. As I mentioned earlier, there will be some catch mortality. This problem could be addressed by requiring non-offset circle hooks when fishing with live or cut bait.

When mentioning the migratory bird act, I am reminded of history of commercial duck (and other wildlife) hunting from the turn of the last century. Commercial hunting nearly extirpated entire species of ducks and mammals (and certainly played a large part in the extinction of the passenger pigeon). The legislative management response was to ban all commercial taking of wildlife. While I am proposing this response to fisheries today, this concept may not seem that ridiculous in the not-too-distant future.

Lastly, I would like to add a comment regarding the need to protect the entire system in which striped bass live. Their food and breeding grounds need protection. The effects of current fishing practices on food sources such as menhaden and eels, and resulting by-catch, should be examined and adjusted accordingly. Additionally, the primary breeding grounds in the Chesapeake Bay need to be protected and restored.

In summary, I would like to see a one fish, 35 inch daily limit, with a season limit of 5 to 10 fish, until fishery-wide quota goals are reached within each region.

Again, thank you very much for taking comments and the hard work you are doing to manage striped bass.

Regards,

James Newsom

jamesnewsom@comcast.net

From: [Shoo-Fly](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 8:46:53 AM

Mr. Wayne:

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Skip

Capt. Skip Persson
Shoo-Fly Charters, LLC
P O Box 1196
Woodbury, CT 06798-1196
shoo-fly@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.connecticutsaltwaterfishing.com>

From: [Tim Shaw](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 8:14:43 AM

I, Tim Shaw, support the most conservative option on the table: **an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.**

Thank you.

Tim Shaw

From: [Scott Smith](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 6:16:03 AM

I'm an SLLL club member and mailman who's fished since childhood and understand the recreational need of Stripers and all other fish. I was more for letting the market and god be the deciding factor in the past as far as fish population in the US, but with the expanding and growing population of people and technology, it looks as though regulations are necessary for the continuing future of fish. I believe preventive medicine is best and it's harder to bring back stocks after a decline than preventing it from happening. The US and world should already know that from past mistakes of overfishing , etc. So I vote for a reduction of harvest of Bass and other valuable species if the only way to prevent such declines.

Scott C. Smith

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tim Falvey](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 11:16:58 PM

I suggest that all trophy Bass tournaments such as the Striper Cup be banned for three years. Tournaments such as these deplete far more of the largest amounts of the most reproducing stock of the fishery the larger fish, male and female, who once gone to get weighed can no longer continue to reproduce the future of our tight lines.

From: shadtracker@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Thomas O'Connell](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 10:27:25 PM

Mike Waine

As an avid striped bass fisherman who has seen a great decline in the species since the late 90s, I would like to recommend the plan that would reduce the fishing effort in the shortest amount of time. Too much of the breeding stock is being harvested recreationally and commercially. I surf fish and boat fish in NC, NJ, DE and MD and the fish are just not there anymore!

My choice would be:

Option B:

Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year.

And for the Coastal and Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery:

Option B6 Coastal and Option B 12 Bay

Best regards,

**Bruce M. Hashinger III
Bear DE**

From: [Bob Nelson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan.Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:51:32 PM

Dear Managers,

As a recreational fisherman, I have watched as striped bass have become less and less abundant in the waters of Massachusetts. I've been fishing out of Scituate, MA for over 10 years, and watched as the fishing has slowly but steadily worsened. While concerned, I readily acknowledged that the bays to my north and south (Boston Harbor and Duxbury Bay) continued to hold better numbers of fish than the open waters near my home port. But within the past 2-3 years, even the bays - whose concentration of bait always seemed to attract greater numbers of fish - have seen dramatic drops in abundance. Sure, they are there on certain days, but appear much more sporadically and in lesser numbers. Even charter captains, who hold a natural advantage of being on the water nearly every day during the season have now openly admitted difficulty finding fish and wondering about the future of their businesses which are reliant on abundance of striped bass.

I recognize that the recreational sector kills a much higher number of fish than the commercial sector, but feel that the management of striped bass to max sustainable yield has been a disastrous approach - bringing us to the brink of yet another collapse in our prized east-coast gamefish. The commercial voice in the management of striped bass is a topic for another day, however.

Today, I write to you to request that you take the most drastic and conservative option available: **Option B3, 1 fish/day @ min. 32"**.

Ultimately, I would be in favor of a full moratorium on striped bass to ensure future abundance, or any other more conservative measure (such as a higher minimum size of 36"). With water quality issues in the Chesapeake, and forage issues further challenging the striped bass, it is a shame that we cannot err on the side of caution with how they are managed, however that brings me back to my earlier point about the species being managed to max sustainable yield, which unfortunately is not the topic of the day.

I am very concerned about the future of the striped bass, what it will mean for our children, and our local maritime economy. Please do the right thing and opt for the **1 fish/day @ 32", Option B3**, as you vote on October 29th at the Striped Bass Management Board meeting in Mystic, CT.

With great concern,

Bob Nelson
56 Station St.
Scituate, MA 02066

From: [Joe M](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 8:13:27 PM

I am a recreational fisherman in Rhode Island. I have been fishing for striped bass for more than 20 years. There are a lot less fish around then there were just a few years ago. Take the most conservative option available. I wish more could be done. Game fish status and only 1 to keep.

Thank you

From: [Tyler McPherson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 4:35:04 PM

Mr. Waine,

I am writing to share my thoughts on Striped Bass conservation.

I support rigorous efforts to conserve and maintain our striped bass population and would like to see an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Thank you for your time.

Tyler McPherson

Tight Line Construction, Inc.
(781) 264-6641
TJM@TightLineCo.com
TightLineCo.com

From: [Lou Caruso](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 3:47:38 PM

Mike,

I attended the Long Island meeting. I have a question. In your graphs you showed where the 2011 year class fish begin to spawn. Was the fact that Delaware, I believe it is, increased their catch allotment this year which would reduce the potential breeders of the future. Their minimum fish length is 18" allowing them to take these fish.

Thank you for your time,
Lou Caruso

Sent from my iPad

From: [Reich, Richard A](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 12:01:35 PM

Mike,

A 25% immediate reduction is not enough. I'm sure you have thousands of e-mails about the amount of boats off Block Island this year. A slot for recreation anglers says 28"-34" one fish per day and a tagging system for commercial. Actually both should have tags. The tags would allow tracing of the sale of illegal fish. Someone told me we only have 5 DEM agents in Rhode Island, is that true? I'd like to see a system that protects the Stripe Bass for many years to come. Look at the Red Fish, that's what we need.

Thank You,

Richard A. Reich
Work (401) 886-8556
Cell (401) 742-2020

From: [O'Leary, Tom](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 8:58:12 AM

Dear Mr. Waine, I have been fishing with my family since I can remember in the Chesapeake bay and currently fish out of Deltaville, Va each week. I realize the state of the fishery in the bay is a complex issue but in my opinion the number of rockfish taken exceeds the necessary amount to allow everybody to share. Rockfish are not the hardest fish to catch so at times when they are breeding or feeding for the winter they large breeding fish get slaughtered. I would think a bag limit of one fish 18" to 28" would be fair. I do not know the limit the netters are allotted but I would think restricting this number at certain times of the year would be best along with the total number or go to a hook and line only for rockfish for commercial fisherman.

Thanks

Tom

Tom O'Leary
Tax Partner, Mid Atlantic Markets



7200 Glen Forest Dr., Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23226
Direct - 804.281.6885
Main - 804.282.2121
Fax - 804.288.5606

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From: [Lee Dunn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 5:19:17 PM

Dear Mr. Waine and members of the ASMFC:

I am once again concerned about the decline of striped bass in our waters. I am at a minimum, 100% behind the Stripers Forever position regarding the current striped bass policy hearings. Reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest numbers of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It is almost inconceivable, especially after the devastating decline in the 1980's, that we have not gotten a serious commitment to conservation. Please do all you can to protect the breeders, eliminate all "trophy" fishing, and adopt maximum size restrictions to protect fish over 32" in length. I am in favor of actually eliminating ALL take of this important, historic animal, both commercially and recreationally.

Lee Dunn
Nantucket, MA

From: [Lee Dunn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 5:19:17 PM

Dear Mr. Waine and members of the ASMFC:

I am once again concerned about the decline of striped bass in our waters. I am at a minimum, 100% behind the Stripers Forever position regarding the current striped bass policy hearings. Reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest numbers of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It is almost inconceivable, especially after the devastating decline in the 1980's, that we have not gotten a serious commitment to conservation. Please do all you can to protect the breeders, eliminate all "trophy" fishing, and adopt maximum size restrictions to protect fish over 32" in length. I am in favor of actually eliminating ALL take of this important, historic animal, both commercially and recreationally.

Lee Dunn
Nantucket, MA

From: [Mike Hobbs](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 3:36:33 PM

Striped Bass populations are once again in serious decline. Chesapeake bay is a nursery for many species on the Atlantic coast. Depleted spawning habitat from agricultural waste and declining forage fish populations are having a major impact on the species. In my view Stripers should be listed as game fish and commercial catch should be eliminated until recruitment improves. Further, commercial catch of menhaden should be reduced accordingly until numbers rebound.

Mike Hobbs
Slam Ops Mgr/Volunteer Wrangler
H: 303.484.8417
C: 559.799.7145
mhobbsco@gmail.com

From: [Gib Randall](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014 4:42:21 PM

Mike,

My name is Gib Randall and I have been reading a lot about the Striped bass regulations and one article said that people are encouraged to email you with our feelings about the regulations. I just want to say that even at the age of 17 I am very sad to see how over fishing of charter boats and the many many people who enjoy fishing are destroying the fishery. It really kills me when I spend my entire summer hunting for the stripers and I only get 5 or six all summer. I do my part and ALWAYS put back the fish I catch and I would love to see the fishing limits changed for 2015 so that the fishery is able to start making a come back. Please think about the fish and make the right choice!

--

"Catch 'em on the fly"

From: [Rodney Lane](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 10:58:16 PM

Hello Mike,

Thank you for coming to Maine earlier in September and taking my comments here. I attended the meeting at the Mt. Ararat Middle School.

I'm a recreational fly fishermen targeting striped bass in the summer. I keep a boat on the Harraseeket River in South Freeport, Maine. I fish 5-6 times a week from May through September, and have been at it since the early 1990's.

My comment on your proposal is voice support the most restrictive conservation measures, option 'B' I believe. From all that I see and have seen, the fishery is in serious trouble. Perhaps your models don't indicate this, but I can tell you the fishery appears to be at a real and unfortunate crossroads.

I would encourage the commission to consider a complete shutdown of the fishery similar to the 1980's. We need this type of action to rejuvenate the fishery to what it once was.

Here in Casco Bay these are the things we use to experience but see no more.

- When the lilacs bloomed [mid May] the upper reaches of the rivers feeding Casco Bay were full of hungry schoolie stripers. We would catch [and release] 25 fish on a tide. All fish were in the 12-16 inch range; fun to catch on a 7 or 8 wt rod. It's been at least 10 years since we've seen this abundance, and more so we no longer see schoolie size fish. Today fish in the low 20 inch range slowly begin to show in early to mid June.
- In the month of June it was common to see large schools of fish, in the teens to mid-20's and up in length early in the morning busting bait on the water's surface with birds working overhead. It's been so long I can't remember the last time I saw this in Casco Bay. In the past 4-5 years we've seen tremendous amounts of bait fish. You would think the stripers would be right behind them.
- I have many spots I like to fish all over Casco Bay. Every year is different but these spots hold fish. In years past a spot might be good for 4-5 fish before I had to move on. Today a spot holds one fish or nothing. The fish just are not there.
- September use to be our best month of fishing. Fish of all sizes would be active at all stages of the tide and all times of the day. Today September is very much the tail of the season. A lot of my buddies have already pulled their boats or have stopped

fishing. The limited numbers of fish that were here are now gone.

One last comment. At the meeting the point was made that the guiding principal of managing the stripe bass fishery is one of *Maximum Sustainable Yield*. In my opinion it is this approach that has put the fishery in the dire straits it's in today. Maximum Sustainable Yield means killing the most fish, or better put, running at a constant wide open throttle. There is little or no margin of error. A better approach would be one that maximizes abundance across all lengths of fish. This seems to be just plain common sense.

We are on the verge [again] of losing this magnificent fishery. It is the time for bold action. Do not accept today as the new normal for the striped bass fishery. All the recreational anglers I know will support a more bold and far reaching approach.

Thank you again for taking my comments.

Respectfully,
Rodney Lane
32A Elm Street
Topsham, ME 04086
(207) 522-7366
lanerodney@comcast.net

From: [hudog25](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:51:08 PM

I'm writing so you understand that I support the reduction and that I'm very interested in protecting this and all stocks of fish.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Hugh Hennessy
Emerson, NJ 07630
I most frequently fish the upper Hudson Bay.
Thank you,
Hugh Hennessy

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

From: [Louis Papp](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 7:28:59 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a recreational fisherman in the state of Delaware, residing in Lewes, DE. I was not able to attend the public hearing held in Dover, DE. since I was away on vacation. However I am now back and would like to offer my comments to you through e-mail.

I am totally in favor of option #1 – reducing fishing mortality to its target in one year with a 25 % reduction from the 2013 harvest numbers starting in 2015. The data on the steady deterioration of the striped bass fishery speaks for itself, along with my own personal experience. I would rather take strong action now, than wait till later where a possible moratorium,like previously, might be our only option.

Sincerely ,

Lou Papp

From: [Mike Wissel](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 5:06:41 PM

Michael – I wanted to send you a note in hopes that my voice is heard. I'm a recreational fisherman here in Maryland.

I've never really become involved in all the politics that involve our DNR, fisheries management, etc., quite frankly I have a job that consumes too much of my time, but I have become increasingly alarmed at the alarming rate of decline in our striped bass population and the actions by our regulators and elected officials.

I truly hope my state of Maryland stops impeding the conservation efforts that are needed to protect our Striped bass and avoid another declining public resource. I urge Maryland, as well as all the states to Vote for your addendum suggesting a full 25% immediate harvest reduction. Maryland is a great state with a Fabulous estuary in our Chesapeake Bay. If all of us can learn to better manage this resource and improve the Stock, our future generations (my children) will have this resource to enjoy as well. I see the decline happening in my daily outings... and not just with Striped Bass. Now is the time for conservation, set the example, and teach generations coming behind us to protect these public resources.

Please urge all the states to put the fish first, political and economic bias aside, and go with an immediate 25% reduction, all at once. Not staggered out over years, make it immediate and all at once.

Thank you, I hope you take public comment from just a recreational guy serious.

Mike Wissel
Westminster, MD
Phone: 410-848-0630

From: [Edgartown Wastewater Department](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 11:10:10 AM

Dear Mike,

I read the Draft Addendum last week. It seems to me that the sheer number of options are designed to diffuse consensus on any clear plan going forward. One fish limit at 32 inches takes us back to the late 80's when we saw the resurgence, is easy to understand, and offers the quickest hope of a turnaround, while being acceptable to a majority of recreational anglers. My personal feeling, shared with the core of hard-fishing anglers, shop owners and employees, and charter guides that I have come to know over my 34 years of participation in the striped bass fishery on Martha's Vineyard is that the most stringent practical reduction of the harvest is required immediately. The fishery is in increasing decline.

The economic benefits of the recreational vs.commercial are beyond dispute, and the effects of the decline are magnified in the Cape and Islands economy. We are a destination fishery in the spring and fall shoulder seasons, where the presence of visiting anglers is a key element in extending the summer season for rentals, charters, restaurants, shops, as well as the regular spending of accompanying families for groceries and entertainment. When the reports are bad, the people do not come, or do not come back. The residents here gear their vehicle, boat and tackle purchases and free time towards this most primary of island pastimes, but lately the beaches, jetties and shops are emptier, and so, as a result, are our lives.

A corresponding, proportionate reduction of the commercial take should accompany the recreational reduction, properly taking into account the actual economic value of the fish removed from the fishery, not just their price at the dock, and should be calibrated to lag, not lead the sustainable harvest going forward. This has always been the heart of the fairness issue in allocating the resource. It is the toughest part of the call you will have to make.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Thompson, Facility Manager, Edgartown WWTF
508-939-0383 cell

From: [Judd Rocciola](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 8:43:51 AM

As an avid sport fisherman I would like to convey my opinion with regard to the proposed addendum. I believe that as a sport fisherman and recognizing that the striper catch is significantly affected by us I recommend your support for the following:

1. The immediate 25 percent reduction,
2. The proposed 32 " minimum size and a one fish limit, and
3. No transfer of the commercial quotas.

Judd Rocciola, PE
Rocciola Engineering
Traffic & Transportation Engineering
Phone & FAX: 973-831-4337
Cell: 973-865-8436

From: [Shaun Foley](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 9:25:16 PM

Dear Mr Waine,

My name is Shaun Foley and I am an avid surf fisherman from New Jersey. I grew up on the New Jersey Coast and have come to love the sea and everything that comes from it. When I was 8 years old I caught my first striped bass with my grandfather and was amazed at the beauty and power the fish possesses. Over the next 15 years I have developed a passion for fishing for striped bass. I release every striped bass that I catch so that one day my children will be able to see the beauty in the striped bass. Even at the young age of 23 I understand that conservation, proper management and catch and release is the only way to protect the fish that I love so much. Every year I spend thousands of hours fishing for striped bass and I have noticed a decline in the number of striped bass that migrate along our shorelines. I was not alive during the 1980s when striped bass were few and far between but I cannot imagine an ocean without them.

History is often repeated and I feel we are a similar path to disaster and collapse of the striped bass population. Whatever the cause, whether overfishing, poor spawning, or pollution the end result is the same...no striped bass for the future. There may be little evidence to support the decline yet but if its like anything else in life things will get bad, very quickly and without warning. I urge you to you please to change the current laws to B3 1@32 and protect this fish so it has a future before its too late! I would love to be able to show my children the power and beauty of this fish that the entire east coast has fallen in love with over its existence. Please protect this fish so it can have a future!

Sincerely,

Shaun Foley

From: tom@fishinjersey.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 1:46:55 PM

FishinJersey Logo



Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator:

As one of the owners of the New Jersey Recreational Fishing web site "FishinJersey.com", I would like to comment on "Draft Addendum IV To Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" proposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Having read the document and the supporting data, I commend the commission for its work and the many options presented for comment.

I would like to state my position on two issues most important to me as a New Jersey recreational angler. The first issue under the Recreational Coastal Management options would be my enthusiastic support of Option B, which represents a 25% reduction from the 2013 total harvest. More specifically, I would like to state my support for Option B2, which could realistically result in a 31% or larger reduction from the 2013 total harvest in one year. I feel this is the best option to ensure the protection of the Atlantic Striped Bass spawning stock.

I fully understand that, as the ASMFC proposal states, despite any reduction in harvest through all of the proposed scenarios, the spawning stock will continue to decline, reaching a low point in 2015-2016 before it begins an upward trajectory. However, it is my hope that the 31%, one year reduction would initiate the most assertive action possible to ensure the emergence of the 2011 year class fish that will be maturing into the spawning stock in 2016-2017. I feel that a one fish, 30" minimum size limit should not negatively impact recreational anglers. However, more importantly, eliminating the "Trophy Fish" program would allow additional protection of our current larger, spawning fish.

The second issue of concern to me as a New Jersey angler is the option presented under the Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options proposal that would allow the transfer of state quotas to other states. I truly feel this would infringe upon the overall effort being made by states and recreational anglers within those states to conserve the striped bass fishery. Specifically, this would undermine the conservation of the species by allowing additional commercial harvesting of Atlantic Striped Bass and a possible escalation of fish mortality in the commercial by-catch of the maturing spawning stock. With the expected decline of the Spawning Stock Biomass through the 2015-2016 season, I feel it would be irresponsible to approve the transfer of quotas among states at this time. I implore the Commission to implement Option A - Status Quo - NO COMMERCIAL QUOTAS TRANSFERS!

I would also like to state my support of the Option B16 under the Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options which would take a 25% reduction from the Amendment 6 quota. I fully understand that this option does not achieve the proposed 25% reduction from the 2013 harvest if all states harvest all of their allowable quota.

I thank you for your time and the consideration of my comments. I feel confident that the Commission will act in the best interest of one of our most treasured natural resources, the Atlantic Striped Bass.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. "Tom" Vassallo
Co-Owner / Creative Director
FishinJersey
<http://www.fishinjersey.com>
tom@fishinjersey.com

From: [Jim Tryforos](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 11:12:44 PM

Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator,
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am providing my comments on Draft Addendum IV to the Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. I am a New Jersey resident and fish for striped bass in both New Jersey and New York.

My preferred options are noted below.

Preferred Management Scenario - Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year.

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery Management

Preferred Option - Option B3 - 1 fish at 32" minimum

Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery

Preferred Option - Option B10 - 1 fish at 18" minimum

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options

Coastal Commercial Fishery

Preferred Option - Option B16: Takes a 25% reduction from the Amendment 6 quota.

Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery

Preferred Option - Option B17: Takes a 25% reduction from 2013 commercial quota.

I note the following from the document's discussion of Management Scenario Option B:

"Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options...It is important to note none of the management options presented in the tables achieve a 25% reduction from 2013 harvest."

Why not? I don't understand why the options were structured this way. There should have been some options included that achieve the 25% reduction from 2013 harvest.

I would support more extreme reductions in harvest than those proposed, including a total moratorium (recreational and commercial), or game fish status for the striped

bass.

Thank you.

Jim Tryforos

--

Jim Tryforos

jimtryforos@gmail.com

[201-447-3865](tel:201-447-3865)

[201-835-3831](tel:201-835-3831) cell

11 Forest Road

Glen Rock, NJ 07452

From: [Taylor Bottar](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 8:29:07 PM

Mr. Waine,

I strongly support the following options within the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan:

- Section 2.5.1 - Option B
- Section 2.5.2 - Option B
- Section 2.5.3 - Option B
- Section 2.6 - Option A
- Section 3.0, Coastal Recreational Fishery - Option B3
- Section 3.0, Chesapeake Recreational Fishery - Option B10
- Section 3.0, Chesapeake Commercial Fishery - Option B17
- Section 3.1 - Option A
- Section 3.2 - Option A

Thank you,

Taylor Bottar

From: [Eric Sailer](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 07, 2014 10:29:59 PM

Please see my new email address: ericsailer@icloud.com

As a dedicated striper fisherman I favor Option B and would add eliminating all Commercial fishing and would like to see all fish over 30 inches released. Not only are they the breeders, they contain more PCBs and mercury and should not be eaten. One 28 inch fish is enough for anybody.

Over 20 years fishing 10 weeks a year around Ocean City, NJ using light tackle and lures only I have seen a steady decline in numbers. From 2001 to 2007 I averaged 40 to 50 keeper size fish a year. Since then my numbers have gone downhill-last year only two over 28 inches. keep up the good work.

Eric Sailer
5724 Central Ave. Ocean City, NJ 08226
609 399 2029

From: [Ronald Onorato](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, September 06, 2014 5:41:14 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am commenting on the proposal to reduce the harvest of striped bass. Whatever option is selected, the commercial sector should NOT be reduced in the same percentage as the recreational sector. After reading the content of the addendum, the commercial sector harvests a much lower percentage of the annual landings than the recreational sector, and have to work with a hard TAC, while the recreational sector does not. Any reductions to the commercial sector must be done proportionately to landings. In addition, I feel that any state that does not use its annual allocation of commercial TAC, should NOT be reduced.

Sincerely,
Ronald Onorato

From: Bumpcity1@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV) by 5:00 PM EST on September 30, 2014
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 4:21:48 PM

Mike Waine after fishing or many yrs. for stripers in the bay. and going threw the last slot size. I think size limit would be the way to go fish are smaller now than ever before. so I know its a hard decision. commercial fishing always makes out. the rec.. angler always suffers. plus al the poachers that never get caught. also head boats that aren't checked. I pay a lot to fish for stripers. since I live in pa. and must charter a boat to go out. I know whatever you decide will help. but don't shorten trophy season its already short enough in Maryland. thanks mike

From: [Richard Nicholson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:54:23 PM

As a 73 yr old member of the 150 strong Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club, I wish to express my serious concern that the striped bass is fast being exterminated from our New England shores. Plenty of blame can be pointed at the depredation of juvenile fish in the Chesapeake and the over harvesting of menhaden and herring, BUT I support an immediate cut of 25% in the commercial take and a 50% cut in the recreational take by limiting the daily catch to 1 fish at some slot size or at 28 or 32". Lets get our heads out of the sand and stand up to protect this valuable fishery.

From: [Stephen Madden](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV.
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:20:25 PM

Please submit my comment to the Draft Addendum IV.

I Stephen E. Madden of 7 Susan Circle Carver, Ma. 02330 a Recreational Angler, support the immediate 25% reduction with a one fish option with 32" preferred.

From: [Brad Osborn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV.
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:30:42 PM

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

Dear Mr. Waine:

As a 25 year recreational striped bass fisherman in the State of Maine I have seen a steady decline of Striped Bass fishing in the area of Casco Bay that I frequent. As a result I support Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction, Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Let's get the job done now and secure the future of the fishery for rec's and commercial fisherman as soon as possible

Brad Osborn
6 Arbor Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105

From: [Dave Vanderbeck](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV.)
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:17:43 PM

Mike Waine

I am writing this email to inform of what options i think should be given. I have been fishing for striped bass since i was a kid with my dad. I look forward to continuing that tradition with my kids but with the current state of the fishery i might not be able to do that which would be a major disappointment as those were some of my fondest memories which i would like to be able to share. By not making any changes and having this fishery disappear or go into a moratorium again would not only hurt recreational fisherman but would also hurt and put out of business alot of local bait and tackle shots that rely on it. Below you will find the options I believe should be choosen

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thanks

Dave Vanderbeck

53 Passaic Ave

Ogdensburg nj 07439

973-600-4886

From: [David Critelli](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV...Slot Fish!
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:57:18 PM

Throw back the babies let them grow up, throw back the breeders and let them spawn and produce more babies! Let us keep some of the rest in the middle.

That's how you build and sustain a strong breeding stock and grow and build a larger stronger population. It is the way it works and is done on the farm, and it is the same way it works in the ocean!

On the farm the breeders produce the young. As those young grow, some go to market, and some go to new breeding stock that continue the growth and health of the herd or the flock.

Get rid of the politics, and start using some common sense, and science!

I fish out of the Shark River Inlet, New Jersey.

Thanks

David Critelli
President CEO
D.F. CRITELLI & COMPANY LLC
908-429-8900 Office
908-510-4445 Cell
DCritelli@Corporate-Real-Estate.com
www.Corporate-Real-Estate.com

You can help protect recreational fishing, please read below:

[View this email in your browser](#)

Hello David Critelli, please take the time to write:



Speak up and be heard!

The recreational voice has been loud and consistent at the public hearings for Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 over the last month or so. Recreational anglers support an immediate 25% reduction with a one fish option with 32" inches preferred. The process concludes with written comments that are due by this coming Tuesday, September 30th. Please

consider writing an email to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reiterate and reinforce the consistent message they have heard thus far.

Every Angler Counts!

Comments should be sent to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; [703.842.0741](tel:703.842.0741) (FAX) or by email at mwaine@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Addendum IV.)

These options represent those that will most enhance the long-term quality of striped bass fishing, conserve the population, and are the most practical to implement. Just write a quick personal intro paragraph, cut and paste the recommended options below, and add your personal information. Name, Town, Zip Code, State and waters fished

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thank you in advance for writing and speaking up before Sept 30,
Tight Lines,
Paul

Capt. Paul Eidman



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www.reeltherapy.com

www.anglersconservationnetwork.org

www.menhadendefenders.org

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Our mailing address is:

Anglers Conservation Network
78 1st Ave #2
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

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From: [Stephen T. Lobosco](mailto:Stephen.T.Lobosco)
To: [Mike Waine](mailto:Mike.Waine)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV.
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:18:21 PM

Hello, I am writing this note on behalf of our beloved fish, The Striped Bass. A fish that has found its place among many anglers, chefs and patrons in the last hundred years or so. Unfortunately just like 70s, 80s and the 90s they need our help again. If we want to be able to keep these fish in our waters something needs to be done to protect them. I grew up fishing for them but I never kept a single fish, I also learnt from my uncle who was fisherman and lure collector that a man by the name of Bob Pond who created lures to catch the fish realized he was one of the reasons for the decline in the 60s so that he himself created a hatchery and a way to preserve the species by way of "Stripers Unlimited" and he helped hugely and revived the species. Sadly he is gone and Ross Squire is our Bob Pond, we need to do everything we can to help this fish. Please allow our voices to be heard so something can be done to help these beautiful linesiders roam our waters.

thank you, below is a list of our hopeful options.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Stephen T. Lobosco, 27

art director/recreational fisherman/vintage lure collector

sag harbor, ny

--

Stephen T. Lobosco
c.631. 875.1956
www.stephentlobosco.com/
[@stephentlobosco](https://www.instagram.com/stephentlobosco)

From: [Dan Carter](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: draft addendum iv
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 7:13:01 PM

please consider the option of a 25 % reduction in striper harvest. after 50 years of fishing i am very concerned with the current situation.

dan carter
170 high st
canton ma.

From: [James Ranieri](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: draft addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 12:33:30 PM

As a recreational fisherman, I strongly urge you to implement the immediate reduction of stripe bass limits. The future of the fishery is at stake, and commercial netters and charter captain appear to be only interested in now. Sad, but true. Thank you, and I hope you reduce the mortality sooner than later. If nothing is done, I believe we'll see another collapse like we had in the late eighties. You are in a position to do something about that as we speak. Don't hedge on your decision. I fish for striped bass often, and each year there is fewer and fewer of them. I've talked with many other fisherman--and women, and all say the same thing. These people are on the water often, as I am, and most of those I've talked with are very knowledgeable when it pertains to striped bass. They believe, as I've stated, that the larger fish, the spawners, are in decline. Help keep this wonderful resource plentiful so that all can enjoy the benefits of having them around for generations. Thank you, Jim Ranieri. Dover DE.

From: [Hardy Wiedemann](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum iv
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 2:41:23 PM

As a surf and kayak angler I support Berkley Striper Club's proposed 1 @ 32" policy. Please consider taking some preventative action to avoid the decimation of this most precious resource. Let's try erring on the side of caution this time instead of taking the fishery to the brink of collapse.

Respectfully,

Hardy Wiedemann

From: [Chris Clifford](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:47:50 PM

Serious restrictions need to be put in place and that creates shared discomfort for recreational and commercial fishermen alike. Enough of our selfish interests and live for the day attitudes.

I support:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Chris Clifford - McLean, VA

Sent from my iPad

From: [Rob C](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:14:21 PM

Mike,

I am an avid striped fisherman from Massachusetts. I Started fishing about 15 years ago i think the limit in Mass at that time was 1 @ 36". Connecticut had a slot if i remember correctly. Those were drastic measures at the time to protect the stripers. I think we are at the point where we need to take drastic actions again to protect the specie. I have been fishing hard since i moved to New England and have seen fewer fish over the past few years. Good slugs of big fish are around at times but the lack of a variety of sizes is troubling to me. This year in Rhode Island where i do a lot of surf casting i have been so disappointed at the lack of fish. Checking my logs over the years i have seen a big drop in numbers. Last week i had perfect conditions at at spot, so much so that i dropped what i was doing to hit the surf, 109 miles door to surf. Tons of bait in the water, perfect tides and wind. Not a striper to be seen in 7 hours of fishing. While i would like to see a 1 @ 36" reduction i do not think that would get enough support. We need to protect the few decent classes we have coming up the pipeline to hopefully re-establish the fishery for the future. That being said i am in support of the following measures to help the striper stocks now and in the future.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Sincerely,

Rob Cerny
124 Leadmine Ln
Fiskdale Ma, 01518

Fishing the waters from Cape Ann Massachusetts to Rhode Island, Connecticut and Montauk NY.

From: [joe bellitti](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: DRAFT ADDENDUM IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:54:40 PM

Hi, I vote for the recreational fisherman to take 1 slot fish16-28 but also for the commercial fisherman to be restricted also by the same scale 1/2 the catch they are allowed now. joe

From: [Tom Gardiner](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV"
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:01:37 PM

I would like to see Option B5 implemented for 2015.

Thank you,
Thomas J Gardiner JR

From: [Kyle Ebbighausen](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV-PLEASE read!
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:55:51 PM

I'm an avid fisherman both freshwater and saltwater. My father has had fishing in my veins since I was a young child. It is my addiction, I enjoy putting my blood, sweat, and tears into the sport of angling, precisely striped bass fishing. Please please please, regulate, and hammer down on the harvesting of this species. They are being decimated before our very eyes. I love the taste of striped bass, but for years I've let all mine go to think that each single fish I catch could make the difference to the population as a whole. Many people blame commercial fishing, others blame the weekend warriors or recreational fisherman, and on Cape Cod blame seals. WE ARE ALL TO BLAME. Help the bass before its too late, and later generations can't experience this great fishery we have.

If you read this thanks for your time. If you'd like to contact me feel free. Thank you.

-Kyle.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Axle John](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 2:16:19 PM

My name John DiBlasi I have been fishing fishing my whole life. I feel the Striped Bass should be a catch and release fishery only. I fish the Ipswich and the Essex bay area, I have seen a big decline the last five or six years and feel this too important a fishery to have it go back to we were back in the 80"S. WE did it before lets do it again

Thanks John DiBlasi

From: csrseacure@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft AddendumIV
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 5:23:29 PM

Dear Mike:

My name is Charles Richmond and I live & fish on Cape Cod & the Islands, for 45+ years: I am President of the Osterville Anglers Club, and have a commercial charter license: I primarily fish from Cuttyhunk to Chatham & over to Nantucket & the Vineyard; 2014 has been my poorest season on record, fishing for striped bass:

Starting in early spring to the current time, I, and most of my fellow anglers, have witnessed a dramatic decrease in legal sized fish (Bass), with the result of weighed in fish for our clubs tournaments, at an all time low, even in comparison to the 1980,s: I am writing to encourage the 25% reduction in striped bass harvest for 2015 being discussed by management officials, as well as a (1) fish per day limit per angler and an increase in size to 32"; Without drastic immediate reductions to the current laws, our most valuable species, striped bass, will become extinct in our lifetime, I believe.

Respectfully,

Capt. Charlie Richmond
Sandwich, MA 02563

From: [david bixby](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft amendment IV
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 9:40:47 AM

I moved to Cape Cod twelve years ago after retirement because of my love of fishing for striped bass. I have invested tens of thousands of dollars into my sport through purchases of boats and tackle. Many of my friends have done likewise. I believe that the pursuit of striped bass contributes significantly to the economy of Cape Cod. My friends and I are very concerned over the current state of the fishery. As the number of large breeding fish continues to decline, with commensurate declines in young fish to replace them, the fishery has seen a remarkable decline in quality. Shore fishermen on Cape Cod are lucky to even see a fish. Without a boat, there is almost no point in coming to Cape Cod to fish anymore. And increasingly, more and more fishermen are deciding it just isn't worth the trip. Why waste the time if there is nothing left to catch. Commercial fishermen and charter boats have very efficiently been destroying the last significant breeder populations of bass. And they routinely ignore the rules to increase their catch. They violate the three mile rule. Commercial fishermen cheat by fishing on closed days. They double up on their daily quotas with multiple trips. This is common knowledge around Chatham where I fish. There is no enforcement and everyone knows it. So they cheat. The fish do not have a chance. The fleet is very efficient. The only way to stop this slaughter of breeding fish is to shut down the commercial take and strictly limit the charter take. Furthermore, there is no reason why the recreational take needs to be two fish. Limit the recreational take and increase the size limit.

Frankly, there needs to be an immediate curtailment of all taking of fish until the population has significantly recovered. In the absence of that, at least please give serious consideration to the recommendations of organizations like Stripers Forever as per the following:

Reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

Let's save this fishery and the economic interests built around it for future generations. Stop the slaughter. Give the fish a chance. Let's not repeat the mistakes of the past.

David Bixby
Chatham, MA

From: [Matt Christensen](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft amendment IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:24:50 PM

Hi,

My name is Matt Christensen, and I am an avid striped bass fisherman. My life revolves around fishing, and if something isn't done to protect striped bass immediately, the stocks will crash. Over the years, fishing for stripers has become harder and harder. Action must be taken now!

These are the points that I am I favor of:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thanks,

Matt Christensen

82 Home Pl

Lodi, NJ 07644

201-248-8088

Sent from my iPad

From: [Sheehan, Tim](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Ammendment IV
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 8:37:32 PM

Hi Mike,

I writing to support an immediate 25 percent REDUCTION in Striped Bass harvest in 2015.

I've been fishing the North Shore, South Shore Cape and Islands for over 50 years.

I've fished with and been taught by some of the finest bass fisherman of my time. I've had the great fortune to have fished with the greats like Striper Joe Eldredge, Jimmy Nunes, the Tilton brothers, Frank Sabotowski, Les Shwom, Pete Kaiser, and many more.

In addition I fish extensively off my own boat primarily on the lower cape, islands, P-town, & Elizabeth's.

While my assessment is more empirical than strict science, I've had a strong sense of foreboding over the last five or so years. It's definitely time to act to preserve the fabulous resource we have.

Our striped bass population is under significant stress and we must reduce the harvest.

In the past few years fishing has ranged from erratic to modest, and on few special days very consistent. My logs indicate that catch per hour of effort continues to decline. Not a good sign.

I'm dialed in to where the fish are, when they're feeding and what there eating, etc. I'm a pretty decent fisherman, and I release most of fish I catch, so I'm quite confident based on lots of empirical inputs that more has to be done for the long term vitality of the fishery.

Please give the biomass a chance replenish itself now before we suffer another crash like we did in the 80's.

If I'm wrong there will be many more fish and we can raise the quota a few years from now.

Thanks for your serious consideration of someone's observations of the species for over a half a century.

Sincerely,

Tim Sheehan

Any questions please feel free to call. My cell is
978-828-7068

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Neal Larsson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Ammendment IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 9:35:32 AM

Mike,

I writing to support an immediate 25 percent reduction in Striped Bass harvest in 2015 with a one fish minimum at 32”.

Attending a couple of the meetings I think the clear consensus among recreational striped bass fishermen and charter captains in the region support the 25% reduction. Not one commercial striped bass fishermen opposed the reduction at the hearing at Mass Maritime.

Only a handful of short sighted charter captains argued for the 3 year option and or a 2 fish option. I believe the minority of captains don't understand that anglers don't look at striped bass as a meat fish like cod, haddock, black sea bass, or porgy. It was clear from the meeting that I attended at Mass Maritime that the majority of charter captains understood and voiced that their business was thriving much better with a 1 fish minimum at 28” than it is today with 2 fish. The consensus I heard from the charter captains was that more people will come out and fish if the fishing is better and they are willing to be part of that solution now rather than risk a wait and see attitude.

This fishery is much more valuable as recreational fishery than it is commercially. I ask that the ASMFC looks at Striped Bass a little differently than they would a more commercially viable table fish like cod or haddock.

Sincerely,

Neal Larsson
General Manager
On The Water Media Group
800/614-3000 /262
508/685-4706 /Cell
Neal@onthewater.com
www.OnTheWater.com



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Jerimy Greenberg](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:09:21 PM

M, Waine

I am a law enforcement officer in nys, I also fish for them recreationally. Every year I see less and less striped bass, since 2000.

I just want to make you aware of the amount of fish poached, in the Jamaica Bay Area and Long Island is out of control.

I don't think you can stop this.

I think a recreational limit of one fish at 36" and shortened season. Would help somewhat.

But I ultimately think it's unsustainable between poaching, commercial and recreational.

I was fortunate enough to be able to catch striped bass as a kid, unfortunately due to greed, I don't think my kids will ever enjoy, the same...

Thank you

Jerimy Greenberg
718-644-6946

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Marc Basile](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Email correction please ignore last sent
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 5:09:48 PM

Dear Mr Waine,

I am a Surf fisherman that lives in New Jersey but also fishes in many other states up and down the East Coast. My passion is fishing for Striped Bass in the surf , rivers and bays. I am 56 years old and have been pursuing my passion since I was a child with my Dad and Grandfather. I learned at an early age how precious and a beautiful these fish are.

My father caught a trophy size bass on vacation in Nantucket many years ago. He decided he would have this fish mounted so he took it to the taxidermist . Several months went by and the mount arrived to our home . It was beautifully done but my father didn't seem pleased ? He said he would never kill a Striper again to see it hanging on a wall ! That bass still hangs on a wall but only as a reminder to us that they look better swimming free! Till this day my father and I release all of our fish unless they are injured.

In the last 5 years I have noticed the Striper population declining up and down the coast. I'm not a scientist but I can see from my everyday experience that we have a problem with the Striper population .I'm not sure if these fish are getting overfished or pollution is to blame ? Does it really matter? All indications are we have to protect these fish and get them back on track no matter who or what's to blame for their decline!

I urge you please to change the current laws to 1@ 32 option and protect this fish so it has a future!

Sincerely
John Mark Basile

"married to the Sea"

From: [Anna Sinisi](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FAVOR OPTION B7
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:04:09 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

This is my VOTE FOR FAVOR OR OPTION B7

Ann Sinisi

Regional Credit Analyst-East Region
555 U.S. Highway 1 South, Suite 410
Iselin, NJ 08830
O: (732) 510-2006
F: (732) 634-6173
Email: anna.sinisi@bluelinerental.com



From: captainrononly@verizon.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fishermen/Capt. Ron
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 5:16:55 PM

Mike,

Just got back from a meeting among the last of us who are trying to survive the "Fishing Business". I gotta say (once again) we are pushed to the limit and have to make a choice, a choice that doesn't matter because, Not one of the proposals on Striped Bass will keep us in business.....I have played by the rules for 37 years, when we had a limit of 1 Striped Bass at 28' and a second fish at 32' several years ago, (plus a slot bonus fish), I was educating my customers on how we could throw those breeders back, take a picture and catch the smaller bonus fish. A whole season of doing this and the customers agreed, we thought we were saving the future.

Now, I am going to be forced (if lucky enough) to kill 36 inch Breeding Class fish if the one choice I have to survive is implemented.!

The Larger Breeding fish go through hell in the process of being caught yet, we do everything in our power to revive those fish and set them free, only when they can swim away. Why not take Breeding fish out of the equation? Doesn't make sense does it?

As a business man, the Magnuson states that economic hardship can not be taken into consideration when making these rules.....guess that really works in the favor of the powers that be now, right?

My vote is status quo on two fish at 28 inches. I'm sure, I'll have to pay for the consequences down the road.

If I am forced to make a choice to hopefully survive, than I'll take B7, reluctantly and with much duress.

Sincerely, and totally pissed off!
Capt. Ron

From: [Wes Wyatt](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fishery Management Plan
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 7:59:14 AM

Hi Mike i was unable to attend the Rhode Island Management plan on 9/17/2014
I would like to post my option to the Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
(Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Option B is the one fish reduction, B3 is 1 @ 32". Please also mention NO INTERSTATE
QUOTA TRANSFER. Meaning unused or unfilled commercial striped bass quota from one
state may transfer to another state.

Thank you.
Wes Wyatt.



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Dave Goyette](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fishing Addendum
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:16:25 AM

I do agree with cutting back the fishing quotas for commercial fisherman by 25% and 1 fish per day for recreational. Fines for going over the quotas should be strictly enforced. On Cape Cod, the commercial fisherman can fish on Mondays and Thursdays only. I just heard stories of commercial guys catching fish recreationally on the off days and putting them on ice with the guts and all for at least three days and selling to the trucks as fresh fish. I am appalled to think people are going out to restaurants and fish markets thinking they are buying fresh fish - people are going to become seriously ill because of the money hungry commercial fishermen. I would have blown the whistle if I had heard about this during the Striper season.

Sent from

From: [Robert Pistorini](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Found this interesting.
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 12:44:49 PM

Hi Mike.
Things that make you go hmhhh...

I found this on the Florida fish and wildlife website regarding releasing fish. I assume bass suction feed similar to snook. I know everyone I fish with was unaware of this type of potential lethal injury. If it's relevant in the future conservation efforts of striped bass, we should all be informed of this. Why have good intentions of putting back a big breeder if it's doomed to die.

Thanks Mike.
Bob.

Refrain from holding fish in a vertical position when inspecting or photographing them. Internal organs are displaced and stress is increased in this unnatural position. Large fish should never be held by the bottom jaw only, with a boca grip or otherwise (any tool designed to grip the lower jaw of caught fish to facilitate handling). Hold the fish horizontally by the lower jaw with one hand, and support the belly with the other hand. If unsupported, many large fish, especially snook, will rupture the isthmus—a cartilaginous bundle of ligaments that connects the head and body—and the fish will die a slow death from starvation. This connection is necessary for the tremendous gulping action during feeding.

From: [Comments](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Addendum V
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 2:34:16 PM

From: MALCOLM WHITE [mailto:mripleywj@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 07, 2014 9:55 AM
To: Comments
Cc: Mike Waine
Subject: Addendum V

Please note my support for the following proposed management changes: B-5, B-16, C-1, C-9, D-1 and D-6. I spend many hours each year inshore fishing and appreciate the opportunity to comment. Being very much in touch with average catch size is why I have chosen these changes. FYI, striper fishing has been great this year with many 34"-45" fish just showing up in the last three weeks.

White

St.

Wareham, MA 02576

Thanks,

Malcolm

887 Main

W.

From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fw: D1- striped bass addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 9:27:31 AM

Carol Hoffman

Biologist 2 (Marine)

NYS DEC

205 N Belle Mead Rd

East Setauket, NY 11733

631-444-0476

From: Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 9:14 AM
To: mwaine@asmfc.org
Subject: Fw: D1

FYI

Carol Hoffman

Biologist 2 (Marine)

NYS DEC

205 N Belle Mead Rd

East Setauket, NY 11733

631-444-0476

From: Stern, Marian (DEC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Gilmore, James J (DEC); Heins, Steve W (DEC); Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Fw: D1

Marian H Stern
Marine Permit Administrator
NYSDEC Marine Resources

From: Mark Assogna <massogna@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 9:38 PM
To: dec.sm.FW.Marine
Subject: D1

I support D1 to feed my family.
I have a 3 yr old , and a 6 yr old.
I'm a full time charter captain, please don't take my life away from me!!

From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fw: D1
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 9:18:01 AM

FYI

Carol Hoffman

Biologist 2 (Marine)

NYS DEC

205 N Belle Mead Rd

East Setauket, NY 11733

631-444-0476

From: Stern, Marian (DEC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Gilmore, James J (DEC); Heins, Steve W (DEC); Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Fw: D1

Marian H Stern
Marine Permit Administrator
NYSDEC Marine Resources

From: Mark Assogna <massogna@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 9:38 PM
To: dec.sm.FW.Marine
Subject: D1

I support D1 to feed my family.
I have a 3 yr old , and a 6 yr old.
I'm a full time charter captain, please don't take my life away from me!!

Masterpiece Fishing Charters
Montauk NY
631-668-3881

From: [Dominic Decaro](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Draft Addendum IV B7 Status Quo
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:44:16 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

B7
Status Quo

Dominic DeCaro
Account Manager
Hitachi Data Systems

m: 732-809-7300
dominic.decaro@hds.com



From: Dominic Decaro
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2014 3:11 PM
To: 'm.waine@asmfc.org'
Cc: Mark DeCaro (naclwater@aim.com)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV B7 Status Quo

B7
Status Quo

Dominic DeCaro
Account Manager
Hitachi Data Systems

m: 732-809-7300
dominic.decaro@hds.com



From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Draft Addendum IV (striped bass)
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 9:57:59 AM

FYI -
and some more comments to follow.

Carol Hoffman

Biologist 2 (Marine)

NYS DEC

205 N Belle Mead Rd

East Setauket, NY 11733

631-444-0476

From: Stern, Marian (DEC)
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Fw: Draft Addendum IV

Marian H Stern
Marine Permit Administrator
NYSDEC Marine Resources

From: CaptainRev1114@aol.com <CaptainRev1114@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 4:44 PM
To: dec.sm.FW.Marine
Subject: Draft Addendum IV

Mr. Jim Gilmore,
Regarding Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV, I support option D1

From: [info](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Draft Addendum IV for Amendment 6 Striped Bass
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:52:25 AM

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

From: gadesiato@netcarrier.com [<mailto:gadesiato@netcarrier.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2014 7:58 PM
To: info
Subject: Draft Addendum IV for Amendment 6 Striped Bass

Sir,

I am writing to say that I favor "Option B7" in the Draft Addendum IV related to striped bass catch limits. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

George A. De Siato

From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fw: option B plan for bass - draft addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 10:00:09 AM

FYI

Carol Hoffman

Biologist 2 (Marine)

NYS DEC

205 N Belle Mead Rd

East Setauket, NY 11733

631-444-0476

From: Stern, Marian (DEC)
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 7:50 AM
To: Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Fw: option B plan for bass

Marian H Stern
Marine Permit Administrator
NYSDEC Marine Resources

From: Art Cortes <captainart@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 7:40 PM
To: dec.sm.FW.Marine
Cc: bluefiniv@optonline.net
Subject: option B plan for bass

Mr Jim Gilmore

As per the bass mortality and different plans discussed.

Please be aware that one bass at 32" would cripple the the marine industry,not just the charter boats.

It would affect all the people that come out to the east end of long island to fish and stay at motels,go out to diner and enjoy the east end of long island.

Please understand that the choice you make will affect the entire long island economy. Every aspect of recreation on the east end will be affected and in turn all the businesses.

Understand that i take out 5 to 6 passengers over 100 trips during the year. Thats 5 to 6 hundred people not just on my boat,but going to restaurants,staying in hotels and spending money. Then consider 50 to 100 boats a day that go out and i'm sure you understand what will result.

The surfcaster stays in his camper and sleeps in his camper and does not make the same impact on our economy.

At a time when our economy is recovering this would be a terrible blow to every aspect of our industry.

i ask as a member of the charter industry, that you adopt Option B plan that allows two bass per person starting at 31 inches.

No one is coming or chartering for bass when it's one fish per person.

Before you put your name to this please,think about the impact that this will have on the many working people on long island.

Charter boat Halfback
Captain Art Cortes
fishing and living in montauk 25 years
MBCA member

respectfully submitted
Captain Art Cortes

From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fw: Striped Bass - draft addendum Iv
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 11:55:40 AM

FYI

Carol Hoffman
Biologist 2 (Marine)
NYS DEC
205 N Belle Mead Rd
East Setauket, NY 11733
631-444-0476

From: roger martin <romartin@optonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 11:10 AM
To: Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Striped Bass

I am 76 years old and have been fishing for striped bass since I was 12 years of age. It is clear to me that the bass are in trouble. I lived through the moritorium in the last century. Steps were taken then and the fish rebounded. It is time for you to act.

I support a 25% reduction in mortality over one year. I support the keeping of one fish at 34 inches. I am opposed to allowing patrons on charter and party boats to keep two fish. I support a shortened season.

Roger Martin
238 Lena Avenue
Freeport NY 11520

From: [Roland Miller](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: FW: Striped Bass Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 8:24:18 AM

Dear Mr. Waine: I sent this to the wrong email address the first time.
Please see below.
Roland Miller

----- Forwarded Message
From: Roland Miller <rolandmmiller@comcast.net>
Date: Tue, 16 Sep 2014 18:04:20 -0400
To: <mwaine@asmfc.com>
Conversation: Striped Bass Addendum IV
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum IV

Mike Waine
Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
mwaine@asmfc.com

Subject-Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mr Waine:

I can speak to the striper fishing issue based on experience in both Southern Maine and Martha's Vineyard. Fishing in the Kennebec/Sheepscot River areas since the 1980's, I used to catch a decent number of fish (released them all except one or two) until 2007 or 2008. I went from catching perhaps 50-60 fish a season prior to 2007 during July and August to catching almost nothing. Two years ago, I caught 2, last year zero. My usual haunts produced nothing. This year, I did not wet a line in salt water.

On the Vineyard (fishing May/June and September/October), I have noticed a similar drop-off in my catch although not as severe as my Maine experience.

Something has to be done to save the striper fishery and I think reductions in bass quotas has to happen.

It has taken too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially large breeders. I support a 25% reduction in one year, a reduction in the daily bag limit from two to one fish, and an increase in the size limit to 32" in length. I further support a coast wide reduction of 25% in the commercial harvest of striped bass.

Respectfully,

Roland Miller
PO Box 1275
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
(508-693-7565)

----- End of Forwarded Message

From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fw: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 10:02:45 AM

FYI

Carol Hoffman
Biologist 2 (Marine)
NYS DEC
205 N Belle Mead Rd
East Setauket, NY 11733
631-444-0476

From: Stern, Marian (DEC)
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Fw: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV

Marian H Stern
Marine Permit Administrator
NYSDEC Marine Resources

From: daniel giunta <doubledmtk@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 5:27 PM
To: dec.sm.FW.Marine
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV

This letter is in support of option D1 for the Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV.

Capt. Daniel Giunta
Double D Charters
631-678-3960
www.doubledmontaukfishing.com

From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fw: Striped bass regs - draft ddendum iv
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 1:21:11 PM

FYI

Carol Hoffman

Biologist 2 (Marine)

NYS DEC

205 N Belle Mead Rd

East Setauket, NY 11733

631-444-0476

From: Russel Kittel <rhkgmk@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 12:29 PM
To: Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Striped bass regs

Hi Ms Hoffman

I love striped bass fishing and support conservation efforts by the sport fishing community. However, I do not see the need to kill the larger fish, fish over 35 or 40 pounds. They are the least desirable as table food and certainly should be capable of helping with rebuilding the resource.

Russel Kittel

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ken Markin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: ASMFC Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 11:08:57 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Ken Markin" <cyberpix2@gmail.com>
Date: Sep 19, 2014 10:46 AM
Subject: ASMFC Addendum IV
To: <philmjboyle@gmail.com>
Cc: <ech12@cornell.edu>

I am writing to add my voice to the count in regards to stopping what I feel to be a precipitous drop in the stock of Striped Bass on the east coast. I have been a recreational fisherman for over 10 years now, and would like to do so for many more. I don't feel this will be possible if things are left at status quo. Therefore, I favor the following option for changes in the above limits:

- 1) Sec. 2.6 (timeline): a 25%, 1 year harvest reduction.
- 2) Sec. 3.0 (management scenarios for coastal recreational fisheries): Option B3-1 fish@32" (I would even go to 34").

Ken Markin
80 Washington Ave.
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772
cyberpix2@gmail.com
[631-790-2008](tel:631-790-2008)

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:24:03 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Melnick <marnick@optonline.net>
Subject: Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan
Date: September 24, 2014 at 1:30:37 PM EDT
To: <ech12@cornell.edu>

To:
Emerson Hasbrouck
Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Commission Members:

I as a member of the North Fork Anglers Fishing Club acknowledge the time, effort and difficulty involved in the proposals presented.

The proposed options and alternatives you have presented are extensive and complicated. I do not think the body of assumptions is sufficient to effectively address the current situation. I believe until an entire ecosystem approach to fisheries management which also includes consideration of the food chain and prime feed stocks for game fish makes decisions to enhance the rebuilding and rebound of species such as striped bass extremely difficult.

Your document indicates use of many assumptions due to lack of real data to analyze. This lack of real data is troublesome and questions of the proposed recommendations and will make it difficult to realize replenishment of an adequate breeding stock and overall long term stability of the species.

The wanton taking of menhaden (and well documented severe reduction in menhaden biomass) is forcing the striped bass to feed on less nutritious sources and this coupled with disease mortality in striped bass i.e. mycobacteriosis must be considered.

While the proposed options are interesting they lack validity and demonstrate no clear goals or SMART objectives.

“SMART” objectives are: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time oriented. The following are examples:

Specific: Improve the food chain by 5% per year.

Measurable: Rebuild striped bass species by 10% per year

Attainable: Verify by improving approach to fisheries management by new better management.

Realistic: Establish new regulations by 2016

Time: Identify all new regulations by second quarter of 2015.

I hope the above comments would provoke a more healthy discussion among the commission members and results in more effective processes to address the current conditions.

If necessary I endorse a complete possession moratorium as was done in the past to ensure the preservation of this precious resource.

My choices for recommended options for the Commission to implement are as follows:

Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-benchmark assessment

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment reference point

Section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference Points

Option B: To be managed by State of North Carolina

Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction (mortality)

Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year

Section 3.0: Proposed Management Scenario Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery: Select B2 (one fish @ 30") or B3 (one fish @ 32")

Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Select B10

Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Select B17

Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one area to another should quotas not be reached among fishers in a given region.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Status quo with Amendment 6

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Melnick
4 Bluff Circle
Hauppauge, NY 11788

From: [Michelle Scarpone](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 4:13:06 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mail Delivery Subsystem** <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
Date: Wed, Sep 17, 2014 at 3:59 PM
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
To: scarponem@gmail.com

Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently:

mwaine@asmfc.com

Technical details of permanent failure:

Google tried to deliver your message, but it was rejected by the server for the recipient domain [asmfc.com](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.com) by mx3.ovh.net. [213.186.33.73].

The error that the other server returned was:
550 sorry, no mailbox here by that name (#5.1.1)

----- Original message -----

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed;
d=[gmail.com](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.com); s=20120113;
h=mime-version:date:message-id:subject:from:to:content-type;
bh=5ygpCUNXW9exFI5pG0Xzm86UGESd0B1xyi6rVPz4KGS=;

b=RPDYXbCMzpViqLN6alRqgqoYaLog6O79qQ42rENXnsWbpxbEq/2a2PeVsuck9Bspqi

uQSLdKjS3RBKS9vZxdGBye3EFJMRWpp1YoRbdtf5K9BXiqEmccykaRuZXhFrIQKYwhdM
uOojYzcSnJkTOL97V/8bObCIq0AUUKheE3fEhnsagIq+j3+hgx/b+uw7RueJTaLq15i0

5dX/b4GQ5UQJ6l7djUUmWZgb6wgGcmC7QmZk3rC4N7URJcooPkVUNZUrZtw4K/gCT7x

GHJ9nGVCaRqdvnsroOfM5wuM+mJ4/IOJWcwQ+DW9oaGDhINwFDthHeR/5Rsu3k4WZHkI

NdGw==

MIME-Version: 1.0

X-Received: by 10.50.82.37 with SMTP id f5mr35188051igy.16.1410983950326; Wed,
17 Sep 2014 12:59:10 -0700 (PDT)

Received: by 10.64.163.70 with HTTP; Wed, 17 Sep 2014 12:59:10 -0700 (PDT)

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 2014 15:59:10 -0400

Message-ID:

<CANBWPbyH1RfnMif4eOVuCqfWEhKNAPMWXQjXWR5XDM09bCdNXA@mail.gmail.com>

Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum

From: Michelle Scarpone <scarponem@gmail.com>

To: mwaine@asmfc.com

Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary=089e0102f6ee24a2d90503484dc5

Mike Waine
Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator
1050N. Highland Street, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species ... especially large breeders. I support a 25% reduction in one year, a reduction in the daily bag limit from two to one fish, and an increase in the size limit to 32" in length. I further support a coast wide reduction of 25% in the commercial harvest of strPiped bass.

Respectfully,

Donald Scarpone
President, Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

From: [Leif Gobel](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV - Newsday Editorial Supports Immediate Conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 4:25:47 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Image.tif](#)

Mike,
I mistyped your address on my original mailing.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Leif Gobel" <loreleifg@yahoo.com>
Date: Sep 22, 2014 10:44 PM
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Newsday Editorial Supports Immediate Conservation
To: "pboyle@nysenate.gov" <pboyle@nysenate.gov>, "mwaine@asfmc.org" <mwaine@asfmc.org>
Cc:

Congressman Boyle, Mike Waine,

In case you missed it, Newsday ran in their Editorial section in this past Sunday's paper (9/21/14) supporting Striped Bass conservation. I also support an immediate 25% reduction in Striped Bass harvest for 2015 and encourage you to vote for that option. I've been surfcasting for these fish since I was 8 years old and that's 50 years this year. I was witness to the stocks crashing in the 1980's and was amazed at their comeback after the moratorium years that did not permit anyone to keep bass. My hope is the fish will come back like it did last time when serious protections were put in place. I was at the meeting in Stony Brook on 9/16 and you heard the same message as I did. That was for immediate reduction in one year and NOT spread out over three years. I hope you heard the same thing as me. Thank you.

Leif Gobel
25 Seal Rd.
Islip Terrace, NY 11752-1704
Home: [631-277-3488](tel:631-277-3488)
Cell: [631-252-1134](tel:631-252-1134)

Act to preserve striped bass

Several hundred recreational fishermen and women from Long Island attended a hearing last week to support a proposal to reduce the number of striped bass they are allowed to catch. Their embrace of a plan that runs counter to their short-term self-interest is telling.

Stripers are in decline in local waters. The proposed regulations would protect fish capable of breeding. Anglers would be allowed to take one fish per day instead of two, with a 32-inch minimum instead of the current 28 inches. Commercial fishers, who would see their take cut by a quarter, say the changes disproportionately hurt them. They have a right to make a living, but without some reset on the regulations, the local striped stock will be depleted and then everyone loses. Recreational anglers understand this. Now the commercial crews need to get on board. **N**

**QUICK
HIT**

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [James Gilmore](#); [Phil Boyle](#); [Mike Waine](#); [Katherine Heinlein](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 5:56:05 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: KEN HEJDUCEK <krh05@optonline.net>
Subject: FW: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: September 15, 2014 at 9:21:45 AM EDT
To: <jjgilmore@gw.dec.state.ny.us>

----- Begin forwarded message -----
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: 09/14/14 04:54:00 PM
From: "Stret Whitting" <stretwhitting@gmail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Stret Whitting** <joan.stret@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Sep 14, 2014 at 4:39 PM
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
To: Gmail <stretwhitting@gmail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Richard Etzel** <etzbreak@aol.com>
Date: Sun, Sep 14, 2014 at 4:09 PM
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
To: joan.stret@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV, I Support option D1

Option D1: Size limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.
Year Bag Limit Size limit Trophy fish % reduction
2015 2 30" min n/a Approximately a 21% reduction

2016 2 31" min n/a from 2013 harvest over three years
2017 2 32" min n/a

From: [Ryan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 4:29:25 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rachel Dean" <chesapeakefishing@juno.com>
Date: September 27, 2014 at 9:33:42 PM EDT
To: chesapeakefishing@juno.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV

To: mwaine@asmfc.org

Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to

conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels.

If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable.

Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the

Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

Please strongly consider option D8.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

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The impossible (but real) technology that could make you impossibly rich.
fool.com

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [James Gilmore](#); [Phil Boyle](#); [Mike Waine](#); [Katherine Heinlein](#)
Subject: Fwd: option D-1
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 11:38:59 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Saio <Fishmishell2@aol.com>
Subject: option D-1
Date: September 16, 2014 at 3:55:15 PM EDT
To: "ech12@cornell.edu" <ech12@cornell.edu>

I captain mike Saio a charter boat captain in Montauk, ny
am in favor of option D-1.
most of my customers are for option D-1 also.

option D-1 is important to sustain a very viable economic resource for
Long Island .

regards,
capt mike Saio

Sent from my iPad

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [James Gilmore](#); [Phil Boyle](#); [Mike Waine](#); [Katherine Heinlein](#)
Subject: Fwd: Option D1
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 5:57:12 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Assogna <massogna@optonline.net>
Subject: Option D1
Date: September 14, 2014 at 9:39:00 PM EDT
To: "ech12@cornell.edu" <ech12@cornell.edu>

Please let me provide for my family
I am a full time charter captain, and this is all I know have to do to
provide !!!

Masterpiece Fishing Charters
Montauk NY
631-668-3881

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [James Gilmore](#); [Phil Boyle](#); [Katherine Heinlein](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:05:41 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: EBB TIDE <ebbtidemtk@optonline.net>
Subject: **Striped Bass Addendum IV**
Date: September 25, 2014 at 1:12:28 PM EDT
To: <ech12@cornell.edu>

Dear Sir,

My name is Tom Jordan. I live in Montauk N.Y. and have been a commercial representative on New York's Marine Resource Advisory Council for many years. When issues such as this addendum come up I feel the need to represent not only commercial fishermen but my COMMUNITY, and my community is a FISHING COMMUNITY. The striped bass fishery drives many primary and secondary businesses in my community. In today's world any economic blow to a person or business that depends on our fisheries may be the final blow!

The decrease in SSB that triggered this addendum took years to reach it's current level and will take years to recover. To risk undue economic harm with unnecessarily restrictive measures in the hopes of speeding up this natural process in unrealistic and borders on irresponsible. Let's not forget in the summer flounder fishery, how when the fishery was rebounding dramatically, we still faced cut-backs due to too short a time line in the plan! Although the fishery itself is the first concern, it is up to you, our representatives and the ASMFC to ensure that unnecessary economic harm is not done while working to reach the rebuilding goals.

For the recreational fishery in New York the only option that avoids large negative economic impacts is D-1. The selection of D-1 will preclude the possibility of neighboring states having a larger bag limit than NY. If NY ends up with 1 fish and NJ or RI or CT have 2 fish, much of the existing business will move to neighbor states, and this will create a great hardship for the for-hire industry in NY!

For the commercial fishery, option D-6 will have the least negative economic effect. It will allow NY to consider it's options with conservation equivalency and size limits and will give time to consider the effects of tag allotment schemes year by year. Commercial transfer should be an option to even out any missteps in new regulations. For commercial size limits, option B will help retain flexibility.

Respectfully, Tom Jordan

From: [Richard Lazar](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); [James Gilmore](#); [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 10:35:37 AM

> Dear Sir -

>

> I am a recreational striped bass fisherman and have noticed obvious declines in the # of fish that i catch each year. Drastic measures must be taken in order to conserve these valued fish.

>

> I am in favor of Option A (25% decrease in harvest) and also Option B3 (1 Fish at 32").

>

> Thank you

>

> Marc Lazar

>

From: [Charles Jenkins](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 3:25:33 PM

On Mon, Sep 22, 2014 at 3:08 PM, Charles Jenkins <cjenk1950@gmail.com> wrote:
I favor the more restrictive one year plan. That way, if it doesn't do the job, you haven't wasted three years waiting to find out, and you can take further remedial action. That's what Maryland did, back in the 80's.

Besides, there are too many variables in the equation to place total confidence in the numbers.

Charles D. Jenkins
1500 Westbrook Ct Apt 4116
Richmond, Va 23227

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 4:56:09 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jonathan Weber <j179weber@gmail.com>
Subject: **Striped Bass Regulations**
Date: September 26, 2014 at 7:55:29 AM EDT
To: <ASMANDRZEJCZAK@njleg.org>, <CHRISZE@optonline.net>, <ADAMN@rfanj.org>, <RUSS.ALLEN@dep.nj.gov>, <DAVE.CHANDA@dep.nj.gov>, <TFOTE@jcaa.org>, <PHILMJBOYLE@gmail.com>, <ECH12@cornell.edu>, <JJGILMOR@gw.dec.state.ny.us>, <PAUGUSTINE3@verizon.net>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am an avid recreational fisherman with houses in NY and NJ and fish these coastal waters almost every weekend. I have been fishing these waters for over 40 years.

I have taught biology in the past and have a good education and have thought about the best way to maintain our wonderful fishery for many years.

I have always thought that the ego boosting and chest thumping we see with keeping large striped bass (over 36") to be a very short term gratification. These are the breeding stock and should be zealously guarded.

As a competent fish cook, I have always found that the smaller Striped Bass (28" to 32") are the more tasty as well as the highest population of the current legal keepers.

I therefore strongly believe that the best regulation change would be to allow 2 slot fish between 26" - 30" and leave the breeders and soon to be breeders alone to maintain the fishery population.

Please consider this when you get together to make this very important decision in the near future

thanks.

Jonathan Weber
179 Baltic Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

From: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
To: [James Gilmore](#); [Phil Boyle](#); [Mike Waine](#); [Katherine Heinlein](#)
Subject: Fwd: Striped bass
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 5:56:42 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Orla Reville <orlareville@gmail.com>
Subject: Striped bass
Date: September 15, 2014 at 8:38:33 AM EDT
To: <ech12@cornell.edu>

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV, I Support option D1

Option D1: Size limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.

Year	Bag Limit	Size limit	Trophy fish	% reduction
2015	2	30" min	n/a	Approximately a 21% reduction
2016	2	31" min	n/a	from 2013 harvest over three years
2017	2	32" min	n/a	

--

Orla Reville
Viking Fleet
orlareville@gmail.com
631 965 2261

From: VORGETTS2@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: HELLO FISHER MAN
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:44:56 PM

HI GUYS, I'M A SURF CASTER HERE IN N.J. WAITING FOR THE STRIPERS TO COME THRU AND FROM WHAT I'M HEARING THE BEACH HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT ACTIVE IN THE STRIPER CATEGORY. I FISH THE LOWER SEASIDE PARK REGION OF BEACH SOMETIME MOVING UP NORTH TO THE ORTLEY BEACH AREA. I'VE YET TO MOVE OUT OF THE HOUSE BUT WILL SOON ATTACK THE BEACHES. I DO NOT HAVE A BEACH VEHICLE SO I'M RESTRICTED TO PARK AND WALK TO SEVERAL BEACH AREAS. I REALLY PREFER THE SIZE LIMIT OF 28 INCHES, LIKE ITS BEEN IN THE PAST; HOWEVER I'LL ABIDE BY ANYTHING YOU ESTABLISH.

From: [Andy Bidlingmaier](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Help the Striped Bass survive for future fisherman
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 8:16:37 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am an avid Surf fisherman that lives in Pennsylvania, I also fish in other states along the East Coast. I fish for many types of fish but my passion is fishing for Striped Bass in the surf, rivers and bays. I am 60 years old and have been actively surf fishing since I was a child.

My family enjoys the way I prepare striped bass when we do eat a fish. I usually keep 2 or 3 stripers per year for our dinner table. I have kept one fish (33") this year, during the same outing I released a 40" fish. I fish more for the sport, the solitude and spending time at the beach than to just catch fish. I am a member of two fishing clubs they are The Berkeley Striper Club and The Long Beach Island fishing Club.

In the past 5 years I have noticed the Striper population declining along the east coast. I'm not a scientist but from what I see from my daily experience and reports from friends on the beach that there is a problem with the Striper population. I'm not sure if stripers are being overfished, pollution is to blame, they are being harvested illegally. But I feel we have to protect these fish and hopefully get them back so they are healthy and plentiful along the east coast again and maybe find out what's to blame for their decline! I urge you to please push to change the current laws to B3 - 1 fish @ 32" and help preserve the striped bass for future fisherman!

Sincerely;
Andrew Bidlingmaier
Surf fisherman



Andrew Bidlingmaier | Piping Dept. Manager

3618 Hulmeville Rd | Bensalem, PA 19020

P: 215 245 9000 ex. 209 | F: 215 245 9190

abidlingmaier@orbitalengr.com | www.orbitalengr.com

From: [Bruce Karlan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); [James Gilmore](#); [Emerson Hasbrouck](#)
Subject: I strongly support the following fish conservation recommendations
Date: Sunday, September 07, 2014 8:31:57 AM

section 2.5.1 options B. Section 2.5.2 option B. Section 2.6 option A. Section 3.0 option B-3. Section 3.1 option A. Section 3.2 option A.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Karlan

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Eve Marino](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: If 1 at 32 goes through for charter boats are they still going to b able to take one over 40 ? And then isn't that 2fish if a big fish school is under the boat then that's 12 fish at for 6people!
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 9:23:26 AM

Eve Marino
<http://www.evemarino.com>
evemarino@optonline.net

From: [Tim Porelle](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Input on Striped Bass plan
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 8:13:33 AM

Hello,

I would like to see option C1 which is 2 fish at 32”.

Thank you,

Nathan Porelle

From: [Don Thieme II](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com; [Don & Lilly Thieme](#)
Subject: Limits on Stripers - Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 4:47:14 PM

Dear Mr. Waine - it has come to my attention from some local fishermen (and fisherwomen, not the least of whom is my wife) that there is some "strife over stripers." I can tell you that it would seem to me that we must find a way to protect our fisheries at least past 2050, so that the teenagers in whom I delight taking fishing will in turn be able to take their children and grandchildren fishing as well.

Now I know that commercial fishermen need to make money too; but after being stationed overseas for most of my military career, let me tell you what has happened to many of the over-fished grounds off of the coasts of Europe and Asia: with 'smart regulations' they have sustained commercial fishermen, albeit fewer of them, and recreational folks chasing fish as well, albeit fewer allowed fish. We have a responsibility to try and effectively manage the balance between the population and the needs and desires over all of our environment, lest we end up fished out and like an old net, left hung out to dry.

No doubt you have seen the below options in other emails that you are receiving, and it is certainly not my intent to clog your in box - but I think that you need to lead your team there in DC towards a smart compromise that gives everyone a fair, even if reduced, change. I will also add that I think any fish that has lived long enough to be over 32" is a certain keeper with great genes that we ought to let breed more healthy fish, so perhaps a mod B3 would be between 24" and 32" or, like a buck tag, you only get one > 32" per season.

Since I can't seem to catch a single striper, I can you assure that I am doing my part to leave as many in the Narragansett and Atlantic Ocean as possible for others, but better that I am chasing elusive stripers than available strippers at this point in my life!! A bad day fishing with my wife beats the heck out of just about any other good day doing anything else.

Have a great day,

Don Thieme

Portsmouth, RI

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

From: [lonesomeeagle](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Loss of Casino Jobs in Atlantic City
Date: Saturday, September 06, 2014 11:58:32 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

As a resident of New Jersey, born in this State, I would like to take the opportunity to express my opinion about the recent closures, and threatened additional closures, of so many casinos in Atlantic City. Thousands of jobs of hard-working employees of these facilities are being lost, adding to the social burden of an already-depressed area. I believe it is imperative that Atlantic City be given a priority among the mid-Atlantic States to at least partially alleviate this situation. The alternative is creation of a second Great Depression in this area, perhaps spreading to the rest of this country in its fragile economic situation.

Regards,
Glenn A. Fontana
Berlin, New Jersey

From: [Jason Williams](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:54:56 AM

Jason Williams
(240)925-0896
13185 Woodbank Rd
LUSBY MD 20657
Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4GLTE Phone

From: [Bob Berger](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 6:33:39 PM

MIKE WAINE

I WILL KEEP THIS SHORT.

I AM 83 YEARS OLD AND HAVE FISHED FOR STRIPED BASS FOR OVER 50 YEARS. I HAVE SEEN SOME UP AND DOWN WITH THE STRIPER POPULATIONS BUT NOTHING LIKE WHAT IS NOW HAPPENING WITH THE STRIPER POPULATION NOW.

REDUCING THE KILLING OF STRIPED BASS BY SPORT FISHERMEN IS A MUST. REDUCING THE SLAUGHTER BY COMMERCIAL FISHER PEOPLE IS AN ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

ROBERT BERGER

From: [robert mihalko](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:27:42 PM

hi, just wanted to voice my opinion on the upcoming revised striped bass regulations, I am in favor of one fish per day at 32 inches, I surf fish for bass and the fishing has been getting so bad in the last 5 - 7 years that its getting to a point were i can count on one hand the bass i catch, please for the future of the fish we need to give the fish a break, one of my biggest concerns is the amount of illegal selling of the fish to restaurants, which I have witnessed first hand through working in the food industry in the past, the amount of fish being sold is shocking!!! the best interest of the fish should of be of paramount concern. thank you for your work on this matter. robert mihalko speonk n.y. 11972 I fish the south shore of long island

From: [Steven Boyd](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: My Thoughts on Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 6:01:18 PM

Dear Mike,

I strongly believe that reductions in striper quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. Harvest limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species, and most notably amongst larger breeding fish. This commitment to conserve our treasured bass has taken too long already. I support a 25% reduction in year 1, a reduction in the daily bag limit down to one fish from 2, and an increase in the size limit to 32". I further support a coast wide reduction of 25% in the commercial harvest of striped bass.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

All the best,
Steve

Steven Boyd
Boston, MA
skboydo@gmail.com

From: ownage2214@gmail.com on behalf of [Jay Hsu](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: NJ Resident Opinion - Draft Addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 10:16:45 AM

Dear Mr. Waine:

I am a New Jersey resident and have been a striped bass angler for over 10 years. I keep detailed logs and annually fish over 100 days a year from the surf and boat. I have noticed a quantifiable decline in my angling success for striped bass in recent years as have ALL anglers that I know.

I urge the ASFMC to adopt Option B3 1 fish at 32" and I OPPOSE interstate commercial quota transfer.

Best,



Jay Hsu
85 Crosspointe Dr.
East Brunswick, NJ 08816
[\(732\)-673-6966](tel:(732)673-6966)
jayhsu13@gmail.com

From: [The Man](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: One more thing should be added to ALL Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission areas
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:04:59 PM

Mr. Mr. **Waine**

This should be for all Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission areas:

All cows (pregnant females) that are noticeably full of eggs, should be weighed and returned back to the water in a quick, safe and short period of time. The weighing is for if there is a pool or some sort of tournament.

I have seen this happen all the time and I always return mine, even if it means loosing a pool or some sort of tournament. This defiantly improve the fisheries.

--

Thanks.

Robert (R.J.) McCandless
59 Lexington Ct.
Holmdel, NJ 07733
609-254-6102

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From: [Stuart Hendrick](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Please help our striped bass fishery
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 4:39:05 PM

Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,
I believe the ASMFC should act as quickly as possible to halt the current decline in Striped Bass Fishery. The proposals in Draft Addendum IV are all aimed at bringing fishing mortality down to the new target level and that means reducing the total recreational(controlled through bag and size limits) and commercial(regulated by quotas) catch of striped bass by 25% or more, coast-wide and in the Chesapeake Bay(striped bass chief spawning grounds). The 25% reduction in catch for recreational and commercial should occur within a one year time frame starting with 2015 season. The immediate reductions will restore striped bass to the target abundance level sooner but even then not likely before the end of the decade.

My preferences on the specific options are as follows.

2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options - I support Option B.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F (Fishing Mortality) to the Target - I support Option A

3.0 Proposed Management Program - I support Option B. I see no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality. The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced the sooner abundance may begin to rebound.

-Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options - I support Option B2 for the Coastal fishery and B10 for the Chesapeake Bay.

-Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options - I support Option B16 for the Commercial Coastal Fishery and B18 for the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stuart Hendrick
Body Shop Manager
West Broad Collision Center
804-217-6354
Cell – 804-338-8704

Home address
9090 Old Lafayette Road
Mechanicsville Va 23111

From: 2019191714@vtext.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Please keep it two at 28" or shorter. I don't want...
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 7:43:40 PM

Please keep it two at 28" or shorter. I don't want to keep any big breeders and get rid of the bonus tags.

From: [John G. Trotter](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Proposed New Bass regulations
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 1:27:07 PM

Greetings Mike,
My name is John Trotter from Kings Park and I Captain of a 24' Foot Recreational Fishing Boat. I missed the meeting the other night unfortunately but saw that I was able to drop you an email with my thoughts on the proposed changes.

I think the One Fish @ 32" is a good idea and will help bring the stock back up.

Good Luck and thanks for all the work you put into making of fishing better.

Regards,
John G. Trotter

From: [richard.booth](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Public Input on Striped Bass Draft AddendumIV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:35:40 PM

Please consider this a comment on the Striped Bass Draft Addendum as presented at New Paltz, New York, September 2014.

I would like to go on record to support the moves of the asmfc. to maintain the striper population we have and the striper fishery we presently have in the Hudson River in New York State.

In order to have the striper population the Hudson River anglers enjoy in the spring it is important to make some significant changes to the fishery through regulations that would help the stripers in a river where many stripers spawn each spring. I have been a Charter Captain for over ten years and have fished recreationally in this fishery for stripers since 1960. In short the population has come a long way and deserves the protection we can give them as anglers. I would like to submit the following comments:

- 1) Establish a slot limit which does not involve the large breeders during the spring fishery. (i.e. 24-30 etc.) or what ever size does not make the mature breeding female a target.
- 2) Elimination of all treble hooks for bait fishing.
- 3) Have anglers checked via state Department of Environmental staff regarding any regulations implemented by asmfc. or the NY State Agency.
- 4) Elimination of all commercial fishing of striper bass in New York State, in ocean waters.

Thank you.
Richard E. Booth (Capt.)
Reel Happy Fishing Charters
P.O. Box 932
Cairo, New York 12413
518-622-8670

From: [Nick Murray](#)
To: [James Gilmore](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Emerson Hasbrouck](#); pboyle@nysenate.gov
Subject: Re: ASMFC Striped Bass Management
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:33:13 PM

Gentlemen,

I am again writing to urge you to take action in the managing the striped bass, specifically to share my thoughts on Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate fishery management plan.

Please support all measures which would provide for the most conservative plans to be achieved in the shortest amount of time. This species is hurting and needs immediate action. I will paraphrase from a letter from Captain John McMurray below. He is more knowledgeable in this matter than I am but I am a customer of him and I believe his logic is sound.

Regarding **Section 2.5.1 Coastwide Reference Point Options**, I don't know why we'd even be considering not using the most recent and up to date science, so of course **I support Option B: Using the new 2013 Benchmark Assessment reference points.**

Regarding **Section 2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options**: Historically, because the Chesapeake fishery exploited smaller fish, they fished under a lower fishing mortality reference point, than did fishermen on the coast. Option A would reverse that relationship, and permit Chesapeake fishermen to exceed the overfishing threshold in the latest stock assessment. Thus, **I support Option B: Using coastwide fishing mortality reference points as established in section 2.5.1.**

In regard to **Section 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target**: Option A would require the reduction to occur all at once in the 2015 fishing year. Option B would allow a smaller reduction to be imposed over 3 years. We've had enough delay up to this point. Managers need to understand that there is a cost to such delay, especially for guys like me. The reduction to meet the target needs to be done all in one year. And of course Amendment 6 requires that it be done in one year, thus **I support Option A.**

Regarding **Section 3.0 Proposed Management Program**: Not only does this deal with whether or not we do the reduction in one or three years, but it breaks it down into specifics on how we'd do that reduction. **I support Option B which requires a full 25% harvest reduction to take place next year.**

The rest of this section goes on to specifics, i.e. bag and size limits. Of course this all depends on whether or not the Commission chooses option A, B, C or D, so I'm not going to go into them all. However, assuming the Commission does the right thing and chooses Option B, requiring the full 25% reduction to be taken in 2015, **I support Option B3 – a one fish bag limit and a 32”**

size limit. This is the most conservative and most precautionary option.

For the Chesapeake Bay Management Areas I support most conservative option here also, which appears to be **Option B 15** which sets a hard quota, and states set size and bag limits.

In regard to **Commercial Fishery Management Options.** Unfortunately there doesn't appear to be a good option here, as the Management Board voted to remove what was really the right option – a 25% reduction from the actual commercial catch, which would subject the commercial fishery to the same standard being imposed on anglers and for-hirers.

Lastly, regarding **Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers:** Option A is Status quo, no commercial quota transfers. Option B: allows Commercial quota transfer between states. The purpose and goal of Addendum 4 is to reduce fishing mortality on striped bass. Option B would allow all those fish that aren't killed in NC because they stayed in the EEZ to be transferred to other states and killed there. This will not reduce fishing mortality, but will most likely increase it. Thus **I support Option A, status quo, no commercial transfer.**

Please support all measures which would provide for the most conservative plans to be achieved in the shortest time. I am an avid fisherman and I travel the coast to chase these fish. I also have a young son. He is not old enough to fish yet but I look forward to the day when I can pass on all that I have learned on the water. I hope that we can catch striped bass together for many years to come. Your action is critical to that dream. Please act accordingly.

Thank you.

Nick Murray

On Mon, Jun 23, 2014 at 3:29 PM, Nick Murray <nickmurray29@gmail.com> wrote:
Gentlemen,

I have written to you before about my concerns about the management of Striped Bass. I thank you for taking the time to read my note and for your reply. I want to be sure that my concerns are reinforced for the coming meeting mentioned above.

I recently read a letter written to be distributed to the ASMFC managers by a organization of like minded conservative recreational anglers.

See the letter here:

<http://www.nycrf.com/stripedbassreductionletter.pdf>

I just want to reiterate that we are conservation minded recreational anglers and we do not see the interest groups that purport to represent our interests doing so. We do not have any money at stake but have plenty of skin in the game in the

amount of time, effort, investment, and love for the species.

These are some of the reforms we would like to see enacted by the beginning of next season.

So, with not a single dollar bill of motivation, here is what I support and demand. Yes, demand, because the time for tomfoolery and delays has past and the needs of the species MUST NOW COME FIRST!

1.1 demand immediate action: One year and not 3.

2.1 demand a 31% reduction in mortality in one year. Since any plan only has a 50% chance of success, delays will only reduce the odds of success, since more and more fish will have perished.

3.1 support a 1 fish at 32" per angler per day-regardless of where, how, and when the fish is caught. This regulation must be applied to all venues including party boats and charter boats. Making \$\$ on the fish does not justify providing these harvesters with an advantage. Likewise, 1 fish at 32" should be the standard in the estuary as well. The notion that only small fish are caught in the estuary is nonsense. All places have their seasons and that's why anglers invest great effort in the estuaries around spawning time. Yet, be it Chesapeake Bay, the Hudson River, or the Connecticut River, it is true that fewer big fish are taken during off-spawning times, but they are caught. Stripers migrate from place to place and each area has its bigger fish season, all anglers in all regions should abide by the same regulations.

4.Minimize the dragger by-catch. Either directed or truly accidental.

5.Take immediate steps to end the severe poaching of small fish in the inner cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York.

I would also like to see party boats carrying more than four anglers be lumped in with the commercial catch. These commercial enterprises kill thousands of fish, far more than your typical surfcaster, boater, or small private charter boat. They only have interest in "limiting out" these are meat fisherman not sport fisherman and should be treated as such.

Please do not delay. The Striped Bass needs your help and as anglers we are dependent on you to do the right thing for the population of wild fish, not those that wish to capture them for profit.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nick Murray.

On Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 8:46 AM, James Gilmore <jjgilmor@gw.dec.state.ny.us> wrote:

Thanks for your comments Nick. You are correct in that we have in that we have hit some thresholds which we set years ago as management triggers and we have been working on harvest reductions for several months. This is taking longer than some would like but we need to take into consideration options from New England down to the Carolinas since this is a coastal

fishery and one set of reductions to cover such a large geographic area is challenging. Rest assure we plan to reduce harvest to an appropriate level as soon as possible. I recommend you stay involved by visiting the ASMFC website at www.asmf.org for updates and listen to the webcast during the next meeting the week of August 4th. Additionally, the NY Marine Resources Advisory Council will be discussing striped bass management at the July 15, 2014 meeting at my office.

James J. Gilmore Jr.
Director, Bureau of Marine Resources
NYSDEC
205 N. Belle Mead Road
East Setauket, NY 11733
Phone: [631-444-0430](tel:631-444-0430)
Fax: [631-444-0434](tel:631-444-0434)
jjgilmor@gw.dec.state.ny.us

>>> Nick Murray <nickmurray29@gmail.com> 6/5/2014 4:57 PM >>>
Gentlemen,

I am a NY State resident living in Brooklyn, NY. I am an avid saltwater fisherman and have been for seven years. Discovering the joy of fishing for striped bass practically in my backyard has made living in the City not just tolerable but it is one of the reasons I stay. However in the past several years I have seen the quality of the fishery decline.

Each year I have caught fewer and fewer fish, with this spring season being my worst yet. I have caught one striper that was about 14" in a total of six trips locally. I have fished in favorite spots that consistently produced for me early in the season, only to leave with the stink of failure. Fishing around New York is becoming disheartening.

I have read the most recent reports on the status of the striped bass provided on the ASMFC website. They are full of technical data, most of which I was unable to decipher. The status report listed on the overview of the species is the most easy to follow. It says that the female SSB is in a period of decline, is approaching the threshold and that with out action the stock may be over fished within a year. Given that warning I believe that it would be foolish not to take action to reduce fishing mortality.

I am not one to point fingers and I am able to see that it is the recreational community that kills far more bass than the commercial fleet. I know that the numbers show that we recreational users are a powerful economic force and my solution may run counter to that force in the short term but would hopefully allow the industry to continue for generations. To reduce mortality please reduce bag limits to one fish per angler a day and revise size limits up to 30" for recreational anglers. I am sure that there can be ways to spread the pain of lost fish the the commercial fleet as well, possibly a shortened season but I do not see the commercial fleet as the enemy or the main problem. To reduce the mortality focus on the group that kills the most fish. I am asking as a recreational angler.

I love fishing for striped bass and I love to eat them as well. I would love for my son to be able to catch them and eat them too. Please do what it takes to help these wonderful fish.

--
Sincerely,

Nick Murray

From: [jamie wong](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Re: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Striped Bass Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 10:13:09 PM

To whom it may concern:

Myself, I am a recreational fisherman that has mainly targeted striped bass in the past 5 years. I am also by profession, a PhD level trained scientist (cancer immunology) that involves inspection of biological data much like that involved with fish population management, and making decisions based on those data to cure cancer. I have not lived as a fisherman through the years of the "moratorium", but I have heard many stories from folks that have. That experience has to guide us to make quality decisions now in order for the fish to survive.

I have read through the document that is up for review, and my first initial impression is that it is not written for easy comprehension, let alone comprehension by someone educated as myself. I find to be a big problem in that the real issues have been obstructed within the document disabling the ability for people to truly discuss them and reach real conclusions.

I think that there are two fundamental pieces for this addendum: what direction do we want the population of fish to go and what measures can be taken. The first item is based on data related to sampling the spawning rate per year. It's unclear to me how representative these numbers are of the true reality since it assumes that all pressures on the fish are identical from year to year, and that the juvenile numbers are indicative of both survival at later stages until those fish can produce new offspring. From what is known about the life cycle of the striped bass, this is a 4-5 year cycle, and therefore informs us that we must look at the data over 4-5 year spans to see trends, and not just each year individually. Likewise, any decision(s) made today, we must try to maintain them for 4-5 years to adequately assess the impact of them. From this view I think that it is indisputable that efforts must be made for the fish population to increase.

The basics of things that can be limited are really:

1. Time window of fishing season.
2. Limit of fish taken per day.
3. Size limit of fish taken.

Parameters 1-3 can be made for both recreational and commercial fishing.

If it is decided that we need to increase fish stocks, then obviously restrictions must be more stringent in any or all aspects for any type of fishing. Also, if anyone has ever studied fish stocks, it is evident that we MUST err on the conservative side in order to not go past the point of no return where fish stocks cannot recover. Therefore, I would be in favor of raising the size limit as high as possible (36" if possible), and reducing the limit per day to one fish.

Additionally, we must fight for a uniformed effort from all states. The current situation where every state can have its own regulations negatively impacts the

ability to manage the fish stocks. This must change.

We must look to the long term future, and not just think of the current situation in a bubble. In reality, we need to relieve as much pressure on the fish as possible and let this natural resource return to the state it once was. I love fishing for stripers and all kinds of fish, and I want future generations to have the same opportunity.

Thank you for your time. Jamie Wong, PhD

From: [CAROL HOFFMAN](#)
To: [Stern, Marian \(DEC\)](#); [James Gilmore](#); [Steve Heins](#)
Cc: [dec.sm.FW.Marine](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Re: Bass Regs
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 9:24:06 AM

WE have forwarded your comments to Mike Waine at the ASMFC

Carol Hoffman
Biologist 2 (Marine)
NYS DEC
205 N Belle Mead Rd
East Setauket, NY 11733
631-444-0476

From: Stern, Marian (DEC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 7:50 AM
To: Gilmore, James J (DEC); Heins, Steve W (DEC); Hoffman, Carol (DEC)
Subject: Fw: Bass Regs

Marian H Stern
Marine Permit Administrator
NYSDEC Marine Resources

From: Mikemonta@aol.com <Mikemonta@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 7:33 AM
To: dec.sm.FW.Marine
Subject: Bass Regs

Attn. Mr Gilmore met you when the governor came to Montauk, I am Captain Mike Albronda I run the Charter boat Montauk we spoke for a while you gave your card anyway I support D1 people will not drive to Montauk for one fish. you can lower the mortality on the big fish by more than 50% by banning live bait for bass it makes it to easy and even with the circle hooks 1/2 the fish are gut hooked. I have a comm Bass licence your tagging regs are unfair to Montauk. Montauk is the only place you can fish, do the math over 40000 tags must be used here that makes it very hard for us, more gill net boats are coming in everyday last year there were so many gill nets in the water we could not fish the south side it killed the surf casting, you must let comm fishing for Bass in the rest of the island, please do not use the PCB bull, you let fishermen keep 5 salmon from Lake Ontario they have 5 times the PCB that is safe they have deoxen way over the safe level and enough mercury to make a thermometer, you put them in the Lake you sell them their lic that's like selling the fishermen poison fish Thank you Captain Mike Albronda

From: [Coit, Janet \(DEM\)](#)
To: saboat10@gmail.com; [Mike Waine](#); [Robert Ballou](#)
Subject: Re: Draft Addendum IV Strip Bass
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:52:06 AM

Thanks Steve.
Janet Coit, Director, RIDEM

From: steven anderson
To: mwaine@asmfc.org ; Coit, Janet (DEM); Ballou, Robert (DEM)
Sent: Mon Sep 29 06:35:43 2014
Subject: Draft Addendum IV Strip Bass

Please open Attachment , This is my Position

Thank You

--

Steven Anderson , Vice President
RI Party and Charter Boat Association

Bare Bones Charters
saboat10@gmail.com
401-255-0128

From: JIM_DONOFRIO
To: CaptGeo1@aol.com; Mike_Waine
Cc: captgeo1@aol.com
Subject: Re: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 11:06:30 AM

George too bad the ASMFC doesn't put realistic options out there to deal with all the nuances of the fishery

Jim Donofrio
RFA
202-236-4867
JOINRFA.ORG

In a message dated 9/19/2014 10:58:20 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, CaptGeo1@aol.com writes:

The striped bass fishery is one of the **few successes** of the asmfc, with the help of recreational anglers. It is to important to the local economy on the east coast and to reduce the catch limit to one fish would be unfair to the many anglers who suffered during the many years of the recovery and will cause economic loses to many up and down the east coast. The recovery of striped bass stock the last 25 years has been with great sacrafice by all recreational anglers . The harvesting of the bigger spawning stock is what needs to be reduced by **both the commercial and recreational fisherman**.

I propose the following comments in regards to striped bass draft addendum IV:

1) **federal waters 3 miles and out remain closed** to the harvest and possession of striped bass for **commercial and recreational fishing**.

2) I propose the recreational catch limit be changed to **2 striped bass 28 inch to 36 inch OR 1 striped bass over 36 inches** per person per day.

3) I propose a **reduction** of the **commercial harvest** of striped bass over **36 inches**

Capt George Steller
Capt George Steller Jr
Belmar NJ
captgeo1@aol.com

From: [Mike Popchak](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Re: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:45:53 PM

>>> Mike Popchak <MPOPCHAK@umm.edu> 9/29/2014
5:35 PM >>>

M. Waine,

I vote for B7 if the status quo is not on the table.

I visit NJ about 10 times a year to fish on the party boats. If I am able to bring only 1 fish home, it will reduce the number of trips that I make to NJ. Thank you.

Mike Popchak

2030 Pleasant Villa Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21228

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From: [David Simpson](#)
To: ["gary brummett"](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: RE: Public Comments regarding AM6
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 1:56:59 PM

Hi Gary,

Thanks for attending the meeting last month and for your comments below. I can assure you that public input matters a great deal to the Commission.

Thanks again for your input. Don't forget the Striped Bass Board will be meeting to make a decision on this addendum in Mystic (Mystic Hilton across the street from the Aquarium). The draft agenda has this Board meeting from 10:15a to 6:30p Wednesday the 29th. The entire Commission meeting runs Monday through Thursday.

You can get more information from the Commission's web site: www.asmfc.org

Dave

From: gary brummett [mailto:gary@ct-outfitters.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 1:18 PM
To: mwaine@asmfc.org
Cc: Simpson, David
Subject: Public Comments regarding AM6

I wish to have my opinion counted with regards to:

**DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6
TO THE ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS
INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

I attended the public hearing in Old Lyme CT and found it informative.

I would like to see the following options adopted for 2015;

Regarding 2.6 timeline to reduce F, I would prefer to see a one year option for both recreational and commercial, "A"

Regarding 3.0 Program Proposal, I would choose option B4 for recreational, and B17 for commercial.

Regarding 3.1 Quota transfer, I would choose option "A" for NO QUOTA Transfers between states' commercial harvest.

Regarding 3.2 Commercial size limits, I would choose Option "A" and further add that it is insulting and ludicrous that commercial harvest allow for keeping smaller fish than recreational. Furthermore, a size of

keeper maximum 40 inches is generous. Keeping for the table fish larger than 40 inches is really not good for anybody anyway, they don't eat (taste/cook) all that well and the bigger they are the greater the concentration of toxins. "Eating fish" are schoolies best at 18-24 inches for palatability and for health.

Today, Trophy mounts can be well made of fiberglass from a set of pictures and measurements for about the same cost as a skin mount and will last far longer into the future. So **no one has the need to kill a trophy fish** over 40".

Thanks for listening. It will be very interesting (and I suspect disappointing) to see what, if any, effect the "public" comments have on the council's decision. It is widely believed, rightly or wrongly, that the council is simply a tool for commercial big business. I am hopeful that the resource can truly be managed for the best equal sharing between recreational and commercial harvest, and for sustainability for all.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Brummett
238 budding ridge
Southington, CT 06489



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Jared Silva](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: RE: Striped Bass Addendum
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 9:27:50 AM

Mike,

Could you send me a copy of the striped bass public hearing presentation?

Thanks!

Jared Silva

Regulatory Coordinator &
Administrative Law Clerk
Division of Marine Fisheries
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Email: jared.silva@state.ma.us
P: 617-626-1534
F: 617-626-1509

From: Mike Waine [<mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org>]
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2014 10:08 AM
To: Silva, Jared (FWE)
Subject: RE: Striped Bass Addendum

Received, thanks!
MW

Michael W. Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
mwaine@asmfc.org phone: (703)842-0740

From: Silva, Jared (FWE) [<mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us>]
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 11:19 AM
To: Mike Waine
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum

Mike,

Hope you are doing well! See the comment below from an MA constituent.

Jared

Jared Silva

Regulatory Coordinator &

Administrative Law Clerk
Division of Marine Fisheries
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Email: jared.silva@state.ma.us
P: 617-626-1534
F: 617-626-1509

From: Diodati, Paul (FWE)
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Silva, Jared (FWE)
Subject: Fwd: Striped Bass

Please forward to Mike Wayne...

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Drew Ciok <dcvmd2010@gmail.com>
Date: September 18, 2014 at 6:31:43 AM EDT
To: "Diodati, Paul (FWE)" <Paul.Diodati@MassMail.State.MA.US>
Subject: Striped Bass

Dear Paul:

In reference to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission's Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan, please register my following comments on the public record.

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option A: Status quo: One year time frame

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B3: 1-fish bag limit with a 32-inch minimum size

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B: Status quo with existing size limits

I urge the board to manage striped bass for abundance, to maintain robust and healthy populations of *live* fish. The failed policies of the past – attempting to maximize the number of fish harvested every year are not in the resource's best interest.

From: [daniel giunta](#)
To: jjgilmore@gw.dec.state.ny.us; pboyle@nysenate.gov; [Emerson Hasbrouck](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Regarding Striped Bass Draft addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 3:45:08 PM

In Regards to the Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV, I am in support of Option D1.

Capt. Daniel Giunta
Double D Charters
631-678-3960
www.doubledmontaukfishing.com

From: mattchicc@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Regarding: Striped Bass Mortality Reduction
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 2:25:44 PM

Matt Chiccarine
123 East Street
Town NJ

September 16th 2014

Mike Waine
1050 N. Highland St
Arlington, VA 22201
mwaine@asmfc.org

Regarding: Striped Bass Mortality Reduction Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mike,

Unfortunately I could not make the most recent meeting in Toms River, NJ, regarding the Striped bass mortality reduction due to my work schedule, however I am writing you today to because i consider this an urgent matter.

I urge you to also support a reduction at 1@32" limit option B3 for 2015 and no commercial quota transfer between states.

I am an avid angler that fishes a large portion of the eastern coast and I am highly concerned about the decline of Striped bass that I have witnessed over the last several years and therefore would like the laws to change to help support an immediate impact for their recovery and preservation.

Best Regards,

Matt Chiccarine

From: [Jerry Dewese](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Rock fish
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:13:36 PM

I believe the population of rock fish is way down in the Chesapeake Bay. In the northern bay I haven't been seeing the numbers of small fish caught for the last two years!
I think there are many causes. First we need to do something with the Conowingo Dam!
Second we need to have more oysters in the bay with a very limit harvest and more stocking of oyster beds!
Third we need cut our harvest of rock fish by sportsman and watermen.
Third that circle hooks be required for all bait fishing for rock fish!
Fourth all spring fishing is to be catch and release including all tournaments!

Jerry Dewese
Stickbow Supplies
18 Jordan Mill Ct
White Hall MD 21161
USA

From: 18rockfish@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Rockfish Limits - Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:14:14 PM

Mr. Waine: My son and I are avid fisherman. We fish the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean on the Maryland and Virginia coast lines. We both believe there should be stronger limits to protect the fish we love to catch and eat. Stricter limits will both protect this resource and encourage aquaculture. Please select the options below.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Valter and Matt Ezerins
1536 Elm Rd
Saint Leonard MD 20685

From: [Jodi Brooklyn](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Rockfish
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 2:37:01 PM

Most experts consider the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint the Chesapeake Bay's best, and perhaps last, chance for real restoration.

It comes at a time when great progress has already been achieved. Some estimates suggest pollution to the Bay has been halved, and signs of recovery abound. With success in our sight, this is no time to turn and go backwards. But that is precisely what some want.

What is the Blueprint?

A Clean Water Act provision known legally as a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL is a scientific estimate of the maximum amount of pollution a body of water listed officially as "impaired" can accommodate and still meet water quality standards.

In December 2010—after years of missed deadlines for restoration and no consequences—the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) exercised its Clean Water Act authorities by releasing enforceable pollution limits for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. Subsequently the six Bay states and the District of Columbia released their plans to meet those limits by 2025. Together the pollution targets and the states' plans comprise a Clean Water Blueprint for the Chesapeake and its rivers and streams.

What Will it Do?

If fully implemented, the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint will ensure pollution reduction and result in the "fishable, swimmable" waters promised by the Clean Water Act of 1972. The Blueprint does three things:

- ensures everyone shares in the responsibility for cleaning up our waterways;
- sets two-year, incremental pollution-reduction goals—known as milestones—to keep progress on track; and
- imposes consequences for failure, ensuring states and localities will meet their responsibilities.

This Time Really Is Different

What makes this Blueprint better than the previous failed efforts is that it has teeth. **For the first time, the states have each committed to two-year incremental milestones of pollution reduction.** EPA can and will impose consequences for failure. If the Blueprint is fully implemented, the Bay should come off the impaired waters list.

From: [Tom McWilliams](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Rules to restore striped bass population in New England
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 3:17:43 PM

Mr Waine, I'm writing to voice my strong support for the imposition of new stricter rules to save the striped bass population on NY, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts coasts. I encourage the adoption of a 25% reduction in the 2013 harvest in 2015 and possibly further action in subsequent years to re-establish a robust fishery along these coasts and to repair the substantial damage to striper stocks that has been evident in the past several years. Thank you.

Thomas F. McWilliams
Managing Partner
Court Square Capital Partners
55 East 52nd Street/34th Floor
New York, NY 10055
212-752-6055
212-752-5719 Fax
tmcwilliams@courtsquare.com

From: [vinnysgutters](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Save our stripers!!!!
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 6:41:20 PM

To whom it may concern I am just an average once a week party boat fishermen, please do not take away the 2 fish@28" because I will be forced to not go fishing for 1 fish if it comes down to that..please believe the captains of this business as they no best of the fish in the ocean especially the old timers that have been doin this there whole life,thank you for your time...

Sent on a Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 5

From: [Daryl Zaslow](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Daryl L. Zaslow](#)
Subject: Save some stripers for our kids
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 12:18:30 PM

I am an avid fisherman and own a 34 foot boat that I keep in Atlantic Highlands. There is nothing that my family (wife and 2 young children) enjoy more than fishing and boating together. I was recently bombarded with a ton of self-serving emails from charter captains begging everyone they can to submit emails objecting to the proposed changes which are clearly designed to protect our striped bass fishery for the generations ahead. Such emails are pellucid and had the opposite effect as there is nothing that makes me more angry than seeing photographs these captains and recreational fishermen post of so many dead stripers on the dock. Killing so many stripers is totally unnecessary and the charter captains clearly care only about today and not about the future of the fishery or anyone other than themselves. Accordingly, I fully support the Commission's proposed change to the regulations next year to 1 striped bass per person at 28" or greater. I hope the change is enacted and strictly enforced. Thank you.

DARYL L. ZASLOW, ESQ.
EICHEN CRUTCHLOW ZASLOW & MCELROY, LLP
OFFICE (732) 777-0100
EDISON, RED BANK & TOMS RIVER, NJ

FIRM WEBSITE
www.njadvocates.com

From: [Tony Brady](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Save the Striped Bass Population
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 2:24:15 PM

Mike:

I have a summer house in Watch Hill, Rhode Island and have been fishing for striped bass religiously on the reefs between Watch Hill and Fishers Island for the past fifteen (15) years. As little as three (3) years ago there seldom wasn't a day that I left the reef without hooking up a striper or blue fish. I am a catch and release fisherman that fishes for the sport and thrill of being out in the salt air with nature. I went out fishing about a dozen times this summer and only once did I catch some fish.

Unfortunately, during the last two years I have noticed a remarkable lack of stripers and blue fish on the reefs and have talked with many other anglers who feel the same way. We all like to hypothesize that it must be the fault of Hurricane Sandy or the warmer water temperatures, but I have a sneaking suspicion that it is over-fishing that is the real culprit. It reminds me of days gone by when I used to fish for Rockfish (stripers) in the Chesapeake Bay area and watched as the population dwindled within a few years. As you most likely know it took some pretty serious restriction put on commercial and recreational fisherman to correct this problem.

I ask you to please help protect the Striped Bass population and help it survive and thrive again.

Thank you,
Tony Brady

Anthony N. Brady
President



768 N. Bethlehem Pike
Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002

267.460.5638 - Direct
215.283.2960 - Main
215.283.2961 – Fax
www.somprop.com

From: [Robert Vozzella](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Save the stripers
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 2:45:19 PM

Hi Mike

I am 100% in support of one fish 32 inches. The coastal conservation of Mass tried the same effort 20 years ago and fell on deaf ears. As Paul Diodi the director was of commercial interest. And we can all see the results. Him and his cohorts wouldn't even listen to the scientists that spoke about all species. We all know that the cod and haddock are basically gone under his watch. The only way we can beat them is if all the recreation anglers from every state band together and eventually make stripers have gamefish status. Certainly one fish species can be for the good of the recreational fisherman. This new proposal is a good start. Please send website link for the good of stripers if you have one. I felt before, (20 Years ago) that there was no way to break through the commercial interest. That was when stripers had just come back and not many people where fishing for them. Limit was at 36 inches and fishing was good. Now that more people are fishing for them. They have seen the fishing go from good to nothing like it was. They are ready to stand together. I hope ????? I don't eat fish and been a catch and release fisherman all my life. Keep me in the loop ! I'm ready to get fired up again. Thanks for all you are doing !!!

Sincerely

Bob V

Robert Vozzella
US Infrastructure
Audio Visual +Telecom Specialist
601 Congress St
Boston Mass 02210-2805
617-572-5900

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From: [Art & Rose Baker](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: saving the striper
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 6:53:26 PM

Dear Mike,

I am a 75 year old man and a striper fisherman since I was a teenager. A good number of my older fishing buddies have gone to their graves believing the striper would not survive back in the seventies and early eighties. But, with new regulations the striper did survive. Now, one for the reasons is the lack of proper food – the menhaden. I believe with cleaner water, sufficient food and a reduction in the numbers allowed to be harvested this fish the striper will be back to its healthy population. I hope some sort of a positive decision can be resolved before I join my old fishing buddies.

Sincerely,

Art Baker
616 Secotan Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

From: [Mike Dean](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stony Brook Meeting
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 10:46:44 AM

Hi Mike. Thanks very much for your presentation last night in Stony Brook. The years on the water for most in the room last night dwarfs my time, but I know my passion matches or exceeds many. I've struggled to grasp the science of the conservation debate and you did a great job clearing it up.

I support the 25% reduction in one year and one fish at 32 inches like many others who spoke last night.

Thanks for your work with our fishery Mike. I'm sure you're the target of misdirected passion on both sides of the debate fairly often.

Best,

Mike Dean
Founder
Manhattan to Montauk

Sent from my iPhone

From: [George Strathern](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripe bass regulations
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 11:10:03 AM

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my support for a change in the regulations to restrict the daily catch to one fish per angler . I am a recreational fisherman who has been fishing for over 50 years. I have traveled to Ma and NY to fish for these valuable fish.

Not to be disrespectful but if your science is telling you that the striped bass population is not in trouble, your science stinks. I do not know one fisherman who does not believe that the stocks are not in seriously declined. I am old enough to remember the 1970s and early 1980s when it was rare to catch a striper and fear that we are heading that way again. I have a 3 year old grandson and would like to see the bass preserved so that someday he can enjoy the sport.

I am also opposed to the transfer of commercial quotes.

Sincerely

George Strathern
426 6th Terrace
Seaside Heights,NJ 08751

From: [Peter Near](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripe bass
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 9:57:18 PM

You probably receive hundreds upon thousands of email regarding this but am a recreational fisherman of jersey coast. I as many would also please ask to keep striper limits the same. This could not only affect recreation fisherman it could put many out of work. There is a abundance of stripers as I've caught hundreds this season releasing breeding females only keeping 28-32 inch fish. As I've read I would like as a second option B-7 thanks for reading this and I thought I would put in my voice before it's to late thanks peter

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Negron, Paul x23825](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:08:56 AM

I would like to voice my feelings about the proposed change to the Striped Bass catch limit. I strongly believe that the only way to protect the bass is to limit the catch of female cows during spring run. By making the limit 2 fish at size range 28 to 35in during the spring migration fewer cows will be taken. These cows are the prime breeders and allowing more of them to spawn will increase the stock of young fish, which is the main factor leading to the proposed limit change. This change to spring limits should be enough to help the replenishment of young fish reach acceptable levels.

Thank You

Yours Truly,
Paul Negron

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From: [David Simpson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Add IV Comments
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 3:40:32 PM

Comment from an CT marine advisory group member.

From: Alison Varian [mailto:a.varian@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 07, 2014 5:55 PM
To: Simpson, David
Subject: RE: MAG MEETING

Hi Dave,
My thoughts on this meeting.

On the recreational fishery-

I assume I am to assume that the information gathered to base our decisions on is accurate and up to date and not debatable. I am also assuming there will not be another study to verify or update these conclusions for at least three years.

My choice, keeping it simple, would be to choose 1 fish from 28" and up. Since this would be a much larger reduction then they are looking for, I would suggest that in 2016 it goes back to 2 fish at 28" and up, then in 2017 back to one, etc.. That would make it overall approximately the 25 percent reduction they are looking for.

My reasoning is that slot limits kill more fish and that the trophy hunters will still be able to take a monster home. The charter Captains won't be happy, but at least they can take any size fish over 28" home. A larger fish to keep is better than two at a 28"-34" slot for the meat keepers on a charter.

On the commercial end I don't feel I have enough knowledge to make an informed decision.

I sent this just to you, if you would like to forward it to the other members that would be fine.

Alison Varian

From: [MattCarlson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Addendum
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:02:15 PM

Dear Mr Waine,

My name is Matthew Carlson and I live in Oakdale, NY on Long Island. I am writing this email to implore you to consider acting through the ASMFC to reduce bag limits for Striped Bass, Increase minimum size for recreational fisherman and decrease harvest mortality by at least 25% for both recreational and commercial fisherman. I am asking that this be done at the next meeting of the ASMFC because in my opinion the striped bass stocks are hurting.

I have spent the last 25 years fishing the coastal waters of the New Jersey, New York and New England for Striped Bass. I have personally witnessed a dramatic decrease in the frequency and quantity of Striped Bass. I have been keeping a log for many years and over the last five I have noticed a considerable drop in the amount of Striped Bass I have encountered on my outings. The most immediate impact of the lack of bass is that I have to consider if it worth taking time off of work to travel and fish for these fish.

Each year I have traveled to different destination to catch these fish. I know that although I am one person I have a small economic impact on the areas I travel to. Hotels, Meals, Gas and Tolls are all costs that I incur to pursue this fish. I am just one person out of many who make a difference in many local economies by virtue of tourism in pursuit of the Striped Bass. The lack of fish keeps anglers from traveling and with that many small local economies suffer from the absence of this fish.

I am aware that serving on these boards requires work and effort on your part. I thank you for your work. I am respectfully asking that you consider **ONE FISH PER DAY 32 INCHES OR LONGER and A REDUCTION OF MORTALITY BY AT LEAST 25% ALL EFFECTIVE FOR 2015.**

Thank You For your time and service.

Respectfully

Matthew Carlson
111 Vanderbilt Blvd
Oakdale, NY 11769

From: [Jen Riback](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass amendment 6
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 9:48:24 PM

I am in favor of reduction of striped bass option b and coastal recreational fishery option b7.

Thanks,
Jen Riback

Sent from my iPad

From: [Oakley, Bryan A.\(Environmental Earth Science\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass Amendment 6
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:18:03 PM

Hi Mike:

As an avid surfcaster for striped bass, I am deeply troubled by the marked downturn in striped bass in our waters. With the advent of the internet age, it has become strikingly apparent that this is a coastwide phenomenon.

I whole heartedly support changes to the management of striped bass. While I personally feel 1 fish at 36" (which worked in the previous recovery would be ideal) I support the following actions.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Bryan Oakley, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Geoscience
Department of Environmental Earth Science
Eastern Connecticut State University
83 Windham St
Willimantic, CT, 06226
<http://www1.easternct.edu/oakleyb/>

From: [Capt David Riback](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Amendment 6
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 9:16:04 PM

Mike Waine,

Hi,

I'm Capt David Riback of the head boat Queen Mary sailing from Point Pleasant Beach NJ. I'm writing to you representing the over 3500 patrons who have fished for Striped Bass since last fall aboard my vessel. My stance, as is many of the head boat and charter boats stance, are:

- 1) Status quo 2 fish bag limit @ 28"
- 2) If the option B for 25% reduction within 1 year is adopted we choose B-7 2 fish bag limit with one fish 28"- 34" and one fish @36"min. This gives us better than the 25% reduction required.
- 3) If Option C were to pass reducing F within 3 years we choose option C-3 2 fish bag limit one fish @ 28"-35" and one fish @ 35"min

Please taking into consideration of our patrons:

The average head boat fisherman is middle and lower class economy level and the food value is of utmost importance.
The average head boat fisherman does not have the opportunity and or the extra income to participate more than once or twice a year, so the ability to keep a couple fish is a tremendous one.

Mr Waine, I have been discussing this issue with patrons on a daily basis for the past month. The B-7 option & C-3 option overwhelmingly are the favorites if the council opts for either B or C. Please take into the consideration the voice of over 3000 Striped Bass patrons who come from many part of the Tri-State area to put food on the families tables.

Thanks

Capt Dave Riback

Capt David Riback
Queen Mary Party Fishing Boat & Charters
www.njqueenmary.com
732-996-2579

From: [Captain Wally](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass ASMFC 2015 comment
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 4:29:14 PM

If it's only a 50% probability that any of the options you are considering will attain the desired results, why not take the most decisive action in 2015? If the 3 year plan is implemented and it fails, you'll be 3 years farther down the path of the SSB overfished. It seems to me the quickest and most effective way to help the SSB is to immediately reduce the harvest levels now and allow those fish to join the spawning stock sooner. Taking a 50/50 chance that implementing smaller reductions over 3 years will get to the desired F target seems to be geared towards the "socioeconomics" of the situation and not in the fisheries best interest.

Quote:

Projecting Harvest Reductions to Achieve F Target
Stock projections were used to forecast future stock conditions and estimate the harvest level needed to reduce F to the proposed target over a one or three year timeframe. The Technical Committee used a forward projecting methodology to identify the percent reduction from 2013 harvest levels necessary to achieve the proposed F target over a one or three year timeframe. Projection results indicate:
;If total harvest is reduced by 25% starting in the 2015 fishing year, there is a 50% probability F will be at or below its target level within one year.
;If total harvest is reduced by 17% starting in the 2015 fishing year, there is a 50% probability F will be at or below its target level within three years. A 50% probability was the minimum recommended by the TC - a higher probability of being at or below the target would require more restrictive management measures that achieve a higher reduction than the projections estimate is needed. If total harvest is reduced by 7% each year for three consecutive years starting in 2015 to achieve an approximate 20% reduction², there is a 50% probability F will be at or below its target level within three years. To contrast these options, if total harvest remains unchanged (status quo), there is less than a 1% probability that F will be at or below its target in one or three years. It is important to note in all of the harvest scenarios, the probability of the stock being overfished (SSB less than the SSB threshold) is high and increases until 2015-2016. This means despite any reduction in harvest through these proposed scenarios, SSB will continue to decline reaching a low point in 2015-2016 before it begins an upward trajectory towards SSB target (see SSB projection figure below). This trend is driven by the lack of strong year classes currently in the fishery, and the emergence of the strong 2011 year class that matures into the spawning stock in 2016-2017.

It seems like Maryland DNR leadership and the politicians are more concerned about the Socioeconomics of the Striped Bass reductions than managing the resource for the future. I can tell you as a active Charter Boat operator from Solomons the impact of very few Striped Bass in the Bay

for the last 5 years has crippled our industry. We have virtually have had no Striped Bass season after May in our region for the last 5 years. If we continue to follow the same management path of worrying about the money vise the resource (Striped Bass) we will all feel the Socioeconomics impacts of yet another moratorium.

Wally Williams

From: [Dave Anderson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Comment
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:47:01 PM

Mr. Waine,

I am writing in regard to the proposed striped bass regulation changes due to be voted upon in October. As an extremely avid angler who makes nearly 100% of his living off of things related to striped bass fishing (I do not sell fish), I find myself astounded that there's even an argument. Spending as much time as I have on the water over the past 15 years it's hard not to notice patterns and trends and the trend we're riding now is not a good one. Just the past three seasons alone show a sharp decline and this season is the worst I've ever seen—anglers older than I am have told me that this season feels like the late-1970's, right before the last crash!

In lieu of tittering on about how important these fish are to coastal communities, their economic value as a sportfish and the fact that they are basically the identity of places like Cape Cod, the Islands, Block Island, Long Island ect., I'd like to cut right to the chase. The striped bass recovery is the shining star of the ASMFC's reign, the poster child of what fisheries management done right can do and you're dangerously close to sending that down the toilet. The outrage you're experiencing from recreational anglers comes from the fact that we feel that there must be some underlying reason for your allowing this to happen. The rules that have been put in place to govern your decisions were made by the ASMFC, and you say that those rules have to be treated as law, yet you put forth an option that allows you to phase your next change in over three years—changing the very rules you made for yourselves? C'mon now! Can you see why we're feeling the way we're feeling?

So let me tell you what I'm seeing out there and this, I might add, is what most of the recreational anglers you'll speak to are seeing as well. The most alarming thing is that there are huge holes in the fishery, areas that used to support a charter fleet and that were hotbeds for commercial fishing have fallen quiet. I'm sure there are many others but areas like Devils Bridge off of Marthas Vineyard, Sow and Pigs Reef off of Cuttyhunk and Robinsons and Quicks Holes in the Elizabeth Island chain are now a shadow of what they were just a few short years ago. We're also seeing gaping holes in between year classes, this year there is a decent number of 36-40 inch fish, almost no fish in the 32 to 35 inch range, a scant few around 28 inches and as you climb down the ladder into low 20 and high teen range things look very bad. These are the fish they we're relying on to fill the void left by their older brethren and many of them are about to grow to a size where they will be massacred. There are decent numbers of big fish, I consider big to be anything over 44 inches, but they are really only being found in numbers at Block Island and in the area of the Cape Cod Canal, outside of these areas we are getting quick shots at migrating schools of these fish, and sadly, many of the people fishing for them are taking their two and decimating the school at a rate that it's now apparent current recruitment cannot sustain. Areas that used to have bustling resident populations are only seeing consistent action during the migrations, this is not good for you, for me or for any of the businesses that rely on this fishery to sustain them. Something needs to be done.

Commercial fishermen will tell you two things; 1, that there is no shortage of fish and 2, that recreational fishermen want to put an end to commercial fishing for stripers—neither of these statements is true. Recreational fishermen, by and large, want a long-term solution that favors successful spawning and practical bag and size limits. It's clear that the two-fish regulations that have been in place for better than a decade are not sustainable, even when a recovery as amazing as the striped bass' comes down the pipe. It has taken us 15 years to deplete this fishery to a point that it's affecting every type of business that relies on the striped bass (except the commercial fishermen if you actually believe what they're saying!). I would like to come out in support of a 25% reduction for the commercial sector and I would like to add in that the netting and seining of stripers **has to stop**. The regulations for the net boats off the Carolinas are ridiculous—you can't control the number of fish you catch dragging a net! We've all seen that video with thousands of discards floating behind the net boat, it's time to pay attention.

The resounding voices are telling you to use the available science and make a change. Sure there are lobbyists for the commercial sect that are constantly blabbering and who knows what kind of wining and dining they're offering, but we are the people, we are the majority and you need to listen up. Obviously I support Option B, using the available science to aid in making this decision. As far as the Chesapeake goes, writing a special set of regulations for a special area goes against everything that these regulations are designed to do, so in this case I again support Option B; using coastwide fishing mortality reference points to govern your actions, any other option ensures that many of the fish from the 2011 year class--the last good one we have--will never migrate and will never have the chance to spawn. With regard to a timeline for enacting a regulation change, Option A is the only way to go--let's get it all done in 2015. We need to do this like ripping off a bandage. A three year phase in will not only be an enforcement nightmare, but it will be very difficult to relay to the fishing community as the regs slowly change and it looks a more than little crooked when you rewrite your own rules in the eleventh hour. Don't do that. Talking about size and bag limits it's OBVIOUS that two per man is too many. The decline has been sharp, fast and just plain ugly. The fact that something hasn't already been done is pretty appalling, but that's water under the bridge now. We need these fish to spawn as many times as possible so we need to let them grow. And since you yourselves say that these measures only have a 50/50 shot at working that makes it pretty obvious that the most conservative measures need to be taken--I support Option B3, 1 fish per man, per day at 32 inches or greater. I am also vehemently against quota transfers, this is one of those little backdoor loopholes that will be used to help the commercial side of the coin kill as many as they can. I support Option A, Status Quo, no commercial quota transfers between states.

Please take the time to listen to the voices of the people who do not have a vested interest in the fishery. We are honest and we want what's best for the fishery not for our boat payments. We need to protect what spawning individuals we have left and the most stringent regulations give them the best chance. I know you say that there are countless environmental factors at work when a successful spawn occurs and we can't control them. But this is a stance of ignorance. There IS one factor that we CAN control and that is the harvest of these fish. Even if it takes five years for those factors to line up again, there will be that many more fish out there to take advantage. The recreational angling community has been mostly silent on these matters over the past decade but now we're voicing our opinions in great numbers, that should tell you something. The stock that was "too big to fail" is failing and now we're asking you to do something about it. We are right on the hairy edge of fisheries management catastrophe, don't let it happen again—that's not what you want to be remembered for.

Thank you for your time,
-Dave Anderson
Danderson_nef@yahoo.com

Dave Anderson

Outdoor Writer / Lure Builder

From: [Tim Porelle](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Commentary
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 8:09:14 AM

Hello,

I am in favor of option **C1**.

Tim Porelle
Dealer Principal

**Land Rover Hanover &
Land Rover Cape Cod**
2144 Washington St., Hanover, MA 02339
781.659.4000 / 781.659.0880 fax

www.RoverHanover.com

www.RoverCapecod.com

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From: [Joseph Weldon](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Comments - Bristol PA
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 10:01:39 AM

Mike,

first, thank you very much for your overview and comments on Addendum IV and the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. I would also like to thank you and the other officers in attendance for your professional conduct and the ability to maintain your composure during a few moments of unnecessary vitriol that most of us felt out of place.

It was encouraging to hear most in the group understood there is a need for and favored some form of conservation in the immediate future.

I graduated High School in Long Branch NJ, a beach town, went into the military and was assigned to the Missile Site on Fort Hancock Sandy Hook NJ. I have been surf fishing the beaches since 1966 and have seen the ups and downs of the fishery.

This is a affirmation of my comments yesterday evening confirming I would like to see B-4 implemented and would also like to see the slot limit changed from 28-40 to 32 to 40. This is based on the general life cycle of the female bass. Assuming the female matures around 6 years of age for spawning the fish is at 28 inches and the average size to complete the first spawning. If we want these fish to be able to spawn a few years I suggest the catch low limit be extended to 32 inches. The average bass life cycle is 10-12 years putting them at or around 40 inches. Beyond that many of us start to consider trophy bass in the plus 40 pound range.

May I also suggest if you have not, to join the groups on Facebook related to Striped Bass topics. If you look at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/surfcastersinc/> Surfcasters Inc.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/824076724303146/> This is SOB, Save Our Bass

There are others. However these two will give you an idea on the thinking of Sand Fisher persons and their view on the current topic. You may get more informative opinions beyond the meetings on the thinking of this group.

I also suggested it might have been more supportive in the decision making of fisherman if they actually knew the biological or life cycle facts on the fish. It wasn't until the 1980's collapse that I started to learn more about the fishery.

Again thank you for hearing us and for being a part of the process.

Joe Weldon
Yardley PA

This was my facebook response last night on Surfcasters Inc.

I attended the ASMFC meeting in Bristol Pa tonight along with a friend. We had 35 attendees and another 7 officials in attendance. First I want to say, it was great to hear almost everyone in the room speak up with an opinion and eventually a thought on the recommendations. There were several contentious voices in the group along with several individuals who called into question the data, it's validity and how it was collected. It's always good to have every opinion heard regardless of the differences. It was a bit disconcerting to hear several thoughts that questioned whether there is an issue with the Striped Bass Fisheries and biomass stocks. I have surf fished the Jersey Coast since 1966 and in my opinion there comes a point when you can sense whether the fishery is under too much pressure and needs support to recover. The voices in the late 70's and early 80's were in dissension then like they are now; but there was no doubt Striped Bass stocks were scarily scarce in 1980. Although the fishery is not in the same conditions as the early 80's I feel it is better to do something now rather than a moratorium later; like the mid 80's. I asked for B-4, a change in the slot limit from 28-40 to 32-40 and no Commercial Transfer. I called into question the number indicating 74% of the Recreational take was made by 4 states. NJ, NY, Mass and MD. NJ's value was only 380,000 lbs and NY and Mass. were over 1,000,000 pounds each. They were 66% of the number referenced. In addition Conn and Rhode Island values were not even included. NJ took less fish per mile of sand than the other states. I also asked them to consider another value to review to monitor the catch. 3 categories: Commercial, Charter/Open Water and Sand. In my opinion more fish and bigger fish are taken in open water versus sand in the Recreational Component. After the meeting was over I asked the presenter to include a biological review on the fish. It was interesting to note the number of fishermen that do not know the age, size, weight and sexual maturity of the fish. It might have been better to share a bit of the life cycle before asking them to comment on sizes and slot limits. Glad I went.

From: [John F.X. Fenerty, Jr.](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Conservation Efforts - Maximum Reduction Required
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:20:30 PM

Dear Representative.

Please know that I have been an avid recreational Striped Bass fisherman for the last fifteen years. While have been an avid fisherman for most of my 48 years of life, when I was a kid there were no Striped Bass to catch.

I fish from my own boat at the New Jersey Shore. I start in March and I fish through December. I have fished for them with professional guides from the Susquehanna Flats in Maryland to Sandy Hook and the Raritan Bay.

Many of these guides have stopped fishing for striped bass because their numbers are precipitously low.

The bottom line is that these fish are pressured recreationally and commercially just about every day of the year throughout their range.

If the day is a fishable day, the recreational fishermen are on them en masse.

If the day is within a commercial season, the commercial fisherman are on them and taking every one that they can get.

The Internet has been full of recreational fisherman holding large dead cow bass on their front lawn.

But even those pictures are becoming few and far between.

The data is no longer in doubt by the people who fish for striped bass regularly. We are well on our way to repeating history with another collapse of the fishery.

Please do all that you can to obtain the maximum reduction possible.

Please stop the commercial fishery.

Please stop the recreational fishery from killing all the large cows.

We need a slot limit like B4 with 1 fish between 28" and 40".

Thank you for your time and attention.

John

John F.X. Fenerty, Jr.
2661 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
14N. Quincy Avenue, Margate, New Jersey 08402
Tel: 888-947-4848
Email: MyLawyer@MyLawyer.net

From: [Wendy Geiger](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Conservation!
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 7:22:50 PM

Mike, Striped bass once again need our help to prevent another disaster like the one that occurred in the 1980s. I am in full support of an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015 if not sooner! Count me in !!! Eric Geiger

From: [Mike Galvin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 7:08:27 AM

Dear Mike:

As a Striped Bass, catch-and-release oriented fly fisherman, I join the chorus of those urging the imposition of new, stricter and more conservative conservation rules to save the dwindling Striped Bass populations in NY, CT, MA and RI.

Thanks so much for considering.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Galvin
Nantucket, MA Homeowner and Sport Fisherman

From: [L. Williams](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass decline
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 10:21:31 AM

Lets have one fish 34 inches and above and also cut the blue fish to 5 a day for 3 years

From: [Greg O'Driscoll](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass decline
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 2:41:23 PM

I support a reduction at 1@32" limit option B3 for 2015 and no commercial quota transfer between states
Greg

From: [Matthew Sandy Kopet](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 12:47:07 PM

Mike --

Thank you for the ability to contribute my thoughts on the captioned.

As an active recreational angler, I am most interested in maintaining the status quo on the size and bag limits currently enforced. Out of respect for the decrease in the biomass, I can understand the interest in amending the bag limit and sizing requirements. Of the options presented, option B7 offers the least objectionable option from the point of view of the recreational angler. The next best option would be B5 as it would allow a reasonable haul for the recreational fisherman and their hired captain/crew.

I think you need to consider the financial impact that this industry has on the economically strained Jersey Shore. Thanks again for the opportunity to contribute to the conversation.

Matt Kopet
Branchburg, NJ

From: [scott_risko](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 8:23:33 PM

My vote is status quo on two fish at 28 inches, I'm sure, I'll have to pay for the consequences down the road.
If I am forced to make a choice to hopefully survive, than I'll take B7.

Scott Risko
42 Mendell Ave
Cranford, NJ 07016

From: [Mike Skirka](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 8:14:52 PM

Mike:

I am an avid fisherman from NJ. A reduction to 1 bass per person per trip will likely decimate the recreational charter and party boat businesses and business for tackle shops too. I own a boat and a 1 fish limit per man will make striper fishing very expensive per fish. I release all stripers over 30 inches and there is a large and growing number of fishermen on all types of recreational fishing boats that do the same to try to maintain a sustainable fishery without government mandates.

What restrictions will there be on commercial catches, which should take at least as severe a hit as the recreational guys.

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations, with perhaps a shrinking of the open fishing season for both commercial and recreational guys. That is not one of the options available, so I prefer Option B7 as the best overall available choice.

Mike Skirka
5 Oakdale Run
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

From: [John Kolas](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 5:00:00 PM
Importance: High

Mr. Waine,

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7. Or better yet, how about 2 fish @24'-28" and let's not kill the big breeders.....doesn't that sound logical?

Respectfully,

Capt. John Kolas
Reel Fun Sportfishing
Highlands, NJ

From: [Rob Morrison](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014 5:13:26 PM

September 20, 2014

Michael Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

For the past fifteen years I have been a full time fishing guide and charter boat captain on the island of Martha's Vineyard. That the fishery has declined immensely over the past several years is no longer a subject of rational debate. Today's striped bass fishery is a mere shadow of what we experienced in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Indeed, ASMFC may have already delayed too long in taking meaningful action.

I implore the Commission to take all possible steps to preserve what remains of the 2011 Chesapeake and 2007 Hudson year classes. These fish may be our last hope to restore the stock to population levels that existed between 1995 and 2004.

To that end, ASMFC should take immediate and decisive action. I recommend that ASMFC adopt the following proposed measures:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point
Option B: Uses the 2013 benchmark assessment

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Assessment Reference Point
Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment point

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year

Section 3.0: Management Scenario Options
Coastal Recreational Fishery: B-3 One fish per person @ 32"
Chesapeake Recreational Fisheries: B-13
Chesapeake Commercial Fisheries: B-17

Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one region to another should quotas not be reached in a given region.

Sincerely,

Captain Rob Morrison
Edgartown, MA

From: lisa@whitewateroutfitters.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum Questions
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 12:50:29 PM

Mike,

I attended the New York, Long Island public meeting last night. Thank you for taking time to listen to the public and discuss the proposed addendum.

I have two follow up questions:

1. If option B is chosen or for that matter any of the options, what will happen after the time period expires? How long until the population is evaluated and reviewed. If the one fish at 32" is chosen, is this decision for 5+ years?
2. Is there any opportunity to view other states public comments? via on line or minutes? or what was the overall majority choice for the other states.

I represent White Water Outfitters, a retail tackle fishing store located in Hampton Bays, NY.
Our preferred choices would be:

- 2.6 - Option A
- 3.0 - Option B 1 or B 2
- 3.1 - Option A no transfer
- 3.2 - Option A

Once again thank you and I look forward to a response regarding the above questions.

Lisa Poyer
Operations Manager
White Water Outfitters
288 E. Montauk Highway
Hampton Bays, NY 11946
631-594-3336
631-594-3338 fax
lisa@whitewateroutfitters.net
WhiteWaterOutfitters.net

From: [Crabb, Thomas](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 8:27:20 AM

Mike , I Don't Generally get too involved, In matter like this ,However, This is very close to My heart. I fish mostly saltwater on Long Island, and I support the immediate reduction in the striped bass harvest. *I like to eat fish as much as the next guy, But I Love to catch them MORE .*

Thanks for listening,

Thomas D. Crabb

From: [John Stanchfield](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Fishery Management
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 1:32:33 PM

Hi Mike,

I truly care about the striped bass fishery as a recreational fisherman. I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest for 2015.

Thanks,
John Stanchfield

From: [Will Galvin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Fishery
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 7:49:38 PM

Mr. Waine,

I am writing to you to advocate for the most stringent regulations to conserve and grow the East Coast striped bass population.

I grew up fly fishing for stripers in the waters off Watch Hill, Rhode Island and Fishers Island, New York. As a boy during the late 1990s and early 2000s our family enjoyed spotting, casting, landing, and *releasing* striped bass daily in our home waters. The last five years we have seen our home waters turn from a vibrant lively fishery with many species of bait, fish, and bird turn from a land of plenty to the dead sea. I didn't see one stripe bass break the surface this past summer. To catch one I had to charter a boat to take me out to the flats of Nantucket there you could at least see them.

As a recreational fisherman I do not see the need to kill fish. On the rare occasion that we do take fish we only do so to eat them later that evening for dinner. The sheer tonnage that the recreational charter boats haul in is appalling.

Please make note that this opinion is not unique to myself. My fishing friends in the town of Watch Hill advocate and implore your organization to restrict the killing of striped bass so that future generations might enjoy the sport. Specifically, I think of my nephew (2 years old) with whom I want to share the sport of striper fishing.

Sincerely,

Will

From: [Bob Horton](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Fishery
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:27:07 PM

I am in favor of reducing the number of Striped Bass that can be kept to one a day. Many of us practice catch and release now and reducing the number a person is allowed to keep will increase the number and size of these fish in the future.

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased

Robert Horton

East Windsor, NJ 08520

I fish the New Jersey coast and Cape Cod.

From: [Gib Randall](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass fishing
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014 4:38:34 PM

Mike,

My name is Gib Randall and I have been reading a lot about the Striped bass regulations and one article said that people are encouraged to email you with our feelings about the regulations. I just want to say that even at the age of 17 I am very sad to see how over fishing of charter boats and the many many people who enjoy fishing are destroying the fishery. It really kills me when I spend my entire summer hunting for the stripers and I only get 5 or six all summer. I do my part and ALWAYS put back the fish I catch and I would love to see the fishing limits changed for 2015 so that the fishery is able to start making a come back. Please think about the fish and make the right choice!

Gib Randall

--

"Catch 'em on the fly"

From: [David W. Skok](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Harvest Reduction 2015
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 10:09:10 AM

To: Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Mike,

I am writing to you today to urge you to enact the strongest and most immediate possible measures to restore our striped bass fisheries to a healthy state for the sake of the public good, and all interested parties. My personal opinion is that the maximum proposed harvest reduction of 25% is not even remotely close to what this now low-quality fishery demands - but at this point, I'll take what I can get. As you know, the striped bass recreational catch is down 75% from peak years and the fishing has become mediocre at best. Without using live bait even the best "sharpie" fishermen only expect to catch a handful of 2011-class stripers. Robbing the cradle is no one's idea of a quality striped bass fishery. I live on the shore of Boston Harbor and the striped bass is my primary target. To be honest, the fishing is so slow here now that I would never waste the time or money to travel for striped bass angling if I lived even 30 minutes from the coast. Coastal communities like Winthrop, and fishing professionals such as myself, are losing plenty of precious dollars due to the lack of striped bass. I know the ASMFC prides itself on the success of its striped bass management policies, so now is a great time to take action before the spawning biomass of Chesapeake striped bass is gone forever. I only hope that it is not too late.

Best,

Dave Skok
Winthrop, MA

David W. Skok
www.dwskok.com
617.846.0698

From: [Vladan Milenkovic](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Harvest Reduction 2015
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:22:13 PM

To: Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Mike,

I am writing to you today to urge you to enact the strongest possible measures to restore our striped bass fisheries to a healthy state for the sake of the public good, and all interested parties. My personal opinion is that the maximum proposed harvest reduction of 25% is not even remotely close to what this now low-quality fishery demands. As you probably know, the striped bass recreational catch is down 75% from peak years and the fishing has become mediocre at best. I live on the shore of Boston Harbor and fish for striped bass almost every day during the season. I witnessed incredible changes in the quality of fishing for stripers during the past decade: the fishing is so slow today, it is sad. Coastal communities like Winthrop are losing plenty of precious dollars due to the lack of striped bass.

I know the ASMFC prides itself on the success of its striped bass management policies, so now is a great time to take action before the spawning biomass of Chesapeake striped bass is gone forever. I only hope that it is not too late.

Best,

Vlad Milenkovic,

Concerned Fly Fisherman

Winthrop, MA

From: [George Jehn](#)
To: [JJ Gilmor](#); pboyle@nysenate.gov; [Emerson Hasbrouck](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass hearing
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 8:24:58 PM

Gentlemen,

I will be unable to attend the hearing tomorrow night at Stony Brook University. Therefore, as a magazine outdoor writer and avid striped bass fisherman, I wish to voice my official objection to any changes in the striped bass recreational fishing category. During this year, 2014, I have witnessed the finest bass fishing in over fifty years, both in the quantity and varied size of the fish caught. The current 2-striped bass, 28-inch and over limit should be maintained for the party and charter boat fleet. If any of the more draconian changes that have been proposed are implemented, it will result in a tremendous loss of anglers, therefore income, for these hardworking captains and other individuals associated with the striped bass fishery.

If you gentlemen feel that there must be changes made to the striped bass category, I would strongly suggest that a first, important step would be via a reduction in the striped bass commercial tagging operation that is currently allowed and done by a select few individuals, to the detriment of many. Although I do believe the striped bass stocks are in good shape, if you feel that the recreational sector must contribute to the perceived poor state of the fishery, then I favor Proposal D-1, by upping the minimum size of the fish to a two-fish limit of thirty inches or greater in 2015, followed by another increase to thirty-one inches in 2016 and thirty-two inches minimum in 2017. These changes will represent a significant contribution on the part of recreational anglers, hopefully without putting the party and charter boats out of business.

I strongly urge the DEC not to overreact to the "red flags" that have been incorrectly raised by many who are not even fishermen. Quite a few of these very same individuals sit down at the dinner table and consume commercially caught striped bass without giving it a second thought, but nonetheless raise their loud voices to protest recreational anglers doing the same, who, at the same time enjoy the challenge of catching stripers.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration of my comments.

Sincerely yours,

George Jehn

From: [Todd Richter](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass limits
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 9:32:20 AM

Mike,

Awhile back i emailed you my thoughts on changed to striped bass limits to ensure a viable fishery for generations to come.

You also may want to think about this:

http://www.northeast.com/postedreports/view.cfm?region_ID=33&id=175809&water_ID=1&fishingType_ID=0&startRecord=51&orderby=date&daysold=30

I think any talk about increasing the striped bass population should include the reduction of "by catch" from commercial draggers. this makes no sense and is quite sickening. Whomever killed all those fish should be heavily fined or tossed in jail in my opinion.

Todd Richter

From: [Timothy Doolan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Limits
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 7:24:15 PM

I favor Status Quo for NJ.
2 fish @ 28".
Tim Doolan

From: [Harry Dodson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Management Comments
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 2:53:55 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a recreational fisherman old enough to remember the crash of the striped bass population in the 1970's and early 80's. To prevent this from happening again I recommend adopting option B4 for residential fishermen and option D6 for commercial fishermen as well as Commercial Size Limit Option A. Slot limits make sense because they protect the largest most prolific spawners and also result in the preservation of larger fish for catch and release. Both commercial and recreational fishermen should also abide by the same slot limit.

Thanks for taking my views into account as you make your decision. And thanks for protecting a unique fishery that has been prone to collapse in the past due to overfishing and other factors.

Harry Dodson

Harry L. Dodson FASLA
Dodson & Flinker, Inc.
463 Main Street
Post Office Box 160
Ashfield, MA 01330

harry@dodsonfinker.com (email)

www.dodsonfinker.com (web)

(413) 628-4496 x 11 (office)

(413) 237-7621 (cel)

(413) 628-3216 (fax)

From: [john schmidt](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass management Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:19:03 PM

Mike several items in regards to striped Bass management . I feel as a recreational angler 1 fish over 32 inches would be acceptable. Many of the folks I fish with feel the same . The second and more crucial item is to completely stop all commercial striped bass fishing in Massachusetts period. The decimation of the stock by the commercial fishermen is abdominal

--

cordially yours John L Schmidt

From: [Doug Jowett](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Terry Stockwell](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Management Plan - Addendum IV for Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 6:52:52 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a full time charter captain in Maine and on Cape Cod and would like to be on record of supporting Option B-3 to Addendum IV of the Striped Bass Management Plan. The reduction in striped bass biomass and available healthy year classes is dramatic beyond available science. My 24 years of guiding for striped bass has never seen such poor, quality angling opportunities for stripers than in the past seven years. The continued downward trend must be stopped sooner rather than later. The minimal options available in the Addendum are troubling. More serious reductions would be ok with me. Even a three year closure of striped bass consumptive fishing would be fine with me.

Very truly yours,
Captain Doug Jowett

Captain Doug Jowett
61 Four Wheel Drive
Brunswick, Maine 04011
207-725-4573
dougjowett@comcast.net
www.mainestripedbassfishing.com

From: [joe rio](#)
To: [Sen. Philip Boyle](#); [James Gilmore](#); [Emerson Hasbrouck](#); [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Management
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 9:41:55 AM

Sept. 3, 2014

Dear Sir,

I am deeply concerned about the state of our fishery. Striped bass stocks are down again due to poor spawning and overharvesting. We need meaningful management measures to reduce the harvest by 25%. My recommendations for upcoming management options are:

Section	Option
Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment Reference Point Option	Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-benchmark assessment
Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point Option	Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment reference point
Section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference Points	Option B: To be managed by State of North Carolina
Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction (mortality)	Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year
Section 3.0: Proposed Management Scenario Options	Coastal Recreational Fishery: Select B3 (one fish @ 32") Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Select B10 Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Select B17
Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers	Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one are to another should quotas not be reached among fishers in a given region.
Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits	Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased

Respectfully,

From: [FRED WICK](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass management
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 1:55:07 PM

Dear Mike,

Please include by name in favor of raising the limit for the striped bass to one fish and 32 inches.

I've enjoyed fishing for these fish for 60 years and want to continue enjoying the sport, not only for me,
but my grandsons.

Thank you,

Fred Wick

fishwick55@msn.com

631-680-0963

From: hoffmanclaims@verizon.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass management
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 9:19:54 AM

Reducing the harvest does not necessarily increase the abundance off bass. You must eliminate the harvest of big fish entirely so they can reproduce.

The trophy size fish taken in Jamaica Bay and off Block Island are the ones that produce the next year class. They should not be slaughtered.

I suggest a one fish per man limit for all recreational bass fishing with a slot limit of 28" - 34" and a requirement that only barbless hooks be used to minimize mortality when using soft baits (clam and worm) . Simply increasing the minimum size to 32" does not decrease mortality or increase the year classes. Thanks for your efforts. Les Hoffman

From: [Daniel Emley](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Management
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 7:47:05 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

This is an email I sent to Tom Fote expressing my outrage of this important issue. I urge you and your committee to reconsider your position.

Dear Mr. Fote,

As a member of Berkeley Striper Club, I am dismayed that you may not be supporting the reduction of recreational allotment of striped bass. I am quoting your statement: *"I base my decisions on science. The present science has not proved that we need this type of reduction. I will be listening to the comments at the public hearings before making a final decision."* It is apparent that the current sampling methodology of the bass population is flawed because as an avid surf fisherman, I can tell you everyone within our BSC club is greatly concerned as to the future of the stripers based on our catch performance over the past few years. "To get accurate data results...you need accurate data to make that assessment"

During our BSC club meeting this past saturday night, it was also disclosed that legislatures are considering changing to a commercial multi-state transfer quota addendum which further endangers the striped bass.

I hope you change your position and vote on these important issues.

Regards,

Dan Emley
15 Rossini Rd
Manchester, N.J. 08759

From: [Cicero, Nick](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: STRIPED BASS MANAGMENT PLAN COMMENTS
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 3:31:14 PM

MIKE WAINE
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Hello Mike

I attended last night's meeting in Toms River NJ but wanted to make my comments in writing for consideration by the ASMFC.

I'm the sales manager for the Folsom Cooperation of Mahwah NJ. We have been in business for over 150 years and we are the largest wholesale fishing tackle distributor in the North Eastern United States, supplying both independent and chain stores. We are responsible for a good deal of the tackle you will find in many of the Atlantic States costal retail establishments.

Striped bass tackle is a very significant part of our business and its one that we can track very accurately in both dollars and regional consumption . In the past 6 years we have seen a sharp decline in the sale of striper related gear, particularly the purchases of terminal gear like lures , line, hooks and rigs . Any downturn of this sort typically points to less recreational fishing opportunities or, as is the case with Striped Bass, less coast wide availability of the species to a broad spectrum of the recreational anglers. When fluke tackle sales decline it is , we observe, because the season is closed or the size limit is perceived as unattainable! Sea Bass tackle sales obviously sharply falls off when the offshore party boat fleet is denied winter access to the stock ! We can track that sort of stuff with a high degree of detail . Because we sell to so many stores , along the entire coastal range of striped bass, our numbers can be very accurate depiction of the vitality and the geographic hot spots of any fishery.

We clearly have been seeing a lack of robust sales and a change of fishing activates to fewer and smaller areas for the past 6 years . Where once we enjoyed brisk fill-in sales on a winter Monday in December from central New Jersey all the way to Virginia Beach or the Outer Banks , now we are lucky if we see orders from more than one or two coastal ports. When Cape Cod canal was hot this past summer, the traditionally famous outer Cape Cod beaches saw no striper opportunities and no tackle business. If Block Island is loaded with fish the nearby Connecticut coast is not. This has become the pattern most recently !

Effort is directly influenced by the reduction in striped bass being available in fishable numbers in any particular area. Generally speaking, where once the month of June saw good striped bass fishing from New Jersey through the Maine coast we now see very small hot spots of intensive fishing activity and an almost complete lack of any activity in nearby coastal communities.

And it's precisely for the reasons I detail above that we recognize that the health of our striped bass fishery needs to be addressed and that conservation measures need to be implemented that will result in a return to the abundance we enjoyed in the late 1990's!

It's my opinion, based on daily contact with charter and party boat operators, tackle dealers and marinas that the harvest numbers published in the data presented at last night's meeting shows only a fraction of the actual total mortality! NMFS and the coastal state agencies have no real handle on the illegal and highly lucrative black market that exists for striped bass. The serious lack of enforcement efforts in much of the region has made striped bass fillets disguised as another species a common sight in restaurants and fish markets up and down our coast. One wonders how far the illegal catches actually travel ? Abuses in the EEZ this past summer off Block Island were of a truly alarming level and were only one example of many similar situations that have plagued this fishery in recent years ! None of that morality has been accurately portrayed in the numbers presented in the draft document I reviewed today !

The facts are plain and simple. We now collectively kill more striped bass than the year classes we now have available can withstand without jeopardizing our future ! We technically aren't over fishing now but the direction is clear to anyone who's intimately involved in this fishery . We need to protect what's left of our breeding stocks while we await the climatic conditions that will produce dominate year classes and healthy recruitment numbers again.

Any scenario that allows the retention of more than one fish by any angler ...shore or boat, private or for hire, is in our opinion, a recipe that continues to put or fishery in harm's way! The swiftest and most comprehensive changes short of a moratorium are the best options at this point. We support option ***B1, one fish at 28 inches, for the coastal recreational fishing sector, with changes to be implemented as of 2015 !***

That regulatory change is , as we see it, the most likely path to achieve the desired results in the least amount of time while still allowing the general public access to fish for both sport and personal consumption. We also believe that while larger minimum size limits may seem like a good option, and one that protects the upcoming year classes , the potential release mortality associated with those larger culls may be an issue that actually increases harvest.

New initiatives need to be explored to fund better and more comprehensive enforcement of our current regulations so that the conservation efforts we are planning to implement aren't offset by the continuing illegal depletion of our stocks by black market operators!

Our recommendation is for The ASMFS to stop delaying the inevitable and implement a powerful position now which will insure that our coastal anglers can continue to enjoy striped bass in the future !

I thank you for your time and service in this matter .

Regards

From: [James Nash](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Striped Bass Managment
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:12:30 PM

Mr. Waine,

I am writing to first thank you for your tireless effort to see and hear everyone's perspective on what is a crucial issue with a passionate audience. I can only hope that I am one of many voices clogging your email to express themselves.

Now for what I'd like to see based on the abysmal Striper season I and my fellow surfcasters have been having- while I know the fishing has been strong off shore, it creates concern that there are so few fish that are coming inshore to the beach to feed. The bait is there, but my guess is that the biomass is so small that there is just no need for the fish to come in, as there is no competition for food offshore.

I'd like to see a decision made that reflects the following.

- Section 2.5.1 option B- 2013 stock assessment
- Section 2.6 option A 25% reduction I. 1 year
- Section 3.0 option B3 1 fish at 32"
- Section 3.1 option A prohibition of commercial quota transfers
- Section 3.2 option A increase in commercial size limits concurrent with recreational

The commission has serious thinking to do, but this is a fish, that when abundant, all sectors of the fishery, most importantly the fish, will benefit-

Drastic action, biting the bullet, would be the quickest way to put the brakes on a slide that will hurt everyone involved, with the fish taking the biggest hit.

Please decide in favor for the fish, the commercials, for hire and recreational sectors will be able to absorb what might hurt in the short term, but a delayed plan will only delay the inevitable, and I don't know that anyone involved will recover.

My best,
Jim Nash
High Hill Striper Club.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jim Callahan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Mgmt.
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:48:29 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

As a longtime surfcaster, and founding member of Atlantic Surfcasters, I cannot sit idly by and watch the Bass population dwindle further without comment. Please read the following, and help the population recover to where it needs to be.

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Implementing these options would help greatly get Striped Bass back where they need to be. You can be a part of the recovery.

Thank you,

--

Jim C allahan - Founding member
Atlantic Surfcasters Club, Inc.

From: [Jon Pulaski](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Mortality Reduction addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 4:22:09 PM

Mike,

My name is Jon Pulaski I and fish thru out NJ, NY. I'm emailing you with my concern of the decline of the striped bass population. I support a reduction at 1@32" limit option B3 for 2015. Thank you

Jon Pulaski
9 Spyros Drive
South Amboy NJ 08879

From: [Timothy Egan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Mortality Reduction Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 5:18:15 PM

I'm a striper fisherman from West Deptford, NJ. Fish the shore a lot. I strongly support the 1@32 option. Gotta do somethng!!

Tim Egan

--

ΜΟΛΩΝ ΛΑΒΕ

"I swear, it's like I live in a trailer of common sense, and stare out the window at a tornado of stupidity"

From: jelinski@epix.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass mortality reduction draft addendum iv
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 1:48:36 PM

Hello my name is Ed Linski and I support a reduction of 1 @ 32" limit Option B3 for 2015 and no commercial quota transfer between states.

Thank you for your time -
Ed Linski

From: [Katherine](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Mortality Reduction Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 10:07:47 PM

I support 1 @ 32 inches

Katherine DeCotiis Wiedemann, M.A., BCBA

From: [Mark Yocum](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Mortality Reduction Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 6:37:49 PM

Dear Mr. Waine

I'm am writing you to let you know my position on the striped bass stock. I feel that the population has been decreasing the last few years with not as many striped bass around. I fish up and down the coast from North Carolina to Rhode Island in pursuit of striped bass but my home waters are the Jersey coast. I have been fishing for 50 years and enjoy my time fishing.

I'm in favor of the 1 fish at 32" to achieve the reduction in mortality that will allow the population to grow. I feel that 32" allows the yoy 2011 to spawn a few times before being harvested. I also oppose any transfer of commercial quotas between the states. I would like the striper bass to be consider a game fish but that is a conversation for another day. I thank you for your time and effort in this matter.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be any further help.

Mark A. Yocum
3235 Lenape Dr.
Dresher, Pa 19025

From: [Capt. Fletcher Chayes](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Options
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:42:59 PM

I'm in favor of Option B B7. I'm a full time 19 year charter boat captain and am in favor of restoring the stock as quickly as possible but need the two fish option(slot and the over) to sustain my lively hood.
Captain Fletcher Chayes
Two Rivers Charters
New Jerse

From: GPLJW@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Proposals
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 12:17:07 PM

Mr. Waine,

I attended the meeting at StonyBrook University and want to commend you for the great job you did presenting the "science" behind the proposals and for your even responses to pointed questions.

I'm sure that your experiences at the earlier meetings helped you prepare for this one and it gave everyone the data they needed to see and time to comment on it. Thanks for that.

I have been a collector of Striped Bass scale samples for the NYSDEC for about 10 years and usually deliver to them nearly 200 sets of scales every year for their studies. I am primarily a fly or light tackle fisherman and fish about 80 days from mid-May to mid-October when I am on Shelter Island for the summer. This year started with a whimper and looks like it may end with a dull thud as I have only collected samples from about 50 bass so far this year, 12 of them were 28"+ and only two were 32"+. I am praying for a good fall run before I head back to Florida and am encouraged by the bait in the water as I fished for False Albacore these past two weeks.

All that said I want urge ASMFC to adopt:

Option B in section 2.5.1 and 2.5.2-use 2013 Data as a benchmark

Option A in section 2.6 -prevent a three year phase in of regs

Option B in section 3.0- full reduction imposed as of Jan 1, 2015

Option B3- a one fish daily bag limit and a 32" size limit

Option B15- A hard quota for the Chesapeake

Thank you for this opportunity to speak up and good luck on your deliberations. Larry Winston

From: [Chris Yuro](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Proposals
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 9:52:52 PM

Again.....we are pushed against the wall!!!! I would recommend status quo, or no fish over 36" at all. These are my findings over the last forty years fishing the NY Bight area. I guess I would be forced to opt for the last option-B7.
Chris Yuro

Sent from my iPad

From: [Rick Elyar](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Public Comment
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 12:41:37 PM

Hi Mike,

I am a recreational fisherman and attended my first 'management' related type of meeting when I drove 2 hours down to your presentation at Chesapeake College last week. I live out in Carroll County, MD and feel strongly about this issue in front of us, which has gotten me involved in conservation and sustainability related organizations. Now, I was surprised to see this type of hearing, only being scheduled throughout our Chesapeake water shed on one evening in what is likely our state's largest commercial fishing region. I would have to think, had our state also offered an additional hearing in a location convenient of Annapolis north to Baltimore, there may have been far larger recreational response to the 25% reduction option. My opinion, however, I can't help but feel MD DNR had a biased opinion in the scheduling of that hearing location.

Our Chesapeake bay's striped bass fishery should be no secret to many that it isn't what it used to be.

I don't believe in arguing over the reason, as I don't feel the decline rests solely on commercial nor recreational fishing pressures. I think the pound nets, gill nets, environmental warming, and our overall changing climate in the midatlantic region has experienced, in addition to the run off contamination that effects our waters, both play a large role in the decline of species abundance within our Chesapeake bay.

Being my first meeting and still trying to grasp and understand all the viewpoints/opinions surrounding your proposed amendments, I was taken back throughout the evening on what appeared to be a lot of short sighted view points of Striped Bass and how it should be managed. I heard many conflicting opinions that Maryland Striped Bass are resident and not part of the coastal migrators, yet I learned that evening that our spawning grounds are one of a few major stock suppliers to the coastal migrators, with most stripers only staying in our bay for a few years. That tells me, that yes, what we as Marylander's do to promote sustainability with our Striped Bass does play a significant role in the species success overall and not just our stock. Also, I heard a lot of talk that 90% of our striped

bass are male. I searched extensively online afterwards to read more about that and could not find any documented reports or research that substantiate that claim made by the commercial fishing sector. I'm confused as to where they think the female born stripers go after birth? Do they not mature within our waters for several years, similar to the males, thus affected by all the same pressures?

I would like to see the success I read about down south with aggressively managing fisheries and come back to our Chesapeake Bay for renewed abundance of the stock. Please urge your committee to implement the immediate 25% reduction across the board for both commercial and recreational fisheries.

Please urge the ASMFC to make harvest reductions for what's best for the fish and not what's best for all the interest groups involved in prospering over a natural resource. Limit our harvest immediately, increase size limits, and show an aggressive response to managing this fishery for the future. Please implement the 25% option presented during your talk.

Thanks for the presentation last week, I enjoyed learning about the proposed amendments. You did a fantastic job as The evenings speaker.

Regards,
Rick Elyar

Rick Elyar | Business Development Manager
office: 410-413-1752 | mobile: 410-977-3782 | email: rick.elyar@taiengineering.com

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 **Be Green!** Please don't print this e-mail unless absolutely necessary.

From: [Lewie, Jonathan F](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Quotas/Limits from Rec/Comm/Charter stakeholder
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 5:43:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High

Mike,

I understand that you are a decision maker for ASMFC. I just wanted to show support for the measure to move striped bass limits to 1 fish at 32". I also support a reduction in the commercial quota by 25%. I feel like I have stakes in each industry. I am a recreational fisherman whose father is a commercial bass fisherman(who I fish with at some points during the commercial season). Additionally, I received my captains license and will begin chartering next year. I feel that a reduction across the board is in the best interest of all parties. I have seen a considerable increase in size of the striped bass population over the past 10 years, but a reduction in quantity which is concerning.

I feel that all parties will make out with new measures. The charter fisherman will sustain their income with more fish in the population, commercial fisherman will see a reduction in quota but an increase in price per pound due to lower supply, and recreational fisherman will have a better chance at catching a keeper. Honestly a size limit should be standard up and down the coast. My feeling is that the size limit should be 36" across the board and a 1 fish limit for recs. The size limit should apply to both commercial and recreational fisherman. That would protect all 36" fish up and down the coast. You would see a large percentage of the breeding class protected that currently is not protected well(28-36" fish). I see so many benefits with a change like this. The fish will naturally "adjust" to the new size limit and in a few years there will be a substantial amount of 36" fish to be caught by all parties.

Thank you,

Jonathan F. Lewie

Branch Manager, Shelton

Otis Elevator Company

One Enterprise Drive, Suite 205

Shelton, CT 06484

Mobile: 914-619-6240

✉ Jonathan.Lewie@otis.com

www.otis.com



From: [Lisa Doricchi](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Recommended Options:
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:40:51 PM

I concur with the following in order to bring back this stock of our favorite gamefish:

Recommended Options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

From: [Charles Jenkins](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Recovery
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 3:30:38 PM

I favor one year. That way, if it proves insufficient, you don't have to wait two more years to take remedial action. That's what they did in Maryland in the 80's, except it was total - and it worked.

Charles D. Jenkins
1500 Westbrook Ct Apt 4116
Richmond, Va 23227

From: [Gubata, James M](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com; [Cambra, Jonathan](#); cteasy@verizon.net; [Hennessy, Joshua](#); [Toni Gubata](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Regulation recommendation
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:51:32 PM

Hi Mr. Waine

I would like to submit a comment regarding the striped bass fishing regulations on the Atlantic Coast. I live in New England and have fished recreationally and helped a friend who had a commercial license for many years. From one location off the coast of RI I can see 4 states, i.e., RI, CT, NY, MA. The same fish can be in any state from one day to the next, all 4 states have different laws and can be very different. How can we manage a migratory fish and have each state with much different laws? There should be some consistency along the entire coast. Also, the problem in my opinion is not with your weekend warrior recreational fisherman but with those that sell the fish for money. Money corrupts everything and these commercial or semi commercial guys are selling the fish under the table. The mortality numbers you have you should triple. People in RI and Conn take their catch to Mass and sell there. All the big fish from Block Island ended up in Massachusetts wholesalers coolers. If the cant sell there they illegally sell to restaurants and small fish markets. As long as a striped bass has a commercial value people will break the law to make a buck. I recommend that ***no sale of stripers be allowed anywhere***. You can't sell elk from the national parks, nor can you buy a ram from the Teton Mountains or eagles from Alaska. They are all protected. Why should a few commercial fisherman, with most of them taking way more than they should be allowed to continue to decimate our striper stock for money? Please protect our resource so ***our*** kids can go fishing along our coastline and enjoy the resources in the future. Maybe everyone can take home 1 fresh fish per day, that's it, no commercial slobs stealing all the big fish for money anymore. I figure the recreational fisherman's taxes is more than what the commercial taxes generate.

Just my opinion.

Thanks,
James Gubata

Comments should be sent to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; [703.842.0741](tel:703.842.0741) (FAX) or at mwaine@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Addendum IV.)

James M Gubata | General Manager | Roger Williams University
Bon Appétit Management Company | *Food Service for a Sustainable Future®*
401.254.3399

From: [Chuck Rossiter](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass regulation
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 1:07:52 PM

Please accept my sincerest urging to reduce all taking of striped bass to sustainable levels.

1. I would prefer a recreational slot limit on the East Coast of 1 fish from 32" to 36" per angler per day.
2. Pogy (Menhaden) and herring netting must be reduced to make more food available to bass.
3. Commercial marketing of striped bass should be discontinued. There are many healthier and tastier fish available.

Best regards,
Chuck Rossiter

From: [KEN KATZ](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Regulation
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 8:34:24 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

This e-mail is being sent to you in the hopes that it will help your search for appropriate policy on Striped Bass.

As an avid Striped Bass fisherman for nearly 30 years, I can say that preserving this resource for future generations is important.

It is my opinion that two fish per person is not necessary and could easily be reduced to one AND that the current 28" limit can be raised to at least 30", more if necessary. An overall limit of one fish at a 30"+ size would be more than adequate to satisfy all but the most selfish fisherman.

I don't think I need to give the reasons why, as you know already, just giving additional support to your analysis.

Thank you for your efforts.

Ken Katz

33 Heckscher Drive
Huntington Bay, NY

From: COWBOYSFN9@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 4:06:11 PM

Mr. Waine,

In regards to the forthcoming determination of striped bass regulations, I wish to weigh in my desire that the regulations be set at 1 fish @ 32" with these regulations in effect for 1 year. Thank you.
Donald Worth Toms River, N.J.

From: [Wylie Galvin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 12:19:26 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing in support of the stringent regulations for the preservation of the striped bass population on the east coast. The striped bass is a wonderful species, and has provided some amazing memories with friends and family angling the bass as a sport fish. It would be a shame if generations in the future were not able to experience the wonderful times that I have.

Thank you very much in advance for your consideration of the regulations!
-Stuart "Wylie" Galvin

From: tom@angryfish.tv
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 7:39:56 PM

DATE: September 16, 2014

TO:
Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Va. 220201
E-mail: mwaine@asmfc.org

FROM:
Tom Lynch
angry fish phototography
PO Box 147
Seaside Park, NJ
tom@angryfish.tv
www.angryfish.tv

Mr. Waine-

I am a professional sport fishing photographer and sports marketing consultant from Seaside Park. I network a with a diverse group of fishermen, scientists and industry people, up an down the striper coast. Collectively we are in total agreement that there is a significant problem with the striper stocks.

Immediate action needs to be taken to avert a total crash. Given the choices, I support option B5 (1 fish at 28-40"slot).

"SAVE OUR STRIPER FISHERY".

Sincerely,
Tom Lynch

mwaine@asmfc.org

From: [David Niles](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass regulations
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 9:32:38 PM

Mike:

I'm writing along with many other anglers in support of more conservative regulations for managing striped bass. They are an important fish that demands real protection. Thank you for your attention...

Regards,

David

David Niles, President
SSA & Company
G100 Companies

212.332.3797 (office)
917.846.6938 (cell)

630 Fifth Avenue, 32nd Floor
New York, New York 10111

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [Thomas C. Webster III](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 1:15:40 PM

Sir,

My preference for striped bass management would be option A with management scenario B-3. Let's avoid a situation like the late 80's.

Regards,

Thomas C. Webster III

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andrew Dangelo](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Robert Ballou](#)
Subject: Striped Bass-- WE NEED TWO!!!!!!
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:04:51 PM

I have been operating the charter boat Maridee II out of Pt Judith RI for the past 35 + years . I have seen populations of different species of fish come and go over the years. I have seen striped bass go to almost zero and then recover. According to the experts the striped bass are on a down swing right now and that there are many scenarios that will help them return to a recovered state again within a three year time span. We were told all the options at a public meeting and they said all of the options will work, just some will take a little longer than others. My business and many other charter and head boats rely on striped bass for at least 80% of their business. My clients want the opportunity to catch two fish, they may not catch two or keep two bass, but if they think that may have a chance to catch two then they will keep coming back.If they know that they can only catch one then it may not be worth the money it costs to charter a boat. Some people use a trip on a charter boat to have a good time and to put some fish in the freezer. They may only come once a year so they really want a return on their money.The charter and head boat fleet in RI brings well over 10,000 people to the state of RI every year.This in turns brings big revenue to the state in fuel, food, motels, tackle etc. Even though they are not all coming to catch striped bass many are and we do not want to lose that income. The charter and head boat fleet in RI support a lot of people. My business alone helps support three families, and some of the head boats support up to six crew members and their families. The loss of any trips for striped bass would be very detrimental to all involved.

The charter an head boat fleet also supply more exact data than any other user group. Most boats have to fill out vessel trip reports daily stating effort and whet they caught. Some of us are even saving fish and or their racks to be brought back to the docks so that the DEM can measure and record what we catch without and estimation. You do not get anywhere near that exact data from the private sector. Maybe we have to separate the charter boats from the private sector so that we can have the two fish that we need to survive and let the private sector go with one fish if that is what they want. The experts said that if we implement a three year program, increasing the minimum size from 30" to 31" and finally 32" the third year, it will be enough to accomplish what they want.If after a year or two they can look at the recovery rate and if stronger means they can take them or maybe everything will be good and regs can be relaxed if needed. By going to one fish in 2015 it will not be good for my business and not good for a lot of the charter boat fleet. Please give us some consideration into keeping it at two bass-- We are working at giving you the best data available, and look at the amount of people and dollars that we bring into the state.One fish would be disastrous to us.

Thank you for your consideration,
Capt Andy Dangelo
Maridee II Sportfishing

From: [Tom](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 6:54:30 AM

Hi,

I wanted to let you know my opinion for the striped bass management. Although the plans that have been presented have a fair (@ 30%) success chance I still feel the taking of the larger breeding fish is contrary to a sound management plan. Reducing the allowable harvest to one fish at 28 and over and possibly a slot, I recommend 20 to 30 inches, as the NJ bonus fish would hopefully reduce the mortality enough to maintain a healthy stock. As a member of several fishing clubs, 18 year resident living in Waretown and fishing the Barnegat Bay and ocean I want to see a healthy stock of striped bass. I have been unable to attend the meetings but would like my input noted.

Thank you,

Thomas Kowitski
107 Cayuga Rd
Barnegat, NJ 08005

From: [john pizzuto](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014 4:07:48 PM

I agree wholehearted with Tom Fote that stays quo should be maintained for 2015.. John Pizzuto Toms River Nj

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Chip Leonardi](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:09:41 PM

To whom it may concern,
I have been fishing the North Atlantic coast for about fifty years and this is the third time I have seen the collapse of the striped bass....
Simple, over harvesting....The commercial quota is too high and the recreational limit of two fish at twenty-four inches was a real big mistake.
I strongly recommend a five year moratorium.....catch and release only and no commercial fishing.
After that reevaluate the stock ...

I know enough commercial bass fishermen and no one makes a living bass fishing.....it is supplemental at bestso there shouldn't be a real financial impact on income..

I strongly believe if the fish are left to the commercial market the problem will never be solved.....short term maybe and then the same depletion and outcome.

Remember what happened to the Redfish.....?
" Blackened Redfish ".....it ruined the fishery.....probably will never be what it was.

Sincerely,
Chip Leonardi

From: [Dean Morace](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 6:10:47 PM

Good Evening,

I would like to take a moment to bring awareness to a problem that needs to be addressed in regards to the conservancy of striped bass. While I am not opposed to commercial fishing i do have an issue with a practice forced upon them due to regulation. Dead discard is the issue. On 9/15/14 my father was fishing rereationally off Montauk PT. NY and witness the results of a dead discard event , this was the 3 rd time he has seen this. Thousands of striped bass floating on the surface for over a square mile . Most were dead some were taking their last breaths. The were dumped by a dragger earlier that morning . Most of the fish were between 30 an 40 lbs. These are the breeders. Now while we can not control what goes into the net but we can control the outcome. To discard them over the side is a complete and utter disgusting waste of a resource . These fish should be able to be retained and counted against the quota for the commercial sector for the following/same year. This gives the ability to still utilize the resource , the fisherman still get paid, and it helps the fish by removing the quota from future harvests. We had this same problem in North Carolina a few years ago with thousands of pounds of fish being wasted.If you are truly concerned with the health and condition of bass you must address this issue. Thank you for your attention to this matter .

Dean Morace
Chief NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection
A concerned Fisherman
A conservationist.

From: [dan laffin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:25:50 PM

Mike,

The task of realigning the striped bass fishery on the eastern seaboard must be daunting. I don't envy your position. I wanted briefly share how much this fish has meant to me. When I was a teen, fishing, mostly for striped bass, probably kept me off drugs and in school. My summers were mostly spent on an old aluminum skiff on the flats in front of my grandfather's house on the Cape, trying to perfect the chartreuse and white clouser minnow, haha. After joining the Army, going to war, being wounded and returning home, I came back to those flats to regain myself. For two brief years it worked. Then, around 2009, the fish disappeared and haven't come back to the flat since. I have since recovered but the fishing hasn't. I've been fishing for stripers throughout the northeast and we all know my little flat is not the only place the fish have disappeared. Don't let them disappear entirely. I support the views of most recreational catch and release fisherman

and my views reflect those of Capt John McMurray and his article on reel-time.com. I'm certain my email doesn't need me to remind you of them but I support Option B in sections 2.5.1 and 2.5, option A in 2.6, option B in 3.0, and B3 and B15 for bag Limits I'm sure you've received a thousand emails on this. Thanks for taking the time to read mine. Have a great day.

Sincerely,

Dan Laffin

From: [brian whyard](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 8:15:08 PM

I would like to see the bag and size limits for new jersey striped bass to remain status quo for 2015. If forced to choose I'm in favor of amendment b7.

From: captmark@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 6:01:55 PM

Mike Waine,

I would like to see the status quo option but I have to say that once again we are being pushed to make a choice that will not help the future of the New Jersey angler. I remember when we had a slot fish at 28" and the second was over 32". I have been educating my customers, friends and other anglers on how important it is to let those big breeders go back (when possible) we have been doing this for almost 2 seasons. Here are facts that I am sure that you have heard, a 12lb Striped Bass spawns approx. 850,000 eggs per year and a 50lb Bass spawns 4 to 5,000,000 per year! I will continue to release Bass over 34" (after a quick picture) because I believe that bigger fish have more eggs and are vital to the future of our fishery. If the commercial fishery increases and we continue to have the commercial sector over fish the bass we will have a very bleak future.

The Magnuson Rule states "that economic hardship can not be taken into consideration when making these rules, but once again as every one has asked Who will benefit from Option B.

Some of the owners that I know would like the Option A. of section 3.1 to stay.

Capt Mark Whitney
Point Pleasant NJ
Erin Elizabeth Charters LLC

From: [John Goodwin](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 3:14:31 PM

Please keep the 2015 regulations on striped bass, the same as 2014.

John C. Goodwin
Jgoodwin13@comcast.net

From: [Scott Newhall](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 7:43:07 PM

Dear Regulator,

I would prefer the option for 1 fish.

I don't mind the option for 1 fish that is large and one "slot" fish.

I don't favor any transfer of rec fish to commercial fish.

The participation in the recreational striper fishing is at an all time high, thus more fish are pulled from the water than ever. 1 fish could off-set this.

As much as I don't like them, would you consider circle hook only when chunk fishing at anchor? They gut hook too by the way.....

I do fishing charters, but I write this as simply an avid angler.

Thank you and good luck,

Scott Newhall
Time Out Charters

From: vicelle@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 9:26:00 PM

Dear Mike Waine,

My name is Victor Monica. I am a recreational fisherman. I am a member of the Jersey Shore Surfcasters fishing club. I am e-mailing you to inform you that I am in support of the 1 year 25% reduction, I also support option B-4 1 bag limit at 28"-40" slot, and lastly I am also in favor of option A no commercial quota transfer.

The Striped Bass has a major economical impact through out the entire North East both recreational and commercial. For this reason alone, we must and have to maintain healthy striped bass stocks year in and year out.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention in this regard.

Many thanks,

Victor Monica

From: [Phil Vernes](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 7:52:08 AM

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing to entreat you to impose responsible regulation that will sustain the East coast striped bass population. We can not afford to compromise our marine ecology, especially in the face of a global epidemic of over-fishing.

I anticipate your support of this conservation effort.

Sincerely,

Phil Vernes

From: [James Makris](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 5:36:06 PM

Hello,

I am emailing you today regarding the current situation with the striped bass population along the east coast.

For section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment reference point option the best decision would be to use option B, the 2013 Benchmark Assessment reference points.

For section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay assessment reference point option the best option would also be option B, to use coastwide population F reference points.

For section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference points the best option would be option B, to be managed by the state of North Carolina.

For section 2.6: Timeline to reach Harvest reduction (mortality) the best option would be option A, to reduce the mortality by 25% in one year. This is a very important option that needs to be chosen if we want the Striped Bass population to recover.

For section 3.0: Proposed management Scenario Options the best options would be option B3 for the Coastal Recreational Fishery (one fish at 32 inches), option B10 for the Chesapeake Recreational Fishery (one fish at 18 inches) and option B17 for the Chesapeake Commercial Fishery (25% reduction from 2013 commercial quota)

For section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers the best option would be Option A, which prohibits the transfer of quotas from one to another should quotas not be reached among fisherman in a given region.

For section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits the best option be option A, this would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

I have faith that the right decisions will be made. We have the power to save this beautiful fish so many can experience the joy that they give to thousands if not millions of people on the east coast.

Thank You,

James

From: [mike baker](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 6:08:56 PM

Shut it all down for any to be kept for the next 2 years and watch it explode. Its the only option CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY

From: tommypit@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped bass
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 4:01:20 PM

Please keep the striped bass regulation for 2015 2 fish per person.
Thank you
Tom guarcello
Sent from my iPhone

From: [CHRISTINE MANZIONE](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 10:19:57 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,
Thank you for the opportunity to speak here.

The A.S.M.F.C wants to cut the quota of commercial fisherman on the Atlantic Coast because of the recreational overfishing. When we inquired why we are not protected by the Magnuson Act we were told the A.S.M.F.C does not have to follow this act. I can only ask Why? This amendment is wrong and doesn't keep up with all the other management plans. There has only been a hard quota with a payback of over harvest for commercial fisherman. While rec's are managed by effort the only thing that the A.S.M.F.C has wrong is the more fish the more effort, so by putting more fish the rec's will fish more and kill more legal size fish plus, as you know more will be killed as catch and release mortality will increase. It is time to either give the rec's a quota or to let the commercial fisherman catch more fish, as a commercial fisherman is only aloud around 220 per year, but a recreational party boat is permitted to catch greater that 220 "per day" if they make multiple trips. A six man charter boat can catch that many in 19 trips. We will be contacting lawyers as to the legality of what our federal rights are as commercial fisherman. We will contact all fish markets and restaurant associations for support to keep the Striped Bass available to *all* consumers and not just those whom are recreational fisherman.

The fact are as the population increases the catch and release mortality will once again be larger than the commercial quota in New York. The fact is the A.S.M.F.C was not followed until the federal government stated, " if you don't follow the plan we will shut down your fishery for non-compliance."

We are of the opinion that this means that you must follow the Magnuson Act and treat both sides fairly without discriminating against the commercial fisherman.

Why doesn't this plan start to address with all of the spawners that were in the population why the young of the year indices were so low? What has the A.S.M.F.C biologist done to help increase the success of the spawn? After 30 years of destroying the lives of commercial striped bass fisherman the A.S.M.F.C should become marine biologist with answers to help increase the young of the year indices and not be asset allocators.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Manzione
Commercial Fisherman

From: pat_tony@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper Fisheries NJ
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 6:57:32 AM

Hi,
It is in my opinion that the Striper Fisheries should be left as status quo for NJ.

Thank You
Captain Tony Miller

From: [Wayne Kubovec](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striper fishing
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 2:13:00 PM

I fish in NJ for the stripers , leave it as it is at two , do something with the comerial end
wayne kubovec

From: [jwremod](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper limit
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 7:15:10 AM

I am in favor of option b 7

Sent on the new Sprint Network from my Samsung Galaxy S®4.

From: [Greg Smith](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper Observations, Stocks and Suggestions
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 1:24:43 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I'm writing to urge you to take the strongest actions possible to save the striper stocks, which are in steady decline. I can say this with 100% confidence since I've spent the last 15 years fishing the waters of southern Mass. My fishing season begins on May 1st and ends in mid-October and I'm on the water 2-4 times per week, so my findings are based on hundreds, if not thousands of trips over many years.

What have I witnessed first-hand? A big decline, which I would place at 65%, over the past 5 years in schoolie sized bass (16"-22"). We use to catch 30-50 schoolies a trip, and now that number is < 10 on a good day. The fall blitz, a time when thousands of bass would fill our local waters from late August to early October, has all but disappeared over the last 5 years. This is not simply a natural cycle, but a huge drop in fish quantities year over year.

This season was by far the worst, and one which basically never materialized. I've talked with 20+ local fisherman and all said that this year was by far their worst. Not simply in total fish caught, but in the number of fish in the 25"-40" slot which are the breeder fish. These prized fish are being wiped out by the 2 fish per angler rule and the massive commercial limits that are still granted, two things that must change ASAP.

Please do not let this fishery fall further into disrepair. All the signs are there. Bait is plentiful, but there are simply no fish around. We need to take action now, and not implement a plan over a 3 year period. I support a 1 fish per angler limit, with a 34" minimum. It may be difficult for some to swallow at first, but it's much better than letting this fishery expire which is where we are quickly headed.

In closing, the new rule must be applied and enforced up and down the entire east coast. We can't have mid-atlantic states allowing their anglers to catch and kill the smaller fish we're trying to save.

Please do the right thing for all, and don't base decisions on money or tax dollars because when the fish are gone, no one will earn anything.

Thanks.

Greg Smith
Managing Director, Technology Practice

direct: 617-226-4330
mobile: 508-341-5531
@mktg4technology

 **EMI Strategic Marketing**
Marketing for Sales

From: [The Man](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper options I believe are skewed
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:51:08 PM

Mr. **Waine**

I believe all options B1 through B9 would dry up the bait shops, local lure makers, head boat and charter boat industry in NJ for fall and spring. With that said, why not look at my suggestion that I have sent in before with no response:

Option

B5+ Bonus

Bag Limit 2+Bonus

Size Limit 2 fish @ 33" min

Trophy/Bonus 1 fish @ 40" min

This would save the industry, plus would considerably reduce the harvest!

Whoever came up with the options, I assume the (Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission) on their own. The commission fell short of a good analysis, the commission did not use the correct requirement factors or induces, because the info used was tailored or tainted. Any of the options would be a negative the loss of jobs in the industries (stated above)! Was this factored in, or was it just based off of "Coastal Recreation Fisheries" (fish count)?

The commission should have had more data and not be influence from any side. Another words a disinterested party. Thus, the prognoses would have given better outcome to present to the public. For example, the commission could have come up with a final four of better options, four options that would have not hurt the industries.

In these troubled times, the commision would be destroying lives, for a fish count or just justifying the groups means. We are trading jobs, from the lower middle class to conservationists can hold or increase theirs! The commission should be ashamed if these items or more were not taken into the analysis!

Is there any way to see how they came up with their assumptions? I would like to see the initial requirements and the drill down of these requirements. I did not see the requirements in full on your website.

Please reply

Thanks.

Robert (R.J.) McCandless
59 Lexington Ct.
Holmdel, NJ 07733
609-254-6102

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From: [Mac Haskell](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper Preservation/Aquinnah
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 12:01:55 PM

Hey Mike just my 2 cents from a long time striper fly fisherman on Lobsterville Beach, MV. Mid-90s, you could keep one fish over 36 inches, that's it (I don't keep em anyway).....bass were everywhere, acres of them in front of my house every night. This summer....barely any fish even on well known Dogfish Bar. Go back to the 36, one fish limit. Good luck to you in preserving this fabulous species. Best, Mac,

Mac Haskell
1 Driftwood Lane
Aquinnah, MA 02535
508.645.3130

From: [Joe Zagorski](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripper regs
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 5:30:43 PM

Our stock is bouncing back nicely due to catch and release by recreational anglers in my area on NJ I believe status regs should apply at the up coming vote. Thank you for accepting my email

Best regards
Joe Zagorski

From: [RAYMOND KLAMA](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper regs
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:02:47 PM

I just wanted to voice my opinion on the new striper regs to be adopted for next year.

Under section 2.5.1 I am in favor of OPTION B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Under section 2.6 I am in favor of OPTION A: Reduces the mortality by 25% in one year.

Under section 3 I am in favor of OPTION B3: One fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Under section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers I am in favor of OPTION A: Which would prohibit the transfer of quotas from one region to another.

Under section 3.2 I am in favor of OPTION A: Requiring the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Personally I have only harvested ONE striped bass in the last 11 years, same as a lot of other anglers that I know yet one pass of a commercial net and it all for naught. The commercials need to step up to the same regs as I have.

Thank you for your time, sincerely Ray Klama 250 Mott Ave Burlington NJ 08016 609-424-6212

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From: [Malcom Friedel](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper regulations
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014 3:57:50 PM

Hello Mike,

My name is Malcom Friedel. I am a member of the Berkley Striper Club in NJ. I favor Option b with one Striper over 32". Please note my choice.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [donald wojcik](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striper
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 5:19:47 PM

I vote option B3 1@a no coommercial tranfer. I fish in rhonde, mass, new york ,new jersey.

From: [Anchor Joe](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: stripers regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 8:42:46 PM

Keep the regulations as they are or two at 28 inches. Would be great if the commercial by catch could ever be figured out and stop the waste.

**Thanks for your time,
Anchor Joe
Joe Hanily**

From: Moyehoist@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripers
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 10:32:23 PM

Keep the Status Quo and save the breeders

Russ Chelak

From: [Jack Antoine](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripers
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 12:52:10 PM

Make them all catch and release, no exceptions

Thanks
Jack Antoine

Antoine Construction Management
183 Columbia Road - Suite 30
Hanover, MA 02339
Office: 781-829-2100
Fax: 781-829-2102
Cell: 617-719-1969
Website: www.AntoineCM.Com
Email: Jack@AntoineCM.Com

From: [Vincent Fiscella](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripers
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 9:09:27 AM

I am against a reduction in fish taken or in a size change for stripers. Many recreational fisherman have to spend a goodly amount of money to go fishing to enjoy our sport, the only saving grace is the hope that they will bring home fish for the family table. I went to go striper fishing last year while on vacation on Cape Cod. I asked a local captain how the fishing was and I was told that the striper fishing has not been any good since the seals moved in. This is what needs to be changed and recreational and commercial fisherman should be able to enjoy while they can. Take seals out of the equation, sit on any Cape beach and watch the seals move up and down the shoreline. They eat every thing in sight including bass. Something has to be done about the seal population.

Sincerely
Vincent J Fiscella

From: [Jeremy Vadnos](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripers...
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 8:01:06 PM

Please leave the status quo....as a recreational fisherman...I would appreciate your support on this matter....

Thank you for your time.
Jeremy Vadnos.

Sent from my iPad
Thanks. Jeremy Vadnos

From: [Ned Gerber](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: stripers
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:33:45 PM

Dear Mr.Waine,

Hi-I am an avid shallow water striper fisherman and am happy to see the continued efforts to manage this great resource more precisely.I am not convinced that this fishery can avoid significant population declines(hopefully followed by increases) if we continue to fish for the large females (supposedly finished spawning) in the spring each year in Chesapeake Bay.I think it makes a lot of sense to protect this breeding stock and try to focus most of our fishing efforts on the smaller male fish.

Please also consider adopting the following options:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thanks for your consideration

Ned Gerber
216 Pear Tree farm lane
Queenstown, Md 21658
410-310-1141

From: [Mark Sullivan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripers
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 12:00:19 PM

Dear Sir,

As a frustrated Cape Cod surf caster I support a 25 percent reduction in next year's striper catch. For us recreational fisherman I support OpB3, one fish, 32 inches. Unless I can get back up soon from Connecticut this will be my second season without s triper. We have to protect this resource.

Mark Sullivan
390 Palisado Ave
Windsor, CT

From: [Feroldi, Eric J](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripped Bass Managment
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 10:13:21 AM

Good Evening Sir,

I am a commercial fishermen here in RI. I have seen the Bass population go up, down and every which way in my career. The thing that worries me is that I am not catching any small fish, I mean fish under 30 inches. This was the case in the 80's right before the fishery collapsed. In RI we have a 5 fish limit for bass(when it is open, 3 weeks in June and 3-5 Days in September) If you go to the Island (Block Island) and set up a chum line of either clam bellies or menhaden chunks you should be catching fish of all sizes from 15 inches to 50 pounds(Like we were back in the early 2000's) Lately all I am seeing is fish 25 pounds and up, not good in my mind. Although we are having no trouble catching our limit for bass today, what will happen in several years? I feel the biggest threat to these fish is the poaching, it is crazy how many are involved in it, that's all I will say about that.

I am in full support of the strictest of the reduction measures, even if it means I see a reduction in my commercial quota. We depend on these fish to make a living, I feed my children, pay my mortgage and my TAXES with these fish. I want my kids to be able to catch and harvest these fish. Oddly enough I have a degree in Aquaculture and Fisheries Management from the University of Rhode island. I understand the need for conservation more than anyone. And the signs I am seeing worry me to the point that it keeps me up at night when I think about years to come. I have seen the Fluke have come back, Scup and Seabass are around in record numbers, I want to be able to say that about the bass, that they are EVERYWHERE!! I don't want my life to become a Billy Joel Song!!

Thank you for your time

Eric Feroldi

From: Newgismo@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: STRIPPED BASS PRESERVATION
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 8:37:26 PM

Preserving the stripped bass fishery for us and future generations is a TOP PRIORITY for all of the fishermen who really care about what is very important to every one ', Please enact the proper legislation to accomplish this vital piece of our history .
Fishing the waters of Long Island Sound for most of my life has brought me and my friends so much pleasure that I can not begin to describe it .. I am a 94 year old man who still likes to fish .. Thank you for your help to preserve our heritage ...Ernie Gismondi

From: [Thomas Basile](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Stripped Bass Regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 2:42:33 PM

Dear Mike,

My name is Thomas Basile (Toms River, NJ). I was not able to attend the public meeting in Toms River to voice my opinion regarding the regulations for stripped bass management. I was told that I could send this information to you and you will send this to all fisheries manager in every state involved in stripped bass. I truly appreciated you taking the time in your busy schedule to do this for us.

I support Option B3 (1 fish bag limit @32"/no trophy). I also favor no commercial transfer between states.

Thank you again.

Thomas Basile
Toms River, NJ
7322-929-4503 cell

From: [Christopher Ryan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:39:29 PM

Keep the Striped Bass regulations as they currently are. Too often, morons in our bureaucracy like yourself are sticking their big fat noses in things that they know nothing about on shoddy research. Rather than limiting the actions of sport fishermen, why don't you worry about commercial fishing of bunker in our water and striped bass in other states?

Chris Ryan
54 LS Point Road
Little Silver, NJ 07739

From: [Joshua Delmonico](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 1:40:20 PM

Mr Waine,
Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Striped Bass Fishery Management Addendum.

As a recreational striped bass fisherman, I support adoption of 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points (Option B) for the Coastwide Population Reference Point and adopting the coastwide population F reference point established in section 2.5.1 (Option B).

I support implementation of these controls in 2015 (Option A). It is important that the total harvest is reduced by 25% starting in the 2015 fishing year to ensure continued viability of the Striped Bass Population. The risk of losing the fishery is not worth waiting 3 years to reach the implementation goals.

Recreational Fishery Management

I support Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year. This represents a 25% reduction from 2013 total harvest; Coastal Recreational Fishery Option B2; Chesapeake Bay Option B11 and Commercial Fishery Management Option B17.

Thanks.

Josh

From: [Bob Davis](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 8:17:42 PM

It would be refreshing if the asmfc would disclose on the front cover of their amendments as follows:
" We have no interest in scientific data unless that data itself can be manipulated into our hidden agenda of robbing the recreational sector of a natural resource in order to protect our own self-serving and political interest"

I vote for status quo and an independent council of actual marine scientists and full time charter captains to investigate the integrity and validity of the asmfc so called scientific findings!

Sent from my iPad

Robert W. Davis
Ridgewood, NJ

From: [Frank Bonanno](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: The ASMFC Draft Addendum IV
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 4:39:57 PM

Mr. Waine,

I am a Maryland Recreational fishermen. I want to voice my concern on draft Addendum IV.

As I understand it we have seen a significant decline in the SSB since 2006. I understand that there are many factors that address this decline. However, there is only one factor that we can control right now. That is to decrease the harvest on the fishery. Most anglers understand that if we do what is best for the fish we will all be in a better position (both commercial and recreational).

Until we are able to see increases in the SSB, I believe the best thing we can do for the stock is reduce the harvest by the maximum amount of 24%.

Please consider what is best for the fish and fishery for the long term.

Frank

From: [Trina H](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: The depletion of Native Rockfish
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 1:46:22 PM

Hello,

My name is Trina M. Lamm. I have spent a lot of time on the Bay with friends. Now, I don't Rockfish on the Bay, but my friends do and enjoy the season immensely. I however, enjoy pier fishing in Nags Head. I have not been able to go for years, due to physical pain, but I always love hearing, "The Striper's are running!" I remember the year my son went on a trip with, my then husband, and he caught a trophy Striped Bass! Man you couldn't tear that smile off of his face, nor would you want to! He was so proud, and so were we.

What I don't understand is that it is still ok for people to come in and place menhaden nets all over and rob the Stripers of their food. I would think that should be illegal to place those nets all over and deplete the food that the strikers thrive on. Why not stop the netting of the Menhaden and see if there is an improvement in The Striper population as well as their size?

Save the Bay and Save the Day!

Concerned for the Bay,

Trina Lamm

From: [John Costello](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: The future of striped bass
Date: Monday, September 22, 2014 10:33:33 AM

I've been through this a few times. Yes fish populations are cyclical - even without help from people. Obviously, the striper is in full downswing - I fish over 150 days a year from the surf. I am not happy with fellow recreational fisherman over harvesting this resource - especially in a boat. Even though there are countless ways to take a photo of your fish while it's alive and release most of them right away, selfish people (usually the same people) continue to kill fish, over and over. This fish rarely should be allowed to be harvested commercially, and rarely by large party boats (essentially the same as commercial fishing) Time to change it to 1 fish at 32". Option B3 is the best option given.

Thanks -

John Costello
1930 Vincent Ct
Wall, NJ 07719

MARK R PIRANI

October 17, 2014

Mark R Pirani
47 Sycamore Dr.
Holden, MA 011520

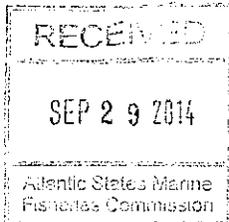
To whom it may concern,

I, Mark Pirani, am submitting publically comment on Draft Addendum IV to the Striped Bass Management plan. I represent myself as a recreational angler and no others.

I am encouraged the management board is entertaining a reduction in mortality of Striped Bass. I feel it is the appropriate course of action and possibly a couple of years overdue. I will only comment on the portion of the addendum that affects me as a recreational angler. I feel recreational anglers need to accept responsibility for their role in a reduced bio mass. I do however feel all user groups should see a reduction in quota. I support option B3 and prefer immediate implementation of this reduction. This is our best option coast wide to allow the 2011 year class to grow and develop into breeding fish allowing the SSB to develop and grow at or above target levels. I do not feel there should be any additional consideration of alternate size or bag limits given to for hire vessels. I firmly believe in keeping it as simple as possible.

Sincerely,

Mark R Pirani



WHILE NO REAL DATA EXISTS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS THERE HAS BEEN AN EXPLOSION IN BOTH THE SIZE AND EFFORT OF THE RECREATIONAL STRIPER FLEET IN THE NORTHEAST, ANYONE WITH TWO EYES CAN SEE IT. YET THIS FLEET GOES LARGELY IGNORED, UN-POLICED AND UN-PENALIZED. IT IS RIDICULOUS TO ASK THE HEAVILY REGULATED AND DWINDLING COMMERCIAL FLEET TO PAY FOR RECREATIONAL EXCESSES, THAT WOULD BE SIMILAR TO MY NEIGHBOR ASKING ME TO PAY HIS PROPERTY TAXES. ANY CUTS SHOULD COME OUT OF THE RECREATIONAL QUOTA (THEY ALREADY HAVE OVER TWO-THIRDS OF IT)

I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT FEEDING THIS NATION SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY OVER SOMEONE'S EGO (WHO CAN CATCH THE BIGGEST FISH.) MAYBE EACH STRIPER LANDED BY RECREATIONALS COULD BE TAGGED JUST LIKE FLOATING FISHTRAP BASS ALREADY ARE, THEN SOME REAL AND ACCURATE DATA COULD BE GENERATED, HUNTERS MUST TAG EVERY DEER THEY SHOOT, WHY NOT STRIPERS? GAME FISH, GAME ANIMAL. AND WITH TOURNAMENTS WITH \$10,000 CASH PRIZES FOR WHO CATCHES THE BIGGEST STRIPER, IT MAKES YOU WONDER WHO THE REAL COMMERCIAL (FOR PROFIT) FISHERMEN ARE.

(AS A SIDE NOTE, WHERE DID ALL OF THE COMMERCIAL R.I. BLACK SEA BASS QUOTA GO?) I COULDN'T RESIST.

THANK YOU
MATTHEW J. FISH
Matthew J. Fish
9/25/14

41 Fir Drive
Narragansett, RI
02882

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland street Suite 200a-n
Arlington VA 22201

09/28/2014

Dear Commissioners,

Included first are my recommends and then my reasoning.

Question 2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Option should be:

Option B Fthreshold .22 and Ftarget .18 :

Reasoning: The recreational data of catch A1+B1+B2 peak in 2006 by 2008 showing something was wrong with the Bio-mass; by 2010 it was obvious. We needed to do something. We are seven years too late on acting, and we are behind the curves and the problem continues to grow.

Question 2.6 TimeLine to reduce the Fthresholds and Ftargets:

Option A one year 25% reduction

Reasoning: There is uncertainty in the recreational data, and uncertainty in the by-catch data. The 7% increments over three years are too small of a change to measure. The data we use is NOT a point source but is full of uncertainty represented in PSE. **The scale of the reduction has to be bigger than the PSE that exist. This is especially true in recreational data.**

Question 3.0 Proposed Management Program:

Option B1 – one fish 28 inches

Reasoning: The bio-mass for striped bass in the late 1980's and to 2000's was restored with ASMFC fishery management recommendations. The last recreational change was to go from one fish to two fish in the recreational sector, and around 2003 and in 2007 is when the reduction in bio-mass began. That was the change in Management (Amendment-6), and this was the tipping point that got us here. This is the only regulation the will restore balance and restore Striped Bass. The one fish option not only has a quantitative impact, but a bigger qualitative impact since this regulation help in controlling unobserved recreational fishing mortality.

Question 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfer:

Option B

I don't see a problem with quota transfer; it is done in other fishery

The recommendation expressed is my own.

I'm an ACCSP Advisor Recreational Advisor, ACCSP Rec-Tech Advisor and a Rhode Island Bait and Tackle representative Advisor on various fishing RI committee.

Michael J Bucko
155 Brackett Ave
Tiverton RI 02878

Lengyel, Nicole (DEM)

From: Mick Chivers <mick.chivers@wheelergmail.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2014 9:33 PM
To: Lengyel, Nicole (DEM)
Cc: governor@governor.ri.gov
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed changes to Striped Bass regulations

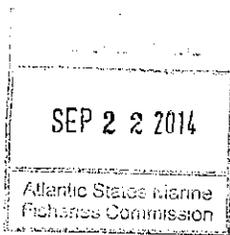
Dear Ms. Lengyel,

My name is Mick Chivers and I am a 12 year old resident of Rhode Island. My family moved here in 2008 to the live near the coast and healthy fisheries. I have fished a lot for striped bass with my family since I was six.

I urge Rhode Island and the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission to approve the strictest conservation methods available for striped bass. I would like to see the daily catch limit for sport fishermen like me reduced from two fish to one fish per day. Also, I would like to see the size limit increased from 28 inches to 32 inches. We can't have a fishery without a lot of fish, and this method should help the fishery recover. I hope the DEM director and our Governor will support the strongest step possible to keep our fishery viable.

Thank you,
Mick Chivers





Cpt. Michael J. Pierdinock
CPF Charters "Perseverance"
176 Sandy Beach Road, Plymouth, MA 02360
Mobile Phone (617) 291-8914
www.cpfcharters.com

September 18, 2014

Mr. Michael Waive, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

RE: Comments to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan - Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6

Dear Mr. Waive:

The following is in response to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission proposed changes to the recreational striped bass fishery quota for 2015. I continue to question the MRIP data and have no faith that the data truly represents the status of striped bass landed by recreational fisherman. Assuming the MRIP data is correct, which I don't agree to be the case, I agree with the council's recommendation for a 25% reduction over one year. It was pointed out at the recent hearing that the same conservation effort would be achieved if 1 or 2 fish per angler was permitted for 2015. This is a key point that needs to be taken into consideration if reducing the quota to 1 fish per angler and its detrimental impact on me as a charter boat captain and fellow charter boat captains and all of those that rely on that business.

As a charter boat captain, a portion of my business relies on striped bass fishing. Several years ago I chartered striped bass trips only but purchased a larger boat and now bottom fish, chase large pelagics and fish for striped bass near shore. During the striped bass migration in June and the fall months I will conduct striped bass trips only. The majority of my clientele that go on striped bass charters want two stripers per person or the possibility of a second fish or they will not spend the money to go fishing.

When the fishery was at sustainable levels of bottom fish in 2010 and the bottom fish, bluefin tuna and stripers were plentiful (prior to the implementation of the flawed catch share system) the local charter boat fleet would conduct fishing trips with an experience unmatched elsewhere in the U.S. A typical day would be to leave the dock and chase bluefin tuna during the morning bite, proceed to and fish for cod and haddock and sharks east of Stellwagen Bank, and on the way home fish for striped bass near shore. We would call this a New England grand slam. Unfortunately this is no longer the case. We are now faced with a 7 to 8 month cod and haddock fishing closure, lack of recreational bluefin tuna and we are told to focus on other fish such as striped bass. As set forth above the majority of our clients will not charter a boat if only 1 striped bass per angler can be landed. Implementation of a 1 fish per angler is just another nail in the coffin as a

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Cpt. Michael J. Pierdinock
CPF Charters "Perseverance"
176 Sandy Beach Road, Plymouth, MA 02360
Mobile Phone (617) 291-8914
www.cpfcharters.com

result of the recent bottom fish closures.

A reduction in the landing of striped bass over the past few years is in part as a result of the economic downturn that has not been seen since the great depression. We have observed a significant reduction in the number of charters as a result of the inability of anglers to afford a charter.

Lack of fish in our waters near shore is associated with many factors including, colder than normal water temperatures (that has impacted the striper and bluefin tuna), the booming seal population and dogfish eating everything in sight and lack of adequate habitat to maintain a forage fish population or food source for striped bass. We have observed a shift in the location of striped bass into deeper water the last few years. In the early 2000, timeframe the majority of striped bass that I landed would be in 30 to 40 feet of water. The past few years I am encountering them in 80 to 100 feet of water. I have encountered them by the hundreds and caught them as bycatch while fishing for tuna or sharks far offshore within the EEZ. They are following the mackerel, herring and poggies well offshore into the EEZ and migrate periodically nearshore. Therefore, lack of fish near shore is not necessarily a result of a fishery in trouble or at the point of collapse that is the agenda being advanced by those that don't want to permit anyone to land and consume striped bass.

I find it difficult at this time to make a decision based on flawed MRIP data with observations of credible numbers of striped bass that we continue to encounter well offshore in the EEZ. In conclusion, considering the detrimental impact to the charter boat fleet and all of the businesses that rely on us, I recommend that a 2 striped bass per angler be permitted especially since it will achieve the same conservation goal as 1 striped bass per angler.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 291-8914.

Very truly yours,



Capt. Mike Pierdinock

CPF Charters "Perseverance"

Recreational Fishing Alliance - Massachusetts Chairman

Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association - Board of Directors

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council - Recreational Seat

New England Fishery Management Council - Enforcement Advisory Panel

(617) 291-8914

cpfcharters@yahoo.com

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Hi Mike:

I'm including an attachment of a chapter I added to my book, *The Complete Book of Saltwater Fishing*, when I revised and rewrote it recently.

Everything that I included in this chapter applies to many saltwater species, but especially the striped bass.

How well I recall how commercial interests decimated the striper population years ago. Currently, I've experienced a drastic decline no matter where I've fished for stripers along the Atlantic coast. It's disgusting and if it continues I doubt there could ever be a recovery, regardless of any long-delayed regulations that may be implemented.

Use my thoughts in this chapter in any way that may help the population of this popular recreational species recover.

Milt

Milt Rosko
268 High Tor Drive
Watchung, New Jersey 07069-5413

Phone: 908-753-8818

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF SALTWATER FISHING

By Milt Rosko

Chapter 17

A PLAN FOR AMERICA'S COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Ask anyone the single most important item that has made America the great country it is and the response will be planning. Ask any recreational angler why our coastal fisheries have declined over the last half century and they'll tell you it's the result of poor, and in some cases no realistic planning. As such, now it's time to move forward. Especially by the array of federal, state and regional fisheries councils, along with the myriad groups allegedly representing recreational angler interests, ranging from clubs, sports entities where tournaments and money are

paramount, manufacturers, some charter and party boats and lobbyists, to name but a few. One quite properly can wonder if anyone has ever proposed a common sense, state of the art approach to fisheries management?

Historically I've proposed planning, and especially upgrading from 19th century data collection techniques currently employed, i.e. the Angler Registry, to the 21st century way of doing things and setting aside species for recreational anglers only, as within my two part plan, as follows:

ELECTRONIC DATA COLLECTION

Require anglers to register their catch statistics daily, resulting in instantaneous critical catch data, the day the catch is made.

ESTABLISH CERTAIN SPECIES AS RECREATIONAL ONLY

Establish certain species, with Striped Bass, Summer Flounder, Winter Flounder and Black Sea Bass as Recreational Species on the Atlantic coast and prohibiting their sale commercially everywhere. In other areas, such as Florida and the Gulf Coast, and also the Pacific Coast, other species would be set aside for recreational fishing, and prohibiting their sale commercially would be implemented.

IT CAN BE DONE

Having pursued this approach for some time, I'm amazed at the "It can't be done attitude" that prevails among both the government and "sports" recreational sector. For those of you who tend to this antiquated thinking I ask that you hang up your hats as tired old men.

Instead, you should just picture yourself as a high school student or young career professional, with a lifetime ahead of him or her, and a desire to enjoy recreational fishing, typically the youth of an America with an "It can be done" attitude. It is so rewarding to see young people with educations and visions for the future, which is so important to our recreational fisheries, which have systematically been virtually destroyed by lack of vision and outlandish commercial pressure, often in complete disregard of even token regulations, all because of money.

VISIONARY ELECTRONIC DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES

Right now, as you read this, throughout the entire world you can trace the location, status whether docked or underway and size of every ship - cruise ships, transports, tankers, sightseeing boats and even tug boats - in the world's myriad ports. This system already exists and could, with modifications, be used to monitor the activities of recreational fishing vessels in every coastal state of the United States. The computer web site is MarineTraffic.com. I ask you, please, as you complete reading this chapter to spend a half hour studying the web site with an open mind.

My vision is to employ a modification of MarineTraffic.com as it could apply to recreational fisheries. Each recreational boat owner currently must have their boat registered in its state. The same is true of charter and party boats.

Inasmuch as charter and party boats don't have to concern themselves with their anglers' names, I feel the same should apply to private boats. Each class of boats would pay a registration fee –much like a migratory waterfowl stamp - based on its capacity of anglers, i.e. a party boat may register to carry 50 passengers or perhaps upwards of 75 or more, whereas a charter boat often carries six, and private boats for the most part would range from four to twelve anglers. This means a private boater need not register each angler, but is already registered for the legal number of anglers he has on board, whether family members every weekend, or a casual friend whom he decides to take fishing perhaps once or twice a year.

The key herein is that each boat would log in electronically as it leaves port, registering the number of anglers on board who will be fishing, simply by turning on their radio or cell phone. All of the input upon dialing automatically identifies the vessel, monitoring it electronically throughout the day and the only initial input is the number of anglers fishing.

Upon returning to port and disembarking the passengers and catch, the catch data of each boat would be electronically inputted by simple responses regarding the number of each species caught, retained, and size if required. Even

conservation officers would welcome it, as they could randomly check catches after final inputs to ensure compliance, and accurate data entry.

Land based anglers – surf, bulkhead, dock and shore - would wear a tag, much like freshwater anglers wear their license, only saltwater anglers would have an electronic tracking device, much like E-Z Pass, where at the conclusion of a day's fishing their catch data would be sent electronically via cell phone, much the same as boaters.

Government scientists would immediately know precisely where each boat/angler, was/is, fishing in clearly defined regions, how many anglers fished, the exact catch data by species, their size and any other information the regulations/scientists require. Literally, at midnight each night the government scientists would have all data electronically tabulated, summarized, and know precisely what happened that day and year-to-date. It would range from the extreme of an excellent fishing day, to a non-fishing day with no catch data, as a result of coastal fishing being impossible because of a northeaster.

ESTABLISH SPECIES FOR RECREATIONAL USE ONLY

The time has long passed when recreational anglers should have a group of species dedicated entirely for recreational fishing and which would be prohibited from commercial sale. My initial plan for the northeast includes the striped bass, summer flounder, winter flounder and black sea bass, or perhaps codfish so a recreational fishery could exist all twelve months of the year. But each section of

the country would have different species in the recreational fishing category set aside and prohibited from commercial sale. If it meant buying out commercial interests, so be it. It must be noted that some species, like the striped bass, are currently farmed and other species with comparable table qualities are also commercially farmed, which would result in minimal negative impact on the public. The commercial sector could in turn concentrate their efforts on the remaining species regulated by the scientists and government agencies.

Here again, to those with an agenda who would say “It’ll never happen” it is apparent that recreational anglers are waking up. North Carolina is already reaching out to protect its redfish, speckled trout and striped bass, and prohibit their sale. Striped bass are no longer commercially harvested in many other states, and it’s almost incomprehensible that commercial interests devastate the species, exceeding quotas and otherwise decimating the population, especially when one considers that these are migratory species traveling through the waters of all coastal states in their range.

My plan with respect to making species available for recreational use only is to have federal regulations, which would override state rules along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coasts. This places the commercial segment out of the business of fishing for these species and prohibits their sale . . . Period!

The electronic data processing, in concert with these four or five species dedicated to recreation anglers, would put an end to the horrible manner in which

regulators have permitted the population levels to be decimated. I respect the scientists and their theoretical knowledge, but they simply have no backgrounds in business and electronic data collection, an area in which I specialized during an exciting 45-year career in corporate management at Anheuser-Busch. It would also eliminate the current ongoing destruction of the many varied businesses associated with recreational fishing, from tackle and bait shops, to charter and party boats, boat manufacturers, tackle manufacturers, and the entire tourism industry. Can this plan be improved upon? Certainly, but it is a plan, which is a beginning.

By way of explanation, the logic already exists for all I've proposed. Years ago commercial hunters eliminated the passenger pigeon, the world's last one died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914. But then, as a result of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, migratory species such as Canada geese, the many species of birds, ducks, and other waterfowl became federally protected and have prospered as they migrated from state to state throughout the year, a result of being removed from the commercial hunting sector, and their sale prohibited.

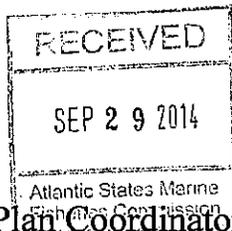
Just in my seventy-five years of recreational fishing I've seen the demise of silver hake, Atlantic halibut, bluefin tuna, weakfish, winter flounder, summer flounder, striped bass and tautog, to mention a few. All this destruction of a great resource has occurred during my lifetime in my home waters of the northeast. But I've also seen it happen in Florida and along the Gulf coast with the redfish and a wide variety of snapper and grouper too, and on the West coast with not only many

species, but the bureaucrats simply outlawing recreational fishing in certain Pacific Coast area waters where stocks are depleted. These stocks were depleted as a result of commercial overfishing, not recreational fishing. The list goes on and on. It all could have been avoided had there been a plan and especially not the government pandering to commercial interests.

However, optimistic that I am, I have a vision that my four granddaughters and two great granddaughters and one great grandson may, as they grow older, have the same opportunities to enjoy recreational fishing as my wife, children and I have. This plan will ensure that happens. We can make a difference. But we must all voice our concerns, for as is so evident with government they fail to realize the consequences of their actions until it is too late.

The recreational fishing community collectively must continue to have its voice heard which ultimately result in bringing the management of our fisheries into the 21st century. It's incumbent to use state of the art techniques in every aspect, from data collection and enforcement to reestablishing those fisheries so important to the recreational angler. Fortunately, today we have myriad opportunities through modern electronics, from the Internet to cell phones, computers and just old fashioned letters, to communicate our thoughts to those who have been elected to bring our country back to its once proud heritage.

Yes, we will make a difference!



Attn: Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Sept. 24, 2014

Gentlemen;

This letter is in response to your request for comment on Addendum IV.

I have been fishing recreationally for strippers in the Chesapeake since the moratorium was lifted about 30 years ago. While in my younger years I fished the lower bay in addition to the James River, I live on the water, and have 30 years experience of stripper fishing on the James, primarily between the James River Bridge and the Idle Fleet.

I have never seen the stripper stock at such a low level in those 30 years in my river. The number of recreational boats on the hot spots has declined dramatically in the past three years to what I estimate is about 10 to 20 percent of normal. The strippers have been declining for probably 10 years but the decline in the past 3 years is frightening. While my data is for a single river, I hear from around the Chesapeake that similar declines are happening elsewhere.

Yet when I look at the catch data, it shows a general decline but not the dramatic decline I and others have seen. I believe the problem is in the catch data for the recreational catch. I think it is grossly overstated. As a scientist, I understand the difficulty of determining the catch of such an unorganized group. When the telephone interviews were instituted, I thought the recreational catch would finally be accurately reported, but I have heard lately that this program is being disregarded. Apparently since the data does not match the fictional numbers of the past method, it is assumed the recreational fishermen being called are lying about the size of their catch. I doubt it. If they were asked, "exactly where did you catch the fish" then they would be less than honest, but we have for years been trying to get fair treatment when it comes to fisheries management and understand the importance of good data in that process.

I think you need to develop additional ways to estimate the recreational catch. One of the tools I would like to see used is a systematic recording of all data generated by the various fishing tournaments. While weather can affect a single tournament in a single year, combining tournament data could wash out weather factors. The

catch data is carefully recorded, and data from back years is still generally available, so someone could in short order assemble tournament catch data.

I have noticed in studying the tabulated catch data where commercial and recreational data are shown, that the decline in both are similar over the past ten years. This makes no sense to me. As fish become more scarce, I would expect the recreational catch to fall more rapidly than the commercial catch. Putting a bait in front of increasingly separated fish becomes difficult, and the failure to succeed reduces the frequency of trips. A net set across the tide flow will eventually catch even scarce fish, and since a quota is involved every effort will be made to fill it.

Sorry if this seems like a rant, but I am very distressed about the current stripper situation and if I had my way I would institute an immediate moratorium on all stripper fishing until things improve. I recognize that that is not going to happen for a few years, so the following is my preference as to the options you have given.

2.5.1 Coast wide Reference Point, I support Option B

2.5.2 Chesapeake Reference Point, I support Option B

2.5.3 Albemarle Sound etc Reference Point, I support Option B

2.6 Timeline to reduce F, I support option A

3.0 Proposed Management Program, I support Option B, I would prefer a much greater reduction.

Recreational management options, I support B2 for the coastal and B10 for the Chesapeake

Commercial management options, I support B16 for the coastal and B18 for the Chesapeake.

Thanks for your work and allowing our input.

Nelson Burkholder Jr.
74 Colombia Dr.
Newport News, VA 23608



RECEIVED

SEP-25 2014

Sept 22, 2014

Mike Waine

Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator

1050 N. Highland St. Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine

I am writing you this letter to strongly urge you to enact rules to substantially reduce both the recreational and commercial harvesting of striped bass.

I have been fishing the Rhode Island waters for well over 40 years now. In the last 5 or 6 years I have experienced a dramatic reduction in seeing and catching striped bass.

I know you are working on a plan but I feel dramatic measures need to be taken in order to save the striped bass. I would recommend: 1 fish per day 32" minimum length

Enact some sort of fishing "season" for this species

Reduce commercial fishing by at least 50%

Most of my life I have been a catch and release fisherman. I feel that unless we enact strict reductions of the fish

harvested by all parties that the striped
bass may be imperiled. Please enact strong measures!

Thank you for your consideration on this
vital matter - Sincerely,

~~Peter Schultze~~

102 Murphy's Drive

Groton, CT 06340

peterschultze@snet.net

CONSERVE AND REFORM OUR STRIPED BASS FISHERY

IN RESPONSE TO THE VIRGINIA PILOT ARTICLE "WHERE'S THE CATCH?" PUBLISHED ON JAN. 18, 2014, AND BEING A CHARTER CAPTAIN IN VIRGINIA AS WELL AS ALASKA, I OFFER MY OBSERVATIONS OVER THE PAST TEN (10) YEARS. FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW THAT I WANT ALL INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS TO SURVIVE BY WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE THE FISH, THE BAY AND ALL THOSE WHO DEPEND ON THE RESOURCES. OVER THE PAST FIFTEEN (15) YEARS I HAVE COMPILED ARTICLES RELATIVE TO THE STRIPED BASS FISHERY. THESE ARTICLES AS WELL AS MY OBSERVATIONS WHILE FISHING ON THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ATLANTIC OCEAN ARE THE BASIS FOR CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ALL FISH, BIRDS, AND ECOLOGY OF THE BAY ITSELF. GLOBAL WARMING:

MANY WILL PLACE THE BLAME FOR LACK OF FISH ON GLOBAL WARMING BY SAYING THE FISH ARE NOT COMING DOWN TO VIRGINIA WATERS BECAUSE THE WATERS ARE NOT GETTING AS COLD UP NORTH. I AM SURE GLOBAL WARMING DOES HAVE ITS' EFFECT, HOWEVER, WHY DID THE MASSACHUSETTS RECREATIONAL FISHERY HAVE A 74% DECLINE IN THE STRIPED BASS RECREATIONAL FISHING FROM 2006 TO 2010? I DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON 2011 UNTIL THE PRESENT BUT I VENTURE TO SAY THINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED.

DISEASED STRIPED BASS:

SCIENTISTS HAVE FOUND FIFTY (50) PER CENT OF STRIPED BASS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY SHOWING SIGNS OF BEING INFECTED BY MYCOBACTERIOSIS AND THAT THEY WOULD DIE. IT IS APPARENT THIS HAS AND IS HAPPENING TODAY.

NORTHERN STRIPED BASS FISHERY:

OVER THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS, THE BULK OF THE STRIPED BASS CAUGHT IN VIRGINIA WATERS HAVE COME FROM THE NORTHERN STATES AND WOULD COME INTO LEGAL WATERS OF VIRGINIA ALONG WITH THE MENHADEN. TODAY THOSE FISH ARE TRAVELING FARTHER OFFSHORE IN SEARCH OF FOOD DUE TO THE REDUCTION OF MENHADEN, MACKEREL AND HERRING ALONG THE EAST COAST.

GRAY TROUT ALMOST GONE:

THE GRAY TROUT POPULATION IS DOWN TO FIVE (5) PER CENT OF WHAT IT WAS TEN (10) YEARS AGO. WITH LESS PREDATOR FISH, MENHADEN, ETC., THE STRIPED BASS HAVE TARGETED THE TROUT. BLUE CRAB AND SMALL FLOUNDER CAN ALSO BE FOUND IN THE STOMACHS OF STRIPED BASS. AS OF DECEMBER 2011 THE STRIPED BASS DIET CONSISTED OF EIGHT (8) PER CENT OF MENHADEN VERSUS SEVENTY (70) PER CENT HISTORICALLY.

CHESAPEAKE BAY STRIPED BASS FISHERY IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT:

FIFTY (50) PERCENT OF THE STRIPED BASS HAVE DIED OR ARE DYING FROM MYCOBACTERIOSIS AND ANOTHER TWENTY FIVE (25) PERCENT HAVE PROBABLY BEEN CAUGHT BY COMMERCIAL NETTERS AND THE MENHADEN FISHERY AS "BY-CATCH". NOTHING CAN MIGRATE OUT OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY IF IT DOES NOT EXIST! AS A CHARTER CAPTAIN, I FISHED THE BAY WATERS AND COASTAL WATERS AFTER THE STRIPED BASS SEASON BEGAN AND SO FAR I HAVE NOT HOOKED THE FIRST STRIPED BASS THIS SEASON. WITH THE LACK OF THE STRIPED BASS FISHERY, THE COST TO THE ECONOMY WILL BE IN THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

THE CHESAPEAKE BAY IS IN TROUBLE:

IN 2003 THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED THAT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY EXPERIENCED ONE OF THE WORST DEAD ZONES ON RECORD. FORTY (40) PERCENT OF THE BAY WAS INHOSPITABLE TO FISH, CRABS AND OYSTERS. THAT WAS TEN (10) YEARS AGO AND I WOULD VENTURE TO SAY IT IS NOT ANY BETTER TODAY. THE CBF SAYS THAT ONE (1) ADULT MENHADEN CAN FILTER ONE (1) MILLION GALLONS OF WATER EVERY 180 DAYS AND THAT A HEALTHY MENHADEN POPULATION CAN CONSUME UP TO TWENTY FIVE (25) PERCENT OF THE BAYS NITROGEN IN (1) YEAR!! IN 2003 IT WAS REPORTED THAT FROM 1993 UP TO 2003 (10 YEARS) THE MENHADEN HAD SUFFERED FROM POOR RECRUITMENT (SUSTAINABILITY) IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.

IN THE FALL, MIGRATING SCHOOLS OF MENHADEN OUT OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY HAVE BECOME ALMOST NON-EXISTENT. WHATEVER MENHADEN SCHOOLS THAT DID COME OUT OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY OVER THE PAST TWO (2) YEARS HAD LITTLE IF ANY STRIPED BASS PRESENT. IF STRIPED BASS RETURN TO THE PLACE OF THEIR BIRTH TO SPAWN AS DO THE SALMON IN ALASKA, THEN THE FISHERY IS DEFINITELY IN TROUBLE.

WHAT IS IN STORE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NORTHERN STATES STRIPED BASS FISHERY? SOME WILL SAY THAT THESE FISH ARE OFFSHORE IN FEDERALLY PROTECTED WATERS WHERE THEY ARE SAFE. THIS YEAR THE U S COAST GUARD, VIRGINIA MARINE POLICE AND FEDERAL FISHERIES BOATS HAVE BEEN IN FULL FORCE OFFSHORE TO MAKE SURE THE

STRIPED BASS WERE NOT TARGETED BY THE RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FLEET. THE STRIPED BASS ARE SAFE FROM THE FISHERMEN BUT NOT FROM THE MENHADEN FLEET. THE FISH ARE SWIMMING WITH AND FEEDING ON THE MENHADEN. ONCE THE SCHOOLS OF MENHADEN ARE SPOTTED BY THE MENHADEN FLEET'S AIRPLANE, THE SHIPS SHOW UP; SURROUND THE ENTIRE SCHOOL OF FISH WITH SMALL MESH NETS AND THE STRIPERS ARE GONE. TOO. THEY ARE CALLED "BY-CATCH" FOR WHICH THE FLEET CAN KEEP A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WEIGHT. IF ANY STRIPERS ARE RELEASED, THEY WILL PROBABLY DIE. IF THE RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FLEET CANNOT TARGET THESE FISH, WHY SHOULD THESE STRIPED BASS FALL VICTIM TO THE MENHADEN FLEET JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE TRYING TO SURVIVE ON THEIR FAVORITE FOOD, MENHADEN? WHAT CAN BE DONE?:

SOME FISHERMEN SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN:

- (1) MAKE THE STRIPED BASS A GAME FISH**
- (2) HAVE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN USE HOOKS AND LINES FOR THEIR CATCH AS IS DONE IN ALASKA FOR SALMON AND OTHER GAME FISH.**
- (3) ALLOW RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERMEN TO TARGET STRIPED BASS OVER THE (3) MILE LINE (OFFSHORE) WITH A LIMIT OF ONE (1) FISH PER PERSON.**
- (4) HAVE A SHORTER FISHING SEASON**

MY SUGGESTIONS:

- (1) IF WE ARE ALLOWED TO GO OVER THE (3) MILE LINE (OFFSHORE), MAKE THE LIMIT OF (1) FISH PER ANGLER ON A CHARTER BOAT. THE CAPTAIN AND MATE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO RETAIN ANY FISH. THIS IS THE RULE IN ALASKA FOR CATCHING SALMON.**
- (2) HAVE A SLOT LIMIT FROM 28" TO A MAXIMUM LENGTH (TO BE DECIDED BY FISHERY OFFICIALS) SO AS TO ALLOW SPAWNING SIZE FISH TO BE RELEASED.**
- (3) SINCE THE MENHADEN SPAWN IN OFFSHORE WATERS, CLOSE THE SEASON FOR THE MENHADEN FLEET FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31. THIS WOULD ALLOW THE MENHADEN TO SPAWN AND ALLOW THE STRIPED BASS TO MIGRATE BACK TO THE NORTHERN EAST COAST STATES FROM WHICH THEY TRAVELED JUST AS THE BLUEFIN TUNA DO.**
- (4) GET THE MENHADEN FISHERY OUT OF THE POLITICAL ARENA BY ALLOWING THE VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCE COMMISSION TO MANAGE THE RESOURCE. THIS IS THE ONLY FISHERY THEY DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO MANAGE AND MANAGING OUR FISHERIES IS WHAT THEY DO BEST.**

CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERY:

AS FAR AS THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERY IS CONCERNED, I PREDICTED EIGHT (8) YEARS AGO IN AN ARTICLE "STRIPER ALARMS" THAT THE STRIPED BASS WERE HEADED FOR TROUBLE AS WE ARE WITNESS TODAY AND THE FUTURE IS BLEAK.

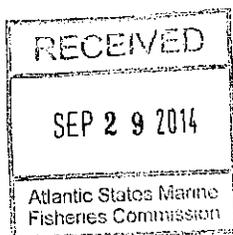
WITHOUT A THRIVING MENHADEN POPULATION TO HELP FILTER THE BAY WATERS, I SEE EVEN LARGER DEAD ZONES WHERE NOTHING CAN SURVIVE.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT EVERYONE AFFECTED WILL TAKE A STAND TO SAVE THE LITTLE FISH THAT CAN SAVE THE BAY WATERS; OUR BIRDS; AND OUR RECREATIONAL/COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY.

CAPTAIN PAUL EWING

JANUARY 20, 2014

Paul Haertel
160 Doherty Dr.
Clifton, N.J. 07013



September 25, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Va. 22201

Mike and ASMFC,

I have been an avid striped bass fisherman for well over 40 years and I have fished through the moratorium years as well as the more recent years of abundance. In my prime I used to fish for stripers close to 100 nights a year on the jetties. I still do that fairly often but I also fish for them far more on my boat than I used to. I release 90-95% of the stripers I catch but I am a trophy fisherman and I also like to participate in tournaments. While stripers are not over fished and over fishing is not occurring, they are definitely in decline as evidenced by the steady decrease in the spawning stock biomass since 2003. I do not believe they can sustain the type of pressure that has been put on them in recent years. Up and down the east coast private, party and charter boats have been hammering them almost year round.

Years ago New Jersey had the most restrictive recreational regulations on the east coast, 10 stripers at 18" or larger. Now we are down to just two fish at 28" and might be limited to just one fish in the near future. At the same time commercial fishing for stripers is still allowed. Stripers should be managed just like trout and largemouth bass in the lakes and streams. There are simply not enough of them to allow commercial fishing. The illegal harvest of stripers that are sold exacerbates the problem further.

Concerning the addendum though, I would like to see mortality reduced by 25% in one year provided that it does not hurt my ability to harvest an occasional large striper. I am strongly opposed to any option that would have a maximum size limit. I believe that the best way to increase the spawning stock biomass is to raise the size limit so that more stripers will reach sexual maturity.

More specifically I support the following options:

2.5.1 I support option B and urge the Commission to adopt the new reference points as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment.

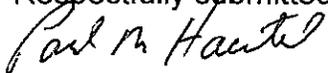
2.6 I support option A and would like action to be taken to reduce mortality within a one year time frame.

3.0 I support option B and would like to have F reduced by 25% or more within one year. The striped bass biomass been declining since 2003. I would like to see stripers managed so that they remain near peak abundance rather than just sustainability.

I also support B-3, a one fish limit at 32". I believe that this option will best protect the 2011 year class. They are currently about 18" long but the females will be large enough to breed by 2016 or 2017. I would like to ensure that this last good year class is able to spawn at least a couple of times before they are harvested.

3.1 I support option A, status quo. I am vehemently opposed to the transfer of commercial quotas from one state to another. In an addendum that is mostly about remaining at status quo or reducing mortality it is appalling that this section would allow an increase in mortality. I would like any unused quotas to be conserved rather than harvested.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Haertel

160 Doherty Dr
Chilton, NJ 07013

September 28, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mike:

I have been a charter boat captain since 1998 and have seen a lot of changes since the start of my career. My sole income is obtained by chartering fishing parties. Obviously, I am personally against a 25% reduction in striped bass fishery.

Some of the suggestions I recommend are:

- 1). Dispose of the pre-season catch and release for the entire bay. I personally feel that this stresses the female species before they spawn.
- 2). Stop allowing the fishing tournaments in the entire bay. These only benefit a few people and put a lot of stress and increase mortality of the fish.
- 3). Start the trophy season off with a 32" fish. That is a reasonably sized fish and would be more considered a trophy.
- 4). Charters boats should discontinue catching a boat fish. 2 fish per angler is plenty. We are legally unable to send our catch with the anglers and they generally don't need it.

The commercial summer hook and line fishing started about 15 years ago. In my opinion, it is a bad fishery and not accomplishing what it was intended to do which is assist the crabbers out having a challenging year. They can sit on a school of fish with spot and literally demolish the entire school. Currently with the individual catch quotas, they are allowed to transfer them from one to another and catch too many fish daily.

I feel we need to revise the summer commercial fishing season. Mortality is higher due to the temperature of the water. You have an overlap in the commercial and recreational fishing seasons which is a conflict. Last year they could fish 2-3 days a month. It seemed we had plenty of fish until the end of our season. This year, they fish every day. Fish are definitely not as plentiful.

These are just some considerations I would like to recommend. With fishing being my sole income, this is definitely a concern to me. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Capt. Perry Davidson
Excalibur Charters
410-310-0767

From: [Scott White](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 11:02:59 AM

September 4, 2014

Dear Mr. Waine,

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the September 2 meeting on Nantucket. I appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment via this e-mail.

I have been recreationally fishing for striped bass on Nantucket since 2001, and concur that the number and average size of striped bass has decreased during this time. I harvest bass for personal consumption each year and always make note whether it is male or female. This year (2014), I harvested 10 fish during May and June that ranged from 28 to 33 inches, and all but one were female. I do not have "numbers" from prior years, but females have always outnumbered males any given year.

I do believe that insuring an adequate stock of breeding females is a key element of a successful multifactorial approach for preserving striped bass. I read through the proposed options and found it difficult to state a specific preference without a knowledgeable scientific perspective. However, I do support these general regulatory changes:

- Decrease to 1 fish per day for recreational fisherman.
- An appropriate decrease of the commercial limit.
- A slot limit that is scientifically supported to reduce gravid female harvest, both recreationally and commercially.
- No trophy fish harvest.
- Additionally, I believe the policies and practices of other forms of commercial fishing that catch striped bass as by-catch should also be addressed and changed as supported by scientific information.

Concerning Federal waters, local recreational fisherman and charter boats routinely fish in federal waters, primarily in the rips east of Nantucket. Although claiming they are not fishing for striped bass outside the 0-3 mile state zone, these trips are in reality "targeting" striped bass and numerous fish are harvested, regardless of current regulations. Although enforcement of the regulations may be out of the purview of Fish & Wildlife and NOAA, I believe the lack of enforcement is the most limiting issue in Federal waters and additional emphasis is warranted and needed in support of a strategy to increase the striped bass population.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott White, DVM
5 Little Neck Way
Nantucket, MA 02554

Gentleman

I am a charter captain for the past 41 years. My speciality is light tackle fishing on all Long Island waters from Jones Beach to Montauk and north to Plum Gut. I have spent my life on these waters and made my living exclusively from chartering. I allow my clients to take "One Striper" Most decline and release. Occasionally some one will take a fish to eat fresh. The opportunity to offer the privilege of fishing to a young person changes their life forever. They see the out doors as a resource worth saving and protecting. It's not simpler a "Cash Crop" as it is to the commercial industry.

We all know the Striped Bass count is very low. What can we do about it? The answer is extremely simple. Stop beating them up! The commercial fishing industry will continue destroying this very important resource until it is gone or they are stopped. I believe a moratorium is the only answer at this point. It worked back in the late 70's and early 80's it can and will work again. Every Fall I watch 10-15 trawlers working 24/7 from September through December rain or shine off Ammagansette on the South Shore of Long Island. They sweep up school after school of migrating Stripers. No one is checking them. Regulations mean nothing because the benefited profit realized is to great. They would rather take their chances. Every commercial boat captain can tell you where NYS DEC officers are at any point on any given day. They make it their business. It's a joke but it's not funny.

I am watching my business my families living being destroyed. Every year for the past 7 years I have watched the Striper count fall. This year is the worst it's been and unless this is stopped the species will be all but whipped out again. This Fall the commercial industry will be out there again. By the time you implement anything it may already be to late.

Take this out of the political arena and listen to the science. Lobbyists care nothing about the people they hurt it's simply profit.

I was around the first time the Stripers disappeared there was generations of people that did not even know what a Striped Bass was. It's going to happen again. Stop the irresponsible madness! Implement a moratorium NOW!!!

R



Ralph Vigmostad
25 Stone Drive
Greenlawn, NY 11740

Sept. 1, 2014

Mr. Emerson C. Hasbrouck, Jr.
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Marine Program
423 Griffing Ave., #100
Riverhead, NY 11901

Dear Mr. Hasbrouck:

It was with interest that I read your draft Addendum for public comment dated August 6th. I also listened in via computer to the August 5th meeting in Virginia.

While the commission did concede that the fishery is down, I consider all your recommendations to be far too timid. Any serious striped bass angler has noted a drastic decrease in the fishery in the last 5 years.

If we don't learn from history, we are doomed to repeat yesterday's mistakes. Sixty years ago the Atlantic salmon in Canada and Europe were very healthy. Every year many fish over 50 lbs. were landed. The commercial sector was harvesting fish before they could swim up stream to spawn and the open ocean trawlers were having their way in the winter feeding grounds of the salmon. Then, suddenly the fishery collapsed. The Canadian government halted all netting in the eastern provinces, but it was too late; the salmon never came back. EVERY commercial fisherman lost his way of life and his income as well, permanently.

Don't repeat this horrible mistake. Stop worrying about inconveniencing either commercial or recreational fishermen. Take the long view and act now with draconian harvest reductions. Do your job in a responsible manner, as I know you are all capable of, and protect this valuable resource.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours.


Ralph Vigmostad, VP
New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing

cc: Mike Waine
James J. Gilmore, Jr.
Sen. Philip M. Boyle
Thomas P. Fote

Raymond B. Ryan Comments on
Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Striped Bass Management Plan
September 26, 2014

Background

For 26 years, I have resided in Connecticut. Today, I own a small business located in Connecticut. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, I was a partner in a national accounting firm. My outdoor memberships include the Coastal Conservation Association, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited and Stripers Forever. My saltwater fishing began in 1992 and I have been an avid angler in the salt ever since. I participate in the Connecticut Volunteer Angler Survey each year. In the late 1990's I was President of CCA-CT. As such, I was part of a team that lobbied for the law to exclude "bunker boats" from Connecticut waters and for a separate piece of legislation to rid Connecticut of the obstructive stationary commercial fish traps. During that time, I got to know, admire and become friends with some of the Connecticut conservation legends – Doc Gunther, Ed Parker, and Ernie Beckwith.

Response to Draft Addendum IV

Option B is the only viable management choice of the alternatives proposed. With respect the sub-options, the correct choices are:

- Coastal Recreational Fishery – Option B3;
- Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery – Option B10;
- Coastal Commercial Fishery – Option B16;
- Chesapeake Commercial Fishery – Option B17;
- My comments are set forth below.

Nowhere Is It Written

Nowhere is it written that a few hundred commercial fishermen have the same slice of the pie as do a million plus recreational fishermen. The U.S. courts have consistently held that when it comes to a scarce public resource, there is no standing for that person claiming to gather for some distant party. Any allocation of striped bass to commercial fisherman is gift from society – and one that should be gradually reduced. Notwithstanding, commercial fisherman are given a huge bias by the ASMC. It is time to reverse that bias.

When Amendment 6 was proposed, the ASMC representatives said that target harvest sharing would be in range of 20% to the commercial fishermen and 80% recreational. We should be going back in that direction and lower. The average harvest since 1995 has been about 32% commercial and 68% recreational. This is the time get that ratio back to where it was promised.

In the Connecticut hearing on Addendum IV, David Simpson said that option B 16 was in error since it gives commercial fisherman a 25% reduction based on the Amendment 6 allocation. The correct base for reduction is the 2013 commercial harvest of 2,532,558 lbs. Thus the allocation should be $2,532,558 \times 75\% = 1,899,419$ lbs. The roundly 1.9 million pounds is 50% of the Amendment 6 allocation of 3.8 million lbs. Obviously, using the Amendment 6 allocation benchmark means that a 50% reduction is appropriate to be comparable to the reduction for recreational fishermen.

I would like to think that the bad numbers in the proposal was not a purposeful give away to commercial interests. At any rate, my approval of B 16 assumes that the error will be corrected and commercial interests will share the same percentage reduction of harvest as do the recreational fishermen.

Less than a Zero Sum Game

Study after study has proven that popular game fish such as striped bass produce economic benefits to their adjacent communities and to society at large that exceed many times over the value added by commercial fishing. Why does not the ASMFC recognize this basic fundamental fact? Translated roughly, **recreational fishing for striped bass creates more jobs than commercial fishing does**. Unfortunately, the recreation fishermen are poor political lobbyist and get this message across.

The Canadians on the Pacific coast get it. They have a management waterfall. First, they ask what is best for the species. Next, what is the allowable harvest that leaves the fishery with ample abundance? After determining an allowable harvest, then that harvest is allocated based on economic value added to society. They even have a computational model to determine value added. For Coho and Chinook salmon, the allowable catch is allocated first to recreational fishing – “commercial harvest of Chinook and Coho will occur when abundance permits.”¹

Allocating striped bass to kill by commercial fishing is taking jobs away from US hotel/motel operators, recreational charter boats, restaurants, marinas, etc. Go to Montauk and see with your own eyes the people who are supported by the recreational fishing industry versus the handful in commercial fishing. Every 8 plus year of age and older (“8+”) striper harvested by commercial means reduces net economic benefit to our society.

In 2011, we went through the process of commenting on a proposal to allow commercial interests to carryover the harvest of unused allocations from one year to the next. Connecticut’s ASMC representatives voted for the proposal – but changed their vote after a vicious outcry from recreational fishermen at the hearings. I was there and I remember. The proposal died. Why is its ugly head coming out again?

Why is the ASMC asking if the EEZ should be opened? It my understanding that President Bush put into law the closure of the EEZ to fishing for striped bass. Is that not true? Of course we want the EEZ to stay closed as refuge for large striped bass. It seems that the EEZ closure is well beyond the authority or prerogative of the ASMFC.

Fanning “Water Rage”

The ASMFC needs to know that where commercial and recreational striped bass fishermen share the same waters, there are constant conflicts. To date, I have not heard of any physical injuries, but a number of close calls have been reported. I have experienced these conflicts myself many times while in my boat on fishing trips to the Montauk, NY waters. Commercial fishermen have run their boats – out of their line of travel - through my location to purposefully ruin my fishing. If the bite is very good, they return and set their nets where I am fishing. The NY DEP is unresponsive to complaints.

What do Recreational Fishermen Want?

Unfortunately, the ASMC does not understand and is not responsive to its major constituency – the recreational fishermen. At the end of the day, the ASMC measures success in the number of dead fish caught and kept by fishermen. But the top priority of recreational fishermen is not fish filets - It is fish in the water. Strict harvest limits are welcomed because we know that there will be more fish to catch tomorrow. The allowance of catch and release fishing during the ‘80s and early 90’s proved that there is little mortality from released fish. Their odds of survival are better than lying in a boat fish box. The management goal then should be just that – a minimum number of striped bass 8 years and older. Looking to the 2004 census, that minimum number of fish 8 years and older should be 11 million or greater. Recreational fishermen needs are simple – fish in the water are more important than dead fish on the shore or dock.

So how are we doing? Table 15 in the **October 2013 Stock Assessment Report for Atlantic Striped Bass** tells part of the story:

¹ A report to Sharing the Fish 06 Conference, Freemantle, Western Australia by Gordon Gislason titled, **COMMERCIAL VS RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ALLOCATION IN CANADA: Pacific Herring, Salmon, and Halibut**.

Year	Striped Bass 8+ Years of Age
2000	7,428,000
2001	9,834,000
2002	10,090,000
2003	10,539,000
2004	11,321,000
2005	10,214,000
2006	9,231,000
2007	7,775,000
2008	7,644,000
2009	7,968,000
2010	7,234,000
2011	8,601,000
2012	7,741,000
2013	Not yet published

Despite the ASMC's self-congratulations on its ability to generate dead stripers, it is failing recreational fishermen. Between 2004 and 2012, the 8+ population of striped bass declined by 32%. Today, in 2014 it is doubtful that we have 50% of the number of Striped Bass 8+ we had in 2004. The ASMC should have a target that Striped Bass 8+ count **in the water** does not fall below 11 million fish 8 years and older. That point was reached in 2004 and with less aggressive killing of stripers, could have easily been maintained to this date.

Note that the current population of striped bass does not reflect what would be in nature. Any study of fish species (occurring without man's interference) reveals that biomass is predominately mature and large fish. Since we have an east coast "fish farm" for striped bass out there, there are few large fish and many small fish.

The ASMFC needs to make the definition of a "quality fishery" a high priority – not a low priority as it is now. A quality fishery is one with more than 11 million 8+ age bass **in the water**.

What is Right for Wild Striped Bass?

With ugly disease affecting striped bass in Chesapeake Bay, poor young of the year reports and a substantial reduction of 8+ fish **in the water** it does not take a scientist to see that there is a collapse of the striped bass population. Addendum IV is too little too late. Given the number of intelligent people at the ASMFC, my only conclusion is that there is serious jawboning from selected Congressmen who are beholden to the commercial fishing industry. What needs to happen now is an immediate and substantial reduction in striped bass mortality, however that occurs. Addendum IV is not enough.

Also, it is time that the ASMFC recognize that no one - commercial or recreational fisherman - has a property right in striped bass or any other wild fish species, for that matter. Buying a boat only gives a person title to the boat, not a title to the fish. The Canadian model is the right way to manage a popular game fish. In other words, AMSFC's priority should be what is right for the preservation and natural presence of the species. If there is abundance available for harvest, that harvest should be allocated to the people on the basis what is best for society.

What Do We See on The Water?

We see a disaster. In addition to my own fishing, I have guide friends and fellow fishermen here in Connecticut and in Massachusetts. This year, it is very hard to find a striped bass – large or small. I have not caught one striper all season. A friend from Chatham tells me that the Monomoy rips hold no fish, Pleasant Bay is vacant. My trips to Watch Hill have been as fruitless as fishing in the Western Connecticut waters. Yes – the occasional very large bass is caught by the individual who stays out nights, but that is the exception. Striped bass fishing was bad last year, but this year it is a complete bust. Tackle shops post the odd encouraging report, but frankly it is mostly fiction. There is a population crash – due to overfishing permitted by the ASMFC.

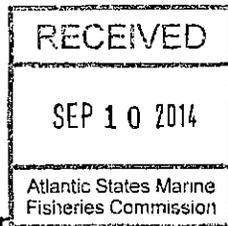
As a result, I am extremely concerned about the game fish, striped bass. If the species is to have any hope for abundance again, the ASMC must manage the striped bass fishery as a game fish, not a farmed fish.

Raymond B. Ryan
Darien, CT
rbr@realemail.net
September 26, 2014

CC: Congressman Jim Himes
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Chris Murphy
CT Congresswoman Terry Woods

September 9, 2014

Michael Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201



Subject: Draft Addendum IV

Mr. Waine et al,

Striped bass management plans have been proposed, revised, discussed, but then ultimately discarded with no change to the downward trend of the fishery over the last few years. We now have an opportunity for significant action before we witness, once again, the population contraction of the 1980s. Let us commit to restoring the stocks to population levels that existed between 1995 and 2004. Please consider the following recommendations to preserve the 2011 Chesapeake and 2007 Hudson year classes, thereby ensuring a sustainable striped bass fishery for generations to come:

Section: 2.5.1 Stock Assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses the 2013 benchmark assessment

Section: 2.5.2 Chesapeake Assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment point

Section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference Points

Option B: To be managed by State of North Carolina

Section 2.6 Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year

Section: 3.0 Management Scenario Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery: B-3 One fish per person @ 32"

Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: B-10

Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: B-17

Section: 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one region to another should quotas not be reached in a given region.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Bertoli".

Richard Bertoli
20 Ladik St.
Piermont, NY 10968

From: [Richard Etzel](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 9:49:49 PM
Attachments: [fleet 9-27-14.png](#)

Dear Mr. Waine,

In response to Draft Addendum IV to the Striped Bass plan, I am writing this comment.

As a 40 year, full time veteran in the for hire industry, I support option D1, the 3 year option, and here are the reasons why;

First and most important aspect is the economic value of the Striped Bass to the east end of Long Island. I myself take 6 recreational fishermen Bass fishing 250 times per season. That's 1500 people who buy gas, eat breakfast, lunch, and or dinner, buy T shirts, and stay in our motels. Multiply that number by the other 100 charter boats and then add in the party boats and you can see what drives the economy in Montauk, NY. Our customers who have had the opportunity to bring home two fish at 28" will not make the effort if they can take only one at 32".

Second, I would like the council to consider a separate category for the for hire industry. If the rec people feel that one at 32" will suffice them, fine. The for hire sector needs two at some other size similar to the options in D1.

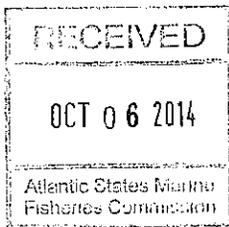
While I understand the state of the fishery is most important, I urge you not to let an auditorium full of surf casters with no economic stake in the fishery sway your decision. A three year plan will get it done the same as the one year.

Please see attached photo from Saturday, 9-27-14. All the boats in the photo were fishing for Striped Bass of Montauk Point.

Sincerely,

Capt. Richard Etzel





RE Strzepek, PE
PO Box 1073
Mattituck, NY 11952

Mr. Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Mr. Waine:

I as a member of the North Fork Anglers Fishing Club, Mattituck, NY acknowledge the time, effort and difficulty involved in the proposals presented.

The proposed options and alternatives you have presented are extensive and complicated. I believe until an entire ecosystem approach to fisheries management which also includes consideration of the food chain and prime feed stocks for game fish makes decisions to enhance the rebuilding and rebound of species such as striped bass extremely difficult. Your document indicates use of many assumptions due to lack of real data to analyze. This lack of real data is troublesome and will make it difficult to realize replenishment of an adequate breeding stock and overall long term stability of the species. The wanton taking of menhaden (and well documented severe reduction in menhaden biomass) is forcing the striped bass to feed on less nutritious sources and this coupled with disease mortality in striped bass i.e. mycobacteriosis must be considered.

If necessary we endorse a complete possession moratorium as was done in the past to ensure the preservation of this precious resource.

Below are my choices for recommended options for the Commission to implement.

Thank you for considering our comments.

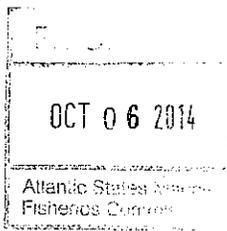
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RE Strzepek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard E. Strzepek, P.E.

Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment Reference Point
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-benchmark assessment

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point
Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment reference point



RE Strzepek, PE
PO Box 1073
Mattituck, NY 11952

Section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference Points
Option B: To be managed by State of North Carolina

Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction (mortality)
Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year

Section 3.0: Proposed Management Scenario Options
Coastal Recreational Fishery: Select B2 (one fish @ 30") or B3 (one fish @ 32")
Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Select B10
Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Select B17

Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one are to another should quotas not be reached among fishers in a given region.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Status quo with Amendment 6



Priority Charters, LLC
70 Gladys Drive
N. Kingstown, RI 02852
401-741-5648

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Draft Addendum IV

September 30, 2014

Mr. Waine,

My name is Capt. Rick Bellavance. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP. I am the owner/operator of Priority Charters, LLC located in Point Judith, RI. On Behalf of myself, my crew, and the 500 people who fish aboard the Priority Too each season, I offer the following.

Section 2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Rates:

Preferred Option B, reference points established that are consistent with SSB Targets and Threshold Values. Use those same coast wide F reference points for the Chesapeake Bay Management area until the T/C can develop appropriate scientific based RP's specific for that management area.

Section 2.6 Time to Reduce F Target:

At this time, Striped Bass is the most important species relating to the overall success of my business. My clients and I support aggressive responsible management of Striped Bass based on science, with a vision for the future. At the same time we recognize that without including practical economic and value based considerations as part of management, many clients will not be able to justify the cost of a charter and may ultimately lose that experience which they desire.

I recommend adopting Option B, a three year timeframe to reduce F. This timeframe gives the Board significantly more options to choose from for management measures. If the

Board selects Option B, The Board can choose management measures from either the one year or three year timeframe options in Section 3. Considering the retrospective patterns that underestimate SSB and overestimate F values and projections, as well as above average YOY indices in recent years, it clearly makes sense to keep management options open.

Section 3.0 Proposed Management Scenarios:

According to the draft addendum, “the range of options included in this document broadly address several management objectives including conservation of the strong 2011 year class and conservation of large spawning fish (SSB) to enhance the long term sustainability of the striped bass resource and the fisheries that it supports.” But, as I read the proposed management options, I have concerns that the objectives may not be attained with the choices presented. In particular, conservation of large spawning fish. I am also disappointed that the Board did not consider the conflicting needs of the different sectors within then recreational fishery. After attending RI’s public hearing, it is extremely clear that for hire operators and their clients have very different needs compared to shore based fishermen and private anglers. Abundance drives the recreational experience, but lesser abundance drives customers to a charter boat. The fish are still there and we are catching them, but we are experienced professionals that work at our trade. To achieve a real 20 plus % reduction in catch compared to 2013, and still provide the best experiences possible for all, the sectors need to be managed separately. There is simply no way to craft measures that leave both sectors feeling satisfied.

The for hire sector needs a 2 fish bag limit to appeal to our clients and provide them value in their choice to pay us to bring them fishing. Not every group we take fishing needs to catch a limit of fish, and on some trips we do not catch our limit. But, there are those fishermen that come with us to catch a large amount of fish to bring home and they have clearly stated that they will forgo fishing if they cannot bring home enough fish.

As I review my logbooks and VTR’s from 2014, it is apparent that I have not caught as many striped bass as I did in 2012 or 2013. The document adequately characterizes reductions already witnessed by recreational fishermen, but I do not feel the migration of Striped Bass into the EEZ is quantified and considered as a reason for recreational harvest declines. That said, I do agree that a natural decline in the resource has already reduced our harvest by a small percentage and that trend will continue until the 2011 year class recruits into our fishery. Coupling this already present reduction with a small increase in size limit or an

implementation of a slot limit and we will realistically reduce catch by 25% while maintaining a 2 fish bag limit.

The management of other species has had an effect on our Striped Bass effort. The reduction of bag limits on Scup, Sea Bass, and Fluke coupled with availability of Striped Bass has lead us to focus on the Striped Bass fishery, again.... because our clients want to bring fish home. The ISFMP Policy Board should consider the consequences that different FMP's on different species under management and discuss ideas that will allow different recreational sectors to achieve satisfaction while addressing management needs.

Although in my heart I believe the Board should have given the PDT and TC better direction to develop options that eliminate trophy fishing and create separate management of charter/party and private/shore anglers, I will recommend as a preferred option Under Section 3, Option D1 which results in a 21% reduction over 3 years and appears to be the easiest to enforce and understand. As alternatives, Option B7, or B8 which results in a 26% reduction in F over 1 year could be considered, although this option may be more complicated for fishermen. I wish to stress to the Board as strongly as I can that my business and my clients depend on status quo (2 fish Bag Limit) being maintained for bag limits in order to satisfy our needs from the Striped Bass Fishery.

While not addressed in this document, I strongly believe the Board should consider scoping for an additional addendum that looks to develop tools that curb illegal harvest of Striped Bass by the recreational fishing community. The perceived lack of enforcement in many areas has created a non-licensed commercial fishery that I believe is undermining our best attempts to manage the Striped Bass resource.

I appreciate the chance to comment on this significant addendum and I look forward to working with the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife, Commission Staff, and the Striped Bass Management Board in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Capt. Rick Bellavance, Owner
Cody Bellavance, Crew
Priority Charters, LLC

401-741-5648

From: [Rick Drew](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Striped Bass - Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:21:26 AM

Dear Mike,

My name is Rick Drew. I am 53 years old and have been fishing for Striped Bass for almost 50 years. I am an avid fisherman, guide and naturalist.

I have seen a great deal of good and bad with the Striped Bass fishery over the years.

One thing is clear at this time, the stocks are down from just a few years ago. In addition, we have a maturing brood class of fish as well. In part due several years of poor spawning in the Chesapeake.

The current limits of 2 striped bass over 28" in not sustainable for Recreational Fisherman.

In addition, Draggers, Gill Netters, Head Boats, 6 Pack Charters and Seals are taking too many fish .

Un reported by catch by draggers, untagged fish landed by Gill netters, Gill netters illegally haul seining from the beach, and an abundance of seals in the North East are taking a toll on Striped bass stocks. I will be happy to take you out on the water and show you each of these named parties in action. I am on the water 6/7 days a week from 4/1 until 12/1.

We cannot continue to allow an over harvest of the Striped Bass Fishery by a select group(s) of fishermen. Everyone who fishes, spends a great deal of money on their gear, gas, travel, etc. I do not buy the argument that some folks have more at stake than others. We all have a right to a fair and balanced fishery for all!

What do we tell a child who wants to catch fish on a charter as to why there are no fish around? Is the answer that we do not have the courage to provide leadership and change?

The past two years have been very disappointing for Striped bass through out much of the Northeast. The past two Septembers in Montauk have been a complete disaster for Surf-Casting. Thats Crazy!

Please consider re-working the bag limits for 2015 so that all recreational anglers have a 1 fish at 32" Bag limit.

PLEASE SUPPORT AND ENACT 1 fish at 32 inches. Option B3.

Also, we must work on eliminating by-catch from Draggers and Gill Netters. The carnage from there efforts is plain horrific. Please see my pictures of a recent incident whereby a nearby dragger killed

thousands of stripers found floating from the Midway Buoy to the Frisbies fishing grounds in Montauk, NY. This is unreported carnage, that is destroying the fishery. Is this accounted for in your Striped Bass planning?

By any standard of reasonable, contemporary thinking the blatant killing and waste of commercial by-catch is unacceptable. We must be vigilant in our efforts to protect this great resource, enjoyed and relied on by many of us on the East Coast. Let's take the first step and enact one fish at 32 inches for all recreational fisherman.

I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you on this matter at your soonest convenience.

Sincerely,

Rick Drew
East Hampton, New York
631.903.0751



1084



July 22, 2014

Dear Carol,

I know I've already sent you most of the information in this letter, but I wanted to clarify as well as add some points. I'm writing regarding several issues involving the striped bass fishery and the commercial NYS fishery in general. These days, it seems like anyone who considers himself a "recreational fisherman" is led to believe the striped bass population is in decline. So why are fewer striped bass being caught in the last three to four years? I offer the following factors for your consideration.

1. Different migratory patterns possibly caused by a number of circumstances.
2. Exploding population (inshore and near offshore) of cormorants. These birds feed on young striped bass and the baitfish or forage species these fish rely on. Very seldom does a cormorant *not* come up with a meal. In the last few years, I've noticed about a 50 percent increase in the cormorant population in the areas I fish (Peconic Bays, Gardiners Bay, LI Sound, BI Sound, and nearshore Atlantic Ocean—out to 30 nautical miles).
3. Rapidly multiplying population of gray and harbor seals (inshore and near offshore). On any given day, from June through September I can count a minimum of 40 seals, from 80 to 400 pounds; that figure rises to about 150 from October to the middle of December. If you figure seals eat about 8 percent of their body weight daily, that's a lot of bait, some of which is surely striped bass as well as baitfish.
4. Lack of baitfish is forcing striped bass into different areas (EEZ).
5. The recession could mean a lack of money for recreational fishing-related activities, resulting in fewer striped bass caught.
6. The ratio of 30 to 1 recreational to commercial is way off. It's more like 300 to 1. One busy six-person charter boat sailing two trips daily catches my annual quota in 9 days. Twelve people/day equals 24 fish/day. Twenty-four fish times 9 days equals 216 fish for 84 people weekly.
7. While fishing over approximately 10 days since the July 2014 striped bass opening, in three separate areas, I've caught hundreds of striped bass not falling into the allotted slot size, fish 2 pounds to over 40 pounds, from many different year classes. There is absolutely no shortage of striped bass now nor will there be for many years to come.

I have been involved full time in the commercial fishing industry (hook and line) and the charter/headboat industry since 1990 in NYS, mainly in the areas mentioned earlier. Please consider also that every time NYS and/or NMFS feels there should be more catch reductions in the commercial sector, commercial fisherman take a pay cut. I'm sure you wouldn't appreciate it if your salary continued to be reduced by as much as 50 percent because of catch reductions.

Maybe tighter restrictions are needed for the recreational sector, not the commercial, which is regulated to the hilt.

Regards,


Captain Rob Spitzenberg

USCG Masters License 100 Ton Near Coastal
NMFS Commercial Vessel Operator Permit
516.770.4375
captrfs@aol.com

P.S. Please do not print this without permission.

Robert C. Foehring
3540 Charleswood Avenue
Memphis, TN 38122



8/29/2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing to comment on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to The Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan For Public Comment. I am a native of Tennessee but I grew up in New England, have family in Vermont and Maine, and annually fish for striped bass for 2-3 weeks in Massachusetts and Maine. After reviewing the draft, I favor option B. The status quo is clearly not a good option. Bass numbers and bass fishing has clearly been on a decline for several years now and I believe that reduced mortality is the first step we need to begin the process of increasing striped bass stocks (in addition to improving spawning and rearing conditions in Chesapeake Bay). Option B calls for a substantial reduction in the take of striped bass, reaching the new target levels within a single year, rather than 3 years and with an equal reduction in the quotas for commercial and sport fishing. We should reduce mortality immediately. I prefer plan B1, which has a minimum size limit of 28 inches.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Foehring".

Robert C. Foehring



RECEIVED
 SEP 08 2014
 Atlantic States Marine
 Fisheries Commission

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
 CANDIDATE GUIDANCE OFFICE
 UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
 117 DECATUR RD
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402-5018

P.O. Box 83
 Sagamore Beach, MA
 02562
 4 Sept, 2014

Dear Sirs,

I have been fishing for striped bass for almost 60 years - I caught my first bass - 36 lbs - here on Cape Cod in June 1956 - I am now 75 years old - Have been through the good - great & poor years! -

I would like to see Option B1 instituted with a size limit of 38" men and a one (1) bag limit for the Coastal Recreational Fisheries

Thank you very much for your work on this project.

Sincerely,
 Ron Haley



Ronald J. Haley
 PO Box 83
 Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

September, 17, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

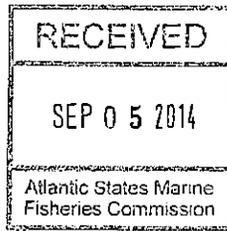
I would like to take this opportunity to respond and to ask you for your help when it comes to Addendum IV to reduce striped bass mortality under Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass Management plan. We in the fishing community need help in restoring this fishery before we lose it forever. I am and my friends have been and still are dedicated New York Striper Fisherman for the past 30 years, we have all seen a reduction in our catch by about 95% in the last seven years, something we never thought we would see in our lifetime. I fished during the years of the moratorium in the 80's and I can honestly tell you that the fishing was better back then than now. I am scared that if we do not make a stand now that we will lose this great game fish forever. Please be part of saving this great fish and make changes to bring it back to a healthy population where we can all benefit. My vote would be for Option-B-3 one fish at 32 inches.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Setnikar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald Setnikar
14 Hart Place
Mastic, NY 11950
516-322-9252
Ronbass52@msn.com

September 2, 2014



Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mike,

I appreciate the work that you and the Technical Committee have done over the past year to complete the Draft Addendum for Public Comment. It is my personal belief that strong, effective new regulations are required in order to rebuild the SSB as quickly as possible. I also believe that with the great majority of options only having a 50% chance of success that the ASMFC needs to be more aggressive in the options it chooses to set for the harvest reduction.

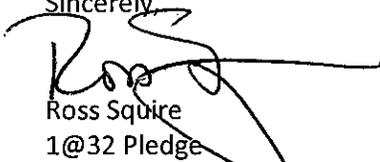
As a quick aside, it was disturbing to see that all options on the table for the Chesapeake Bay run counter to one of the stated goals of the Draft Addendum and specifically target the 2011 class of striped bass.

I urge the Board to consider and pass the following:

Section	Option
Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment Reference Point Option	Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-benchmark assessment
Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point Option	Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment reference point
Section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference Points	Option B: To be managed by State of North Carolina
Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction (mortality)	Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year
Section 3.0: Proposed Management Scenario Options	Coastal Recreational Fishery: Option B3 (one fish @ 32") Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Option B10 Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Option B17
Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers	Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one are to another should quotas not be reached among fishers in a given region.
Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits	Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased

All sectors benefit from an abundant fishery. I urge the Board to resist the shortsighted arguments that would result in merely kicking the can down the road. The clouds have been forming for a number of years. Now is the time to take real action.

Sincerely,


Ross Squire
1@32 Pledge
264 Fillmore Street
Centerport, NY 11721

Mr. Mike Waine

FMP Coordinator ASMFC

1050 North Highland Street Suite 200

Arlington V A 22201

Draft Addendum IV to Amendment of the Strip Bass FMP

Dear MR. Waine.

I Realize the great need for Conservation . I believe we can have Conservation and Two Fish Bag Limit.
For the for hire Industry

My Customers need value in their fishing trip the Option Preferred D1 20% reduction over three years .
Alternative option B5 over one year . I Believe that is the easiest to Enforced We need a (two fish bag
limit)

R.I. Party and Charter Boat Association , For hire Industry Take 10,000 People out every year , The for
Hire Industry is Voice for these people . Our customers come from Southern New England states . The
Economic impact will be Great do to the loss of trips. Fuel , Bait shops , Marine Repair facilities , Hotels,
Restaurants,

Capt Steven Anderson

Bare Bones Charter

Vice President R.I. Party and Charter Boat Association

SEP 29 2014

Mr. Mike Wayne

History does repeat itself:

Three years ago I caught over fifty stripers over twenty pounds. This year fishing about the same amount of hours I have caught three.

Gone are people like Bob Pond who helped to save the stripers. Now is the time for others to step up to the plate to help save the stripers before they follow the way our herring, flounder, cod, and haddock have gone:

North will take a hit. Fishing tackle Co's will go out of business along with charter men. Bads are being caught for sale the day before and are being iced down for sale the next day and the black market for them is large.

Step up to the plate and rob the following:

Section: 2.5.1 OPTION B 2013 BENCHMARK

2.5.2 OPTION B Preferred stock

ASSESSMENT REFERENCE POINT

2.6 OPTION A Reduce mortality by

25% in one year

Section 3. B-3 + B10

Chesapeake Commercial Fishery B17

Section 3.1 OPTION A

SECTION 3.2 COMMERCIAL SIZE LIMITS
OPTION A

Stephen Prochenaki
89 Meredith Dr
E Falmouth MASS 02536

Mow King de Comcast. Net

September 29, 2014

Steve Culton
271 Congdon Street
Middletown, CT
06457

To Whom It May Concern,

Here are my comments on Striped Bass Addendum IV:

Section 2.5.1 and Section 2.5.2 – I am in favor **Option B**. We should be referencing the best available, most recent science (as set out in the 2013 Benchmark Assessment) when determining courses of action.

Section 2.6 – Option A. Clearly, a problem exists, and it needs to be addressed immediately.

Section 3.0 – Option B. Further, I am strongly opposed to any option that stretches out harvest reductions over three years.

Size and bag limits – I am in favor of **Option B3** (a one-fish bag limit and a 32” size limit on the coast) and **Option B15** (hard quota) in the Chesapeake.

I am an active (averaging 20-30 outings per year) catch-and-release striped bass angler; my method is fly fishing from the shore. Since 2010 I have experienced a steady decline in striped bass numbers. In some cases the fall has been precipitous.

I'd like to use Block Island as a test example. We vacation there every year, and I fish all week. In the years leading up to 2011, I was catching between fifty and ninety striped bass over the course of seven nights. In 2011, I caught *nine*. In 2012, I caught *five*. On the 2012 trip, I went three consecutive nights without a striper; the last time that happened was before I ever started fly fishing for striped bass. Yep. There's a problem, folks. So, things were better for Block Island anglers this year, especially if you had a boat. Better is, of course, relative. I was horrified by the wanton, wasteful, wholesale slaughter of so many striped bass in their prime breeding years by both charter and private boats.

Striped bass are a precious, finite resource. Please enact regulations that will better protect these magnificent fish and the waters they live in.

Thank you,

Steve Culton

Dear Mr. Waine

Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Strip Bass

I am Writing on behalf of the West Bay Anglers Ass. We understand the need for conservation. We are looking for a balance on Conservation and keep the (two fish bag limit). Our first Option D1 21% reduction over three years. Looks to us the easiest to enforce and understand. Alternative Option would be B5 (2 Fish at 33 in) one year

The Economic value will be lost money spent at marinas wharfage, Bait Shops, fuel, boat Repair, Boat sales,

West Bay Anglers has 40 members strong

Thank You

Capt Steven Anderson

Member of West Bay Anglers

From: [raymond](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: striped bass regulation changes 2015
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2014 2:06:47 PM

On the recreational side I firmly believe in implementing a tagging system,charge a fee for a license,included with that license you recieve 10-12 untransferable tags per season.put it on any fish between 28" and 34" upon harvest.enforcement will be paid by license fees with stiff fines for violators.Abolish all commercial fishing for Striped bass,and make it a gamefish,to valuable of a sport fish to kill in mass.the few who make a living commercial fishing for Striped bass can easily be bought out and use some of that money towards a new career.For most commercial rod and reel "Pinhookers" Striped bass fishing pays for boat expenses which we all no is nonsese,as most if not all have other means of supporting themselves.I hope you will consider my suggestions, Raymond Cohen,licensed captain,35 years proffesionally fishing for Striped Bass,and now an avid surf fisherman putting in 200 nights a year Striper fishing. Phone 347-489-7000

September 21, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

These are comments on proposed striped bass regulations.

I don't believe the commercial fishery is responsible for any proposed reductions. We have a hard commercial quota that we haven't reached in 10 years. The commercial fishery is under strict regulations of fish size and time lines.

Just a few general comments. I would like to see the fish size increased for the minimum to 26" and the maximum to 40".

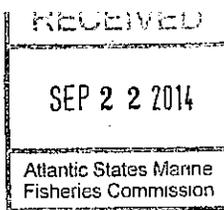
Cuts in commercial quota are real. Cuts to recreational are not. Because their numbers can still grow, the commercial quota doesn't. For example, they can cut 25% quota from both sides, but the recreational side participants can grow and creel limits stay the same and in a few years they are right back to where we are today. The size of the recreational fishery has grown substantially over the last 20 years. Every sport fishing group claims to have tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of members. If you take each person at just one fish per year at 10 lbs. the actual landing from the recreational fisheries is in the millions of lbs.

If the commercial fishery overharvested the quota we would have to pay it back the following year, however, when we under harvest we don't get credit for leaving them swim in the ocean. They should get added to the following year's quota.

I don't want to start a debate over commercial vs. recreational, I just used that as an example to show that the commercial fishery never harvested over.

Sincerely,

Timothy Froelich



9/19/14

TO Mike Waine,

Regarding steeped Boes Draft
addendum IV.

I support option A1

Many people are pushing for 1 fish
(1 year plan)

These people have NO financial
interest in the fishing industry

The 3 year plan hurts fishing
related businesses such as
mine the most

I own & operate a charterboat
in Montauk, New York

Thank you,

CAPT Tom Cusimano
SEA WIRE Fisheries Inc
PO Box 1220
MONTAUK, NY 11954

From: JOEB43@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: (no subject)
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:57:55 AM

option B7 is the fairest of all options

From: [Capt. Dave Schauber](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:26:05 PM

Hello,

I am Capt. Dave Schauber of Sawyer Fishing Charters and Tours, out of Hoopers Island, MD. I have been running fishing charters for over 20 years now, making it possible for those who aren't economically privileged enough to own a boat, to still get out there and enjoy a day on the bay. My charter business targets striped bass, bluefish, and other species on the Chesapeake Bay.

I just found out today from the Maryland Charter Boat Association that there will be a meeting in my area tomorrow night that will discuss upcoming striped bass harvest reductions. Unfortunately, due to the very short notice, and having to go out of town this weekend, I will not be able to attend. So, I am writing you today so that my opinion will be heard by someone. Based on my years of experience in fishing for striped bass and other species on the Chesapeake Bay, I feel that I am more than qualified to opine on this issue. Below is a summary list of the measures that I suggest should be taken to help reduce the mortality rate, without crippling the charter boat industry and the livelihoods of others who make a living on the Chesapeake Bay. An explanation of each of these measures will follow.

- 1. Ban all catch and release fishing of striped bass on the Chesapeake Bay, and also outlaw culling of striped bass.**
- 2. Outlaw all fishing tournaments that target striped bass.**
- 3. No one should be allowed to fish on the Susquehanna Flats while striped bass are spawning.**
- 4. Pre-season catch and release of striped bass should also be outlawed, so that fish can spawn.**
- 5. Raising the minimum length limit on striped bass will lead to more fish being caught, released, and killed, not less.**
- 6. Reducing the number of days that we are allowed to fish may have a crippling effect on the charter boat industry, which already operates in an extremely difficult economic and regulatory environment.**

I have heard rumors that the minimum length requirements on the striped bass in Maryland may be adjusted upward as a way to help reduce the harvest. However, I don't think this will help, as while it may reduce the number of fish that are taken home or to market by fishermen, there will be **more fish caught and released to die**, which will only take us further away from preserving this resource. Anyone who knows anything about fishing knows that when you are trolling for the bigger migratory fish and you hook onto one of these fish, you are dragging it through the water for up to 20 minutes in some cases. Then, when the fish is landed, it falls on the floor of the boat, which may cause its organs to rupture. If the hook is embedded in the gills or guts of the fish, then there will be a lot of bleeding. If the fish is released after all of that, then common sense would dictate that fish's chance of survival are not very good. During the spring season, I have seen numerous BIG striped bass floating dead on the water, due to being caught and thrown back.

The same can be said for fishing with live bait during the summer, also known as live-lining. If the fish swallows the hook down to its guts, it will bleed immensely once the hook is removed. The fish will almost surely die when released. During the summer months, I have seen center-console boats that are surrounded by floating dead fish. These boats are normally captained by recreational fishermen who are catching one fish after another and throwing them back, only to have them die. I have seen recreational boaters catch fish, and then reach into their coolers and throw DEAD fish back into the water, so that they can keep the one that was just caught. I have reported this whenever I've seen it.

For these reasons, I believe that the mortality rate can best be reduced by **banning catch and release fishing**.

This can be done in part by **OUTLAWING fishing tournaments** during the trophy seasons, when the spawning striped bass are in play. This will break up the catch and release activity of those who are throwing fish back in search of a bigger one that might win them some money.

No one should be allowed to target the spawning stock on the Susquehanna Flats. I have heard numerous accounts from those who fish with me that fish up there are being massacred, when they should be left alone so that they can spawn.

Catch and release fishing during the preseason (January through early April) should also be outlawed. I have read on numerous fishing message boards comments by those who claim to have caught 50-60 trophy striped bass in one day, before the season starts. How many of those fish do you think die after being released? What a waste of a precious resource.

As soon as someone lands his or her legal limit of striped bass, they should go home, or go target another species. That is what I do on my boat, with my fishing customers, and they understand why. **I DO NOT permit any catch and release activity to occur on my boat.**

I know that these suggestions are very unpopular with a lot of people, mostly recreational fishermen. I know that the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association (MSSA) and Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), both of whom sponsor a lot of these fishing tournaments, have an enormous amount of political pull, and they will oppose these suggestions at every turn. Both of these organizations rake in a lot of cash from tournament entrance fees, so they also have economic motives. However, if they were really interested in conserving the species, they would stop these tournaments that kill so many striped bass, and they would use the money that they can collect from membership fees to pursue their interests toward conserving these fish.

Before raising minimum length requirements (which I believe may cause more fish to be killed) or reducing the number of days during the season (which may have a crippling effect on the charter boat industry), I would consider targeting catch and release activity **FIRST** and then re-evaluate the situation.

Thank you for reading my comments, and if you have any questions, please let me know.

Capt. Dave Schauber
1345 Hoopers Island Road
Church Creek, MD 21622

Phone: (410) 397-3743

From: [Joe Accordino](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: " Concerns raised over poaching "
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 3:19:12 PM

I just read the Newsday article by Tom Schlichter dated Sept. 26, 2014. The issue of taking or poaching illegal sized Stripped Bass is in fact an important issues which should be addressed in the management of the striped stock. I've called the DEC on more than one occasion reporting groups of "anglers " working in consort keeping and concealing illegal sized stripers. Although in today's atmosphere of being political correct, one cannot help be notice the obvious, the usual groups along the Robert Moses Field 5 beaches.

Other anglers have similar opinions as to what these groups are doing, especially when the deer season starts. Perhaps more DEC officers are sent upstate in dealing with the big game season, but it seems more than a coincidence that these " anglers"are more active doing this period and seem to be more brazen.

I have seen DEC officers at the RM Field 5 location and this is a welcomed display of law enforcement. The DEC should deploy officers on a steady basis at RM between the hours of 6AM through 10AM at the very least. Look for groups of 4-6 people walking with perhaps one legal sized fish and also carrying duffle bags. Many times the poached or illegal fish are being transported in these duffle bags.

Thank You,

Joe Accordino

Sent from my iPad

From: [Robert Watson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 2015 rockfish regulation changes
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:23:53 PM

Dear Sir,

As a recreational angler I feel it is very important that the ASMFC pursue the heaviest reduction to create immediate preservation of the striped bass. The Coastal Conservation Association Delaware Chapter is striving to help increase the fishery in our waters and the entire east coast. We feel it is important to make drastic changes to the striped bass limits now and not over a period of 3 years. I would like you to consider implementing the option B1 ... a bag limit of 1 fish per angler at a 28 inch minimum with a 31% reduction. This immediate reduction I feel is the fastest way to help increase the stocks.

Thank You for your time,

Robert Watson

Millsboro,De

From: rwilson813@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 2015 Striped Bass limits.
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 11:08:15 AM

Dear Sir,

I urge you to stop the commercial fishing and sale of Striped Bass. However, of the options provided my family and I support option B7, 2 fish limit, one slot, 28 to 34 in., one trophy 36 minimum. Over my more than 40 years of fishing, I have seen slot limits work in Canadian lakes for very vulnerable species. With a slot limit, the number of fish and quality of trophy fish continues to grow. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Wilson
7 Buck Road
Yardville, NJ 08620
609-571-2510

From: [Dunlop and Lisk](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 2015 striped bass season
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 4:06:18 PM

I am writing you to request considering option B7 for the 2015 striped bass fishing season..... Roman' Round Sport Fishing

From: [Steve MacDonald](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: 25% reduction Harvest of Striped bass
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:57:17 AM

Hello,

I support the conservative effort of a 25% reduction in the harvest of Striped Bass in 2015. I feel its important to conserve the stocks for this species for future generations. I believe the power and the majesty of this noble "King of all Atlantic Sportfish" is something that should be enjoyed by generations to come. Striper fishing represents so much more than a delicious meal. In fact, I believe most people rarely, if ever, see Striper on the menu of the average restaraunt, much less order it.

Part of the appeal in targeting the species is the size and the challenge of the fight. The other part is its somewhat elusive nature, as they are primarily a pelagic species here in Mass.

Elusive is one thing, damn near absent is another

Thanks so much

-Steve

From: [Robert Sullivan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 1:08:17 PM

I am a recreational fisherman from Long Island Sound and I favor option B6. The senseless slaughter of big female bass has become the mainstay of the charter boat fleet. A slot limit is needed. Unfortunately no changes in the regs can address the rampant poaching going on with bass. Last month they were worth more than sushi grade tuna. I use a self imposed slot limit on my boat, no fish bigger than 34"

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From: [Christopher Camastro](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Amendment 6
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:20:02 PM

Mike,

It has been brought to my attention that there is a movement to change the regulations concerning the recreational striped bass fishery in NY. I am strongly in favor of increasing the size limit and reducing the bag limit to promote conservation and to reduce the number of breeding size females being kept. I am a life long recreational angler and want to see the resource protected with stricter regulations. I have seen less fish in recent years and that concerns me. Please let me know if there are other individuals such as lawmakers and fishery policy managers that I can also write to encourage action. Are there any formal petitions in place at this moment? Thanks for your time.

Christopher Camastro

From: [Laura Lane](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Roger Thestrup](#); [Sharon Jones](#)
Subject: Amendment 6
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:25:46 PM

Hi Mike,

I attended the DEC ASMFC meeting on Tuesday September 23rd. After returning home I had another thought that could possibly help restore the stripe bass population. In the short time frame that the stripers are in the Hudson (their spawning grounds) there are numerous fishing tournaments. Some that last 2-3 days. I think if you banned the tournaments until the striper population has a chance to recoup it would do nothing but help.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura Lane

Sent from Windows Mail

From: gprottet@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Subject: Draft Addendum IV)
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:50:58 PM

Dear Sir:

Please consider this note a request to maintain the Striped Bass regulations as they have been for the last number of years. The fishery is strong and we have a significant amount of bait in the region.

If your council takes any action, our recommendation would be to continue to reduce the commercial catch. Recreational anglers enjoy their sport and bring significant value to the economy.

Regards,

Gregory P. Rottet.

From: [Nick Joanow](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: B-7 option
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:32:04 PM

Hello,
I am in favor of the B-7 option
Sincerely,
Nick Joanow

Sent from my iPhone

From: nubiarob1@netzero.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: BASS MANAGEMENT PLAN
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:31:07 PM

TO SAVE THE BASS IN N.Y.

1. Increase the commercial size limit to 28 - 36 inches or
2. Eliminate commercial fishing in n.y. for bass

The #1 Worst Carb Ever?

Click to Learn #1 Carb that Kills Your Blood Sugar (Don't Eat This!)
FixYourBloodSugar.com

From: JPACE@fedway.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Bass quota change
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 10:24:01 AM

Leave at 2 fish 28".option 7 will just kill more fish that are being released gut hooked or worn out.anglers will just keep catching till they fit in your slot ideas.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [joe antorio III](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Bass
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:47:49 AM

I would like the quota to stay the same otherwise if I had to pick one it would be b4

From: [cyberpix](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Biodiversity,addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 1:02:52 PM

I am already counted for 1@32,1year.We are in the middle of the fifth major extinction event(dinosaurs the 4th),this one looks like our fault all the way.The difference this time is the speed at which we lose species (daily).You are in a position to save a species (stripers).Man as a species became what he is now,by being superbly adaptable.Ironically,we are now poised to hurt everything,including ourselves,because of "status quo".This is the new poison.Don't be poison,be life and help us adapt.Sometimes we don't see the need to.A striper cannot see it either.1@32,1year.

Ken Markin
80 Washington Ave.
Patchogue,N.Y.11772
631-790-2008

From: [Frank Masseria](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comment on Striped bass
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2014 3:08:19 PM

I commend the effort to protect striped bass. They are a main stay for the charter boat business. Here are some suggestions to reduce mortality.

1. stop allowing captains and mates from taking two fish daily. They only end up going to the customers anyhow. A limit is based on the number of paying anglers only. Multiply that by the number of charter boats that sail each day and it thousands of fish at the end of the season.
2. Limit the general public to one fish per day but leave paying customers on a legal charter/party boat the opportunity to take two fish over 28".
3. Get rid of the ridiculous bonus tag program.
4. shorten the season rather than leave it open all year. April 15 to Dec 15.
5. stop the poaching that goes on in the ocean where fish are being taken past the 3 mile limit under the bunker schools. Those fish taken are the larger fish which produce millions of eggs. Close the season for the month of or all summer for that matter to protect the ocean migrating spawners. We close black fish to protect the spawners!
6. enforce the use of circle hooks when bait fishing to minimize mortality of fish that are released.

Capt. Frank Masseria
Vitamin Sea Fishing
917 439 6448
<https://sites.google.com/site/vitaminseafishing1/>
www.facebook.com/vitaminseafishing

From: RSFD1@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comment on Striper Meeting
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:22:43 AM

Sir or madam,

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option B 7.

Thank you,

Ronald McClelland
19 Brighton Ave.,
Red Bank, NJ 07701

From: lilmanjj600@yahoo.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Comment on Striper quota
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:18:30 PM

I work on a party fishing boat from point pleasant New jersey. I am in favor of option b-7. The fishermen that come out on our boat don't come out just to fish. They are also coming out to catch a meal. Only allowing 1 Striper would not only put us out of business but the fishermen would not be able to feed their familys.

From: [Joan Ford](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Dear Mr. Waine
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 5:31:50 PM

We are George and Joan Ford, members of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club. We support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0. Thank you.

Sincerely, George and Joan Ford

20 Lovell's Lane

Marstons Mills,

MA

From: 9086702752@vtext.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Dont set that limit on us u will put us out of wor...
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:32:58 PM

Dont set that limit on us u will put us out of work we need a better answer then 1 striper person

From: [joe.gomes](#)
To: [Mike.Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2014 2:22:09 PM

Dear Mike,

We ALL have fought SO hard to reclaim this fishery it would be a shame to see it get wiped out! When will we learn that we cannot keep taking fish during the spawning season? Unfortunately the breeders are the biggest and so we all chase thwm. In addition to OPTION B6 I would like to see catch and release ONLY until the end of the spawning season. On land we DO NOT hunt deer in the spring and summer nor elk, or any other game animal (except bears and under VERY Specific conditions) so why is it we kill nearly ALL fish species during their spawn? We are YET chasing Tuna during their spawn!

I strongly support a drastic change in the rules as well as some SEVERE curtailment of the Chesapeake Bay commercial fishery.

I have spoken about a "Trophy" Tag; **ONE** fish per season/per angler, for a FEE and a tag to accompany it. Perhaps an over 40 inch and AFTER the spawn! (The fee being dedicated to Striper and baitfish conservation.) The shorter ones taste better and have fewer pollutants. Thanks for your time and your commitment, Joe

again OPTION B6

From: [MD](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2014 12:13:54 PM

HELLO, here are my Comments:

GIVEN:

STRIPED BASS WITH THEIR NEAR SHORE MIGRATION PATTERNS DEPEND UPON THE ATLANTIC STATES' ESTUARY SYSTEMS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE THAN ANY OTHER EASTERN SHORE SIZABLE GAME FISH

E.G., BASS ROUTINELY HUNT UP TO THE BANK AT THE END OF MY STREET IN LAKES BAY

RECREATIONAL FISHING SECTORS' LIVELIHOODS ARE FUNDAMENTALLY BOUND TO STRIPERS

DOCUMENT COMMENTS:

SECT 2.1 - STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

SPAWNING STOCK BIOMASS MAY FALL "BELOW THRESHOLD IN THE COMING YEARS"

MEANING -- AT LEAST TWO YEARS

NOT A SIGNIFICANT TIME PERIOD

QUANTIFY -- STATEMENT NOT TESTABLE

DISCUSSION:

GENERAL –

PROJECTIONS FROM SYSTEM BENCHMARKS BASED IN 'NORMALIZED' STATISTICS

UTILIZING OUTDATED METHODS FROM BENCHMARKS AT LEAST 20 YEARS OLD

QUESTION -- WERE ORIGINAL BENCHMARKS ESTABLISHED BY INDEPENDENT

ORGANIZATION ?

COMMISSION'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEE YOUR "BEST AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC" ADVISERS

ADMITTEDLY FLOUNDERING

IT IS APPARENT THAT COMMITTEE IS CONTINUALLY BASING BIOMASS ON SKEWED HYPOTHESES

WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED ENDLESS LOOPS OF 'OUT OF TRUE' INDICATORS THEREFORE MIRED IN YOUR OWN MUDDIED METHODOLOGY

METRICS ARE MURKY AT BEST

SPECIFIC – ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS ARE AT A CRITICAL POINT IN EVOLUTION HAVING ONLY RECENTLY RECOVERED FROM ENDANGERED STATUS

ANY CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT TACTICS AT THIS TIME IS UNCONSCIONABLE

IMPACTS:

RECENT UPHEAVAL

2012 SERIES OF 19 (NINETEEN) TOTAL NAMED CYCLONIC STORMS INCLUDING INFAMOUS DERECHO, AND SUPER-STORM SANDY

2 (TWO) YEARS TURNAROUND EXCEPTIONALLY SHORT TIME PERIOD
THESE DATA ARE FAR FROM USUAL
HEALTH ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS INFESTED WITH
MYCOBACTERIUM WHICH IS TRANSMISSIBLE FROM FISH TO
HUMANS
WE ARE OBVIOUSLY ON THE VERGE OF A BIO-ECOLOGICAL
DISASTER WITH TERRIFYING POTENTIAL

RECOMMENDATIONS:

OPTION A – STATUS QUO

LET FISH FREE TO REPAIR THEIR IMMUNE SYSTEMS AND GROW IN NUMBERS
AND SIZE

THUS *FREEING BUDGET DOLLARS TO UPGRADE AND / OR RE-MODEL* ANTIQUATED
ACCOUNTING AND PROJECTIONS OF
RECREATIONAL FISHING LIMITS

ALSO, ATLANTIC CITY'S CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC DOWNTURN CREATES UNIQUE
UNDUE HARDSHIP ON LOCAL FISHERS
NEW JERSEY RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN SHOULD NOW BE GIVEN FAVORED
STATUS
AMONG ATLANTIC STATES

FURTHER DISCUSSION/GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS (MY WISHES FOR FISHES)
DRAW A NEW LINE IN THE WATER
NOW TIME TO LET ALL FISH POPULATIONS SELF ADJUST
THE DATABASE USED CONTAINS AT LEAST 20 (TWENTY) YEARS RAW
DATA FROM COMMERCIAL SECTOR
COULD *TEMPORARILY* BE USED TO EXTRAPOLATE RECREATIONAL
SECTOR'S CATCH
HAVE *INDEPENDENT* ORGANIZATION RE-ENGINEER SYSTEM OR
CREATE A COPY OF OLD SYSTEM
BASED UPON REAL DATA SINCE 1995
ESTABLISH NEW BENCHMARKS
USING SAME PARAMETERS /

METRICS

21ST CENTURY DATA MODELING CONSIDERABLY MORE SOPHISTICATED
EVENTUALLY PURCHASE A NEW SYSTEM
WHICH MUST PROVIDE REAL TIME UPDATES
THEN RELIABLE PROJECTIONS OF AT MOST 2 YEARS
POSSIBLE BI-ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS
BEFORE / AFTER SEASON

COMPARISON

OLD VS NEW

RUN SIMULTANEOUS REGRESSION TESTS
IDENTICAL DATA BASE PARAMETERS
ANOMOLIES SURFACE
COMPARATIVE ITERATIONS INDICATE DEVIATIONS
ADJUST METRICS ACCORDINGLY

**CONFIDENCE LEVEL RAISED
FROM DATA STANDPOINT AND PUBLIC CONCERNS
QUELL DETRACTORS
JOB SECURITY**

MEASURE TWICE CUT ONCE

**MARIA J DOWD
RETIRED FAA ATC COMPUTER SCIENTIST
PLEASANTVILLE BAYMAN APPROX 65 YEARS**

"Aim High... Fly-Fight-Win"

From: [Mike T](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:54:40 AM

Greetings

We support the proposed 25 % reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.
Mick & family, Pennsylvania

From: [Sean Mc Auley](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV - Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:22:46 PM

Striped bass stocks are in terrible shape - fishing has declined in all areas I fish on Cape Cod.

I urge you to take action to protect the stock.

Option B3. 1 over 32" is my choice

Thanks

Sean

Falmouth MA

From: [Stabile, Michael A CIV \(US\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 10:02:33 AM

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Sir,

I am a recreational striped bass fisherman in Point Pleasant, NJ. It is obvious to all those that have been bass fishing for years that the stocks are in serious decline. I am for option B4, 1 fish between 28" and 40". It is, in my opinion, the best option to allow the striped bass stocks to rebound and to thrive. However, I think additional measures need to be taken. Taking steps to conserve striped bass during their migration but then allowing commercial harvest in MA and southern states doesn't make sense. The commercial harvest and sale of striped bass should be stopped coast wide. This makes economic sense as well since healthy striped bass stocks will be a boon for the local economies along the shore with charters, party boats, tackle shops, restaurants, and hotels/motels among others benefitting. Also, charter captains and mates should not count toward the bag limit on charter fishing trips. Their job is to take paying customers fishing and not to create a loophole to the bag limit. Charter customers will certainly continue to book trips even if that rule is implemented even if they gripe initially. Lastly the bonus tag should be eliminated. The striped bass stocks are certainly in trouble and you should not be able to bypass the bag limit rules by kicking in \$2.

Thank you!

Michael A. Stabile

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

From: [Al Uhler](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 4:39:30 PM

Mr. Mike Waine
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Highland St.
Arlington VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a recreational angler who believes that prudent management of the striped bass fishery is necessary to ensure its long-term viability. As a recreational fisherman, I believe in a balanced approach that recognizes commercial interests, but ensures that the fishery remain sustainable. In that spirit, I urge you to consider the following options for the above-listed Addendum IV to Amendment 6:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Uhler, Ph.D.
61 Concord Street
Marshfield, MA 02050
781-264-7078 (cell)
781-837-5649 (home)

From: [C.Mace](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV bass management
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 9:34:52 AM

Mr. Mike Waine, I'm writing in support of a reduction to the striped bass harvest. I spend a lot of time on the water fishing and speaking from personal experience fishing Boston's North Shore down through Rhode Island from April - November for the past several years I can say without a doubt that we are seeing fewer and fewer keeper striped bass year over year - in particular larger fish, which I think of as breeders.

These fish represent great sport and underpin a significant recreational industry in the region and face intense pressure that must be relieved.

I'm in favor of a reduction both for commercial and recreational (where I'd support a slot similar to the way red drum are managed or snook further south).

Thank you for efforts.

Chris Mace

From: [Bob and Barb Lawrence](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV comment
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 10:24:56 AM

Mike, there are a couple of comments I'd like to make for the record:

1. As a recreational fisherman, I would welcome the ability to track my rockfish harvest and supply that data to the powers that be. Whether it be an on-line function or if we got some sort of log/spread sheet with our fishing license, that could be mailed to record keepers. I agree with the commercial guys who think the recreational fishery should be tracked.
2. I believe the coastal harvest quota for rockfish for Massachusetts and New York should be revisited. They are way out of line with the rest of the coastal states. If their quota was set in the early 70's, then it is way past time to adjust.
3. Not having a reference point for the Chesapeake Bay, and still making decisions about the bay fishery is almost criminal. The TC needs to get this done.

Thanks for all your efforts,
Bob Lawrence
Cambridge, Md.

From: [James Krauss](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV comment
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 5:12:17 PM

Mr. Waine -

I am a 63 year old saltwater fisherman. I've been fishing for over 60 years. I have owned my own boat since 1977 and fished off my father's boat prior to that. I also fish the surf. I fished Long Beach Island, NJ until 1985. In 1986 I moved to Monmouth County and have fished that area ever since. I have seen the extreme bass cycles, both boom and bust. Based on the last few years, I think we are in a down cycle again.

I am a member of the Recreational Fishing Alliance NJ Chapter board of directors, but these are my personal views, not the position of the RFA NJ Chapter.

My comments are as follows:

2.5.1 - Reference Points - Option B - adopt the new, more conservative reference points

2.6 - Timeline - Option A - One year - we need to act now

3.0 - Management program - Option B - I propose a split rule here. Option B1 for private boats and surf fisherman. The for hire industry should have a choice of one option from B5 through B9 for the calendar year. Since this option would be limited to a small population of vessels, it should be easy to set up a registry and enforce it. I have spoken to five party boat captains who are very concerned that they will have difficulty making a living if allowed only one fish per person. If we give them this slightly more liberal choice, I believe it will lessen the economic impact. The private boaters and surf fisherman are more focused on sport than food, and will make do at one fish. The party boat patrons generally justify paying the fare and other costs with the benefit of providing a meal or two.

3.1 - Commercial Quota Transfers - Option A - No commercial quota transfers. Anything else is counter to the spirit of the proposed reductions.

3.2 - Commercial size limits - Option A - Same size limit as recreational (And in my split scenario, commercial would be 28"). Anything else is counter to the spirit of the proposed reductions.

James Krauss
77 Bayside Drive
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716
732-291-2211

From: [Frank Roehrich](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV Striped Bass
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 12:13:03 PM

I am strongly in favor of a status quo option.If you refuse to offer that option,I am sadly in favor of option B7.Thank You,FRANK M. ROEHRICH

From: [Engineering](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 11:03:20 AM

Please keep option #7

From: [Edward Swensson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6 TO THE ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS INTERSTATE FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 4:44:46 PM

Dear Mr. Waine,

As a dedicated recreational surf fisherman on Long Island NY North and South Shore beaches, it has been my experience that the striped bass fishery population in these waters has been in free fall for the past two years, with catches down approximately 75%. Although I would favor a complete moratorium on harvesting any striped bass in all the regions under the control of the ASMFC or several years, although I realize this is highly unlikely. Accordingly, I support the following options as detailed in the subject document:

B2
B10
B17

Thank you for your efforts,

Ed Swensson
Lake Grove, NY

From: [Michael Mulvaney](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 9:13:20 PM

I support the proposed 25-percent reduction in the striped bass harvest for 2015. This species is too valuable to decline in numbers as it did in the 1980's. Thank you for your support.

Sent from my iPad

From: Cfejava@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 6:54:25 PM

revert to the total moratorium until we figure this out no option is good for either the commercial or recreational fisherman . open boats would suffer. if anything its the fish 35 to 55 lbs that need protection

From: [j miles](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [John Bull](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2014 12:45:54 PM

Hello,

I have read through various internet sites on the various options for management of the striped bass for 2015. I just want to stress that I trust that the board will make the change based on hard science such that change is assured. I cannot tell between the options, however as a near shore surf and kayak fisherman I would think that most of us should be satisfied with taking one fish vs 2 larger fish. That said, if the science says we can achieve the results most easily via 2 fish in the slot, then by all means do that.

I am also hopeful that the changes to the menhaden limits in the bay will have a positive effect on the fishery.

Best Regards,

Jeremy Miles
Richmond, VA

From: momandpop30@gmail.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Bill Cole](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 9:21:47 PM

I WOULD VOTE FOR B9 SAME AS NY.

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Longyear, Douglas](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 7:33:03 PM

Mike,

Please adopt the following in Addendum IV to Amendment 6

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

I would even gladly welcome complete catch and release for all stripers for a few years or no fish kept under 36" like you had in the early 1990s. The runs seem to really respond.

What about prohibiting striped fishing for commercial fisherman when the large cows are entering bays and rivers for the in the fall and winter.

Thank you immensely for taking action.

Doug Longyear
Douglas M. Longyear

T 415-677-0458 C 415-705-9655 F 415-956-3381
Doug.Longyear@cassidyurley.com

From: [Scott Mackie](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 7:25:30 PM

Hey Mike,

I'm always lobbying among my friends and at the docks for a more conservative limit on stripers - figured I might as well write a letter that might actually help (thanks Pete for making it easy to interpret the addendum). Below I think is a step in the right direction.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Thanks for taking the time to hear me out.

Scott Mackie
617 851 9073

From: TBIRD2660@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 6:35:04 PM

hi i agree about striper bass i think you should target commercial fisherman whicj woul only be allowed to catch 36inch stripers 2 a day onshore fisherman lmit to 1 a day and size raise up to 30

From: mfrederiksen1@verizon.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 5:36:27 PM

Mr. Waine,

Im writing to let you know that I support a 25% reduction in the striped bass harvest for 2015. I believe it is important we adress the situation immediately to reverse the decline in the srtiped bass population. We need to think of the future.

Thank you,
Matt Frederiksen

From: [Dennis Panu](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 4:40:35 PM

Dear Mr. Waine:

I remember the frustration of trying to catch a striped bass in the 1980's and watching as good management practices brought the fishery back, so that now we can regularly target striped bass. I have been reading about the probable collapse of the striped bass population and I support a reduction on harvest. I can't say I have the expertise to decide which option is best, but a one 30" or 32" fish option would reduce the harvest and still provide incentive for recreational fishermen to go out to catch striped bass.

Please support the move to reduce the striped bass harvest and save our fishery.

Sincerely,

Dennis Panu

From: [Stephen Gelineau](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 4:06:55 PM

Michael Waine
Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St. #200
Arlington, VA 22201

Mr. Waine:

Many of us here in Northern Massachusetts have experienced a consistent decline in the quality, quantity, and extent of the seasonal run over the last decade. Anglers who fish intermittently are, in many cases, not catching at all. As such, they are not often happy with the bottom line to their recreation. And they are now beginning to change their recreational habits with fewer visits. If their bottom line is not met, the bottom line for many local small businesses is negatively affected.

But the Striped Bass is more than dollars. It is that intelligent, mysterious, fish that keeps my elderly father and I talking. It's the only line between us. Though I surfcast more than sixty nights each year, it's the fish landed on those few trips with my father I remember the most.

The Striped Bass is an impressive fish available to the fishing public on shore. Its presence in highly catchable numbers figures prominently in the bonding of northeast families. Such things don't make the spreadsheet, but they are, perhaps, the most important aspect to this vital species.

I would strongly urge you to move aggressively to enact an immediate 25% cut in Striped Bass harvest for 2015.

Respectfully,

Stephen J. Gelineau
Lowell, Massachusetts

From: [Evan Blöse](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 3:34:21 PM

I am in favor of the 25% reduction. I would like to see option B2

From: roberthildenbrand20@gmail.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [TOM FOTE](#); [David Chanda](#); [Russ Allen](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 3:29:03 PM

For the love of the fishery in pa and New Jersey and New York all of which I fish... I'd hate to see what has happened to the shad happen to our awesome hard fighting striped bass. Please knock the 25% off and do every fisherman a favor. We may have a world class fishery again one day if you do. I only spend a quarter of my time now fishing them. If rather go fish for king salmon on Lake Ontario because of how lousy the harvest has been when I striper fish. This is coming from someone who can slay kings and stripers with the kings of the sport. Please cut the harvest totals by 25% and see what happens. Can't hurt

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jeff Clabault](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:31:35 PM

Hello- As the owner of a tackle shop on Cape Cod I have been profoundly affected by the depletion of the striped bass. We have seen a steady decline in the number of fish being caught in my area for a few years now but this year it was more of a crash than mere decline. Let me express in the strongest possible way my support for the 25 percent reduction management plan. (I only wish there were a more draconian option-where is the 90 percent chance of success plan, anyway!) Everything possible must be done to save this fish, before it is too late...that is assuming it is not too late already!

Jeff Clabault
Forestdale Bait and Tackle

From: [Caughron, Bob](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 4:33:51 PM

Dear Mr. Waine:

I am a recreational surfcaster who fishes for striped bass and bluefish in Rhode Island and New Jersey. I am deeply concerned about maintaining the health of the fishery, and support the following measures to reduce striped bass mortality as quickly as possible:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A.

Thank you for your work in protecting our coastal resources.

Best regards,

Robert H. Caughron
16 Winfield Circle
Sewell, N.J. 08080

From: christopher.stevens@nu.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Douglas Grout](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 2:22:51 PM

Hello,

My name is Chris Stevens and I have been an avid striper fisherman for over thirty years. I have fished the striper cup for several years and have even placed second for a week in September so I have some background with the fisheries. I feel some of the best fishing I ever experienced was back when the limit was one fish thirty six inches and over and I would not mind seeing that again. It would give the breeders a chance to spawn a couple of times. Thanks for listening and I hope it helps in the way you decide to manage the species.

From: dkgayer@gmail.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 1:20:21 PM

Dear Mr. Waine:

I'm writing to express my strong support for immediate strong conservation measures to protect the striped bass population. I support option 3, 1@32" for recreational anglers and a corresponding 25% reduction in the commercial quota. I wish there was a more conservative option such as 1@36" or 1@40" with a corresponding at least 50% commercial reduction. I would also strongly support gear restrictions similar to those in Maine to reduce release mortality through the use of circle hooks with all bait.

I am an avid recreational fisherman from Maine fishing 3-4 times per week during the season, and my personal observations agree with the scientific evidence that indicates that the striper population has been declining steadily over the last 10 years. Stripers are the premier sportfish in the northeast US and drive the recreational fishing economy. Many other once abundant fish stocks such as cod and winter flounder are severely depleted, and without a strong striper population, there is very little to fall back on.

Please act now to protect this vital resource for the benefit of all user groups. We will all suffer if the current trend is not swiftly reversed!

Sincerely,
Daniel Gayer
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

From: [Al Sacco](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Al Sacco](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 1:19:49 PM

Hello Mr. Mike Waine,
Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Coordinator,

I would like to share my feelings about fish conservation in New England and urge the Striped Bass Management Board to please act responsibly. The striped bass fishing conservation regulation is a sensitive issue for many people in and around the fishing community; as a sports enthusiast, fishing proponent and economic policy surveyor, I believe that this fragile decision should be strongly influenced by the scientific community and the data that they have amassed. The preservation and management of striped bass, as well as other species, should be reasonable weighed as to strike a balance between what is considered sustainable and what is considered preventable. We must do whatever is necessary to avoid a collapse of the fishery as we saw in the 1980's. I personally would be in favor of stricter regulations for all commercial as well as recreational fishing if that would help preserve the delicate natural resource that so many of us enjoy. The burden of preservation must be shared equally by all stakeholders. Therefore, it is my opinion that anglers should be allowed 1 fish per day over 28" until we can ensure the replenishment, sustainability and return of the population; at which point this would serve as a signal that a review of the policy is warranted.

With an eye towards governing for the people and not by the people, this becomes a simple matter of choice. Do we continue down the road that brought us near the levels of collapse which took more than 15 years of conservation to return to current levels, or do we find a better way? Maybe we should ask our kids?

Sincerely

Albert Sacco

From: DBthal@comcast.net
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Patrick Keliher](#); [REP. WALTER KUMIEGA](#); [Terry Stockwell](#); [Stephen Train](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 11:32:17 AM

Mike,

I am an avid Striped Bass fisherman located in Mid-Coast Maine, the northern end of Striped Bass migration. Recreational Striped Bass fishing is an important part of Maine tourism and our local economy which has been affected by declining Striped Bass population. Many of our local guides are not taking clients due to the high uncertainty of being able to locate Stripers.

I strongly support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Regards,

Dan Benthall
West Bath, Maine

From: ItsMeJoeB@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 11:22:37 AM

I would to see no change in the striped bass quota or as a second choice option B7.

Joe Bahun
Laurence Harbor, NJJ

From: [Bill Lang](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 11:17:24 AM

Mike

After reviewing the options given for Striped Bass regulations I would be in favor of Option 7. I would also like to see some additional verification of the numbers as well as seeing the menhaden industry strictly regulated as a companion to any action.

Bill Lang
PO Box 1
Allenwood, NJ 08720
(732) 292-3044

From: [eric henderson](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 11:08:21 AM

RE: Draft Addendum IV

I wanted to write to show my support for the immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest. I think this is the minimum that should be done considering the current striped bass stocks. I think game fish status is the ultimate goal of conservative minded fisherman including myself and do believe the Maine slot fish model (no taking of breeders) is the best model moving forward.

I realize the commercial and economic impact a moratorium or game fish status would appear to have. But, considering the past, it is obvious that commercial harvest will continue to decimate the fish stocks and move on to another species once the stock has been decimated. The scary thing is that the illegal harvest numbers are something that cannot be calculated. Much like illegal drugs, if there is profit to be made; people will take advantage of it. Take away the profit and the poaching will stop instantly.

I believe there is a greater long-term economic impact of continuing commercial harvest. My opinion is from the viewpoint of a 37 year old. I fish with people from 14 to 75. One thing that I do know is that the younger generation (25-40) has a very large percentage of catch and release only fisherman. I happen to keep 2-4 fish a year and would be willing to give up my right to do that to actually have more fish to catch. This generation (25-40) is also the portion of the population that has younger children and introducing them to the sport as catch and release fisherman. It is also, from a marketing and economic standpoint, a generation that has a good amount of income which supports both the local and macro economies. Here is the major problem, my generation has a pretty short attention span. If the fishing is poor (and it is) then we will quickly find other hobbies and things to do with our free time. The recreational fisherman has a huge economic impact, it just happens to be one that is spread out and harder to quantify.

As the old quote says; "those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." It is scary how we have gotten to this point after the overwhelming success and comeback of the striped bass after the moratorium. Between the commercial fishing and poaching, and dragners clearing out acres of baitfish, these fish have an uphill battle. The time is now to protect this great game fish.

Thank you for your time

Eric Henderson
1267 Boylston St
Newton MA 02464

From: [Chris Lixfield](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 10:55:48 AM

I am an avid fishermen from New York. I have serious concerns about the health and sustainability of the striped bass stock. I support the following option to prevent further decline.

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased

Thank you for your time

Christopher Lixfield
21 Rolling Hills Dr
Ridge, NY 11961
Medic6973@gmail.com

From: [Sean McCarthy](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Bill Cole](#); [REP. CRAIG A.MINER](#); [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 10:23:37 AM

I support option B6.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Butch](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 8:58:23 AM

Sent from my iPad

From: [Toomeys](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:52:46 AM

Hi Mike
I support an immediate 25 % reduction of bass harvest in 2015.
Mike Toomey, Pennsylvania

From: [dave cavallo](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 2:07:27 PM

I grew up fishing for stripers with my father and grandfather. I would love to see the striped bass flourish like they once did so I can take my son's fishing and not have them disappointed with no fish.

From: [MBCF](#) on behalf of [Paul Morrison](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 8:54:14 AM

Mike,

As a fisherman from Woods Hole and now Cape Ann I cannot believe we have let striped bass fall to the numbers we saw in the 70s. We need to restrict catch for a few years or the striper fishery is toast.

Thanks for all you do, Paul

Paul Morrison
Molecular Biology Core Facilities
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
450 Brookline Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

From: [Robert Dickerman](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 8:50:05 AM

To: Mike Waine, Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Mr. Waine,

I am writing to strongly urge the management board to implement policies that will reduce the striped bass harvest by 25% in 2015. As a long-time dedicated surfcaster I see no other option for preserving striped bass for the future.

Personally, my preference would be the 1 fish over 32" option, but whatever it takes to significantly reduce mortality is fine by me.

Thank you,
Bob Dickerman
Hatfield, MA

From: [john lawless](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 8:47:46 AM

Sir,

I urge you to support the most conservative striped bass catch option: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

I am a recreational fisherman, as our members of my family and friends and although we would be impacted by limits to catches, we believe that action is urgently needed. We've seen a significant decline in recreational catches over the last three years and support reduced catch limits to stem the decline.

In addition, limits recently placed on Atlantic Herring highlight the need to take a coordinated approach to ensuring the stocks for both the Herring and Striped Bass are allowed to increase concurrently.

Thank you your consideration of my request and your support,

John Lawless
39 Huntington Ave.
Weymouth, MA 02190

From: SteveB539@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 8:37:39 AM

Please select whatever option reduces the catch of striped bass by a minimum of 25%

Thank you

Steve Brown

From: [Burke, Brian \(PRAC\)](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 8:27:24 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

I am writing this e-mail to explain that as a devoted saltwater angler I have experienced the decline of the striped bass population over the past 10 years.

I am seeing and catching fewer fish and it concerns me.

I support the most conservative option, an immediate reduction of 25% regarding striped bass harvest in 2015.

I have a young son and I want him to be able to catch striped bass during his lifetime.

Thanks for your consideration.

Brian Burke

Claims Supervisor
Plymouth Rock Assurance
bburke@prac.com
Office - 617-951-1680
Fax 617-526-7981

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From: [Joshua Durepo](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 6:14:41 AM

Hi Mr. Waine,

I am in my mid thirties and I live on beautiful Cape Cod. I have been fishing these waters (shore and boat) seriously for approximately 8 years. Recently, and especially this year, I have personally witnessed a drastic drop off in my catch ratio and also the size off the fish I caught. This winter, I applied for and was granted a MA commercial licence, with a striped bass endorsement. I did catch "some" fish this year, but I did not sell one fish this year, because morally it just felt wrong. I urge to please take action (for both recreational and commercial - as both have a hand in this) , so our (and by our I mean from Maine to Maryland) fishery can recover before it is to late and history repeats its self (1980's moratorium). I have two little children and hope we can take action now, so they can inherit a healthy striped bass fishery when they are adults. At a minimum, we need an immediate 25% reduction for next year. Personally, I am not even sue if that will be enough, but it is a start. When we have a healthy striped bass population, we "all" benefit! Thanks for you time!

Sincerely,

Joshua Durepo
Falmouth, MA

From: [Owner](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Bill Cole](#); [REP. CRAIG A.MINER](#); [David Simpson](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 12:44:16 AM

One fish @ 28" to 40" for everyone, Charters, Rec.

From: [Raymond west](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 12:30:54 AM

Dear Mike,

As a striped bass surfcaster and fisherman I do have a deep concern over the current condition of the fishery. I have experienced poor fishing myself and constantly hear concern expressed for the state of the fishery, there is a lot of talk something is wrong or "off". The fact that the ASMFC has taken Action to address problems with the Striped bass emphasizes that there really is a problem. I do appreciate that action is being taking to help the future off the fishery with the possibility changes being implemented. That said I would like to go on record supporting the following:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Use the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

I do appreciate you taking the time to read my letter. I hope that whatever changes are decided upon for the Striped bass population that the outcome allows them thrive going forward .

Thanks again,

Ray West

30 plain St

East Bridgewater MA 02333

508-690-1382

Member / Secretary of Mass Striped Bass Association

From: [Deborah Bokelkamp](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:18:38 PM

Hi Mike,

I am a recreational angler who strongly supports a reduction in the annual harvest (both commercially and recreationally) of striped bass.

My own observations and those of friends suggest that the striped bass population has declined sharply since 2005 to maybe only 25% of prior populations.

I strongly urge the Commission to enact a reduction in fish mortality by imposing new limits on catches. For recreational purposes, I recommend that you select option B3: One fish over 32" s.

Actually, I also am in favor of an upper size limit, such as B4, but in all cases, I recommend the limit of one fish per day per fisherman.

I also support increased enforcement. I have seen numerous examples of fishermen (in Ma, and RI) keeping fish in excess of the current daily limits and I know of some recreational fishermen who sell their catch. Without enforcement action the any rule will be abused.

Please put in place a restriction for the 2015 striped bass harvest that will significantly reduce the catch. This is late coming in my view.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Bret Bokelkamp
Marion, Ma.

From: [Steve Welgoss](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:17:11 PM

Hi Mike, I'm a longtime NJ fisherman, and have enjoyed my fair share of striper fishing over the years. I practice both the harvest and safe release methods of fishing for them, and would like to add my support to option B-7. This is a very reasonable option, allowing for an easily-obtainable fish in the 28"-34" slot in order to enjoy a few nice, fresh fillets, plus the ability to take a larger one if you are fortunate enough to get one over 36". Based on personal fishing experience, I think that this slot limit plus a trophy take option would greatly reduce the harvest totals of the most commonly-caught size range and allow more growth into the breeding years. Thanks in advance for your consideration as we try to find a solution to maintain this very popular, profitable fishery while making sure that it remains intact into the future.

Steve Welgoss

From: [Stuart Wucher](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft addendum IV
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:47:03 AM

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. Please do not allow striped bass stocks to become depleted like they did in the 1980's. Recent years have shown a decline that needs to be reversed to insure quality availability in the future.

Stuart Wucher
13 N Maine St
Newmarket NH 03857

From: [Katherine's Charter Fishing](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 9:26:31 AM

To: mwaine@asmfc.org

Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's

waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels.

If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable.

Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

Please strongly consider option D8.

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

From: [John Solomon](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:36:26 PM

Hi Mike,

I have been fishing for striped bass for the past 45 years. I vividly remember the lean years and through conservation efforts, the stock rebounded nicely. I support a similar conservative approach by recommending Option B3. 1 over 32".

Regards,
John Solomon
145A Tyler Street
Methuen, MA 01844

From: [Steve Kivlehan](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan_Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:11:14 PM

Greetings,

As a long time recreation fisherman for the Striped Bass I urge you to support Option B3. It is time for the recreational angler to take their medicine before the current situation concerning the lack of Striped Bass gets even more out of hand. The signs are all their and it is very similar to the 1980's moratorium years as far as lack of shore fish. In my opinion, this fishery has been is drastic decline since 2009.

Thank you,
Steve Kivlehan
Middleboro, MA

From: [Jensen Landscapes](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:55:46 PM

Good evening.

I am writing to express my opinion that option b4: 1 fish between 28"-40" should be the new regulation.

Thank you

Dan Philos-Jensen
Jensen Landscapes
Massachusetts Certified Landscape Professional (MCLP)
Accredited Organic Land Care Professional (NOFA)
www.jensenlandscapescapecod.com
[774-994-1543](tel:774-994-1543)

From: [David Gault](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:49:55 PM

I support option B4

From: [David Gault](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan.Mckiernan@state.ma.us)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:49:03 PM

I support a 25 percent reduction in 2015. I also support only keeping 1fish between 28 and 36 inches per day

From: [Robert Mawrey](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:28:24 PM

Dear Sir,

I support a 25% reduction in the striped bass harvest. I have fished in Popponesset bay on Cape Cod for many years and in recent years the striped bass fishing has dropped precipitously.

In my opinion any reduction of less than 25% is not enough to repair our stocks.

Regards,
Robert Mawrey
Mashpee, Cape Cod.

--

Robert S. Mawrey

From: [Charles Harakal](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:27:48 PM

After reading through all the information, I'd like to voice my support for **Option B6**, 2 slot fish 28-34 inches in length. My second choice would be to support option B7.

It is my belief that taking pressure off of large breeding female bass will benefit the stock as a whole. These two options allow that to happen while allowing recreational anglers to harvest fish for the table. Any option that limits anglers to 1 fish per day may hurt the party/charter boat industry. I personally drive 90 minutes to have the opportunity to fish NJ waters. While I rarely come home with limit catches, the ability to keep fish is certainly a factor in my decision making.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to recreational fishermen,

Charles Harakal

From: [Matt Walsh](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:06:19 PM

I support a 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. I would prefer a 50% reduction since we all know that would actually result in a 25% reduction due to limited enforcement. I have fished both the north and south shores of Long Island for striped bass for over 20 years and the decline in the population in the last 5 years is scary. Locations I used to catch up to 10 stripers per trip now often result in none. Do the right thing so that our children can have better fishing in the years to come than we are currently experiencing now.

Matt W

From: [Philip Devine](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:45:13 PM

As a recreational fisherman, I support conservation measures to
Limit the amount of Striped Bass
That a fisherman can keep to one
Fish that should be at least 30 inches
In length

Sent from my iPhone

From: [McEvoy, Patrick](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#); [Sean McShane](#); [Andrew Sullivan](#)
Cc: [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:24:58 PM

I am writing as a capecodder, avid fisherman and brother in law to a commercial/charter fishermen out of Barnstable.

The striped bass fishery is in danger of becoming overfished. Anyone that would argue against this has not spent time on the water nor talked to local fisherman who are on the water 200 days per year.

We have seen the detrimental effects of overfishing on the tuna populations and we have no excuse to let this happen with our beloved striped bass.

One fish per day per fisherman is more than adequate. A keep bass with easily provide meals for 6-8 people. If people want to keep more than that they should apply for special licenses to do so and pay for that license. A commercial licenses should be different still and the harvest should be regulated closely and intently. Having spent time around the fishing crew I know that boats are going outside the 3 mile radius frequently... Is this really an important rule to adhere to? What are the fines?

I feel strongly that states need to band together to create SLOT LIMITS so as to protect the fish which are sexually mature. You can better know which exact sizes that said slot limits would constitute and I sincerely hope this option is on the table.

If you are worried about reducing the commercial take because of the fisherman crying poor, they should be reminded that no matter what industry one works in, regulations are meant to provide for a fair and continued marketplace so that our children may be able to benefit as we did. It's not about "take now and see what happens later" this is about SUSTAINABILITY.

I would look forward to talking to you at any time. My cell is 646-410-5734

Thank you for your time and hard work on this matter. I know you will be prudent in your decisions.
Patrick

Sent from my iPhone 7. Please excuse spelling.

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From: [Jim Anker](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 8:49:50 AM
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a recreational fisherman who is concerned about the decline in the striped bass population we've been seeing in recent years. I support striped bass conservation efforts so that we do all we can to maintain the presence of this unique fish and avoid the cataclysmic decline in population it suffered several decades ago.

I encourage the Striped Bass Management Board to enact an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest for 2015.

Thanks for your attention and support.

Jim Anker
22 Fells Pond Rd
Mashpee, MA 02649

From: THoude3320@aol.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: peter@saltwateredge.com
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 6:48:54 PM

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

Hi Mike,

As a recreational kayak angler please consider the following recommendations I support.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Houde
New England Kayak Fishing
Aquidneck Island striper Team
Skull and Bones Fishing Club

From: eevans@massmedangels.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 6:23:15 PM

Dear Mr. Waine:

Please think long-term and protect the striped bass, which is so important.

Let us take a very significant short-term reduction in harvest and see what results. In almost any circumstance, we will be better safe than sorry. We can increase harvest later, if indicated.

Sincerely,
Eric J. Evans
293 Shawmut Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

From: [Tom Parker](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 5:52:13 PM

Dear Mike Waine,

In reference to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission's Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan, please register my following comments on the public record.

2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option A: Status quo: One year time frame

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B1: 1-fish bag limit with a 28-inch minimum size
or

Option B2: 1-fish bag limit with a 30-inch minimum size
or

Option B3: 1-fish bag limit with a 32-inch minimum size

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers

3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B: Status quo with existing size limits

Additional Comments:

I believe in the future more effort should be put forth in restoring healthy spawning grounds and a healthy ecosystem coast wide. I also feel more attention needs to be directed towards catching poachers and reducing commercial bycatch.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Tom Parker

139 Hesstown Rd

(856)-362-0334

Tbirdturf@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

From: [Charlie Kreidler](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Draft Addendum IV
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 5:08:50 PM

Dear Mr. Waine and ASMFC Members,

Striped bass populations have been dwindling. This has been my personal experience as a long time recreational angler, and is supported now by the scientific data on fish stocks. The number of fish caught per trip has declined, and during certain times of year we no longer bother to fish for striped bass that were once abundant then in past years. Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan finally recognizes what has become more clear year after year—the striped bass is in trouble and action to rebuild the abundance of the species must be taken.

Abundance of the species should be the primary management goal. . Increasing harvest amounts should be viewed as a secondary benefit assuming the species recovers. Abundance of the species is what makes more fishing trips successful. Success brings more recreational anglers to the water for more trips, spending more money. Lower abundance means fewer guided trips and less money spent on fishing tackle, and boat equipment and services.

The recreational fishing community is significantly larger and generates more economic activity than the commercial fishing sector. A policy that emphasizes abundance over maximizing harvest amounts will benefit both groups through healthy species numbers with yield following abundance. The current policy has emphasized maximizing harvest amounts, and this policy brought the species to its current crisis.

With regard to specific recommendations.

Section 2.5.1 Coastwide Reference Point Options:

The Commission should selection **Option B**, using the 2013 Benchmark Assessment reference points.

Section 2.5.1 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options:

The Commission should select **Option B**: Use coastwide population F reference points as established in Section 2.5.1.

Section 3.0 Proposed Management Program:

The **Option B** time frame is only choice of the four with a meaningful improvement for the fish stock. The impact of reduced harvest will be less pressure on brood stock immediately. This is far superior to the delayed option (Options C or D) and the do-nothing option (Option A).

Single-fish quotas are the only way to have a meaningful impact within the time-frame specified. Therefore, the NMSFC should adopt the following within Option B:

Option B	
Recreational Coastal	B3 (1 fish at 32")
Recreational Chesapeake Area	B10 (1 fish at 18")
Commercial Coastal Fisheries	B16 (25% reduction from the Amendment

6 coastal quota)

Commercial Chesapeake Area B17 (25% reduction from 2013)

I should state that in my belief the proposed options for the Commercial Sector are too watered down to be effective, and that the committee should consider a greater reduction than is shown here. The Draft Addendum itself states that the only option provided for the Coastal Commercial Fishery “does not achieve the proposed 25% reduction.” This is an unacceptable disregard of the ASMFC’s responsibility.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft addendum. It is my sincere hope that the ASMFC will act prudently by quickly and significantly reducing the harvest of striped bass.

Sincerely,

Charles Kreitler

--

~~~~~  
Charlie Kreitler  
12 Harborside Drive  
Milford, CT 06460  
203-283-5846 (h)  
203-545-4125 (c)  
[Charlie.Kreitler@gmail.com](mailto:Charlie.Kreitler@gmail.com)

**From:** [jh](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:47:27 PM

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I am writing as someone who has been fishing in New Jersey and the Northeast for the last 50+ years and I have witnessed many fluctuations in different fish populations and understand the need for meaningful conservation measures. I support the @%% reduction in catch for 2015 with the addition of option **Option B7: 2 fish; 1 28-34" and 1 over 36"** .

Thank you for the consideration of my request.

Regards,  
John Hopp

**From:** [dan Cavicchi](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:28:17 PM

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I support the 25% reduction of Striped Bass for 2015. I also support option B1.

Thank-you,

Dan Cavicchi  
96 Pierce Ave  
Hanson, Ma 02341

**From:** [Robert Keiser](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:47:30 PM

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Dear

Dear ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board Members,

I support your efforts to reduce mortality of striped bass and restore the population to a level which provides the greatest benefit to the fishing public. If left on its current course, the striped bass stock will soon reach the overfished threshold, a devastating outcome for a game fish that is so vital to anglers up and down the U.S. Atlantic coast. Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass includes long overdue measures needed to halt the alarming decline in striped bass numbers and restore the population to a healthy level.

I urge the ASMFC to approve the following measures in Addendum IV:

- Adopt new, more conservative fishing mortality target and threshold reference points to achieve the target population level [2.5. Option B].
- Reduce fishing mortality to the target level within one year [2.6 Option A], which requires an across-the-board reduction in total landings of about 25% in 2015 [Management Scenario B].
- Continue efforts to increase numbers of important ASMFC-managed prey species, such as menhaden, river herring and shad, to provide adequate forage for healthy populations of striped bass and other predators [2.2.3 Ecosystem Considerations].

Sincerely,

Robert Keiser  
6131 SW 85 St.  
S. Miami, FL 33143

**From:** [Sharon clancy](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:31:47 AM

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Hi don Clancy from quincy I like to see option b5 t u

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Christopher B. Healy](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:30:51 AM

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Mr. Waine:

My name is Christopher Healy. I am a surfcaster in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Striped bass fishing is a hobby for me and my four and seven year old sons. We do not keep fish. I write to make my comments known as to Draft Addendum IV to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. In my opinion, there are two major classes of fish that need protect in order to allow the stock to recover – the 2011 year class who are approaching spawning size, and the large breeding females that do not necessarily spawn every year. To that end, I support the following:

### **2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options**

#### **Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points**

The fishing mortality reference points will be adjusted to be internally consistent with the SSB target and threshold, consistent with the recommendations in the 2013 benchmark assessment:

**Rationale:** This is the option recommended by the Technical Committee, and makes the Fishing Mortality Reference points internally consistent with the Spawning Stock Biomass reference points. They are more conservative and should allow for increased abundance (under average recruitment regimes) than previous reference points and should help to expand the age structure of the striped bass population.

### **2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options**

Option B: Use coastwide population F reference points as established in section 2.5.1.

Due to data and model limitations, the Technical Committee cannot reach consensus on separate reference points for the Chesapeake Bay management area at this time (see TC memorandum; Appendix 2). Previously, the intent of establishing a lower F target in the Chesapeake Bay was to account for the impacts of harvesting a smaller sized fish (i.e., 18 inch minimum) in the Chesapeake Bay. The new coastwide reference points coming from the 2013 benchmark stock assessment (and considered in section 2.5.1) include the effects of the Chesapeake Bay's harvest of smaller fish on the coastwide SSB, but do not incorporate data on the sex ratio that exists in the Bay. Therefore, the coastwide population reference points represent the best available scientific advice to manage total fishing mortality on both the coastwide population and the Chesapeake Bay stock component because the Technical Committee is unable to calculate Chesapeake Bay stock specific reference points at this time.

**Rationale:** Until such time as we receive better guidance from the Technical Committee, the coastwide reference points represent the best available advice for management.

### **2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options**

Option B: The State of North Carolina will manage the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River (A/R) stock using reference points from the latest North Carolina A/R stock assessment accepted by the Striped Bass Technical Committee and approved for management use by the Board. If this option is selected, the recreational and commercial fisheries in the Albemarle Sound and Roanoke River will operate under North Carolina's Fishery Management Plan while the recreational and commercial fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean will continue to operate under the same management measures as the rest of the coastal fisheries.

**Rationale:** Since the AR stock contributes little to the coastwide striped bass stock, it makes sense to allow for management under an approved North Carolina Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.

## **2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target**

Option A: Status quo: One year time frame  
Management Trigger 3 requires reducing F to a level at or below the target within one year.

**Rationale:** The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced, the sooner abundance can begin to be restored. History suggests that delayed management often has little or no management effect. Taking the necessary reductions as early as possible is usually the best solution.

## **3.0 Proposed Management Program**

Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year. This represents a 25% reduction from 2013 total harvest. The desired reduction would be achieved by approximately equal relative reductions to both the commercial and recreational fisheries.

**Rationale:** There is no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality.

## **Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options**

Option B4 1 fish in the 28-40" slot

**Rationale:** This option will allow for the preservation of the 2011 year class by way of reduction of harvest to 1 fish, and will also allow for the preservation of larger breeding fish that do not spawn yearly.

## **3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers**

Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers.

**Rationale:** Allowing commercial harvest transfers will cause increased commercial fishing pressure on striped bass in the northern states.

## **Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options**

I support a 25% reduction in actual commercial fishing in one year. The projections to achieve the necessary 25% reductions are based on 2013, so the commercial reductions must be taken from that year's harvest level to be effective. It is troubling that no options have been presented to achieve the 25% reduction in the coastal commercial fishery from any actual harvest level. Reductions in fanciful quotas that have never been achieved, instead of actual harvest, will have no net effect on current commercial fishing for striped bass. The 25% reduction in unachieved quota is meaningless and does not serve as an effective management tool.

Christopher B. Healy, Esq.  
Bathgate, Wegener & Wolf, PC  
One Airport Road  
Lakewood, NJ 08701  
Phone: (732) 363-0666 ext. 211  
Fax: (732) 363-9864  
Cell: (732) 796-4293  
[www.bathweg.com](http://www.bathweg.com)

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**From:** [Sea Hunter](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:51:40 AM

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B7 If I must pick one. But i would like to see I stay the same. My name is Rob Semkewyc I own a party fishing boat in Atlantic Highlands NJ called the SEA HUNTER. I have been in business over 25 years. Every year we in the Party and Charter boat industry have to struggle to stay in business as the costs keep going up and the fish we can take home keep going down. As far as the Stripers are concerned every year there seem to be more of them around. I have no problem trying to help conserve the population if it needed it. I really think this is not necessary. I think you should give some consideration to the Party and Charter boats who are trying to make a living and support their families. I do know one thing for sure especially in our area of NJ. In the Spring we used to have a flounder fishery and in the past few years you cut us to 2 fish. Half the boats in the area would Flounder fish in the Spring and half would target Stripers. Now nobody bothers with the Flounder as its not worth it and everyone is Striper fishing. When you mess with one fishery it impacts another. The same is true with the weakfish. Every year the size and bag limits change and its never for the better. Lets face it nobody knows how many fish are out there but we are out on the water every day and we have a much better idea of whats going on with the fisheries. I know once we lose something we never get it back. When you first started with the Fluke limits I would watch recreational fishermen fishing near me keeping short Fluke and I would go on my PA system and say something to them about not keeping the shorts, But now I don't blame them the chances of them getting caught are very slim and if I had pleasure boat I would make sure if I couldn't catch a keeper I would take a couple shorts for dinner. And to be more honest If i thought I could get away with it I would do the same for my customers but i do obey the law and we throw lots of fish back most that were gut hooked and are going to die. Now that makes lots of sense! The same is going to happen with the Stripers if you pass this new law. I would like a reply to this letter with your thoughts.

CAPT. ROB SEMKEWYC  
sea.hunter@hotmail.com

**From:** [emeryzahner@gmail.com](mailto:emeryzahner@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 10:42:26 PM

---

I support b3 because it will save many stripers but also will allow people to keep big fish.

**From:** [Stephen Dempsey](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:16:33 AM

---

Mr. Waine: I am very concerned about the viability of the striped bass stocks. The striped bass sport fishery is a huge part of our coastal culture, and is an important economic driver for our communities. Every effort should be made to preserve this resource for future generations.

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. I support option b4.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Stephen Dempsey

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lauren Hamilton](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Kevin Blinkoff](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 6:57:25 AM

---

Dear Mike,

The purpose of this note is to provide comments from a long-time recreational fisherman.

Observations-

I took the opportunity to compete in a season long catch and release tournament this year- and while I finished in the top ~20% of over a hundred entrants, this is the second year in a row where the number of fish that I caught has declined, and in general, the size of the fish seems to be declining as well.

Having experience the lows (1978-1980), and the highs (1994-1996) my brothers and I have seen the effect of no management & good management. We care about this fishery and want our children and hopefully grandchildren, to see what can happen when concern for profits are replaced with concerns for a sustainable fishery.

Recommendations-

Reduce the amount of total recreational & commercial take:

Cut the recreational limit to 1 fish and consider adding a seasonal bag limit much like is done with waterfowl hunting-

Work with the tackle industry to come up with lures/hooks that improve mortality after release.

Just a few thoughts from a concerned fisherman-

John Hamilton

**From:** [Luis Koester](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 5:08:25 AM

---

Dear

Dear ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board Members,

I support your efforts to reduce mortality of striped bass and restore the population to a level which provides the greatest benefit to the fishing public. If left on its current course, the striped bass stock will soon reach the overfished threshold, a devastating outcome for a game fish that is so vital to anglers up and down the U.S. Atlantic coast. Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass includes long overdue measures needed to halt the alarming decline in striped bass numbers and restore the population to a healthy level.

I urge the ASMFC to approve the following measures in Addendum IV:

- Adopt new, more conservative fishing mortality target and threshold reference points to achieve the target population level [2.5. Option B].
- Reduce fishing mortality to the target level within one year [2.6 Option A], which requires an across-the-board reduction in total landings of about 25% in 2015 [Management Scenario B].
- Continue efforts to increase numbers of important ASMFC-managed prey species, such as menhaden, river herring and shad, to provide adequate forage for healthy populations of striped bass and other predators [2.2.3 Ecosystem Considerations].

Sincerely,  
Luis Koester

Luis Koester  
Sommerhaidenweg 98A  
Vienna, ot 1190

**From:** [Gregory Yarletts](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:13:51 PM

---

Mr Waine,

I am in full support of the most aggressive striped bass conservation presented. I have personally seen how difficult it has become to find and catch these fish compared to just 6 years ago, and it seems it get harder every year. To take this issue lightly would be a mistake. As you know, the fish stocks had been brought to near extinction in the past. so why take take the chance again? We are at a crossroads. Lets take the road to conservation, for the benefit of the fish, our own and generations to come. Thanks you for taking the time to read this.

Gregory Yarletts  
Harwich, Ma

**From:** [seth h dionne](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:54:51 PM

---

Dear Mike Waine,

I am writing to express my concern of the dwindling striped bass population. I would prefer to see more stringent action taken than any of the options given, but with that said I will choose Management Scenario B.

I prefer recreational coastal option B4, 1 fish @ 28"-40".

For recreational Chesapeake I choose B10, 1 fish @ minimum 18".

Commercial Coastal option B16, 25% from Am6.

Commercial Chesapeake option B17, 25% from the 2013 quota.

Thank you for giving me the chance to voice my opinion.

Seth Dionne  
171 Burdickville Road  
Charlestown, RI 02813  
401-728-0235

**From:** [Matt Bacchi](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:22:43 PM

---

Dear Sirs,

I am a recreational striped bass fisherman in New York, and I ask you today to begin reducing the mortality reference points immediately.

According to the 2013 Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment, overfishing is not occurring, and the status of the stock was not overfished. This can be true and yet the reality is that recreational and commercial fishing landings have declined or fluctuated for the last few years. Without knowing for certain what goes on in the black box of the ocean regarding striped bass populations, we must act prudently and institute the most conservative mortality reference points proposed.

Therefore I support the following, and urge you to do the same.

Section:

- 2.5.1 – Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points
- 2.5.2 – Option B: Use coastwide population F reference points as established in section 2.5.1
- 2.5.3 – Option B
- 2.6 – Option A: Status quo: One year time frame
- 3.0 - Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year.
  - Coastal Recreational Fishery Management Option B3 – 1 fish bag limit at 32” minimum size
  - Chesapeake Bay Management Area Recreational Fishery Option B10 – 1 fish bag limit at 18” minimum size
- 3.1 – Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers.
- 3.2 - Option A: Status quo with Amendment 6

Regarding the motion to change the timeframe in section 2.6 to three years, Mr. Paul Diodati from Massachusetts made an astute observation at the May 2014 Striped Bass Board meeting. He said the commission's credibility is at stake if you vote to change the timeframe in opposition of the Amendment 6 mandate of one year. While there are some socio-economic impacts of taking the reduction in one year, a greater economic loss will burden both recreational and commercial fishermen (and the bait shops they frequent) if Striped Bass are less abundant than they are now. Many have already stopped hiring charters because the fishing is so inconsistent. If you delay by enacting the lower F reference points over three years and allow the stock to decline further, you guarantee lower participation in the fishery.

We are expecting that you vote with the majority of your constituency that have sent and voiced their comments. Of course these comments haven't been published or tallied yet, but I know in advance that they will be overwhelmingly in favor of the largest reductions proposed. If you ignore this demand from the majority, you will see a larger effort and louder voices in future years, and many of them will be calling for a different fisheries management organizational structure because they have lost faith in the current one.

Matt Bacchi  
Amagansett, New York

**From:** [paulha2@verizon.net](mailto:paulha2@verizon.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:05:23 PM

---

Mr. Waine,

I support the CCA recommendation to reduce the Striped Bass harvest limits by 25% in the year 2015. The only way the striped bass fishery was saved before was by taking the bold and decisive steps for the total moratorium. Please be bold and decisive on this issue also.

Paul Haddaway  
7866 Woodland Circle  
Easton. MD 21601

**From:** [Mark Reynolds](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:44:16 PM

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Hi Mike,

I support the addendum to reduce the striped bass catch by 25%.

I'm a serious off-the-beach fisherman. I've caught and released over 50 keepers (28") this summer (I only practice catch & release). The old limit of 36" was fine.

The commercial guys also need to throttle back. Sure, they wish to make money, but the fishery needs stabilize and be there for the future.

Thanks,

Mark Reynolds  
Duxbury, MA

**From:** [Robertdesvergnés](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:38:00 PM

---

Save the stripe bass,make it a recreational fisheries,no more commercial fishing for them.If you have ever been out fishing and seen the damage that YoYo fishing does,you would understand.

Thanks. Bob desvergnés

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Stephen Spargo](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Ballou](#); [Mark Gibson](#); [KURT BLANCHARD](#); [Richard Bellavance](#); [Sen. Susan Sosnowski](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 9:24:32 PM

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Gentlemen, my name is Stephen Spargo. I am 54years old . I am a life long resident of R. I. and have been fishing the South Shore recreationally for the past 45yrs. Too young to understand the overfishing in the seventies, I remember too well the repercussion, the lack of fishing in the eighties! I want o continue to enjoy this valuable resource with my kids and grand kids. I support a 25 % reduction And would cast a vote for "B1" one fish at or over 28". Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lilhaw@aol.com](mailto:Lilhaw@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:05:32 PM

---

Would like to see limit left as is.  
If not option B7. So we could still make a living.

[Captain Joe Occhipinti](#)  
Little Hawk Sport Fishing  
On the web - [littlehawkcharters.net](http://littlehawkcharters.net)  
*732-229-6026*

**From:** [David Walker](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [TOM FOTE](#); [David Chanda](#); [Russ Allen](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:36:58 PM

---

I support Option B in Section 3.0: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Dave

**From:** [John Kostovick](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:54:09 PM

---

To Whom it may concern

I am a recreational angler who fishes various areas of the east coast from Massachusetts to Florida with the most of my time in New Jersey. Regarding the proposed options for Striped Bass management I believe I am most in favor with option B4 1 fish 28"-40"

John Kostovick  
8 Hidden Cove Drive  
Churchville Pa 18966

**From:** [Sean Tracey](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:51:57 PM

---

Dear Mr Waine,  
I suport an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.  
We must protect our stripers! I remember the 90's when they were more plentiful.  
Let's get back to that success.  
Sincerely,  
Sean M Tracey  
NH Resident and Recreational Fisherman

Sean Tracey  
email: [sean@seantracey.com](mailto:sean@seantracey.com)

p 603/427-2800  
visit us: [seantracey.com](http://seantracey.com)  
like us: [facebook](#)  
follow us: [twitter](#)  
videos: [youtube](#)

address:  
401 State Street, Suite 3  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

**From:** [Ibbitson, David R](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:27:44 PM

---

I support Option B in Section 3.0: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

**From:** [David Tria](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:07:39 PM

---

Mike,

**Section 2.5.1: I support Option A.**

**Section 2.5.2: I support Option A.**

**Section 2.5.3: I support Option A.**

**Section 2.6: I support Option B.**

**Section 3: I support Option C.**

**Coastal Rec Fishery C3.**

**Chesapeake Bay Rec Fishery C4.**

**Coastal comm. Fishery C9.**

**Chesapeake comm. Fishery C10.**

**Section 3.1: I support Option B.**

**Section 3.2: I support Option B.**

Thanks.

**From:** [Gifford, Michael - PENNINGTON NJ](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:56:03 PM

---

Mike,

I have been recreational fishing all my life and would like to continue targeting one of the best fighting and eating fish, the striped bass. Once again the recreational sector is forced, with unproven, non scientific data and are overly burdened to ever demanding constraints to reduce this targeted fishery. It is a shame with ever increasing resources, that we cannot manage something as simple as fish.

My vote is status quo on two fish at 28 inches, but if I am forced to make a selection from the list, it would be B7 [2 (1 slot, 1 trophy)].

Very frustrated fisherman,  
Mike Gifford

---

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**From:** [Clifford Olsen](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Philip Boyle](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:05:45 PM

---

Dear sir:

Please consider the most conservative measures on culling more striped bass from our waters. Previous years conservation efforts have shown highly successful in the late 1990's into the 21st century on increasing populations and to increase the harvest could only detrimentally impact the stock, the recreational fisherman and the significant revenue they create for states.

Sincerely,

Clifford Olsen

ALLCLEAN NY INC

631-350-1643

Sent from Windows Mail

**From:** [michael.downing@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:michael.downing@thomsonreuters.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:43:00 PM

---

I support Option B in Section 3.0: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

Michael Downing

Scituate MA

**From:** [Michael Fortier](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:29:21 PM

---

I support Option B in Section 3.0: an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

**From:** [Gavin Fraser](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 5:46:31 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine -

I am a New York City resident who loves to get out and surfcast the local beaches for striped bass. I am writing to urge you to please support the conservation of this fish. I have been alarmed at my lack of success catching stripers this summer, it's been the worst year I've had ever! And I'm not a bad fisherman I don't think. I just think the numbers are way down. Fellow surf casters all up and down the northeast coast (I also fish in Martha's Vineyard) have said the same thing all summer.

Please enact the most tough conservation measures possible, thank you.

Gavin Fraser  
Brooklyn, NY

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Bob & Paula Butler](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:21:40 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine:

I am extremely concerned about the potential demise of striped bass in Massachusetts waters. I have been fishing Cape Cod Bay and the Monomoy area for 23 years. For the first 15, I pretty much came home with a keeper from each outing - and that was when the legal limit was one 36 inch fish. Then, I began catching smaller fish that needed to be released, but still frequently returned home with a keeper. Over the past couple of years, I've been skunked on nearly every fishing trip. There have been a few very small schools of stripers in the Bay and around Monomoy which are quickly devastated by the commercial fishermen.

Rather than reducing the striped bass harvest by 25%, I support closing the commercial fishing season altogether. I also support raising the length of a legal catch to 36 inches and reverting to a one fish per day limit for the recreational fisherman.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concern and opinion.

Sincerely,  
Robert Butler  
25 Agnes Rd.  
South Dennis, MA

**From:** [Steve McConley](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 9:47:59 AM

---

Good morning Mr. Waine,

My name is Stephen McConley and I am a resident of Massachusetts. I am emailing to let you know that I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015. I have fished for striped bass since I was about fifteen years old and now that I am older I can appreciate what a spectacular fish they truly are. I am astounded by the fluctuation in population and the past fishing practices over the past 30 years and it is my hopes that we can make the appropriate changes today in order to improve on the striped bass population in the future.

It is my fear that without the voice of the fishermen and women that the striped bass will continue to decline and reach a point where the population is no longer sustainable and unable to recover. For that reason I write this letter and hope that it can help make a difference.

Best Regards,

Stephen McConley

**From:** [DAVID BEASLEY](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:42:08 AM

---

I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

David Beasley  
Cornwall, CT

**From:** [Jarlath Crowe](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Paul Diodati](#); [Rep. Sarah K. Peake](#); [Bill Adler2](#); [Dan Mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:Dan.Mckiernan@state.ma.us)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 3:16:20 PM

---

I support option B4 for the Striper Fish plan.

Jarlath Crowe

**From:** [bxtreme4u@comcast.net](mailto:bxtreme4u@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV).  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:33:08 AM

---

support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015.

**From:** [Jim Maher](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** draft addendum iv  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:26:18 PM

---

please stop the takeing of to many stripers. one fish is plenty for anyone. also put a stop to these stupid bonus tags. thanks jim.

**From:** [Thomas Conway](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft addendum IV  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 8:06:15 AM

---

Dear mike,

I've been fishing bass from the surf and now a kayak for more than 20 years in the New York area.. What I've been noticing lately has me very concerned.. I am in Full support of the 25 % reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015..

Thank you  
Thomas Conway  
Merrick,New York

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Sean O'Connor](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 9:47:37 PM

---

## Striper Fishing With Kids

The look on the kid's faces. The sound of the reel. The smell of the ocean. A day that would not be forgotten for a lifetime.

It used to be when one of the kids landed a nice Striper. I would say to the other kids on board with the long faces, "Don't get upset your turn is next." Sure enough in a few minutes another reel would go off.

I bought *Two Gills*, an old Grady, in 2007. It is moored on the Danvers River, MA. On nice weekends for the last 7 years during the fishing season I have been on the water for at least a few hours with my kids and our friends.

For years we caught numerous stripers on most outings. Most of my friends' kids caught their first striper on *Two Gills*. There were smiles all around.

Now the situation is very different. A striper has not crossed the gunnels of *Two Gills* in 2014. That includes leaving the kids at home and a few night time outings with live eels.

If you were to base the population of stripers on my experience, I would say the population is in dire straights.

So when you are considering stricter regulations on stripers, I am in favor.

Who should get the chance to catch a striper? A commercial guy who is only thinking about dollars and cents, or a 7 year old boy like Ben, my son. I think you should choose Ben. It is just as much his ocean as anyone else's.

Sean O'Connor

Salem Ma

**From:** [FlyaboutSmith](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Rich King](#)  
**Subject:** DRAFT ADDENDUM IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:56:43 PM

---

Dear Mr Waine

As a recreational angler I feel that it is very important that the ASMFC pursue the heaviest reduction to create immediate preservation of the striped bass. The Coastal Conservation Association Delaware Chapter is striving to help increase the fishery in our waters and the entire east coast. We feel it is important to make drastic changes to the striped bass limits now and not over a period of three years. I would like you to consider implicating the option B-1... a bag limit of 1 fish per angler at a minimum with a 31% reduction. This immediate reduction I feel is the fastest way to help increase the stocks.

You for your time,

Smith

Fly Anglers of Delaware

Thank

Ron M

Saltwater

**From:** [Alan Price](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Amendment 4  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:53:50 PM

---

As a Maryland recreational angler I strongly support increasing the minimum size limit in the Chesapeake Bay spring trophy season to a 36' minimum size limit and keeping a 1 fish limit during spring trophy season. I also support increasing the regular season in the Chesapeake bay to either 21' or even 24' with a 2 fish limit. I also strongly feel that nets should not be allowed in the Chesapeake bay it is not wide enough and does not care what size fish it catches. Please try to get nets banned in the Chesapeake bay and hook and line the only fishing allowed



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**From:** [Capt. Rob Schou](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Amendment IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:00:01 PM

---

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for reducing the harvest of striped bass by 24% across all sectors in one year. As a charter captain and avid fisherman I know that sustainable population is paramount to my business and as a father I want my son to be able to experience this amazing fishery the same way I did in my youth. I understand that many factors can influence the abundance of a species but our harvest amount is the easiest way to aid the striped bass in their recovery. Hoping for a stronger year class to emerge while making minimal cuts is not good fisheries management. Again, I implore ASMFC to make the 24% cut in one year. While it may hurt my business in the near future, I know in the long run a sustainable, consistent fishery, will more than make up for any losses.

Thank you,

--

Rob Schou

**From:** [Ann Sinisi](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Favor option B7  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 11:14:39 PM

---

This email is my support of option B7

ann Sinisi

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

**From:** [dabz@comcast.net](mailto:dabz@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Fishery Management about the Striped Bass proposals  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 4:06:07 PM

---

I am a Pennsylvania resident exclusively use Charter boats out of New Jersey to fish for striped bass. It certainly looks like an attempt to put some of the Charter boats out of business and when the quotas are not met from recreational fishermen allow the difference to be taken by commercial means.

My input is to stay status quo, however, since that is not an option then B7.

Respectfully submitted David Baumbaugh, Harrisburg Pa.

**From:** [Bob](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Fishing reg"s  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 4:43:11 PM

---

Hello Mr. Waine,

My name is Robert Baker and I am a member of the Cape Cod Salties. I am a avid fisherman and want to see the 25% reduction in sec. 2.6 option A implemented along with the 32" fish in sec. 3.0.

Thank you..... Robert Baker  
15 Vickerson Ave.  
Sagamore Beach, Ma.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [William Krug](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Fishing Regulation Changes  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:48:21 AM

---

I am only one vote but I do exercise it every year and I feel very strongly that regarding the 2015 fishing regulations we need to keep the limit for 2015 at "status quo" or that you need to implement option B7. Fishing is a way of life for so many NJ shore folks and if you continue to reduce the catch and size limits you will destroy any chance the party boats and charter boats will have of surviving. This will have a ripple effect on the bait stores, boat sellers, shore restaurants and gas stations, and basically end fishing as a sport/pastime for our children.

Please do not change the limit or accept option B as an alternative.

William Krug, Catherine Manginelli and our entire family support the status quo or Option B

**From:** [info](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:55:19 PM

---

---

**From:** dock1456@aol.com [mailto:dock1456@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 23, 2014 7:26 PM  
**To:** info  
**Cc:** dock1456@aol.com  
**Subject:**

I would like to now where you people get your information? I've been stripe bass fishing for a number of year's now and it's getting to a point now that it's not even worth going for them. Why doesn't asmfc come down to the dock's where party boat's come in and recreational fisherman come and ask them FACE TO FACE.

Sent from Windows Mail

**From:** [info](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:06:45 PM

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---

**From:** John Outwater [mailto:j.outwater@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:57 AM  
**To:** info  
**Subject:**

I am a new jersey resident and ask that you leave striped bass regulations as they are currently. Option 7 on your proposed list is best presented if there must be a change.

**From:** [Richard E. Strzepek](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:06:56 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

From: Richard E. Strzepek, PE  
PO Box 1073, 1060 Rosewood Drive  
Mattituck, NY 11952

Mr. Mike Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 North Highland St., Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Mr. Waine:

I as a member of the North Fork Anglers Fishing Club, Mattituck, NY acknowledge the time, effort and difficulty involved in the proposals presented.

The proposed options and alternatives you have presented are extensive and complicated. I believe until an entire ecosystem approach to fisheries management which also includes consideration of the food chain and prime feed stocks for game fish makes decisions to enhance the rebuilding and rebound of species such as striped bass extremely difficult. Your document indicates use of many assumptions due to lack of real data to analyze. This lack of real data is troublesome and will make it difficult to realize replenishment of an adequate breeding stock and overall long term stability of the species. The wanton taking of menhaden (and well documented severe reduction in menhaden biomass) is forcing the striped bass to feed on less nutritious sources and this coupled with disease mortality in striped bass i.e. mycobacteriosis must be considered.

If necessary we endorse a complete possession moratorium as was done in the past to ensure the preservation of this precious resource.

Below are my choices for recommended options for the Commission to implement.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

*Richard E. Strzepek, PE*

Richard E. Strzepek, P.E.

Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-benchmark assessment

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment reference point

Section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference Points

Option B: To be managed by State of North Carolina

Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction (mortality)

Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year

Section 3.0: Proposed Management Scenario Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery: Select B2 (one fish @ 30") or B3 (one fish @ 32")

Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Select B10

Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Select B17

Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one are to another should quotas not be reached among fishers in a given region.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Status quo with Amendment 6

Richard E. Strzepek, P.E.

PO Box 1073

Mattituck, NY 11952

631-298-4023

**From:** [budmar3@gmail.com](mailto:budmar3@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 2:26:18 PM

---

Buddy Carson  
C.410.251.0741  
Sent from Windows Mail

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**From:** [Rachael Dean](#)  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 9:27 PM  
**To:** [budmar3@gmail.com](mailto:budmar3@gmail.com)

To: [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org)

Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

#### 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

##### Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

#### 3.0 Proposed Management Program

##### Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB

migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

#### Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels.

If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable.

Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

#### Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive

ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

Please strongly consider option D8.

### 3.2 Commercial Size Limits

#### Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

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**From:** [Robert Beal](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#); [Toni Kerns](#)  
**Subject:** FW: RFA To Weigh In On ASMFC Striped Bass Options  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 10:14:49 AM

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**From:** Recreational Fishing Alliance [mailto:[news@joinrfa.org](mailto:news@joinrfa.org)]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2014 10:04 AM  
**To:** Robert Beal  
**Subject:** RFA To Weigh In On ASMFC Striped Bass Options

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## Recreational Fishing Alliance

For Immediate Release  
September 26, 2014

Contact: Jim Hutchinson, Jr. / 888-564-6732

### RFA SUPPORTS STRIPER OPTION B1 Encourages Anglers To Submit Personal Comments By 9/30

After discussion with anglers, business owners, fisheries managers and biologists, the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) fully supports a reduction in striped bass harvest along the Atlantic Coast, with equal reductions to both the commercial and recreational sectors.

Based on both staff and member observations, along with extensive review of the scientific data, RFA believes it's important to reduce fishing mortality to a level that is at or below the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) target reference point as of 2015, and not by delaying action over several years.

With just one ASFMC public hearing left (September 29 from 6-8 p.m. at the Dare County Government Complex in Manteo, NC) RFA executive director Jim Donofrio said he's confident with the position that he is set to deliver to ASMFC before the September 30 deadline. "Last week, RFA active members along the Atlantic Coast began receiving our official position along with a comment card that anglers themselves can respond directly to ASMFC with their own personal position," Donofrio said.

"According to the science, there's a better than 85% chance that striped bass will be considered an overfished species within the next three years, and that's not an option for RFA or our members," Donofrio said. "We've talked to a lot of individuals and business owners up and down the coast, and it would seem one option in particular, one fish at 28 inches, is perhaps the fairest, most efficient, and most productive option of all in terms of sustaining this fishery through to the next stock assessment."

As per the ASMFC options presented to the public, RFA staff, chapter leaders, board

members and volunteers have given consideration of the organization's stated mission ("to safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs and ensure the long-term sustainability of U.S. saltwater fisheries"), and believe that one option in particular presents the most efficient way of meeting the needs of the fish, the fishermen and the recreational fishing industry.

If you're an active RFA member with annual dues up-to-date, you should've received the following by mail in the past few days.

*For the coastal recreational fishing sector, RFA views the following immediate and long-term benefits of Option B1, a bag limit of one fish at the current 28-inch minimum size limit:*

*1- Reducing the individual bag limit by one fish offers a 31% reduction in harvest (according to ASMFC), but would also effectively cut the number of broodstock fish harvested during the spring migration when pre- and post-spawn fish are congregated in key areas.*

*2- Keeping the size limit at 28 inches will reduce bycatch mortality resulting from any increase in size limit (proposed in options B2, B3 or B5); the 'one at 28' option allows anglers fishing specifically for harvest to catch their 'table' fish more efficiently without undue harm caused to undersized fish.*

*3- While a traditional 'slot' option to preserve and protect smaller fish and breeding fish alike is a sensible management option, RFA is concerned about the current recruitment classes; with the 2010 and 2011 recruitment years being the most robust of recent record, it's important to protect those age 4 to 5 females until better than 90% can spawn (age 5 to 8) at least once before harvest.*

*4- ASFMC has previously stated that reducing fishing mortality on fish aged 8-12 (32- to 40-inch fish) by half would result in "much greater egg production in the stock and an age distribution in which older fish are much more dominant"; as such, any slot option (proposed in options B4, B6, B7, B8, or B9) which focuses undue harvest pressure on more 'fertile' age/size fish in the stock could be counterproductive to conservation efforts.*

*5- RFA continues to place little faith in the NOAA Fisheries' (NMFS) ability to effectively account for recreational fishing effort and harvest. Specifically, options B2, B3, B4, B7, B8 and B9 indicate that "data available to estimate the percent reduction is limited because the combination of a bag limit and size limit changes simultaneously means only measured fish from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) were included in the analysis which is a small subsample of the MRIP dataset for striped bass." Since NMFS has limited data to make such calculations, there is far less confidence in calculating overall impact of such options.*

***Based on these five key bullet points, RFA expects to deliver an official position supporting B1, a bag limit of one fish at the current 28-inch minimum size limit for the coastal recreational fishing sector, with changes to be implemented as of 2015.***

If you're not an active RFA member with your annual dues up-to-date, go to [www.joinrfa.org/join](http://www.joinrfa.org/join) and re-up by PayPal or credit card. [Click here to download](#) the comment card addressed to the ASMFC. Anglers and recreational business owners are encouraged to submit comments regarding [this document](#) at any time during the addendum process. The final date comments will be accepted is 5 pm on September 30, 2014.

Comments may also be submitted by email (*Subject: Draft Addendum IV*) to Mike Waine ([mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org)).

#### About Recreational Fishing Alliance

The Recreational Fishing Alliance is a national, grassroots political action organization representing recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing industry on marine fisheries issues. *The RFA Mission is to safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our Nation's saltwater fisheries.* For more information, call 888-JOIN-RFA or visit [www.joinrfa.org](http://www.joinrfa.org).



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Recreational Fishing Alliance | PO Box 3080 | New Gretna | NJ | 08224

**From:** [Mike Luisi](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CCA RECOMENDATIONS  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:04:00 PM

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FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[paulha2@verizon.net](mailto:paulha2@verizon.net)>  
**Date:** September 24, 2014 at 5:48:05 PM EDT  
**To:** <[mluisi@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:mluisi@dnr.state.md.us)>  
**Subject: CCA RECOMENDATIONS**

I support the recommendations of CCA of a 25% across the board reduction in the striped bass harvest in 2015. This should not be a hard decision, because it is better to err on the conservative side when you are talking about the survival of an entire species that means so much to fishermen.

Paul Haddaway  
7866 Woodland Circle  
Easton, MD 21601

**From:** [doris.motovidlak](mailto:doris.motovidlak)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](mailto:Mike.Waine)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 3:51:09 PM

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Rachel Dean" <[chesapeakefishing@juno.com](mailto:chesapeakefishing@juno.com)>  
**Date:** September 28, 2014, 1:49:52 AM EDT  
**To:** [ricefarms3@aol.com](mailto:ricefarms3@aol.com), [uwishufish@yahoo.com](mailto:uwishufish@yahoo.com), [clibercci@yahoo.com](mailto:clibercci@yahoo.com),  
[jashton7256@gmail.com](mailto:jashton7256@gmail.com), [dmotovidlak@gmail.com](mailto:dmotovidlak@gmail.com),  
[wilson.seafood@hotmail.com](mailto:wilson.seafood@hotmail.com), [patiencesportfishing@comcast.net](mailto:patiencesportfishing@comcast.net)  
**Subject: Draft Addendum IV**

SBWG Representatives,

I have written the following as a public comment for the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Public Comment. Please consider forwarding this to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator. Make changes as you see fit or forward it as is. Of course, the decision is entirely your own. This supports the three year time period for reductions.

Rachel Dean

To: [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org)

Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing

mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

### 3.0 Proposed Management Program

#### Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

#### Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels.

If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable.

Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

#### Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

Please strongly consider option D8.

### 3.2 Commercial Size Limits

#### Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

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**From:** [bonniezamaitis@comcast.net](mailto:bonniezamaitis@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 9:26:50 PM

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From: Edward Zamaitis, #66911

> Please accept the following comments on the "Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan" for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries.

> I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

> I support ASMFC's development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

> 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

> Option B: Commercial Fishery

> Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

> 3.0 Proposed Management Program

> Option B: Commercial Fishery

> The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

> In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay's waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

> Option C: Commercial Fishery

> In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels.

> If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable.

> Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

>

> Option D8: Commercial Fishery

> Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be

taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

> By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

> The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

> Please strongly consider option D8.

> 3.2 Commercial Size Limits

> Option B

> Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear.

>

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**From:** [Matthew Henry](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 11:28:53 PM

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>

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>

>

> Mr Mike Waine

>

> I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B7.

>

> Peace,

>

> Matthew

Matthew Henry  
96-2 Oakwood Village  
Flanders, NJ 07836  
973-906-8089

**From:** [captmark@comcast.net](mailto:captmark@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Striped Bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 6:09:57 AM

---

Capt Mark Whitney  
Erin Elizabeth Charters LLC

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [captmark@comcast.net](mailto:captmark@comcast.net)  
To: [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org)  
Sent: Tue, 23 Sep 2014 21:58:48 -0000 (UTC)  
Subject: Striped Bass

Mike Waine,

I would like to see the status quo option but I have to say that once again we are being pushed to make a choice that will not help the future of the New Jersey angler. I remember when we had a slot fish at 28" and the second was over 32". I have been educating my customers, friends and other anglers on how important it is to let those big breeders go back (when possible) we have been doing this for almost 2 seasons. Here are facts that I am sure that you have heard, a 12lb Striped Bass spawns approx. 850,000 eggs per year and a 50lb Bass spawns 4 to 5,000,000 per year! I will continue to release Bass over 34" (after a quick picture) because I believe that bigger fish have more eggs and are vital to the future of our fishery. If the commercial fishery increases and we continue to have the commercial sector over fish the bass we will have a very bleak future.

The Magnuson Rule states "that economic hardship can not be taken into consideration when making these rules, but once again as every one has asked Who will benefit from Option B.

Some of the owners that I know would like the Option A. of section 3.1 to stay.

Capt Mark Whitney  
Point Pleasant NJ  
Erin Elizabeth Charters LLC

**From:** [Chris Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Striped Bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 4:07:59 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chris Wilson <[christopherwilson099@gmail.com](mailto:christopherwilson099@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** September 25, 2014 at 12:06:17 PM EDT  
**To:** "[mwaine@asmffc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmffc.org)" <[mwaine@asmffc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmffc.org)>  
**Subject: Striped Bass**

Mr. Waine,  
Please keep the Striped Bass fishery regulations at the stays quo or option B7. Please do not put more strain on the recreational fishing community the impact would be devastating in my home state of New Jersey.  
Sincerely,  
Chris Wilson  
Bloomsbury NJ  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [mowking@comcast.net](mailto:mowking@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** History does repeat itself  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 4:02:55 PM

---

three yrs ago I caught over forty stripers, over 20 lbs. This year fishing about the same commitment of hrs.i have caught 3 fish.  
gone are people like Bob Pond who helped to save the stripers. Now is the time for others to step up to the plate & help save the stripers. before they follow the way our Herring, Cod, Haddock, & Flounder have gone.

Hotels will take a hit, fishing tackle co. will close along with charter men. Bass are being caught for sale the day before and are being iced down for sale the next day, and the Black Market for them is large: Step up to the plate and stop the following,

Section 25.1 Option B 2013 benchmark  
2.52 Option B preferred stock

Assessment reference point 2.6 Option A Reduce mortality by 25 % in one year  
Section 3 B-3 & B-10 Chesapeake Commercial Fishing B-17 Section 3.1 Option A  
Section 3.2 commercial size limits Option A

Stephen Chotkowski  
82 Meredith Dr.  
E. Falmouth, Ma  
02536

**From:** [ssplaash@aol.com](mailto:ssplaash@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** I AM in favor of option B-7.  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:15:26 PM

---

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM in favor of option B-7.

John C. Migliacchio  
35 Vahlsing Way  
Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691  
[ssplaash@aol.com](mailto:ssplaash@aol.com)

**From:** [Crescibene, Frank](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** I favor option B-7  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 4:39:40 PM

---

All

I am in favor of option B-7.

Frank Crescibene

**From:** [Mike Ondik](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** i want option B7 for striped bass conservation  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:34:34 PM

---

in all fairness I fish frequently and rarely catch the limit. That's why I want b7 because when I do catch fish it's nice to put some in the freezer.

Thank you,  
Mike Ondik

**From:** [KENNETH GERBEHY](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** In favor of option B-7 !!!  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:18:48 PM

---

I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36"minimum.

Kenneth Gerbehy

6 lincoln pl

weehawken NJ

07086

kpjeg@mas.com

**From:** [Dluhy, Bert \(Warren\)](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** in favor of Option B-7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 9:44:30 AM

---

I would like to have my opinion noted for public comment

That I am in favor of Option B-7.

This more than meets the required 25% reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@28"-34" and another at 36" minimum for striped bass.

**Bert Dluhy**  
32 Strawberry Hill Rd  
Branchburg, NJ 08876  
[bertdluhy@msn.com](mailto:bertdluhy@msn.com)

**From:** [Emil Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** in favor of option B-7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:39:51 PM

---

I am in favor of option B-7, Keeping Striped Bass restrictions and limits as they are noe.

**From:** [Christian Specht](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** in favor of Option B-7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:41:11 PM

---

**From:** [Mary Tenore](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** In favor of option B-7  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:12:10 PM

---

I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Tenore  
38 Cypress Street  
Millburn, NJ 07041  
[maryjtenore@msn.com](mailto:maryjtenore@msn.com)

**From:** [Jack Sabo](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** In Favor of Option B-7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:23:20 PM

---

To whom it may concern:

I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36"minimum.

Sincerely,

Jack Sabo

851 Green Street

Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

--

Jack Sabo  
Operations Manager  
Superior Quartz Products, Inc.  
2701 Baglyos Circle  
Bethlehem, PA 18020  
Phone: 610-317-3450; x-223  
Fax:484-244-7343  
E-mail [jack@sqpuv.com](mailto:jack@sqpuv.com)

**From:** [jswany07@gmail.com](mailto:jswany07@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Keep status quo  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:27:08 PM

---

Keep same regulations

Sent from my HTC

**From:** [cowcovedhm](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Lack of  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 1:52:20 PM

---

It makes me wonder why nothing yet has been done to save our striped bass stocks. Is it lack of knowledge or just a let's hope it's not as bad as it seems. I have been surfcasting for 30 plus years, I've seen this before and it makes me cringe that we are all letting it happen again. Please let's act now to save our beloved stripers before it's too late. 1 fish at 32 inches is fair or a 2 to 3 year moratorium, but asap, thanks

Daniel Menton  
Marshfield Ma

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

**From:** [Christian Henriksen](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Limit on Striped Bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:15:02 PM

---

Do not change the striped bass quota down to only one. It should remain Status Quo or the only acceptable option would be Option B7

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [BARBARA AMBROSIA](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Limits on stripped bass.  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 4:22:49 PM

---

DEAR SIR,

ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY SON WHO OWN AND OPERATE THE CHARTER BOAT MISTY, WE MAKE OUR SOLE LIVING FROM THE CHARTER BOAT BUSINESS AND HAVE BEEN DOING SO FOR THE PAST 50 YEARS.

IN THE PAST, I HAVE SEEN THE STRIPPED BASS FISHING EXCELLENT DURING THE 60'S AND 70'S, AND I HAVE SEEN MANY SPECIES DISSAPPEAR, INCLUDING THE STRIPPED BASS. DURING THE LAST 20 YEARS, I HAVE

SEEN THE STRIPPED BASS RETURN AS GOOD AS IT EVER WAS. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LIMIT STAY AT TWO PER PERSON. EVEN IF YOU ARE CATCHING 6 TO 10 STRIPPERS A DAY, AT LEAST YOU HAVE THE

OPTION FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS TO CATCH 16. WE TAKE OUT ABOUT 1500 PEOPLE PER YEAR. THEY SPEND AT LEAST A MINIMUM OF \$900 PER DAY AND IF THEY STAY AT HOTELS AND MOTELS, THEY SPEND

HUNDREDS MORE FOR ROOMS, FOOD, DRINKS, GAS, ETC. WHICH IS GREAT FOR THE RHODE ISLAND ECONOMY. MY VOTE IS TO KEEP IT AT TWO FISH PER PERSON. MY SECOND OPTION IS TWO PER PERSON

AT 31 INCHES. THANK YOU, CAPT. ANDY AMBROSIA

CHARTER BOAT

MISTY

**From:** [fattypatty13@aol.com](mailto:fattypatty13@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** linesiders  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 2:15:07 PM

---

patrick f schneider  
16-22 eberlin drive nj 07410

**From:** [Blose, Evan](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [John A. Arway](#)  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 3:08:43 PM

---

I am in support of option B2: 1 over 30”

**Evan Blose | Marketing Executive | IHeart Media, Allentown, PA**  
**B-104, WZZO-FM, WAEB-AM, Fox Sports I Phillies, Nascar, Penn State, Steelers**

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**From:** [James](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:06:12 AM

---

I'm in favor of B-7

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [DANIEL CLARK](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:53:07 AM

---

PLEASE KEEP LIMIT STATUS Q AS resort B7

Sent from Windows Mail

**From:** [Dan Mazzaferro](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 11:22:14 AM

---

Mr. Waine,

I am writing in support of the immediate 25% reduction in 2015 of the striped bass harvest. It is critical that the Board take this action now to protect the species from overfishing. I realize this type of decisions is difficult as demonstrated by the effort to save the overfished cod and haddock stocks. But now is the time to make the decision to save striped bass; before the stock level gets to the point where these decisions are significantly harder and impact the lives of more people-as seen with the cod and haddock stocks.

As a major policy maker and steward of the species; now is the time to do what is right and make the right decision.

Thank you for your time and best fishes,  
Dan Mazzaferro

**From:** [Lauren Jensen](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 7:34:50 AM

---

Subject : Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

Eric Jensen

**From:** [S. Unsworth](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:56:40 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine:

My name is Steve Unsworth, and I am a past vice president of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club and the current secretary of the Cape Cod Flyrodders. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0. I believe that this is the only option that has a reasonable chance of restoring the striper population.

Sincerely,

Steve Unsworth  
45 Sullivan Rd.  
West Yarmouth, MA 02673

**From:** [Dixon, James](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:08:05 AM

---

I'm in favor of option B-7

James Dixon  
Senior HBC Merchandiser  
GM/HBC Trade Relations  
C&S Wholesale Grocers  
160 Fieldcrest Avenue  
Edison, NJ 08837  
P - 732-417-2525  
F - 732-417-4101

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**From:** [John Outwater](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:01:59 AM

---

please leave striped bass regulations as they are, no changes

**From:** [James Riter](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:43:16 PM

---

I am in favor of option b7 continuing. Limit on stripers is sufficient.  
J Riter  
Jimsbroker@optonline.net

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [C Z](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:35:02 PM

---

Mike,  
My vote is status quo.. and I don't understand why there is no slot fish option on the table..

Craig zincavage

**From:** [Mark Melnick](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:35:32 PM

---

To:  
Mr. Mike Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass  
Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Commission Members:

I as a member of the North Fork Anglers Fishing Club acknowledge the time, effort and difficulty involved in the proposals presented.

The proposed options and alternatives you have presented are extensive and complicated. I do not think the body of assumptions is sufficient to effectively address the current situation. I believe until an entire ecosystem approach to fisheries management which also includes consideration of the food chain and prime feed stocks for game fish makes decisions to enhance the rebuilding and rebound of species such as striped bass extremely difficult.

Your document indicates use of many assumptions due to lack of real data to analyze. This lack of real data is troublesome and questions of the proposed recommendations and will make it difficult to realize replenishment of an adequate breeding stock and overall long term stability of the species.

The wanton taking of menhaden (and well documented severe reduction in menhaden biomass) is forcing the striped bass to feed on less nutritious sources and this coupled with disease mortality in striped bass i.e. mycobacteriosis must be considered.

**While the proposed options are interesting they lack validity and demonstrate no clear goals or SMART objectives. “SMART” objectives are: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time oriented. The following are examples:**

**Specific: Improve the food chain by 5% per year.**

**Measurable: Rebuild striped bass species by 10% per year**

**Attainable: Verify by improving approach to fisheries management by new better management.**

**Realistic: Establish new regulations by 2016**

**Time: Identify all new regulations by second quarter of 2015.**

I hope the above comments would provoke a more healthy discussion among the commission members and results in more effective processes to address the current conditions.

If necessary I endorse a complete possession moratorium as was done in the past to ensure the preservation of this precious resource.

My choices for recommended options for the Commission to implement are as follows:

Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-benchmark assessment

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment reference point

Section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference Points

Option B: To be managed by State of North Carolina

Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction (mortality)

Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year

Section 3.0: Proposed Management Scenario Options

Coastal Recreational Fishery: Select B2 (one fish @ 30") or B3 (one fish @ 32")

Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Select B10

Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Select B17

Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one area to another should quotas not be reached among fishers in a given region.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Status quo with Amendment 6

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

**From:** [Marty Smith](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [peter@saltwateredge.com](mailto:peter@saltwateredge.com)  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 1:23:38 PM

---

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option  
Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Please take action to protect and promote one of the most economically beneficial fisheries in in the northeast. As a part time Florida resident we have seen the economic devastation a mismanaged fishery can effect and also what a healthy fishery can do for a community. For my grand childrens sake I want them to enjoy fishing the New England coast like I used to.

PS can you get rid of some of the dogfish?

Marty smith

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction  
Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:  
Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers  
Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits  
Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

The Saltwater Edge is sponsoring a raffle to recognize those who took the time to write. If you copy [peter@saltwateredge.com](mailto:peter@saltwateredge.com) on your letter to ASMFC you will be entered in the "Took the Time to Write Raffle" and might win a prize package that any surfcaster would be happy to receive. Plugs, tins, bucktails, soft baits and teasers from the best brands in surfcasting. You will not be disappointed and it is our way of saying "Thanks for taking the time to write"

**From:** [Frank Bonanno](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** My Comments to Addendum IV to Amendment 6  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 11:59:21 AM

---

Mr. Waine,

I was at the hearing in Chesapeake College Last. I noticed a couple of things I would like to comment on..

1) There was reference to a sex ratio study, many people referenced 90% as the number of males in the bay at a given time. No one has every shown the public that I am aware of a peer reviewed study of the bay. I simply can't believe the number is 90% males, the females have to come from somewhere. They move up in year class the same as the males. They may leave a little earlier. In my opinion, comments that reference pure false information should be discounted. It would be easy for me to say a hole bunch of false things based on observations and inferences but it does not mean they are true and should be valued as such.

2) The State of MD is trying to have us believe that recruitment alone is going to save the stock. In 2002, 2004, and 2009 we had high Year of the young and 6 years later we did not see the corresponding increase in the SSB. It is both recruitment and mortality. From that stand point we should be taking the highest reductions suggested by science until the stock returns to abundance. They Bay should also continue to work improving environmental factors.

3) Many of the commercial anglers referenced socio-economic impact. As far as I have seen There is no good economic impact study. Economic impact is not a bunch of guys that profit highly off a public resource telling us they are going to loose money. An economic impact study looks at the industry as a hole and says what is the impact to that industry. Given market demands to go up and price elasticity. The commercial guys I know simply are not too worried about the cut because they know prices will go up and if they do not they work a little harder and filet their own fish and sell them directly to restaurants instead of discounted to distributors.

As far as economic impact, NOAA in 2012 said that MD had value ad economic impact of \$137 Mill for commercial and \$427 million value added economic impact for recreational angling. My opinion is that recreational angling will go up if we get back to abundance quickly. It is also sustainable and easier to reign in recreational anglers. Commercial angling is not as impactful to the MD economics and it should be noted on a macro level we need to review this and find a scientific way of measuring both long term and short-term economic impact.

4) As a state resident and recreational angler, I have seen the quality of fish and amount go down from prior years. We saw the improvements on the menhaden stock this summer with large schools of menhaden on the bay. However, there was nothing chasing them. I want to see a reduction under we see a better stock of fish. I look forward to the day where the ASMFC uses and environmental basis for stock assessments, however, I understand it is not today. I want to make sure we are using the best available science which right now tells us that the stock has been in steady decline, there have been several low years of recruitment followed by one or two good years. We need to move the only lever we can move to allow the SSB to replenish itself, the harvest. Everything else is noise and distraction.

The above addresses the current decisions around the SSB and Chesapeake Bay decisions. Below are some of my thoughts and comments about the ASMFC and management in general.

1) We should be managing to abundance at all times. If we have an abundant stock everyone gets their share. The idea that we harvest the MSY is hard to accept because it means we are perfect predictors of every factor out there, we are not our science is imperfect and as such we should make sure we are always in abundance rather than harvesting maximum.

2) As for economics, we have seen in many other industries (and in our own Striped Bass) that industry around tourism and recreational angling flourishes with abundance. Recreational anglers can be taught to do C&R where as commercial can't by definition (more on this in the next point). The ASMFC should look at the entire stock and truly evaluate what is better for the entire economy (both at a state and regional level) and start to integrate that information into the decision making process. NOAA has shown recreational angling as having a much higher impact than Commercial. This needs to be addressed in our fisheries management plan.

3) Economics should not be the only reason we evaluate this. In the US we do not allow commercial harvest of many wild game species because in the early part of the 1900's we realized wild stocks simply cannot sustain the harvest pressure from commercial gain. The striped bass are a public resource, a commercial guy does not plant their fish, they do not pay a true replenishment cost, they do nothing to support the increased growth of the species, yet we allow them to utilize a public resource for their personal gain. Why is it I can't cut down redwoods in Yellow Stone or hunt deer and sell them to market but some one can harvest wild caught SB and sell them at market.

I am not totally against the commercial harvest. I am disgusted by the entitlement that is in that group. It is not theirs to profit from, it is the public, when the stock needs replenishment they should be the first to be volunteering the cut.

Just to be fair, I do not believe that recreational fishermen should get an increased portion of the harvest. Everyone should be reduced. However, recreational fishing can be tempered to C&R. By definition commercial cannot, this needs to be taken into consideration. Recreational fishing is the experience of going out and utilizing our resource in a constructive manner. The more people we get doing it the more people will realize other factors need to change (ie - environmental factors).

4) The last point I have is there is no reason we need to continue to not have a limit on the upper end of the size of striped bass. We need to have a maximum size limit. In my opinion all anglers should be held to 36 inches.

Thank you for your time and help with this issue.



Frank

**From:** [Mark Ambrosia](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** My name is mark ambrosia owner of the caharterboat misty from pj. I would like to keep the limit at two fish per person for the charters. I support our president in his proposal 100 percent.  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 3:51:18 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Vincent Foti](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** New Regs?  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 4:00:53 PM

---

Mike, my name is Vin Foti. I'm a past President of the Cape Cod Salties, and currently their trustee. I'm also the current treasurer of the Cape Cod Flyrodders and a member of the Cape Cod Charter Fishermen's Assoc. Please add my name to the list of those in favor of the immediate 25% reduction in the commercial quota as well as the 50% cut in the recreation quota ( from two fish to one daily ) . Act now, before we all wish we did something sooner. Thanks  
Vin Foti

**From:** [jkuronyi@comcast.net](mailto:jkuronyi@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** new regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:52:15 PM

---

Please add my opinion to the new proposed stripper regulations. This MUST be done by Sept 30 when the public comment period ends

I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36".

This will help the stripper population, keep fishing boats in business and satisfy recreational fisherman.

Joe Kuronyi 81 Arlington Ave, Somerset NJ 08873

**From:** [D600es@aol.com](mailto:D600es@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** New Striper Regs.  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:21:17 AM

---

Prefer status quo.B7 second choice but not a good one. J Learn 234 Park Ave. Cliffside Park NJ07010

**From:** [Manny](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Option B-7 me and my son have a ritual on Father's Day of fishing for our stripers on a great day to just bond and reflect on our family and being able to fish for at least two strippers each we will enjoy those on the Fourth of July and share our adve...  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 8:13:25 PM

---

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robert McDonald](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** option B-7.  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:49:45 AM

---

I wanted you to know that I am in favor of option B-7.  
Please do not over regulate this fishery any further.

Bob McDonald  
908-879-5263

**From:** [Adam Wisnieski](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** option B-7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 11:28:13 AM

---

Dear Sir:

I am sending this EM to you to let you know I am in favor of Option B-7 since this more than meets the requirement of a 25% reduction rate and still keeps a 2 person limit of 1 @ 28" - 34" and another at 36" minimum.

Thank you

Adam Wisnieski

**From:** [Joe Ciaccia](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Option B7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:52:11 PM

---

How bad can it get for the coastal fisherman? They force us to give back fluke under 18" (I would say at a 50% mortality rate, no matter the hook) virtually close down the Sea bass and Blackfish season when most people fish for them and now want to reduce the Striper limit by one half!! And don't forget the Bluefin regulations which have been in effect for years but the fishing is at a low point.

The NMFS keeps punishing the little guys while allowing domestic and overseas commercial fisherman to decimate the stocks. And then they stand by while the History channel glamorizes the slaughter with a show incorrectly named Wicked Tuna!! It should be called Slaughter of the Great Bluefins..

Well, I guess I am blowing in the wind but if we have to, I prefer option B7..

Joe Ciaccia

**From:** [Knott, Walter](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Option B-7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:23:36 PM

---

I am a salt water fisherman. I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36"minimum.

Walter R Knott

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**From:** [Mike Grecco](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** OPTION B-7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:15:27 PM

---

PLEASE!!!!!! OPTION B-7 WILL SAVE A TON OF BASS. ADDITIONALLY , IF YOU REALLY WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT... MAKE THE STRIPER AN ARTIFICIAL LURE ONLY SPECIES. DO THIS AND YOUR MORTALITY RATE WILL DROP BY 75% OR MORE. GUARANTEED!!!

MIKE GRECCO  
3 AUDITORIUM DRIVE  
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, N.J. 07716  
732-291-1632

**From:** [Robert Thompson](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Our Striped Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:05:49 PM

---

Dear Mike

I am a part time charter captain and outboard mechanic and a commercial shellfisher. I have friends on both sides commercial and recreational. I know the striped bass numbers are way down. My log books are completely off my photos of bass cruising the flats are no more from 50 fish to one maybe two bass together now. Please do what you can to limit the number of bass on party charter boats. This is a huge number of fish not tallied correctly. Please limit them to one fish per angler per trip. As for recreational guys please raise that size back up to 36" that fixed it before. Now with the thousands of anglers now additional to the problem since the last decline. Hopefully this will work. On eastern long island we are missing the 25"-33" fish? Nothing all year? Please do something to help the striped bass. Even a moratorium would be fine. I want my kids to catch one someday. I never did in the 80's when I was a kids.

Thanks for listening

Sincerely

Rob Thompson

P.O. Box 55

Orient NY 11957

**From:** [Dan Disario](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Pending Striped Bass Fishing Regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:49:56 AM

---

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider keeping the current regulations or alternatively option b-7.

Thank you for your time.

DDD

**Dan D. Disario, P.E., PTOE**  
**Principal/Vice President**  
Direct: 609.282.8010  
Mobile: 732.233.4758

## ***LANGAN***

Phone: 609.282.8000 Fax: 609.282.8001  
989 Lenox Drive, Suite 124  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2315  
[www.langan.com](http://www.langan.com)

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**From:** [Mark Reitter](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Please keep the bag limit Status Quo  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:28:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

To whom it may concern,

I would like to press that you keep the Quota for Striped Bass as it is and let it **Remain Status Quo**.

I am a lifelong New Jersey fisherman. I follow the rule to the letter of the law. I would suggest that my Striper fishing year was incredible. Please leave the quota as it is.

Best wishes,

Mark Reitter



1933 RT 35, SUITE 360, WALL, NJ 07719

Tel: 732.562.0300 ext. 2

Fax: 732.562.0330

Cell: 609.577.1818

[MReitter@RnBdesign.com](mailto:MReitter@RnBdesign.com)

[www.RnBdesign.com](http://www.RnBdesign.com)

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**From:** [Robert Nyman](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Please reduce striped bass harvest now  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:02:56 AM

---

I am an active recreational striped bass fisherman on Long Island NY. I support stricter harvest regulations. One fish is plenty for anyone. A slot fishery seems to make sense. Robert Nyman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [John](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed rule changes Striper Fishery  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:45:08 PM

---

Wayne, my name is Captain John Greska owner and operator of Janina Fishing Charters Cape Cod, MA and I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0. Thank you.

Tight lines,  
Capt. John  
[www.janinafishingcharters.com](http://www.janinafishingcharters.com)  
508-509-5628

**From:** [Daniel Chiapperini](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Striped Bass Regs.  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:44:15 PM

---

As an avid recreational fisherman, I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1 at 28"-34" and another at 36"minimum.

Daniel Chiapperini  
96 Highland Blvd., #2  
Keansburg, NJ 07734  
(973) 557-7230

**From:** [Robin Sims](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Striped Bass Regulations  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:32:41 PM

---

As an avid recreational fisherwoman, I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1 at 28"-34" and another at 36" minimum.

Robin Sims  
96 Highland Blvd., #2  
Keansburg, NJ 07734  
(973) 934-2856

**From:** [Tom K.](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Striper Limit 2015  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:14:50 AM

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Please, Please , Please, do not penalize the recreational fisherman any more than has been done previously.

Option B-7. allows for a worthwhile few dollar investment for a day of striper fishingwith my heirs. Anything less and we'll stay home. The negaive ramifications for ancillary businesses are obvious.  
Thank You.

Tom Kowalik  
10 Susan Lane  
Andover, NJ 07821

**From:** [Stephen Israelian](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Stripper Regs  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:20:46 PM

---

My name is Steve Israelian and I am a Board member of the Cape Cod Salties Sport Fishing Club on Cape Cod, MA. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, OptionA and the 32" fish in Section 3.0.

Thank You

Steve Israelian  
34 Aspinet Rd.  
S. Yarmouth, MA 02664  
508 398 4161

**From:** [Jay Walpole](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Jack Creighton](#); [CapeKeysEd@aol.com](mailto:CapeKeysEd@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Protecting Striped Bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:25:36 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine:

My name is Jay Walpole, and I am currently Speaker Co-Coordinator of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club on Cape Cod, MA. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0.

Thank you.

Jay Walpole  
(774) 237-0290 H  
(860) 655-3057 C

**From:** [info@fishermanfreds.com](mailto:info@fishermanfreds.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Atlantic Striped Bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 12:12:12 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Fred Price and I am the owner of Fisherman Fred's LLC. It is a bait & tackle shop, but I am also an avid surf fisherman. I started the business in 2008. My business is 100% dependent on the recreational fisherman for my income.

I know that the striped bass population is on the decline. I do not want to see what we had in the 80's with the moratorium on striped bass. I fished during those times and I believe that the moratorium had little impact on the recovery of them as a recreational fish. So this time around we need to do something sooner then later.

As the population of striped bass came back, it seem more and more people are now targeting them. I believe in the past 6 to 10 years the people fishing for them has exploded. Due to this I am for option B1. I do believe a better option is to make a true slot limit like we had when coming out of the moratorium. That limit would be 1 fish at 18 to 24 inches. My belief is that will save the breeders, the 29 inch and bigger striped bass. However I do not see an option with such a size limit.

I believe that Hurricane Sandy changed the way the striped bass fishing is along the New Jersey coast. After Sandy it does seem that the striped bass have changed the food they are feeding on and where they are feeding. Because of this it seems that the chances of landing a bigger striped bass from the shore line has gotten much harder. That is another reason that I do support option B1. At least that option gives most fishermen the chance to take home one fish. If we up the size limit it could kill people targeting striped bass altogether and that wouldn't be good either.

My last comment maybe the one that I think counts the most. We need to have the Striped Bass listed as a true recreational game fish. What I mean by this is that we need to ban commercial fishing in all states. This would lead to in my opinion a much better and easy management of the striped bass population. If this doesn't take place sooner then later we will not have any striped bass population for future generations too fish for.

Thank you for reading my opinion on this matter.  
Fred Price

--

**Fisherman Fred's LLC**

Miry Run Plaza  
3133 Quakerbridge Road  
Hamilton, NJ 08619  
Phone: 609-570-8035  
Fax: 609-570-8036  
<http://www.fishermanfreds.com>  
Hours: See our website

*Delighting Our Customers*

**From:** [Jack Creighton](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Striped Bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:47:02 AM

---

Dear Mr. Waine:

My name is Jack Creighton, and I am currently president of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club on Cape Cod, MA. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack Creighton  
10 Homer Ave.  
South Yarmouth, MA  
508 394-2983

**From:** [T.A.PISERCHIA, MD/P.T.DEPT](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Captain Jim- Cock Robin- Cock Robin.com- WE NEED YOUR HELP- STRIPED BASS FISHING IN DANGER  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:03:30 PM

---

Subject : Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Garry Hazen  
27 Rio Dam Road  
Glen Spey NY 12737

**From:** [Jared Henry](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 3:21:26 AM

---

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing to express my views on the path forward to stabilize and replenish the striped bass stocks in the atlantic states. I find it hard to believe that anyone has not noticed the rapid decline in the number of bass seen and caught in our local waters. I believe the following options to be the best available.

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

Option B: Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

Option B3: one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Although I'm not old enough to have fished during the decline in the 80's, I hope to never have to explain to my kids why we just sat here and watched history repeat itself. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely, Jared Henry

**From:** [walter oehrle](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** RE: STRIPED BASS REGULATIONS  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:11:25 PM

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From: fishingnut1996@hotmail.com  
To: mwaine@asmfic.org  
Subject: RE: STRIPED BASS REGULATIONS  
Date: Thu, 25 Sep 2014 14:59:06 -0400

Resent with correct email address.

---

From: fishingnut1996@hotmail.com  
To: mwaine@asmffc.org  
Subject: STRIPED BASS REGULATIONS  
Date: Thu, 25 Sep 2014 14:11:35 -0400

Attention Mike Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator.

The following people fish aboard the Big Mohawk out Belmar NJ and vote **(B7)**

- 1- Walter Oehrle @ Holland PA.
- 2- Jim and Joe Thomas @ Morrisville PA.
- 3- Salvatore Alongi @ Yardley PA.
- 4- Joe Frullaney @ Spring Valley NY.
- 5- Bill Lakis @ Monroe NY.

**PLEASE CAST OUR VOTE FOR (B7)**

**From:** [Tom Schlichter](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Striper column by Tom Schlichter  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:44:06 PM

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Thanks, Mike, for helping me get this right.  
- Tom S.

Tom Schlichter  
Outdoors Columnist, Newsday  
Associate Editor, On The Water Magazine  
President, Outdoor Tom Corp.

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**From:** Mike Waine [mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:38 PM  
**To:** 'Tom Schlichter'  
**Subject:** RE: Striper column by Tom Schlichter

Underlined are my edits. I took a sentence from your last version because I think it reads better.  
Regards -MW

An important footnote that came out of the ASMFC striped bass public comment meeting held back on September 16 was the concern over poaching expressed by recreational anglers. Several speakers said they believed large numbers of bass were being caught, kept and sold illegally, and that loss of these fish was not accounted for in mortality figures used to estimate the current striper population.

At the meeting, ASMFC Fishery Management Plan Coordinator Mike Waine confirmed there is no procedure for factoring poaching into current figures – unless an event is cited and documented by law enforcement officials. The undocumented illegal harvest has led many recreational anglers to favor regulations even more restrictive than required by law, such as bumping the size limit upwards from its current 28 inches to 30 or 32 inches while reducing the take to one fish per angler each day.

During the discussion, NY State Senator Phil Boyle promised New York State Department of Environmental Conservation would look into the poaching problem in New York waters. If that promise holds true and eventually results in some kind of estimated poaching numbers being considered in the management of our striper stocks, that may actually be the most important point to come from this specific meeting. Ultimately, noted Waine, strengthening penalties and enhancing enforcement to deter illegal harvest is probably the best way to address the issue.

It should be noted that ASMFC, in 2013, did take a significant step in this direction by implementing a mandatory commercial tagging program to track fish through the marketplace and recommended increasing penalties for illegal harvest in order to begin addressing the poaching problem. But significant poaching still persists.

If you have yet to add your voice to the chorus of recreational anglers commenting on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, you need to do so by 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Send emails to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org). To view all of the striped bass management proposals, go to [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org).

---

Michael W. Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201  
[mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) phone: (703)842-0740

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**From:** Tom Schlichter [<mailto:tschlichter@optonline.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:08 PM  
**To:** Mike Waine  
**Subject:** RE: Striper column by Tom Schlichter

Hi Mike,  
Round 2: Let me know what you think....  
Thanks a bunch.  
- Tom S.

ANGLERS RAISE CONCERN ABOUT STRIPER POACHING  
By Tom Schlichter

An important footnote that came out of the ASMFC striped bass public comment meeting held back on September 16 was the concern over poaching expressed by recreational anglers. Several speakers said they believed large numbers of bass were being caught, kept and sold illegally, and that loss of these fish was not accounted for in mortality figures used to estimate the current striper population.

At the meeting, ASMFC Fishery Management Plan Coordinator Mike Waine confirmed there is no procedure for factoring poaching into current figures – unless an event is cited and documented by law enforcement officials. The undocumented illegal harvest has led many recreational anglers to favor regulations even more restrictive than required by law, such as bumping the size limit upwards from its current 28 inches to 30 or 32 inches while reducing the take to one fish per angler each day.

During the discussion, NY State Senator Phil Boyle promised New York State Department of Environmental Conservation would look into the poaching problem in New York waters. If that promise holds true and eventually results in some kind of estimated poaching numbers being

considered in the management of our striper stocks, that may actually be the most important point to come from this specific meeting. Ultimately, noted Waine, strengthening penalties and enhancing enforcement to deter illegal harvest is probably the best way to address the issue.

It should be noted that ASMFC, in 2013, did take a significant step in this direction by implementing a mandatory commercial tagging program to track fish through the marketplace and recommended increasing penalties for illegal harvest in order to begin addressing the poaching problem. But significant poaching still persists.

If you have yet to add your voice to the chorus of recreational anglers commenting on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, you need to do so by 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Send emails to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org). To view all of the striped bass management proposals, go to [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org).

Tom Schlichter  
Outdoors Columnist, Newsday  
Associate Editor, On The Water Magazine  
President, Outdoor Tom Corp.

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**From:** Mike Waine [<mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:20 PM  
**To:** 'Tom Schlichter'  
**Subject:** RE: Striper column by Tom Schlichter

I have a suggested revision to the second paragraph as follows.

At the meeting, ASMFC Fishery Management Plan Coordinator Mike Waine explained that there is no procedure for factoring poaching into the current figures – unless the poaching event is cited and documented by law enforcement officials. In order to begin to address illegal poaching the ASMFC implemented a mandatory commercial tagging program to track fish through the marketplace and recommended increasing penalties for illegal harvest. The undocumented illegal harvest lead many recreational anglers to...

Also, the title of the column suggests we made a conscious decision not to count the poaching in the striper assessment, but that's not the case we just don't have the data to estimate it. Can I suggest the following alternative title? "Anglers concerned about striper poaching".

Also, Senator Boyle's promised that DEC will look into the poaching issues specific to NY. – I'll give you a call in 20 min to clarify this.

Thanks!  
MW

Michael W. Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201  
[mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) phone: (703)842-0740

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**From:** Tom Schlichter [<mailto:tschlichter@optonline.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:38 PM  
**To:** Mike Waine  
**Subject:** Striper column by Tom Schlichter

Hi Mike,

Below is a section of my column below. That's for agreeing to look it over. I have covered the meeting in my columns before, this is just an update...Feel free to change anything here at all to more accurately reflect what is going on. It's always a little dicey, this striper stuff, so I thought I would have you look it over because you are the expert. This is not in final format, so please don't show it to anyone else.

Down the line, I'd like to do something more in-depth with you, and perhaps with the council reps from NY in general.... ☺

You can reach me at 631-765-5070. I am on deadline, so thanks a lot for getting to this asap.

- Tom S.  
631-765-5070

#### SHOULD POACHING COUNT IN STRIPER ASSESSMENTS?

Not receiving a ton of coverage but one of the more important footnotes to come out of the ASMFC striped bass public comment meeting held back on September 16 was the concern over poaching expressed by recreational anglers. Several speakers said they believed large numbers of mostly large bass were being caught, kept and sold illegally. It's a practice that's gone on for as long as there have been striper regulations, and nearly every speaker who brought this fact to attention expressed concern that large numbers of fish taken out of the population in this manner were not being accounted for in the mortality figures used to estimate the current striper population.

At the meeting, ASMFC Fishery Management Plan Coordinator Mike Waine confirmed that there is no provision for factoring poaching into the current figures – unless there is a big citation and documented numbers of fish confiscated. This is one factor that lead many recreational anglers to suspect that there are actually less bass available than the population estimates suggest. The desire to err on the side of caution in consideration of illegal poaching is one reason so many anglers at the meeting favored regulations that were even more restrictive than required by law, such as bumping the size limit upwards from its current 28 inches to 30 or 32 inches while reducing the take to one fish per angler each day with no provision for a trophy fish.

During the discussion, NY State Senator Phil Boyle promised that the ASMFC would look into the poaching problem. If that promise holds true and eventually results in some kind of estimated poaching numbers being considered in the management of our striper stocks, that may actually be the most important point to come from this specific meeting.

If you have yet to add your voice to the chorus of recreational anglers commenting on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, you need to do so by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30. Send your email to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org). You can view all of the striped bass management proposals at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org).

Tom Schlichter  
Outdoors Columnist, Newsday  
Associate Editor, On The Water Magazine  
President, Outdoor Tom Corp.

**From:** [Davies](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Reduction  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 8:04:35 PM

---

My name is Steve Davies and I'm a member of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club on Cape Cod, MA. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0. Thank you.

**From:** [Bruce Brady](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Reductions in Striper bass catch  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 9:45:57 AM

---

Mr. Waine,

I am a member of Cape Cod Sportfishermen's Association. I am a full time resident on the Cape. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0.

I would also propose that the restrict the catch of Striper over 32 inches. In preserving the "cows", you insure that you have a productive breeding stock that can help in the recovery of the species.

Bruce Brady

BS in Zoology

Yarmouth, Ma

**From:** [Cameron Koshland](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding New Jersey Striped Bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 9:56:51 AM

---

Dear Mr Waine,

My name is Cameron Koshland and I am the owner of Boulevard Bait & Tackle LLC located at 535 Sea Isle Boulevard in Ocean View, New Jersey just outside of Sea Isle City. I have recently purchased this business after working here since i was 16 years old (now 24). I have seen and learned the trends of the business and realize that the striped bass season is important to keeping business a success. I know i am not the only business that this is going to affect if you lower the striped bass regulation. Our spring and fall season is dominantly striped bass fisherman! When looking at the options I feel the best would be B7. I also heard through rumor that it was a possibility the the bonus tag would allow a smaller slot size fish of 22"-28". I understand this is strictly rumor, but i think it will be a good idea because more people will purchase the bonus tag and more of the striped bass bonus tag allotment will be filled. This can also be used to gather more data on the smaller size striped bass. Thank you for your time.

Cameron Koshland

**Boulevard Bait & Tackle LLC**  
**Cameron Koshland**  
**535 Sea Isle Blvd, Ocean View, NJ 08230**  
**609-624-7637**  
[www.blvdbait.com](http://www.blvdbait.com)  
**Find Us on Facebook!**

**From:** [David Shaw](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Rockfish Population suggestion  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:14:03 AM

---

Hello Mike,

As a long time member of the CBF and an avid Chesapeake Bay fisherman, I have been very disappointed in the decline of the fishery in the Upper Bay where I fish. Years ago we used to see massive schools of menhaden and had plenty of Rockfish in the late summer and fall. The last several years have been very poor to the extent that the bay seems to be "Sterile". I would like to propose a couple of suggestions to help bring back the populations more quickly. In addition to drastically limiting the amount of Menhaden that is harvested in the Lower bay, I would propose that a moratorium be placed on the Rockfish as we did back in the early 80's. We may not need it to last for 5 years as it did back then but one to two years may be sufficient. Another option would be to ban the "Catch and Release" season on the Flats as that would prevent some of the fish to be mortality injured in the process.

I live in SE Pa. but have a home on the Eastern Shore near the Sassafras river. I am retired and would be willing to help as a volunteer in that region on a part-time basis. If you need any help, please let me know and if I can, I would be glad to do so. I would be particularly interested in assisting on any shock boats if the need exists.

Best Regards,  
David Shaw

**From:** [MrEdge2000@aol.com](mailto:MrEdge2000@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** save our stripers  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:56:55 PM

---

I am a senior that has fished on a boat out of montauk point NY for years.... Ten years ago I learn that the (exclusion zone somewhere near the mid way /sub bouy) was fished to (score big) by those with tags..

.Be sure to fish only AFTER DARK I learned so as to avoid enforcement... This year in my worst ever zero stripers so far.. Reminds me of the early 90s.please help to save some stock for the rest of us...  
thankyou! Steven M

**From:** [amarko9126@comcast.net](mailto:amarko9126@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** save our stripers  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 12:25:49 PM

---

i have read about the proposals that are being developed to save the striped bass. i fish for them very often and i have for many years.[30 plus]. its my strong belief that the situation requires massive and immediate action.

i would like there to be a total moratorium on killing the fish. after their numbers return, a strict slot limit would be a great idea. without this fishery being vital and healthy, there will be no reason to

- 1-go on any part boats
- 2-buy bait or tackle
- 3-visit the shore towns

black fish, togs, bluefish,cod, flounder do not keep recreational fisherman busy and active like stripers. if you don't recognize that., ask a fisherman to show you his or her best fish. i bet it will be a striper.

respectfully yours , alan markowitz

**From:** [Prosser, Thomas G:\(GenCo-Nuc\)](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Saving the striped bass  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 8:38:00 AM

---

I urge you please to change the current laws to B3 1@32 and protect this fish so it has a future! I have been fishing for striped bass for over 50 years, I have been through the bad and good years of chasing these beautiful fish and once again I see a definite decline in the stocks of these wonderful fish. Please help and push for B3.  
Thanks

Thomas G. Prosser

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential, may contain legal, professional or other privileged information, and are intended solely for the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, do not use the information in this e-mail in any way, delete this e-mail and notify the sender. -EXCIP

**From:** [glennsilverman@comcast.net](mailto:glennsilverman@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [REP. CRAIG A.MINER](#); [David Simpson](#)  
**Subject:** Slot limit for stripers  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:08:54 PM

---

Simply said, I don't agree with an of the options.  
If anything 1 fish under 28 or 1 fish 22-32 or make it a gamefish!!! WE NEED  
CHANGE BAD!!!

Thank you,  
Glenn Silverman

**From:** [Mike Barbadora](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Status quo  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:54:53 AM

---

Keepm regs status quo!

**Mike Barbadora**  
**Laminate Sample Coordinator**  
**908-835-5289**

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**From:** [Davide Guerard](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stiped Bass Management.  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 3:51:31 PM

---

Mike, I want to thank you for all the work you have put into this proposal for the ASMFC stock assessment for the striped bass. I was at both the New Hampshire and Maine seminar that you gave.

I hope that a 25% reduction, one fish at 32" will be implemented by the ASMFC for at least a period of three years. This will then give you a good base to compare for future management of the species. I know the

Recreational Fishing Alliance is looking at a proposal of a 25% reduction, one fish at 28". I think this proposal doesn't give that class year fish a good chance of breeding, at least the 32" fish will have been breeding for 4

yrs. as a Captain and Fishing guide in Maine, New Hampshire and Ma. I hope that all the states can come to a agreement that benefits the Striped Bass more than the greedy Recreational and Commercial interests.

Thank You Again,

Capt. Dave Guerard

Rip Tide Charters

1 Georgia St.

York, Maine

[www.mainestriperfishing.com](http://www.mainestriperfishing.com)

**From:** [Raymond Berlin](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#); [m.waine@asmfc.org](mailto:m.waine@asmfc.org)  
**Subject:** stripe bass proposal  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 8:49:01 AM

---

I favor B7 for coastal plan

Why not consider what we used to have, 1 slot 24 – 28” and 1 over 28” for the 2 bag limit.

Ray Berlin

**From:** [Matty Devine](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripe bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 4:02:49 PM

---

I am in favor of B7 and I fish 30 times a year in the ocean.

**From:** [Edward Yates](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripebass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:41:32 PM

---

Dear Mike,

As a stripebass party/ charter boat fisherman, for over 35 years I have seen the habits of stripebass changing dramatically in the past five years. I have fished the Delaware Bay for many years out of Cape May, NJ with a vast reduction of fish entering Delaware Bay to spawn. I currently fish out of Barnaget Light New Jersey In the ocean and have seen our stripebass fishery starting to relocate in the EEZ zone. I believe these habits are because of super storm Sandy along the east coast and ongoing beach restoration projects. I do not quite understand why we were taking a 25 percent reduction in the overall biomass of the fishery. But with the cards that we have been dealt, after a few slow recruitment years I can understand why we need to adapt to this reduction. We can not and should not reduce our bag limit from 2 fish to only 1. This is why I am asking ASMFC to consider option B7 or C3 in the recommendation packages. This would give us a 2 fish bag limit without targeting same year class fish. With that in mind, the two fish bag limit is essential for our marketing and survival in the party charter boat industry with also taking a 28 percent reduction in harvest. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. I can be reached at my email address [hunter.fishing@hotmail.com](mailto:hunter.fishing@hotmail.com) or my cell 609-713-6918.

Sincerely, Captain Eddie Yates, Hunter Charters Barnaget Light, New Jersey /  
President United Boatmen of New Jersey

**From:** [William Todd](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 6:38:57 PM

---

Hi Mike, I live in Brewster, Mass and have fished for stripers since the 1950's on the Brewster Flats. I have seen the great fishing in the 1960's into the 1970's and the complete crash in the 1980's. I have had great fishing as the fish were allowed to come back, but the last 5 or 6 years the fishing has definately trailed off. I go on guided trips to Martha's Vineyard and in the last four years have caught many fish, keepers in the mix but have kept two fish in three years as I know the population is declining. The fish are worth way more to the economy as gamefish then as food. Please reduce the amount of fish that is allowed to be taken by everybody. One fish is plenty and let the big fish breed. We should be allowed to eat slot fish. The big females need to breed. PLEASE!! With all sincerity, Bill Todd 781 Stony Brook Road Brewster, Ma. 02631

**From:** [Dan McGivney](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:22:48 PM

---

I am in favor of two fish limit one at 28" -34" and one over 36"  
Stop with stupid regulations that will hurt a lot of people . Dan McGivney  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [ALVIN R.WILLIAMS JR.](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass / Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 3:30:06 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine

Please note my sound support for immediate and conservative action on the Striped Bass issue.

I strongly favor a 25% harvest reduction in 2015.

I support a recreational structure of 1 fish @ 32 inches.

Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of Striped Bass.

Best regards

Al Williams  
5 Orchard Way  
Gloucester, Mass. 01930

**From:** [Ed Andrew](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass 2015- I am in favor of option B-7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:39:48 PM

---

I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36"minimum. T

**Edward Andrew**  
**13 Maryland Road**  
**Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087**

**From:** [Edward Casciotti](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Addendum IV Public Cimment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 9:48:37 PM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Ed Casciotti  
2213 Elder Ave  
Morton, PA 19070

**From:** [EBB TIDE](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:14:40 PM

---

Dear Sir,

My name is Tom Jordan. I live in Montauk N.Y. and have been a commercial representative on New York's Marine Resource Advisory Council for many years. When issues such as this addendum come up I feel the need to represent not only commercial fishermen but my COMMUNITY, and my community is a FISHING COMMUNITY. The striped bass fishery drives many primary and secondary businesses in my community. In today's world any economic blow to a person or business that depends on our fisheries may be the final blow!

The decrease in SSB that triggered this addendum took years to reach it's current level and will take years to recover. To risk undue economic harm with unnecessarily restrictive measures in the hopes of speeding up this natural process in unrealistic and borders on irresponsible. Let's not forget in the summer flounder fishery, how when the fishery was rebounding dramatically, we still faced cut-backs due to too short a time line in the plan! Although the fishery itself is the first concern, it is up to you, our representatives and the ASMFC to ensure that unnecessary economic harm is not done while working to reach the rebuilding goals.

For the recreational fishery in New York the only option that avoids large negative economic impacts is D-1. The selection of D-1 will preclude the possibility of neighboring states having a larger bag limit than NY. If NY ends up with 1 fish and NJ or RI or CT have 2 fish, much of the existing business will move to neighbor states, and this will create a great hardship for the for-hire industry in NY!

For the commercial fishery, option D-6 will have the least negative economic effect. It will allow NY to consider it's options with conservation equivalency and size limits and will give time to consider the effects of tag allotment schemes year by year. Commercial transfer should be an option to even out any missteps in new regulations. For commercial size limits, option B will help retain flexibility.

Respectfully, Tom Jordan

**From:** [Jeremy Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:03:07 AM

---

I am very concerned about striped bass fishing in New Jersey as I am employed in the recreational fishery as a deckhand on a party boat. The proposed rule changes will have a detrimental effect on our industry as a whole and I feel that the State of New Jersey, which has NO COMMERCIAL FISHERY FOR STRIPED BASS, is being unfairly punished with these rule changes because other Atlantic states do have a commercial harvest. I feel that giving the striped bass gamefish status, as NJ and other states have done, on the entire East Coast and eliminating the commercial harvest will solve this "problem". Stripers are far more economically valuable to the Atlantic States as a game fish and with that in mind I would like to see STATUS QUO with regards to size and bag limits. 2 fish at 28 inches or better.

If that is not a choice than I would choose what I think is the least of all evils, OPTION B7 1 at 28" and one over 36"

Even though that's going to a giant pain in the ass for guys like me. Do you know how tough it's going to be to throw back a 35 inch fish, a fish of a lifetime for some people, only to keep one smaller AND one bigger? It's stupid and you are actually encouraging people to kill big breeding females with this rule.

-Jeremy Johnson  
deckhand, Party Boat "Dorothy B"  
Atlantic Highlands, NJ

**From:** [John Neilson](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass addendum IV  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 12:25:01 PM

---

If needs to be done in NJ please use option 7. I believe it will be the best for everyone.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [David Gonzalez](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Addendum IV  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 9:15:44 AM

---

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer option 7.

David Gonzalez  
11 Rainford Road  
Edison NJ 08820  
917-656-2350

**From:** [Dave Daly](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass Addendum Public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:03:14 PM

---

Mike,

As a avid NJ Saltwater fishermen for 50 years I am for Status Quo on Striped Bass as we are not overfishing and overfishing is not occurring. Since status quo apparently wont meet the reductions proposed I would opt for option B7 although my time on the water allows me to have a reasonable opinion that the stock biomass is in fine shape.

Thanks,

Dave Daly

3 Hunters Way

Newton NJ 07860

**From:** [Mitchell Sewell](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Amendment 6 comment  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 10:15:23 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine:

My position on the issue of Striped Bass amendment 6 is the following:

- 1) Keep the status quo 2 fish bag limit @ 28"
- 2) If the option B for 25% reduction within 1 year is adopted choose B-7  
2 fish bag limit with one fish 28"- 34" and one fish @36"min.  
This allows for better than the 25% reduction required.
- 3) If Option C were to pass reducing F within 3 years I would choose option  
C-3 2 fish bag limit one fish @ 28"-35" and one fish @ 35"min

Sincerely,  
John Mitchell Sewell, III  
31 Foxwood Ct.  
Bedminster, NJ 07921  
908 234 1566

**From:** [Raymond Motovidlak](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Amendment 6 comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 6:57:44 PM

---

Mr.Waine,

My stance, on the issue of Striped Bass amendment 6, are as follows:

1) Status quo 2 fish bag limit @ 28"

2) If the option B for 25% reduction within 1 year is adopted we choose B-7  
2 fish bag limit with one fish 28"- 34" and one fish @36"min. This gives us better than  
the 25% reduction required.

3) If Option C were to pass reducing F within 3 years we choose option C-3  
2 fish bag limit one fish @ 28"-35" and one fish @ 35"min

Sincerely,  
Raymond Motovidlak

**From:** [kenny.taffurelli](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass ammendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 6:36:04 PM

---

I Kenneth Taffurelli vote for option B7 on the striped bass ammendum.  
Thank you, have a nice day.

**From:** [yRock Simpson](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Biomass, The Vote  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:18:24 PM

---

Dear Mr Waine:

I am contacting you to express my views about the current striper regulation changes.

B3 is what needs to be instituted immediately

Some points -

- a. striped bass catches are down overall
- b. Previously productive areas hold few bass throughout the season
- c. More are noticing and worried about the future
- d. We are harvesting more fish than are being reproduced.
- e. **When bass are found in numbers they are quickly targeted by charter and party boats and the stock takes a huge hit. Bass are not as abundant as they were, so these "schools" of bass face higher pressure**

Thank you,  
Ray Simpson  
1 Annette Rd  
Fairfield, NJ 07004

**From:** [Island Girl Charters](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:15:20 PM

---

Mr. Waine,

I am writing the board with much concern on the possible changes to the recreational limits for the Striped Bass. As a charter boat in Cape May, NJ we have already dealt with this past season the unfairness of the Flounder regs. Neighbors north and right south of us had size limits that makes it hard for us to compete for customers. Now the boat sits idle as we are not allowed to catch flounder after the 27th, sea bass ect. I can not charter because I am not allowed to catch anything. Being in the Southern part of the state our Striped Bass season starts later, but we depend on it to salvage our seasons. I would have even more of a difficult time to sell charters at one fish.

I believe you understand well last years fishing. In addition to your comments on the draft, the sand eels were thick offshore and the fish stayed out. I do not believe it was a lack of fish.

I would like to recommend two options. Option #1 A charter boat quota that differs from rec and commercial. Leaving the regs current as last season. Option #2 - 2 - fish bag lint at 32" min. Slots only and one fish would absolutely kill our industry as a charter boat.

Thank you for your time. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

--

Capt. Scott Krawiec  
Island Girl Charters  
Cape May Sport Fishing at it's Finest  
<http://www.islandgirlchartersnj.com>

**From:** [Capt. Paul Forsberg](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:33:14 AM

---

I am in favor of option B-7.

This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36"minimum.

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Warm Regards,

Paul Forsberg  
941-268-8038 (cell)

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**From:** [ken.whiting@comcast.net](mailto:ken.whiting@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Creighton, Jack](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Conservation  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:20:04 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine,  
My name is Ken Whiting, and I am a member of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club on Cape Cod, Ma.  
I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ken Whiting  
313 Bank Street  
Harwich, Ma 02645-2707  
508-430-4629

**From:** [peterwillett@comcast.net](mailto:peterwillett@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass decline  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 8:38:23 AM

---

Mike,

It is now apparent to fishermen, scientists and regulators alike that the current state of the striped bass fishery is in serious trouble. If we are to preserve this magnificent resource then meaningful steps must be taken now to curb the decline and restore the stocks. Although there are many factors that continue to contribute to this decline, one step that can be taken now, and that most responsible anglers agree with, is a reduction in the recreational kill rate.

I'm a concerned sportsman writing to let you know that I support an immediate 25% reduction in striped bass harvest in 2015 to reverse the decline in the striped bass population.

Although ultimately I'd like to see the elimination of the commercial fishery of striped bass, stricter enforcement and harsher penalties for mid-water trawler bycatch violations, and more rigid take restrictions for both individual recreational anglers and especially "6 pack" charter captains, for immediate action I support Option B4: 1 slot between 28"-40".

Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Peter Willett  
Gloucester, MA

**From:** [daniel dildine](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Commen  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 9:46:15 PM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B8.

Sincerely Yours  
Dan Dildine

Dan Dildine 1102 Poppy Place  
Jackson N.J. 08527  
732 961 7895

**From:** [Doug Dickman](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass draft addendum IV public comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:17:04 PM

---

I am for status quo option on striped bass management regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options that are available, I would prefer option b 7.  
This would keep the limit at 2 fish per person. One slot fish 28-34" and another at a 36" minimum.

Doug Dickman  
16 Westinghouse st  
Metuchen, nj 08840

Thanks,

Doug  
Dickman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Simcha Herzog](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 11:24:56 AM

---

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B8.

Thanks

Simcha Herzog  
646 756 9311

**From:** [joecamarata@comcast.net](mailto:joecamarata@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 9:36:22 AM

---

Mr. Mike Waine,

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Best Regards,

Joe J. Camarata  
84 Oak Knoll Drive  
Brick, NJ 08724  
(cell) 732-371-4325

**From:** [Glen](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 7:35:48 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**. THANK YOU.

GLEN ARNOLD  
27 ROSE STREET  
FLORIDA, NY 10921  
845 651 3280

**From:** [BlackfishDoug.](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 6:33:38 AM

---

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

Signed

Douglas Karkosza  
205 Shinnecock Drive  
Manalapan, NJ  
07726

**From:** [Jack](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:39:31 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Subject : Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council, or ASMFC, is planning to change the regulations coastwide for Striped Bass for the 2015 season. Their data suggests that, although overfishing is NOT occurring (their own claim which I agree with), the spawning biomass is in decline and therefor a reduction in the harvest is warranted.

We have been given a list of options intended to achieve that reduction during this period of public comment and none of them include keeping things STATUS QUO.

Several Captains, many that have been on the water since 1950's firmly believe that Striped Bass are more abundant now than they have ever been. Their opinions may not be founded in data collected from samples but they still merit as much consideration as any biologist's projections that were cooked up in a lab.

The over six decades spent at sea are as valid a qualification to assess striped bass stocks as any biologist with a degree and we feel that this has NOT been taken into account.

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. **THIS OPTION SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED AND LISTED.**

Of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

JACK MAC MILLAN  
850 MOHILL PLACE  
PISCATAWAY NJ 08854

**From:** [salthebear@aol.com](mailto:salthebear@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:54:10 PM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

thank you salvatore pignataro 2266 east 70th street brooklyn, ny 11234 917-337-6563

**From:** [Matt Adelfio](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:33:50 PM

---

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

Matt Adelfio  
63 Lighthouse Drive, Freehold, NJ, 07728

**From:** [Joe Piccillo](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:11:42 AM

---

Mr. Mike Waine,

As an avid NJ recreational fisherman, I fully support Option B7. Thank you for helping to save the striped bass population.

Sincerely,

Joe Piccillo  
209 West Court St.  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
215-479-5308

**From:** [Brian](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:02:25 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B7.

Brian A. Garcia  
322 Garfield St  
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

908-715-2603

**From:** [John](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:27:04 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Respectfully,  
John M. Fekete  
223 Passaic Ave.  
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742  
732-899-6195

**From:** [Ward, John](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:18:54 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

John M. Ward

8-18 lake St  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

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**From:** [George Steller](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass draft addendum IV public comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:45:14 AM

---

I am for a status quo option of the striped bass management regulations. Since that doesn't seem to be one of the options available, I would prefer option B7. This more than meets the reduction rate and keeps a two fish per person limit. 1 @ 28"-34" and one at 36" minimum.

George Steller jr  
2811 Johnson street wall, nj,07719

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Duane Henriksen](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 8:20:17 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B8.

Duane Henriksen  
105 Clover Lane  
Perkiomenville, PA 18074  
2155272797

**From:** [Sal Renna](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:13:57 AM

---

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option B 7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36" minimum

Sal Renna  
1318 Emma Pl  
Linden NJ, 07036

**From:** [Javier Santiago](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:11:51 AM  
**Importance:** High

---

Greetings,

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

I believe that if we are only allowed to keep one striper a man, the fishing industry would greatly suffer. Over the years I have met many people who rely on fishing as thier prime source of income to support themselves and their families. It would be a disgrace if their charter or party boat business could not sustain both the spring and fall striped bass season due to lack of customers. I believe that not many people would spend thier hard earned money to go out and only keep one striped bass. The regulations that we have now, 2 at 28" are more than fair.

Thank you for your time and hopefully your organization will keep the same regualtions for 2015 and the years to come.

Sincerely,

Jay Santiago  
192 Inman Avenue  
Colonia, NJ 07067

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [Andrews, Sue](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Flamini](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:03:42 AM

---

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

Sue Andrews  
854 Riffle Ave.  
Rahway, NJ 07065

**From:** [My Email](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Flaminister](#); [Jay Santiago](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:52:27 AM

---

Greetings,

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

I believe that if we are only allowed to keep one striper a man, the fishing industry would greatly suffer. Over the years I have met many people who rely on fishing as thier prime source of income to support themselves and their families. It would be a disgrace if their charter or party boat business could not sustain both the spring and fall striped bass season due to lack of customers. I believe that not many people would spend thier hard earned money to go out and only keep one striped bass. The regulations that we have now, 2 at 28" are more than fair.

Thank you for your time and hopefully your organization will keep the same regualtions for 2015 and the years to come.

Sincerely,

Christopher Flamini  
335 Stoughton Avenue  
Cranford, NJ 07016

**From:** [Yakobosky, Joseph \[GPSUS\]](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:58:04 AM

---

Mr. Mike Waine

Each year I take countless trips to NJ for striped bass and it's important to me that recreational fishermen have an opportunity to catch and keep striped bass. I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Thank you  
Joe Yakobosky  
131 E. Deer View Drive  
Auburn, PA 17922  
570-754-7036

**From:** [justin cockx](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 5:18:47 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B7.

Sincerely

Captain Justin Cockx

Monster Hunter Charters - Hudson River striped bass fishing, Mohawk River Tiger musky & Northern Pike fishing, Lake Ontario Salmon & Brown Trout fishing.

519 6th ave, Troy NY 12182

Ph# (518) 720-2376

Fax# (877) 395-4464

[monsterhuntercharters@gmail.com](mailto:monsterhuntercharters@gmail.com)

**From:** [James Quinn](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:29:34 AM

---

Mr. Mike Waine,

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B7.

James Quinn  
Staten Island, NY 10304

**From:** [John Quartararo](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:49:16 PM

---

I would like to see 2 fish slot like c-2 for the striped bass management regulations

John Quartararo  
1017 maple ave.  
point pleasant  
Nj,08742

**From:** [Al Horn](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:47:46 PM

---

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Thanks, Al Horn 403.580.9870

NJDFW# 027917046 Saltwater Angler# [00315112](#)

**From:** [Stephen.Liberty@dupont.com](mailto:Stephen.Liberty@dupont.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:25:58 PM

---

Mike,

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

*Stephen Liberty*

202 Grove Street  
South Amboy, NJ 08879

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**From:** [Michael](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 7:44:51 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Michael Biel III  
1182 Little Billy Lane Tobyhanna PA 18466  
570-807-9459

**From:** [Jim Moran](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:44:39 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B7.

Thank you for consideration of this very important matter!

James J. Moran  
122 Dartmouth Avenue  
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742.2635

**From:** [andrew dumawal](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:29:15 PM

---

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

Thank you for your time.

Andrew Dumawal

Middletown, NJ 07748

**From:** [Lipari, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:27:08 PM

---

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

Michael Lipari  
32 Glen Road  
Verona NJ 07044

15 year avid striped bass fisherman

Michael Lipari  
Associate Director – Solutions Recruiting  
Paragon Solutions  
Cranford, NJ 07716  
(908) 653 3045 / direct line  
(201) 785 6310 / cell  
[mlipari@consultparagon.com](mailto:mlipari@consultparagon.com)  
[www.consultparagon.com](http://www.consultparagon.com)  
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/michaellipari>

**From:** [Onoletzgo@aol.com](mailto:Onoletzgo@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 9:00:51 AM

---

Subject : Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7...

Thank you for listening....

Thomas Licknack  
239 W. Linden Ave  
Linden, NJ 07036

**From:** [Bruce Bolderman](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 9:52:47 PM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B8.

Bruce Bolderman  
20 Iroquois Road  
Manasquan, NJ 08736

732-223-2605

**From:** [vanessa.bogan1@gmail.com](mailto:vanessa.bogan1@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 8:09:34 PM

---

Dear Mr. Mike Waine:

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B8**.

Vanessa Bogan  
301 Higgins Ave  
Brielle NJ 08730  
732-567-0296

**From:** [alexa bogan](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 3:37:53 PM

---

Dear Mr. Mike Waine:

I am for a STATUS QUO option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer Option B8.

Alexa Bogan  
2424 S. American Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19143  
267-592-1685

**From:** [Bob Renz](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 9:59:15 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Robert Renz  
43 Dayton Rd.  
Jamesburg, N.J. 08831  
1-732-521-2881

**From:** [Rick Pagliuco](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 5:37:58 PM

---

To whom it may concern,

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

Regards,  
Rick Pagliuco  
15 Hedden Rd  
Andover, NJ 07821

**From:** [Jeff Clark](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 10:27:02 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

*Jeffrey P. Clark  
Office of Facilities and Operations  
609-984-1104 ext. 2370  
Thomas Edison State College  
101 West State Street  
Trenton, N.J. 08608*

**From:** [KLMummert@aol.com](mailto:KLMummert@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass draft addendum IV public comment  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 3:45:59 PM

---

I would prefer the status quo for striped bass management. Many experienced boat captains have observed that striped bass are more abundant than ever. If status quo is not an option then I would prefer Option 7

Kenneth Mummert, MD

6 Lochwynd Ct.

Phoenix, MD 21131

**From:** [Andrew Erli](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass draft addendum IV public comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 4:12:56 PM

---

I support option B7  
thank you

**From:** [George Dimitrakakis](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 5:59:54 PM

---

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

George Dimitrakakis  
871 Chelsea Ter  
Union NJ 07083

**From:** [Craig Heinz](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM IV PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:56:04 AM

---

Subject : Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

CRAIG HEINZ  
3698 EMERSON ROAD  
CUBA, NY 14727

**From:** [william truex](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:12:34 PM

---

I live & fish in NJ & am in favor of the following options that have been proposed in the order listed:  
B1; B7. Thanks for the opportunity to post my preferences.

**From:** [Stephen Babigian](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass draft addendum IV  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:32:43 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am a Snug Harbor, RI Charter Boat Captain. My clients come many miles and spend considerable time and money to catch Striped Bass. Granted we also catch many other species but the main reason they book charter fishing trips is to catch and take home Striped Bass. Therefore, I want to do all I can to insure that we take care of our valuable resource and to be able to provide my customers with what they want.

I urge you to consider Option B, a 3 yr time frame to reduce F and under Section 3, Option D1, with a 2 fish bag limit .

Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings on this matter.

Captain Steve Babigian  
Lady K Charters

**From:** [Kristen Mustad](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 9:34:39 AM

---

September 26, 2014

Michael Waine

Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

[mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org)

**RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV**

Dear Mr. Waine:

I am an avid recreational angler, and I am deeply concerned about the future of the striped bass.

That the fishery has declined immensely over the past several years is no longer a subject of rational debate. Today's striped bass fishery is a mere shadow of what we experienced in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Indeed, ASMFC may have already delayed too long in taking meaningful action.

I implore the Commission to take all possible steps to preserve what remains of the 2011 Chesapeake and 2007 Hudson year classes. These fish may be our last hope to restore the stock to population levels that existed between 1995 and 2004.

To that end, ASMFC should take immediate and decisive action. I recommend that ASMFC adopt the following proposed measures:

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses the 2013 benchmark assessment

Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Assessment Reference Point

Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment point

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

Option A: **Reduces mortality by 25% in one year**

Section 3.0: Management Scenario Options

**Coastal Recreational Fishery: B-3 One fish per person @ 32"**

Chesapeake Recreational Fisheries: B-13

Chesapeake Commercial Fisheries: B-17

Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one region to another should quotas not be reached in a given region.

Sincerely,

Kristen Mustad  
Nautilus Reels  
1549 NW 165th St  
Miami, FL 33169  
U.S.A.

PH: 305.625.3437

FX: 305.625.3427

[www.nautilusreels.com](http://www.nautilusreels.com)

[Click here to view the Nautilus Reels Catalog](#)



**From:** [Chadseasoda](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass draft addendum public comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:23:22 AM

---

I am for option B 7. This more than meets required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit. 1 fish at 28"-34" and 1 fish at a 36" limit.

Chad Bennett  
1129 Carlow Drive  
Toms River NJ 08753

**From:** [Shilcusky, Steven](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass draft addendum  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:33:02 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine:

My name is Steven Shilcusky, and I am currently a member of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club on Cape Cod, MA. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven Shilcusky  
Director of Information Technology  
New England Historic Genealogical Society  
99-101 Newbury Street  
Boston, MA 02116  
617 226 1275  
617 447 1164 – cell

[www.AmericanAncestors.org](http://www.AmericanAncestors.org)

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**From:** [Eric Knott](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [David Simpson](#); [Kevin Blinkoff](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Fishery Management addendum IV  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 10:12:33 AM

---

Sirs,

Please note my support for Striped Bass conversation when discussing and voting on draft addendum IV.

I would ask that you consider and implement the most conservative management option available so that this fishery resource remains an asset not just for future Connecticut anglers and fishermen, but for those who enjoy fishing for them throughout its geographic range.

We are the custodians of our grandchildren's maritime heritage and we should guard it with care.

Respectfully

*Captain Eric Knott MNI, AFRIN*

Harbor Master

Stamford CT

203 219 2334

harbormaster@ci.stamford.ct.us

**From:** [Scott Kearney](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass for Recreational Anglers  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:04:29 PM

---

B7

**From:** [Daniel Bakay](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass in New Jersey  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 12:02:15 PM

---

Mike,

My vote is two fish at 28 inches, second choice is B7.

Thanks,  
Dan

**From:** [Sam Giacobbe](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass limit !  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 4:18:12 PM

---

I jus heard through nj.com that the striper limit may go to 1 fish??? Um, I drive from Nepa over 3 hours away several times a year to fish for bass.. I feed my family with the meat. To have the limit reduced to 1 fish instead of two just isn't right! Y don't u go after all the bunker boats who are killing 30-40lb bass every net drift? I have watched these dead bass all on top of te water after one of these boats does this. Last year mackerel fishing there were like 50 of them out at te shark river reef all floating on top...

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [John Nicol](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass limit 2015  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:26:17 PM

---

Please add my opinion that the option of choice is B-7.

Thank you,

John Nicol

**From:** [Paul L. Bornmann](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass limit issue  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:24:40 AM

---

Mr. Waine,

My stance, on the issue of Striped Bass amendment 6, are as follows:

- 1) Status quo 2 fish bag limit @ 28"
- 2) If the option B for 25% reduction within 1 year is adopted we choose B-7  
2 fish bag limit with one fish 28" - 34" and one fish @36"min. This gives us better than the 25% reduction required.
- 3) If Option C were to pass reducing F within 3 years we choose option C-3  
2 fish bag limit one fish @ 28"-35" and one fish @ 35"min

Thank you,

**Brothers Mechanical**

Paul L. Bornmann  
933 Bellevue Ave.  
Penn del, PA. 19047  
Cell: 267-567-7627  
Fax: 215-757-3910  
Alt. Cell: 215-495-2940

**From:** [Frank Antisell](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass limit  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:19:04 PM

---

I would like the regulations to stay the same and I am in favor of option b-7 . This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1 @ 28"-34 and another min of 36".

Frank Antisell

**From:** [mike](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass limits  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:25:57 PM

---

Hi Mike,

As an avid fisherman I've noted potential changes to the striped bass catch limits.

I fish out of NJ and after reviewing the options and speaking with other like minded fishermen I would be greatly in favor of the B-7 option.

Just hoped a comment from concerned fisherman should be registered.

Thanks

Michael Cohen

**Industrial Asset Management, LLC**

**1450 Parkside Ave., Suite 27**

**Ewing, New Jersey 08638 USA**

**Direct +1-609-936-9033**

**Mobile +1-609-933-6310**

**Fax +1-609-936-9102**

**[mcohen@usedplants.com](mailto:mcohen@usedplants.com)**

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**From:** [Phil Caffrey](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass limits  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:18:47 PM

---

As an avid fisherman and particularly for Striped Bass,I am wholeheartedly in favor of (option B-7 ) which more than meets the reduction rates,to keep a two fish per angler limit 1@ 28-34"and 1@ 36"min. Thank you  
Phil Caffrey

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Colin Crozier](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Management Plan  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 9:48:38 AM

---

Mike,

First, thanks for your presentation the other night at Chesapeake College , you have a tough job. I'll keep it short, I'm in favor of the 25% first year reduction because I believe that this is the best way to protect the SSB . The comms and recs will get by despite all the squeaking .

Thanks,  
Colin Crozier

**From:** [Robert Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Management Regulations.  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:10:41 PM

---

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a STATUS QUO option for Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available.  
of the options that are available I would prefer Option B7.

Thank you MR ROBERT WALSH  
135 Gurley Ave  
STATEN ISLAND NEW YORK

10308

917 613 7597

**From:** [Bill Van Horn](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Management Regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 5:17:06 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine,

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Thank you,

Bill Van Horn  
200 Prince William Way  
Chalfont Pa 18914  
267-238-7862

**From:** [Kraig Leiby](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass management  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:40:21 PM

---

I am for status quo for Striped bass management regulations but since that is not one of the options, I would vote for option B7.

This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit. One fish @ 28"-34" and another @ 36" minimum.

Thank you,  
Kraig Leiby  
2807 Norcom rd.  
Phila,Pa. 19154  
Phone# 215-673-4489

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Richard Norman](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Management  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:45:45 PM

---

I received your email address on the fishing line web site. I could not attend the meeting because it was my daughter's birthday. However, I do relish the opportunity to provide my comments for consideration. I am an avid recreational angler, own my own boat, and fish primarily the North Fork of Long Island. I lived through the first decimation of the striped bass back in the 1980's and happily watched it come back and become an excellent fishery. I like to eat some of the fish I catch and had the opportunity during the late 1990's and early 2000's to do just that. At the time the regulations were one fish at 28 inches. With those regulation the fishery was excellent and I could see the success, often catching 12-22 inch fish right near my dock ( I haven't seen one in 3 years). This trend continued for quite some time and then; They changed the regs to one fish at 28 inches and 1 fish over 40 inches for private boat owners and (this was the killer) 2 fish over 28 inches for party and charter boats. I fish along side these party charter boats on the north fork. The problem with these regulations is that these guys are too good. They fish everyday so they know where to find the fish and they are exceptional at catching them. At times I watched these boats come back to port with 12-60 40+ pound fish. This would go on everyday! I can't even imagine the decimation that goes on in Montauk where there are hundreds of these boats.

The bottom line for me is the fishery is in trouble. I would love to see the regs go back to 1 fish over 28 inches and that is it! This should apply for the entire recreational sector. A 30" striped bass provides plenty of meat for the table. These limits have worked in the past and I feel that would be sustainable. I would also not be against having a slot of say 26-38 inches. This would allow people to take fish home to eat and allow the breeding females to move on. I don't buy the argument that the large fish are so stressed that they cannot be released. I have personally released 30+ pound fish caught in the summer on 8lb test line.

Something also needs to be done with the commercial fishery. They get the bulk of the quota and can do more to decimate the population than the recreational angler. Finally, the regulations need to be enforced. Last years sand eel run on the south shore of Long Island had irresponsible anglers harvesting tons of fish with no enforcement of the regulations.

I hope a solution that allows fishing for striped bass with a good chance to catch one, and protects the species for my son to continue fishing, is reached.

Thank you for your time  
Richard Norman

**From:** [Scott - Fisherguy64](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Options  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:55:58 PM

---

Dear Mr Mike Waine -

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**. I am a recreational fisherman in Delaware and fish mostly in Delaware and New Jersey. Thank you for registering my opinion with regard to this great striped bass fishery we have in the area.

Kind Regards,

Scott Terefenko  
547 Diamond Drive  
Middletown, DE 19709  
(302)373-5613

**From:** [Eburnle@aol.com](mailto:Eburnle@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Options  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 2:33:58 PM

---

I attended the hearing in Dover, Delaware, but since I am a reporter for a local newspaper I did not speak at that time. Considering the attitude of the speakers I don't believe my comments would have made any difference. I hope you will not judge the people of Delaware by the comments you heard that evening.

In my opinion, we need to restore the stock of large striped bass as quickly as possible and then keep it high. I have seen the tremendous recovery of red drum since we stopped killing all the big fish and I believe by doing the same we can keep striped bass moving in the same direction.

To that end, I support a one year time frame with a slot limit of 28 to 32-inch fish and a two-fish bag limit.

Once we have reestablished the SSB I would like to see a 24 to 36-inch size limit with a two fish bag limit. I believe this is comparable to the current regulations on red drum.

As for the Chesapeake Bay, I would like to stop the killing of large striped bass during the spring. Do away with the trophy season and keep the 18 to 28-inch size and two fish bag limit during the summer. I would also like to see a study of the impact of the spring catch and release season on the Susquehanna Flats.

Thank you for your consideration, Eric B. Burnley

**From:** [michael.mcconnell@bbh.com](mailto:michael.mcconnell@bbh.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass preservation  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 2:44:08 PM

---

Dear Mr Waine

I am an active light tackle fisher in the Gardiners Bay, Montauk, Block Island Sound area. Like everyone in this area, the steady drop in Striped Bass is readily evident and shocking. I urge you and your colleagues to pass an immediately effective regulation to slow the killing of bass, particularly breeding fish. Looking over the choices I recommend that you vote the following:

- Option B in section 2.5.1 and 2.5.2-use 2013 Data as a benchmark**
- Option A in section 2.6 -prevent a three year phase in of regs**
- Option B in section 3.0- full reduction imposed as of Jan 1, 2015**
- Option B3- a one fish daily bag limit and a 32" size limit**
- Option B15- A hard quota for the Chesapeake**

**Thanks and please GET IT DONE!**

**Michael McConnell**  
**12 Little Ram Island Dr, PO Box 614**  
**Shelter Island NY 11965**

\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTE\*\*\*\*\*

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**From:** [rossnagel@verizon.net](mailto:rossnagel@verizon.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Proposal - Option B-7  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:33:24 PM

---

Dear Sirs,

I would like to comment on the new pending striped bass regulations, however, before I provide my opinion allow me to tell you about myself.

I am a 47 year old male professional that lives in Bergen County NJ. I started fishing with my Grandfather when I was about 10 years old and have not stopped since. For many years I would spend almost every weekend fishing on one of New Jersey's party boats. At this point in my life I get to go fishing on the party boat Queen Mary, located in Point Pleasant, about every other weekend, often bringing my children.

Throughout the years I have seen periods of good fishing, bad fishing, fisheries that have disappeared and fisheries that have reappeared. I have also seen a gradual yet steady decline in the party and charter boat fleet. This has occurred for a variety of reasons, however, I sincerely hope that any regulations that are passed help protect the party and charter boat industry as well as the striped bass fishery. All too often the answer to fisheries problems is to restrict the recreational fisherman rather than finding and addressing the root cause of the problem. This has often had unintended consequences to the people and industries that support the recreational fisherman.

I do believe we do need to protect the striped bass fishery. The striped bass is one of the success stories in fishery management. I clearly remember the days when a striped bass would be a rare catch and when caught they were often very small. I do not wish to return to those days. However, I also want to ensure that the recreational fishery and those that support it are not negatively impacted.

After reading through the documentation and the various options proposed I believe that Option B-7 presents the best option for both the fish and the fisherman. This option for a two fish limit, one 28" – 34" as well as a trophy at 36"+. This will allow fisherman to harvest and eat a trophy fish which have been common in the spring as well as allowing them to keep a smaller fish which is more typical in the fall fishery. In addition, this more than meets the required 25% reduction in harvest.

While I would prefer to keep the current regulations I do find the above proposal to be an acceptable alternative. The short term sacrifice should ensure a healthy long term fishery and ensure the health of the industry by giving anglers the opportunity to catch and keep fish.

Thank you for your time and consideration, please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information.

Best Regards,

Gary Rossnagel  
73 Ridge Road  
Glen Rock, NJ 07452  
[rossnagel@verizon.net](mailto:rossnagel@verizon.net)  
862 812-2922

**From:** [ANTHONY CAVALLARO Cavallaro](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass proposals  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:35:58 PM

---

I say "protect the breeders!"

Now...the question arises "just what is the best way to do this?"

Here is my logic. " If the fish is hearty enough, healthy enough, fortunate enough and wise enough to survive past 28 inches, then it has past the "survival of the fittest" road test.

Now we must consider the fact that it is the females that comprise the bulk of the population of the largest fish.

Other than that, keep things status quo.

Tony C.

**From:** [Cole Riback](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass proposed limits  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 4:34:06 PM

---

Mr Waine,

I am in favor of option B-7

A two fish per man limit is very important to me. I don't have the opportunity to go fishing very often so the ability to keep two fish helps feed my family.

Thanks

Cole Riback

**From:** [Daryl Zander](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass reg  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:10:49 PM

---

Dear Sirs,  
I would like the steeped bass regulation to remain Status Quo.  
Option 7 would be 2nd choice. Thanks Daryl Zander

**From:** [bradweil@comcast.net](mailto:bradweil@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass regs 2015  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:07:48 PM

---

Sir,

I have been fishing NJ waters for 30 years. I have seen more stripers in the last few years than any, my son even caught a 20" striper in the middle of July, middle of the day casting 1 oz bucktails with gulp in the back bay behind sea isle NJ (that we promptly released unharmed of course). I only have a small boat for the back bays, so I charter when I want to go Ocean fishing 5 - 6 times per year minimum...it is cheaper than owning a larger boat!

I would not charter a striper trip if we could only keep on fish at 28" or greater, part of the saltwater fishing experience is being able to harvest a few fish, taking care of what you harvest responsibly and enjoying the taste and health benefits of fresh caught fish.

Thanks

Brad Weil  
856-912-6251

**From:** [Capt. Skip](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass regs for 2015  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:11:40 PM

---

I'm in favor of option B-7

Capt Skip Jastremski

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mark](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass regs  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 4:15:14 PM

---

I vote b7, one fish limit would be devastating to the Shore economy which is still recovering from Hurricane Sandy. Allowing just breeder size fish to Be kept is not logical.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bill](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass regs  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 1:09:42 PM

---

Subject : Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations.

Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

Seems to me the striped bass are more abundant now than ever.

Thank You

William De Vito  
129 lexington Ave.  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

**From:** [Mark Priest](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass regs  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 5:20:29 PM

---

Hi Mike-

Thanks for collecting input from folks on managing the striped bass stocks. I am in favor of the 1 fish at 32" limit and the application of the same rules and limits for sportfishing charters (1 fish at least 32" per client,, that is if there are 6 clients plus mate and captain, the limit for the boat should be 6 fish, not 8 fish).

I would also prefer eliminating the commercial fishery, and banning the sale of wild caught striped bass. At a minimum however assuming a commercial fishery will remain in place, I think that there needs to be much stricter regulations governing commercial harvest including greater size restrictions, no allowable bycatch, immediate tagging of fish (with only whole, gutted tagged fish allowed to be sold so as to be able to ensure minimum length has been met) and the termination of any "research permitting" that allows possession outside of any established season, outside established size limits or in excess of any regular possession limits. Increased penalties up to and including jail time and seizure of assets including boats and gear where warranted should also be considered.

Perhaps some consideration should also be made for recreational anglers to be required to purchase tags and to tag any fish they catch that meets the minimum size limit and they decide to keep. They should still be subject to 1 fish a day, regardless of the number of tags they may posses. In state or out of state recreational anglers hoping to catch and keep a striper from NY waters would need to pre-purchase one or more tags online and/or at bait/tackle shops, marinas etc-- perhaps one freebie tag could be included as part of the deal when enrolling in NY's annual Marine registry. Possession of untagged fish would be a violation. In principle, this would be similar to the requirement to immediately tag deer after it is down. Under this scheme, sport fishing charters would need tags (The tags would be purchased and supplied by the boat.)

Well, that my 2 cents.

Thanks again for soliciting input from folks.

Best regards,

Mark Priest  
250 Harrison Ave #4A  
Mineola, NY 11501

**From:** [Jason Cosgriff](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Regs  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 11:10:07 PM

---

I support an immediate reduction in the striped bass harvest by Atleast 25 percent. This change must be archived to prevent an over harvest. Their is no safety margin with the current regulations.

Jason Cosgriff  
Bergen County  
New Jersey

Lifetime outdoorsmen

Sent from my mobil office. -D1

**From:** [Steven Sernal](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Regulation changes  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:00:05 PM

---

I believe that the striped bass regulation changes should not be option B7, i and many other anglers feel that, that would not be a sufficient decrease in numbers of fish taken. Option B3 one fish at 30 inches is a good option. The changes should be one fish at a slot limit. Less fish taken and also save the big breeding fish and give the striped bass a chance to recover from the low numbers they are in right now. The charter and party boats kill hundreds of fish a day and reducing the numbers to one fish a day would save tons of fish instantly. I hope that you take my, and other anglers honest opinions into consideration.

**From:** [Mark Molinsky](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass regulation  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 10:14:00 AM

---

As a recreational fisherman from New Jersey who fishes the raritan bay and sandy hook areas , I would like to see the current regulations stay in place . If there are going to be changed , we should adopt option # 7. Capt mark Molinsky / Fishing vessel Twister Too

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bob Kurtz](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass regulations NJ  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:22:45 AM

---

I am in favor of remaining at status quo and a second vote of option B-7

**From:** [Ryan Lefever](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass regulations  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:23:02 PM

---

With the current fishing conditions, I believe that option B7 would be the most desirable option at this time.

Ryan Lefever

**From:** [Budd Brandon](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Regulations  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 7:56:05 PM

---

I am in favor of no changes or STATUS QUO regarding changes for 2015. If I had to pick I would choose B7. I believe Making changes for an entire year and maybe beyond is foolish. We are not politicians but fishermen trying to enjoy what was placed in our oceans. I believe you should re-think what you are trying to implement, revisit your data and then look at a trial period in a controlled area if that is even necessary. Submitted by Budd Brandon 812 Mourning Dove Rd. Audubon, Pa. 19407. Phone 484-831-5443

**From:** [John Capaccioli](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Regulations  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 8:19:23 AM

---

Dear Mr. Waine:

My name is Jack Capaccioli. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0. Thank you.

**From:** [Richard Flamini](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Christopher Flamini](#); [Jay Santiago](#); [Nicholas Flamini](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:28:53 PM

---



September 25, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

I take the position that the status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations is in the best interest of all parties. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, I would prefer Option 7.

Changing the regulations to allow only one striper per person will have a negative impact on the fishing industry. We have a thriving and positive industry made up of fishing captains and mates who work feverishly to make the fishing experience a positive one. As such, many folks look forward to their fishing trips. Those involved in the fishing industry including bait and tackle shops rely on their fishing trips to support themselves and their families. Hurting the fishing industry in this manner will be disastrous and tremendously reduce the business for the charter & party boats plus the bait and tackle shops. Very few customers will pay the fees or purchase fishing tackle if the regulations change to only one striper per person.

In all fairness, the regulations for 2 at 28" are more than fair. I do hope that you will take this letter seriously and maintain the current striper status.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Flamini  
29 Hawthorn Dr.  
Edison, New Jersey  
[Rflaminister@gmail.com](mailto:Rflaminister@gmail.com)

**From:** [Jon Frankel](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:43:11 AM

---

I'm in favor of the regs remaining at the status quo, and if need be, and casting a second vote of option B-7.

This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36"minimum.

*Please do not hurt the anglers or business of NJ that depend on these fish.*

- Jon Frankel  
620 Greenwood Ave  
Maple Shade NJ  
08052  
856-261-8396

**From:** [Sean Hennessey](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Regulations  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 4:28:13 PM

---

Please keep NJ regs status quo!!! Don't need more friends out of business or on unemployment!! Let the large breeders live like we always promote, and come up with a plan that makes sense!

Thanks,

Sean

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Greg Staszak](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:05:53 PM

---

Striped bass regulations

As a fisherman I would like to keep the regulations as status quo and an alternative to that would be option B-7. This would meet the necessary reduction rate and still allow a 2 fish per person limit with one at 28"-34" and another 36" and over.

Thanks,

Greg Staszak

**From:** [Jill](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Regulations  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 8:32:10 AM

---

Mr. Michael Waine,

My vote would be for option B4, one fish in a slot limit between 28" and 40". No one really needs more than one fish in this size. Second choice would simply be for Option B1, one fish over 28", although I see this option as potentially less effective as it allows the taking of "cows" that produce more eggs. However my husband and I frequently see poaching and despite our calls to the DEC hotline, nothing is done. Penalties such as a summons (which are useless to some of the perpetrators) but definitely automatic confiscation of all fishing equipment must be executed.

Jill James

26 Joludow Drive

Massapequa Park, NY 11762

**From:** [tony eileen](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass tagging program  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:19:47 PM

---

Mike, Tried to leave a message on your phone. I had less than 10 seconds allowed to me so I'm trying this method. Please check.

I'm Tony Checko, authored two books on the striped bass. I'm working on a third. Spoke to Dr. Welsh and Mike Mangold who have been very helpful suggesting org. WEB sites with excellent information. The chapter in book 3, in part, is going to about the striped bass tagging program. Do you have the data on striped bass tagged, returned by state and any other data about size/weight tagged and post tagged. I read you need funds to continue with the tagging program. Hope I can help in alerting you needs. Thanks. Tony Checko, (Penn name), Lansdale, PA 19446.

Thanks.

Tony Checkowski

**From:** [Robert Billerman](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass vote and comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:50:18 AM

---

Mr Mike Waine,

Please add my name and opinion to the record on the Striped Bass fishing in NJ.

I love the Striped Bass and encourage you to keep the status quo or option B7.

We should protect the fishery by limiting the big fish, the breeders.

Thank you,  
Robert Billerman

1800 Bay Blvd  
Pt Pleasant, NJ 08742

**From:** [Keith Wakefield](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Vote  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 9:43:07 PM

---

Gents,

Here's my vote.....B-7 status quo on two fish at 28 inches.

Thanks

Keith Wakefield

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**From:** [Joyce Urban](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 11:59:43 AM

---

why don't you leave things as they are. stop screwing with the fisherman. you have been playing games with us for too long now . between fluke and stripers. I think you all have nothing better to do than screw us around . you are the ones killing a once thriving industry.enough all ready

**From:** [Eric Green](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 10:56:00 PM

---

Can't we just do away with the bonus tags. It never seemed like a good idea to begin with. Who needs three 30lb bass anyway? Gluttony

Eric Green

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [William Dulude](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 7:25:20 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine:

My name is William Dulude, ([c.c.seabass@gmail.com](mailto:c.c.seabass@gmail.com)) and I am currently Treasurer of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club on Cape Cod, MA. Having been a member of the fishing community for many years and have witnessed the decline in the striped bass population I strongly support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
William O. Dulude

**From:** [aarnold366@aol.com](mailto:aarnold366@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** STRIPED BASS  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:35:28 PM

---

SIR, I live in New Jersey and prefer to keep it the way it is 2 fish min 28 inches.

Alan Arnold  
North Plainfield NJ 07060

**From:** [Dean Devasia](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:12:16 AM

---

Hello,

I am in favor of option B-7.

Kind Regards,  
Dean Devasia

**From:** [John r Ruban](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:07:54 PM

---

Sent from my iPad I have been fishing for many years and have seen a lot of ups and downs in the salt water fishery. One of the biggest success story's is that of the striped bass. But now they are being over fished as if there had never been a problem with the fishery before! I think striped bass should be considered a game fish and a size limit of one fish between 24"to 28" and one fish between 28" and 38". This allowing the bigger fish to breed. Please do not allow history repeat it self. With all the info we now know as fact needs to be address immediatly. With a increase in bass comes a increase in fisherman and a increase in tax revenue from the purchase of fishing tackle, dinning, gas and lodging. It's a win win situation. Thank You For Your Time, John R Ruban, Age:55, I live in NJ, Zip: 08330

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [johnamodio@aol.com](mailto:johnamodio@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:57:35 PM

---

I'm a surf fisherman from NJ, I fish all over the east coast Maine to North Carolina. I am 53 yrs. old been fishing for Striped Bass since I was a kid with my Father and Uncle. Something needs to be done to help restore this precious and beautiful fish. I urge you to please change the current laws B3 [1@32](#) and protect this fish so it has a future! Sincerely John Amodio

**From:** [Brett Schoeberl](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:50:57 PM

---

-- Sir;

I am in favor of the option B-7. This should more than make the supposed need of reduction that is being asked ( again, from the worst possible data your agency has ever collected) and still keeping thousands of people in business. Any other option will have devastating trickle down effects on the economy on the general public that would equal a Wall Street crash for rich people.

Thank you for your time reading this.

Brett Schoeberl  
driftaway@operamail.com

--

<http://www.fastmail.fm> - Or how I learned to stop worrying and love email again

**From:** [cmany](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#); [cmany@embarqmail.com](mailto:cmany@embarqmail.com)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:41:48 AM

---

Hi Mike, my name is Chuck Many. Haven't been able to make any of the meetings, but wanted to give my feedback on the Striped Bass situation.

I am an avid striper fisherman and follow them up and down the east coast. I normally keep my boat in Highlands, NJ from April - June; Connecticut and Rhode Island from June - October; Cape May - November; Cape Charles, VA - December - March. I have been doing this for approximately 8-10 years and have seen a ton of changes in the striper population. Biggest change is the lack of small - medium size fish.

Chances of catching a big fish are very good, but boy what a change in numbers. The schools of bass just aren't as many or as big. People talk about that the fish have just been offshore down in VA during the winter, well they use to be offshore during the winter, and inshore, and in the bay. Just not as many fish.

Same thing up North. Still catching big fish at Block Island, Montauk, Fischer Island, but the medium size and small fish just aren't as abundant.

Feel like if we don't act really soon, gonna have a big problem. One saving grace, and this may sound terrible, is that Hurricane Sandy wiped out so many boats and kept people off the water for a good 6 - 12 months. Really gave the bass a break. Even today, not as many boats and catch and release have helped significantly.

Bottom line is I would like to see a Moratorium on killing bass, but I know that is not likely. My second choice would be 1 over 34". Gives the fish a chance to spawn at least once or twice, but gives the angler an opportunity to keep a trophy.

Sorry for long message.

Thanks for your efforts,

Chuck Many  
908-303-0271

**From:** [wardrop@att.net](mailto:wardrop@att.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 9:52:41 AM

---

Please consider the contribution of sports fishermen to economy and society and opt for option B-7

Thank you

Richard Wardrop  
Basking Ridge, NJ

**From:** [chad hacker](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:56:01 AM

---

Dear Sir,

I am a recreational fisherman from Pa. that fishes the Jersey shore @ 20 times a year. I enjoy fishing immensely but it is quite costly. The fish I catch are eaten by my family and friends and are never wasted. These fish help offset the cost of the day. I hope you will keep the striped bass limit at its present quota however if there needs to be a change please opt for plan B-7.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carl Fischl  
Nazareth, Pa.

**From:** [Moran](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Lanny Buchwald](#); [Frank Smith](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 9:41:42 AM

---

I would like to support option B1 in terms of striped bass management. fishing the outer Cape for forty years, it is clear that over the last five to ten the population has greatly diminished. we have seen these declines in the past and the conservative measures undertaken have brought the populations back. Denis Moran

**From:** [Sykk Physh](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:59:07 PM

---

Dear Sir,

Please be advised I totally disagree with any change in the striped bass regs .. There as been no new accurate data or even true data collect to show a need in reduction .. To please surf angler and a bunch of holy grail catch n release fisherman is nonsense.. I personally make my living as a charter boat captain.. I have enough regulation with fluke season , sea bass and blackfish that hurt my living . Until a committee is establish that benefits the fisherman and not the pockets of political appointees.. The Atlantic fisheries management should step down and leave the hook n line fisherman with something to fish for!!! So I believe the regs should not be changed! 2 fish at 28" is adequate for all.. I would rather see a reduction in nj bonus tags and a reductions in commercial harvest period.. Once again your commercial fisheries are the contributing factor to species lost.. Just recently a commercial fisherman dump 1000s of fish off montuak last week .. How is the healthy commercial fishing., So please I vote status quo..don't change a thing!

Thank You

Capt. Joe Gahrman  
Sykk Physh Sportfishing

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Steve Musso](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 5:02:56 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing this letter to offer comments regarding proposed option changes and striped bass management.

To say that I am disappointed in a lack of action from ASMFC and its recent approach to striped bass management is an understatement. My disappointment is fueled by several significant factors. First, Amendment 6 (2003) states that when a trigger or triggers are exceeded action MUST be taken in one year. However, although triggers were exceeded, no action has been taken. Instead, there has been a seemingly endless array of motions that are clearly designed to delay action, alter amendment 6, and obstruct the proper management of the species. These delays run contrary to the ASMFC amendment rules and are potentially even more damaging to the striped bass population as it also struggles against poor recruitment since 2000, Mycobacteriosis disease, and intense fishing pressure on existing year classes. This failure to take action is an outrage. The failure to act is illogical, is a travesty, and recreational fishers up and down the coast demand ASMFC action now!

Second, it appears to the world outside of the ASMFC that a well thought out plan for management has been hi-jacked by representatives from the states for purposes of their own greed and the greed of their associates. We demand to know why officials in charge of ASMFC have allowed state representatives to delay action and attempt to misappropriate the plan and amendment 6 that is intended to protect and preserve the striped bass. Did we not learn a painful lesson from the 1980s when delays in action almost brought the species to endangered status?

Third, the ASMFC board has hidden behind a smoke screen of demands for precise statistics, studies of option effects, more studies to study studies, and the possible outcomes of "new" ideas that would permit the increased harvest of male fish purported to be in "excess," and the exploitation of the 2011 Chesapeake year class before, God forbid, it "escapes" from the estuary and enters the coastal migration where all users might enjoy the resource. Have we conveniently forgotten that MANY MALES must attend a single female in order to properly fertilize her eggs? As far the 2011 YOY, why should Chesapeake fishermen be allowed a "privileged" harvest and effect future migrations thus depriving coastal anglers of equal opportunity? Every recreational angler knows, albeit in the absence of precise data, that the Atlantic Coast population of striped bass has declined and is declining rather rapidly. All one needs do is go fishing regularly for striped bass and compare recent results with their results from the 1990s in order to appreciate that reality. Also, although much attention is paid to the Chesapeake stock since it is the largest ask any Long Island angler and they'll tell you that the Hudson stock is in even worse shape. In the western Long Island Sound anglers are dependent on the Hudson stock for their overall success. To make matters worse in the Hudson, the highly publicized 2007 Hudson year class has not turned out to be the predicted bonanza. There are some fish caught from this year class, but they are few and far between.

Fourth, when we blow away the smog and fog of misdirected studies and debates, the REAL reason for all the delaying tactics is the desire of some people to make MONEY from the killing of striped bass. We ask why ASMFC officials continue to move ahead at a snail's pace in light of the extreme effects a declining population of striped bass has on the millions of non-dollar motivated anglers? Non-dollar motivated anglers sole interests lie in engaging in a sporting interaction with striped bass, a concern for the food species they need, and healthy ecosystems to support vibrant populations of marine life. Of course in the process, striped bass sportsmen contribute millions of dollars to coastal and local economies. These local and regional businesses include small family-run operations that have been harshly and extremely affected both by a poor economy nationwide and a decline in the striped bass population. Somehow, this portion of the economy doesn't receive the same emphasis by ASMFC board members as does the demands from those who make money from striped bass. Yet, all studies have shown there is a straight-line connection between the size of the striped bass population and how much money sportsmen spend on their recreation. I do not represent people who wish to get rich at the expense of the striped bass population. Those who exploit the population are only interested in how many fish they can kill instead of how healthy the population is or the quality of the angling experience of non-dollar motivated fishers. There is an enigma in this and it is short sighted because all interest groups benefit most when stocks are at the highest levels. It is shocking in this era of supposed "enlightened" fisheries management to bear witness to the reality that the erroneous time-honored approach in fisheries of the "prisoner's dilemma" is still alive and well when most thought it dead decades ago.

More disappointment.

So, with not a single dollar bill of motivation, here is what I support and demand. Yes, demand, because the time for tomfoolery and delays has past and the needs of the species MUST NOW COME FIRST!

I demand immediate action: One year and not 3.

I demand a 31% reduction in mortality in one year. Since any plan only has a 50% chance of success, delays will only reduce the odds of success, since more and more fish will have perished.

I support a 1 fish at 32" per angler per day-regardless of where, how, and when the fish is caught. This regulation must be applied to all venues including party boats and charter boats. Making \$\$ on the fish does not justify providing these harvesters with an advantage. Likewise, 1 fish at 32" should be the standard in the estuary as well. The notion that only small fish are caught in the estuary is nonsense. All places have their seasons and that's why anglers invest great effort in the estuaries around spawning time. Yet, be it Chesapeake Bay, the Hudson River, or the Connecticut River, it is true that fewer big fish are taken during off-spawning times, but they are caught. Stripers migrate from place to place and each area has its bigger fish season, all anglers in all regions should abide by the same regulations.

Minimize the dragger by-catch. Either directed or truly accidental.

Take immediate steps to end the severe poaching of small fish in the inner cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York.

Yours Truly,

Steve Musso  
46 Whalen Street

North Babylon, NY 11703  
631-661-6704

**From:** [William Vasbinder](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [David Simpson](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 8:37:58 AM

---

Dear sirs,

I am writing to voice my opinion regarding striped bass conservation. I am an avid fisherman, spending most of my available leisure time fishing in Long Island Sound and its tributaries. The number of stripers is way down this year, and has been declining for a number of years now, at least based on my observations. I urge you to support the most aggressive measures available. I would like to see stripers get a "sport fish" designation similar to that of red drum in the states to our south. Short of this, regulation similar to Delaware's circle hook only with slot limits regulation would be a step in the right direction. Let us not decimate the remaining population for the sake of short-term greed. We owe it to future generations to manage this fishery responsibly.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Vasbinder  
60 Senexet Village Road  
Woodstock, CT 06281

**From:** [Andrew Mcnerney](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:36:01 PM

---

My name is Andrew McNerney. I am an avid surf caster. My father started taking me fishing when I was around 10 yrs old. I would watch him catch and RELEASE beautiful striped bass from the beach and I was hooked. Even though it would be years later until I landed my first bass. I am now 31 and fish as much as I can catching and RELEASING all my stripers. In the past few years I have noticed a definite decline in the bass I catch. This is why I support Option B3. I would like to one day take my son fishing and teach him how to catch these beautiful striped bass.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Will](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 7:21:27 AM

---

I would like to see 2 fish at 28" if not I vote b7. Thankyou

**From:** [dave](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:46:10 PM

---

I am not only a striped bass fisherman but I am part of the recreational fishing industry. I own The Reel Seat Tackle Shop in Brielle, NJ. As both a fisherman and businessman I understand the need for sound, accurate management. Based on the options available to us, I support option B-7.  
David Arbeitman

**From:** [Pat and Bill Starke](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 7:04:24 PM

---

Subject : Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment

Mr Mike Waine

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B7**.

Thank you for your time!

Patricia Starke  
19 Roosevelt Drive  
Brick, NJ 08724  
732-814-9993

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note® 3, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [Steven Senff](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 12:05:47 PM

---

Mike,  
I am very concerned about the proposed striped bass proposals. I would like to see the limit on striped bass remain statue quo, but " B7 " would be my next choice.

Thank you,

Steven Senff

**From:** [Nuno Decosta](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:27:46 PM

---

everything should remain the same as far as regs for striped bass, you want to be scientists think you have it all figured out but what you don't understand every time you have a fishery close down based on flawed data you effectively put hard working Americans out of work

**From:** [Ischwarz327](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:42:14 PM

---

I would like to see bass fishing regulations stay them same or option b7. Thank you

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S™III, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [John Lacey](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 10:51:34 AM

---

These fish should be a game fish period, this would put an end to all the illegal trade in these valuable fish. We haven't seen any bass caught on the North Fork beaches for several years. Anyone buying these fish should be closed for a very long time. Jack Lacey Southold NY

John Lacey

[jtlacey@optonline.net](mailto:jtlacey@optonline.net)

**From:** [Andrew Compton](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:55:54 AM

---

1. we should leave the status quo. commercial fishing should be banned on the whole east coast. netting in the chesapeake must be banned. minimum size of 28 " should be enforced.
2. at worst case the option of B-7 should be enacted.

andrew w. compton  
16 broadview rd  
millington, n.j. 07946

**From:** [Justin](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 9:22:47 AM

---

Good Morning,

I went to the meeting in RI concerning the Striped Bass population and what needs to be done to improve it. I would like a 25% reduction in the bass catch by supporting the one fish per person @ 32 inches.

Thanks,

Justin Serbent

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [howard f](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 1:14:58 PM

---

Almost every saltwater species has had regs. placed that are ridicules. I would like to vote against any changes in striped bass. Enough already.

Thanks

Howard Frankel

**From:** [johnandalberta@comcast.net](mailto:johnandalberta@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 8:28:37 AM

---

I am writing to say I hope you will support a 25% reduction in Striped Bass harvest in 2015. I think the harvest has to be reduced in both recreational and commercial landings. I think the recreational option of one fish at 32" will be best because the various slot limits proposed will cause confusion. I also think an Atlantic coast states wide solution needs to be looked at. Thank you. John Quill

**From:** [sharon herman](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:06:30 AM

---

I would like to see the striped bass limits remain status quo. B 7 would be the only acceptable other option.

Chad Hacker

**From:** [Paul Richards](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#); [Jack Creighton](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 8:24:43 AM

---

Dear Mr. Waine

My name is Paul Richards. I am a retired consultant/ Fisheries Scientist (Amer. Fish. Soc) living on Cape Cod. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6 Option A and a 28" fish in Section 3.0.

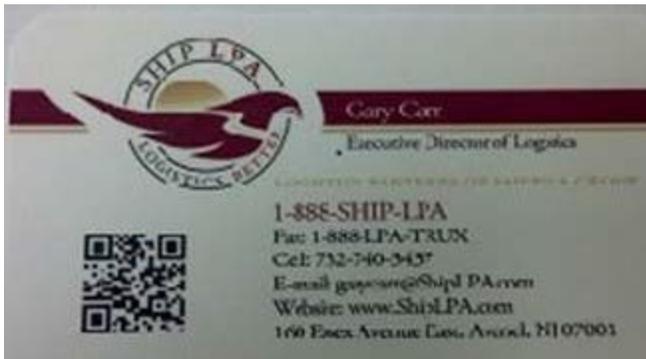
Respectfully submitted,  
F. Paul Richards  
Centerville, MA

**From:** [Gary Carr](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:49:41 PM

---

I am in favor of remaining at status quo and a second vote of option B-7. Please consider this option as it assists in the reduction keeping it a sustainable fishery for the party and charter boats as well as the recreational boaters.

Regards,  
Gary Carr  
732-740-3437



**From:** [Tom Lowe](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 7:58:15 PM

---

To Whom It My Consern,

I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species... especially the large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.

I also think something has to be done about "By-catch" from commercial fishing boats. I am tired of seeing in person or on line hundreds or thousands of dead floating stripers or other fish that have been dumped. What makes this waste even worse is that no one counts it.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Thomas Lowe

**From:** [John Meechan](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:55:02 PM

---

hello: I want the regs to stay the same.

I'm in favor of option b-7 .

thanks

--

John Meechan  
Broker Associate  
732.904.0614

Gloria Nilson & Co.  
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Office: 732.449.3200 \* FAX: 732.449.1208  
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**From:** [Edward Dean](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 4:48:24 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine

First of all i suck at typing i am better at fishing. i have been fishing Long Island surf and boating for 40 years both good and bad.A one fish 32'inchl limit would be devastating to the industry both rec and comm maybe a slot limit of 2 fish might work.It is not easy out here fishing considering town codes beach access other bs the party boat s will take a big hit nobody will go out for 1 fish unless of coirse they poach which probably happens anyway

Thank You Sir  
Edward Dean

**From:** [Orhan Birol](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 8:46:12 PM

---

Catching striped bass anchored chumming with clams should be outlawed. This method of fishing is extremely destructive as the striped bass would inhale and swallow the bait and be gut hooked most of the time, so released fish would surely die.

Orhan Birol  
Box 383  
Shelter Island Heights, NY 11965

**From:** [James Bloom](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** STRIPED BASS  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:34:23 PM

---

Keep the regulations the same. You people are targeting the wrong group of people. You need to reduce the commercial fishing or move them into deeper waters.. That goes for all species of fish.

James E. Bloom

PA. Fisherman

**From:** [joe.marcus](#)  
**To:** [Mike.Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped bass; draft addendum IV to Amendment 6  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:25:44 PM

---

Mike Waine,

As a recreational angler, particularly in light of this years opportunities, or lack thereof, I would approve of initial implementation of the 25% reduction in one year, and a single 32" minimum allowable catch.

AND as we be catch primarily undersized fish, add the recommendation that barbless single hooks be used, even for bait fishermen. it's my opinion that although it does reduce the hookup rate over multiple trebles on lures, once hooked, if pressure is constantly applied, most fish are still brought to hand and can be released with minimum injury.

Thank you for hearing me,

Joseph Marcus  
5 Miller Circle  
Mashpee, MA 02649

**From:** [Robert Brinkman](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** stripedbass draft addendum public comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:18:33 PM

---

Stock is ok lets do status quo don't want party boats in nj fold or option 7

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**From:** [AJP0007@aol.com](mailto:AJP0007@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper Bass regulations.  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:22:11 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine,

Proposing additional regulations for sports fishing and anglers for striped bass will have absolutely no impact on the population of this fish. What you are doing is making the sportsman extinct. All we ever wanted to do was enjoy the outdoors and do some recreational fishing.

What you need to do is impose regulation on the commercial fisherman who use nets to basically, rape the sea of all fish off our very coast.

Imposing a one fish limit is ridiculous and I rather stay home then venture out, waste gas, time, effort, energy and possible fees to go fishing. The DEC has failed miserably in promoting outdoors man sports, with fees , rules and the ever changing regulations.

Thank you,  
ANTHONY PATTAY  
91 Erlanger Blvd, North Babylon  
New York 11703

**From:** [Maria Oprzadek](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:12:06 AM

---

Im for status quo but if not available option7 would be ok. Chris Oprzadek

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Perkins, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper conservation .....YES  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 11:30:46 PM

---

Gentlemen, As a 60 year old fisherman from New Hampshire I have seen the striper population rise and fall. Even today the numbers although good don't compare to the 60's, and 70's. Only through sensible conservation can we preserve this natural resource for us and our children. I support the 25% reduction in harvest in 2015. We don't want to see striper go the way of cod, haddock, flounder, and other fish that have been overfished for decades. Thank you for your attention in this matter. Sincerely, Mark Perkins

**From:** [Meg Capodanno](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striped conservation  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 8:02:49 PM

---

Dear Mr. Waine,

I am an avid coastal (surf / kayak / bay boat) fisherman in CT. When I look at my fishing logs, I see a steady defined drop in striped bass catches year after year. My son's comment about this season is "Dad, we've had 8 skunks in a row". His record keeping is accurate; not a single schoolie in 8 trips in coastal Fairfield, CT. Years ago we would have a decent fall run, a few weeks of bass schools coming through. This is a memory.

Personally, I release 99 percent of the bass that I catch. I might take one a year from Montauk . Last year I went on 3 trips to Montauk during the fall season. We saw a dearth of bass based on historic numbers. With 3 guys on a center console, 2 fish all day is truly dismal. That is a collapse. In my assessment, we need swift definitive conservation. I would personally go to zero harvest for a few years, or as long as needed, until the spring and fall bass runs return. I vote no keepers --commercial or non commercial, period. Maybe this is not a practical solution but I will support any measure to stop the collapse. Of great concern is the high grading situation. What can be done about that?

Unfortunately, in the western Long Island Sound, if you don't have stripers to chase you are left with very few options . My response has been to travel fish... destinations such as Miami ,charters out of Montauk or Rhode Island. I am slowly giving up on the local bass

fishery - a fishery I have been a part of for 40 years.  
We need decisive action before the collapse of the bass  
population.

We have been through population declines before, but  
maybe this time they don't recover. I say not on your  
watch.

Dr. Rob Capodanno  
Fairfield, CT

**From:** [Stephen Batter](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striper conservation  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 12:13:35 PM

---

Dear Mr Waine,

I am a recreational fisherman on Long Island Sound. When I was young, I could never catch a striped bass because of their dismal population. It was a joy to see the population rebound as I became an adult. This was a palpable success in conservation!

Unfortunately I have again seen dramatic declines out there fishing. While I never profess to be a great fisherman, even I as a part time recreational fisherman can see the paucity of stripers. The fall runs at Montaul have even declined.

I urge you to support new conservation measures to protect the striper population. Thank you.

Stephen Batter MD  
Wilton CT

**From:** [CHARLES AVERSA](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper Conservation  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:53:32 PM

---

Mr.Waine,

I'm a shore fisherman who lives in Boston and has been on the quest for a keeper striper since mid April this year using artificial lures only. I just got my first keeper (30") two days ago!! I caught many under 28" this year, but only the one keeper so far.

Because of this I really feel that conservation is in order. First, the commercial catch should be reduced by twenty-five percent. Second, I believe that the legal size limit should be increased to 32" and only one fish should be allowed, option B3. Third, I further believe that bait fishermen should be forced to use circle hooks only because I believe that many young fish are killed due to gut hooking. Circle hooks would decrease this mortality greatly. Fourth, I believe that lure manufacturers should be forced to use a single hook at the tail end of multi-hook lures. This would decrease the deep hooking that can injure the gills of the fish. Many fisherman, including myself, have already made this change understanding that that last treble hook can be a killer for small fish. Fifth, I believe that more marine law enforcement officers should be hired to better check the permits and catches of fishermen. I have fished for striped bass for ten years and neither my permit (only recently required) nor my catch have ever been checked.

I realize that some of these changes are radical, but I feel that radical changes have to be made to conserve the striped bass.

Thank you,  
Charles A Aversa  
12 Tyndale Street  
Roslindale, MA 02131

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Peter Gath](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** striper fishing  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:36:10 PM

---

As a retired commercial fishermen I believe the B-7 option for Striper fishing is the right choice.

Give the boys a brake. The Atlantic is a gigantic fishery.

Pete Gath

**From:** [Miss Belmar Princess](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:03:28 AM

---

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Alan Shinn and I am the owner of the Miss Belmar Princess, an open party fishing boat. I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit, 1 @ 28"-34", and another at a 36" minimum.

I would be more than happy to speak with you about this. You can reach me anytime at (732) 681-6866.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Captain Alan Shinn  
Miss Belmar Princess  
Belmar Marina  
905 Route 35  
Belmar, NJ 07719  
(732) 681-6866  
[www.missbelmar.com](http://www.missbelmar.com)  
[www.facebook.com/missbelmarprincess](http://www.facebook.com/missbelmarprincess)

**From:** [Ed Wagner](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper legislation  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 9:45:39 PM

---

I am a member of the Cape Cod Salties fishing club and I support the 25% reduction in striper quota.

Ed Wagner

**From:** [George A. Push](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper Limit  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:57:03 AM

---

Please keep the status quo – the new proposals will kill the breeder fish

George A. Push  
Senior Network Specialist



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**From:** [Sid Lentz](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper limit  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:20:21 PM

---

***I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36" minimum.***

***I feel the commercial fishing is having a greater effect on the fishery than us recreational weekend boaters.***

***Thank You,***

***Sid Lentz***

***Genmounts***

***216 Rt. 206 Suite 20A***

***Hillsborough, NJ 08844***

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***C-908-872-9279***

***F-908-431-7556***

***WWW.Genmounts.com***

**From:** [Phil Patterson](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripper limit  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:38:02 PM

---

I vote for status quo, and second option b-7

**From:** [Devar Burbage](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper limit?  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 6:15:05 PM

---

In the Chesapeake Bay, a minimum of 28 inches means the fishing season is three weeks per year! Is that what you are promoting? Also, is it one fish per day, week, month or what? Or is it a maximum of 28 inches?

The article is unclear in several respects. Please be more detailed and specific.

Devar Burbage, Potomac, Maryland 20854 [devarbur@yahoo.com](mailto:devarbur@yahoo.com)

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If you don't get a response from me within couple of days, try calling me if the message is important.*

**From:** [William Howarth](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#); [westwindfish@verizon.net](mailto:westwindfish@verizon.net)  
**Subject:** striper limits for 2015  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:46:07 PM

---

Are you people ever happy ? The average guy abides by your ridiculous size and quantity limits religiously just to find out that the people complaining the most about low catch rates are usually responsible for the cause of the shortage.

No bait, no fish. Or the ecological poisoning of the habitat, be it chicken poop, lawn fertilizers, lack of water exchange ( tides not running strong enough). And then everyone on the whole east coast suffers. The real problem stems from all the scientific BS that takes precedence over pure logic. Years of abundance and years of scarcity.

If the guys pulling nets could do it honestly maybe we'd be able to maintain a decent stock of fish.

What we really don't need is someone telling us what and how many we can keep.

TYPICAL government BS at it's best.

**From:** [Chris Henriksen](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper limits  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:11:49 PM

---

I don't believe that you should change the NJ striper limits. It should stay Status Quo or the only option acceptable would be Option B7

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Karin Jordan](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper limits  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:06:56 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Karin Jordan and I am an avid fisher in New Jersey. I am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit, 1 @ 28"-34", and another at a 36" minimum.

I would be more than happy to speak with you about this. You can reach me anytime at (732) 681-0030.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Karin Jordan

**From:** [Capt. Brian Rice](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper limits  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:56:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

---

I am in favor of doing something to help the striper populations and feel that a new limit of 2 fish 1@28"-34" and one over 36" would be the best option. I agree that the striper stocks are in trouble and feel that this would protect more of the breeders.

Thanks.

B

Captain Brian Rice  
Jersey Devil Charters  
732-996-6372  
[www.jerseydevilcharters.com](http://www.jerseydevilcharters.com)

Simrad Prostaff  
Shimano Prostaff  
Contender Boats Prostaff  
American Fishing Wire/Hi Seas prostaff  
Costa Prostaff  
Yamaha Prostaff  
Tony"Maja" Prostaff



FCA Member  
NJOA Member  
NJ Sportmens Federation Member

**From:** [Pete Scarpulla](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper limits  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:54:26 PM

---

I'm emailing you to show my support in leaving the striper regulations as is... also I'm in favor of voting for option B7. Thank you.  
Pete Scarpulla

**From:** [joeyg23@comcast.net](mailto:joeyg23@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Dave Riback](#)  
**Subject:** Striper Limits  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:52:56 PM

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**I AM IN FAVOR OF OPTION B7**

Joe Garamella  
President  
Vero Amici for Charity  
(973) 464-3615

**From:** [Tony Fleck](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper Management  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 9:55:42 AM

---

Dear Mr. Waine:

I had originally planned on only spending an hour at the Stony Brook hearing since it was a work night but I found it so interesting I stayed for the entire hearing. I went to show my support for Striper Management. One thing that I was really surprised about was the amount of poaching that is going on. I'm a surf guy so I only see a few extra stripers (or fish) taken here or there not the boats loads that was described. I would like you to know I support the following: One fish limit with my preference being fish between 28-32". Option A in section 2.6 for a 25% reduction in 1 year. Option B in section 2.5.1 to apply the most recent assessment reference points as opposed to the status quo. And finally Option A not allowing commercial quota transfers. I firmly believe the Striped Bass population is in trouble and we need to do something meaningful before its too late. I was around for the moratorium (which I supported) and I would like to think we're a little smarter today and have learned from past mistakes like waiting until the stocks crash to really do something. Thanks for your time. Tony Fleck 18 Alexander Dr. Farmingdale, NY 11735

**From:** [Paul Protomastro](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper preservation  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 6:00:20 PM

---

The American striped bass is one of our greatest sport fishing species. It has tremendous value as a food source too. We should be smart and capable enough to preserve this magnificent fish for the benefit of both sport and commercial fishermen alike. The reasons for the apparent decline in size and numbers is multi-factorial but the one factor we can control the best is how many are harvested each year. I am wiring in favor of pending Legislation that decreases the amount of stripers that are commercially harvested every year. I would be in favor of raising the keeper length limit and the number of keepers per angler to do our part! As both an avid fisherman and a proponent of the fishing industry, I implore you to pass meaningful, enforceable and rational limits to the striped bass harvest as to preserve this species for generations to come.

An Atlantic coastline without striped bass would be a tragic and sad state of our nation's resource management efforts.

Thank you for considering my position.

Paul D. Protomastro, MD  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [captbogan@aol.com](mailto:captbogan@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper proposals  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:06:05 PM

---

Hello Mr Waine

My name is Robert Bogan. I run a party boat, the Gambler, out of Pt. Pleasant NJ. We fish for striped bass in Spring and fall.

Ultimately, I would like to see status quo on the striped bass proposals for 2015. If that is not prudent, or if it would cause us problems for 2016, I would default to B7.

At the meeting I attended in Toms River this September, there were a number of surf fishermen who felt a more restrictive measure was in order, stating that the last two years were poor fishing years.

Although we did not catch as many fish closer to the beach in the fall of 2013 and the spring of this year, many were sighted outside of the 3 mile limit by boats targeting other species of fish. The bottom fishing boats often spotted them 12 to 15 miles offshore. It seems that, since storm Sandy, something may have caused the stripers to feed further off.

Our party/charter boat industry has had a tough time of it in recent years and the striped bass fishery is a mainstay. Customers that come on our boats, fish not just for sport but for consumption. We cannot sustain our business with a one-fish limit.

Without a doubt, we all want a healthy stock of striped bass. From the statistics I have seen, the stock is not in trouble --but business owners are.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Bogan

Owner/operator Gambler

**From:** [NOLAN, HUNTER](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper Reduction Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 9:18:30 AM

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To whom this may concern,

I have been a mate on a head boat out of New Jersey the past five summers. I have recently heard the news about the striper limit may be cut for next season, which is a real concern. Fishing and working as much as I can I know the true cost in going fishing, and making a business run. A trip out on any boat, even a private boat is not cheap, thus needing to make the most of it when getting to go out. I believe that if the limit of stripers is cut it will do more harm then good, as that many people make their living on the water as in captains and mates along the coast rely on the number of customers that come fishing each day . If a customer (fisherman) is only able to keep one striper they may not come out because it is not worth to spent so much money for only one fish. Thus hurting the old tradition of people making a living out on the water, on head boats, and other boats on the New Jersey Coast.

Best Regards,  
Mate on head boat

**From:** [Louis Truppi](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper regs  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:45:43 PM

---

The current Striper regulations should be retained however if this is not possible then I would support referendum # 7!

Thank you,  
Lou Ttuppi

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bill F](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripper regs  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:56:30 PM

---

I've been fishing in NJ for over 40 years, used to keep my own boat in the Delaware Bay. Gas prices combined with the reduced catch compounded by the lowered weakfish and flounder limits made it no longer worth while. We watched the netters scoop up all the Del Bay weakfish, I hear they get all the flounder offshore at their winter grounds. Striped bass is the only species still abundant worth fishing for, I only get to go 2-3 times a year for them now on a Charter boat. If you lower the limit to 1 fish, that will no longer be worth while either.

Keep the limits the same... I am in favor of remaining at status quo and a second vote of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36"minimum.

Bill Foley  
18 Cherry Run Rd  
Monroeville, NJ 08343

**From:** [Russ Berner](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper Regs  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:30:25 PM

---

I am in favor of option B-7 for the proposed regulations for 2015...1 fish is ridiculous

Russ Berner  
19 mill rd  
edison, nj

**From:** [Camastro, Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper Regulation  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:16:55 PM

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MW:

I'm a NY recreational fisherman and am strongly in agreement of the One bass bag limit and size limit increase. Hopefully the size limit can be increased to 36". Thanks for your effort.

TC

**From:** [Kelly Kerschner](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striper regulations.  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 4:05:36 PM

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Just wanted to take a second as a Nj fisherman to ask that a vote towards keeping the striped bass regs as they are. Or if not b7 would be next option.  
Thanks for taking the time to read this  
Craig Kerschner  
243 Lake Rd  
Fleetwood PA 19522

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [fishaholics](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripper regulations  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:33:30 PM

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Please keep at status quo or B7.

Thanks!

Alison Dursthoff

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [pavicks@comcast.net](mailto:pavicks@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [Pavicks](#); [Jack Creighton](#)  
**Subject:** Striper Regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:04:56 PM

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Dear Mr. Waine:

My name is John Pavick, and I am currently a member of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club on Cape Cod, MA. I support the 25% reduction in Section 2.6, Option A and the 32" fish in Section 3.0. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John W Pavick  
30 Shad Bush Circle  
E Dennis, MA  
508 385-5792

**From:** [hufnagle5@yahoo.com](mailto:hufnagle5@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripper  
**Date:** Sunday, September 28, 2014 1:00:41 PM

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Please select option b-7

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [Jimmy Sakers](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripers reg  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:54:00 PM

---

Please do not change the striper regs down to 1 fish. I am a deckhand on the Jamaica boats out of Brielle nj and it is hard enough to get customers on the boat with the price of that it costs to go fishing. If you are going to change it please make it option b7 which calls for 1 fish 28-34 and 36 and above.

Sincerely

James sakers  
-Deckhand

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Norman Thurling](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripers  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 1:40:16 AM

---

I fish at Atlantic Highlands and would vote for option B7, status quo for new regulations.

Sincerely,

Norman Thurling

482 S Pascack Rd

Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977

**From:** [John Carpenter \(Capt Jack\)](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Cc:** [rickbellavance@gmail.com](mailto:rickbellavance@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Stripers  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:09:22 PM

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Mike,

I know I am not a huge commercial or recreational fisherman, but I am a licensed charter boat out of RI, Ct and N.Y..

I would like to say I like some others really do believe some of the efforts that you guys do will help in the future.

From what we can see in the waters the stripers have come back a long ways and in abundance.

However this rule of 1 fish at 30" I believe will cut into our business drastically and I don't see the need to cut the limit and add the length requirements. I run one boat in New York waters and one in R.I. waters. When I let the customers know that NY will only allow one fish per person they say they will fish R.I. instead. If the regulation changes in R.I. the customer would then stay in N.Y. and fish. If I didn't have the boat in R.I. I would have lost almost 50% of my business. I look at what it cost me to run this operation for the year and I take out of my pocket an additional \$ 5,000.00 every year. That is monies spent here in the local communities every year.

I only do it because it brings joy to people that really enjoy the sport or the beginners that have never been fishing in the ocean.

But the biggest complaint I get is they can only take two fish per person.

What will happen if it is cut down to one. At that point I will have to put my boats on dry dock.

Without customers to fish I am out of work, but more importantly the state and local community is out the extra income that they make as well. We are talking a pretty good amount of monies every day that we go fishing. Even if it was only \$ 20.00 per person per day, think about how much that brings to the state and local communities.

I sure hope you will look this over with great detail since it does effect a lot of us out here and from all over the states.

John Carpenter  
Capt Jack  
Jackhammer Charters  
[www.jackhammercharters.com](http://www.jackhammercharters.com)  
401-744-2804 (cell)

**From:** [ubietesta89@aol.com](mailto:ubietesta89@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripers  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:45:21 PM

---

I am in favor of option B-7.

Wayne Testa

**From:** [Frank Ross](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripers  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:37:06 PM

---

I am in favor of option B-7

Frank Ross  
16 Sally Street  
Howell NJ 07731

**From:** [cmany](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#); [cmany@embarqmail.com](mailto:cmany@embarqmail.com)  
**Subject:** Stripers  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:48:52 PM

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Mike,

One additional recommendation, would be to have a catch and release season in April and May for Northern NJ, Southern NY and Hudson River to protect the spawning Hudson River Stock.

Thanks

Chuck

**From:** [Brian Hewitt](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripers  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:40:05 PM

---

I am in favor of b-7. Please let us fish

**From:** [Brandon Case](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripers  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:20:05 PM

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Status quo on the stripers!!!!

**From:** [yunacloud40](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripers  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 9:31:17 AM

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I'm in favor of optionB-7.  
Lori thum,48 piazza tasso, freehold, nj

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

**From:** [roberta rosenberg](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripers..Lets save them  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 11:01:37 AM

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These bass should be considered for protection, serious protection, with no commercial catches allowed at all. After all, I know that the by kill on these fish is horrendous. There should be a complete stop to all commercial striper fishing, along with recreational fishing as well. Leave them alone for three years and lets see what happens.

**From:** [Sam Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripers  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 8:50:12 AM

---

If I must vote- i vote for option B7.

*Sam Johnson, Owner*  
(215) 630-0211

**From:** [Capt Allen](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** STRIPERS  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:11:59 PM

---

I AM IN FAVOR OF OPTION B-7.

~Tight Lines,

Capt Allen Gonzalez  
Reel Class Sportfishing, LLC  
Point Pleasant, NJ  
<http://www.reelclassfishing.com>  
(201)248-5281

**From:** [Evan Nappe](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripped Bass Regs  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:36:55 PM

---

I would like the Striped Bass regulations to stay the same, but if that is impossible, then B7 would regretfully be my next choice.

**From:** [Sharon Rygiel](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripped bass  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 4:43:37 PM

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Favor no change but if it must then B7

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Stan Luszcz](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripped Bass  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 10:04:55 AM

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I would much prefer that the stripped Bass limits and season be left alone but **IF IT MUST BE CHANGED THE BEST OPTION BE THE B7 OPTION.**

**Thank You for your time**

**Stanley Luszcz**

**From:** [Robert S](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Stripper limit  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:57:42 AM

---

I Robert Schwartz am in favor of option B-7. This more than meets the required reduction rate and keeps a 2 fish per person limit 1@ 28"-34" and another at 36"minimum.  
Thanks

**From:** [BILL SHILLINGFORD](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** subj : Draft Addendum IV)  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:51:22 AM

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-  
**" I do not agree with any of the options presented as I do not think any will stop the 5 year downward trend of Striped Bass. All 3 options have the prime spawners being removed. We need to protect for 2-3 years these prime spawners and allow them to build the population back up . I would rather see a slot similar to Red Drum which has rebounded well since implementation ,a slot of 19-27" would allow the population to grow. IF needed add one trophy over 40" ....IF the reported YOY of 2010,11,and 12 is correct the population would not get hurt. I would suggest a 2 year program and than see what is going on"**

-  
**If I have to select one option it would be one fish over 28"**

-  
*BILL SHILLINGFORD*  
[WWW.BUCKTAILWILLIE.COM](http://WWW.BUCKTAILWILLIE.COM)

**From:** [whbogan@aol.com](mailto:whbogan@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Subject : Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 3:30:09 PM

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Subject : Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV Public Comment

Dear Mr. Mike Waine:

I am for a **STATUS QUO** option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available, I would prefer **Option B8**.

W. Howard Bogan  
301 Higgins Ave  
Brielle NJ 08730  
732-239-9874

**From:** [Joe Apiscopa](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Support of regulations.  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:14:37 PM

---

My name is Joe Apiscopa and am a member of the Cape Cod Spoetfishing Club and I am in support of the 25% reduction in section 2.6 option A and the 32" fish in section 3.0. Economics cannot rule this vote or the striped bass will go the way of the cod and there will be no fishery. Thank you.

**From:** [Mike Grecco](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** THIS IS THE REAL STRIPER PROBLEM.....DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SLAUGHTER....  
**Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 6:14:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [217821\\_408321909247181\\_146260434\\_n.jpgoh=432b72776a0faff8fc216458c0740884&oe=54CE8047&\\_gda\\_=1422780952\\_84eb4e343aa7cd2748d517f70b03c8e2](#)

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[Justin Matlosz](#)

Im not sure why the commercial regs do not change. This boat Capt. I know personally and he has an 8,000 lb. limit per yr... A large number of these fish will be thrown back dead. The over regulation of recreational anglers needs to stop and the focuss needs to be placed in more obvious areas. This truly sickens me. All those fish were killed for \$3 a lb...

**From:** [Vargojhvargo.](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** asmfc admenment iV  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 2:31:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [The LATEST AMFC REPORT IS UNFAIRLY TARGETING HUDSON RIVER FISHERMAN.docx](#)

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Putting the Hudson River in the same class as the rest of the Coast is truly ridiculous.

## The LATEST AMFC REPORT IS UNFAIRLY TARGETING HUDSON RIVER FISHERMAN

By John H. Vargo, Publisher

The ASMFC is sounding the alarm up and down the coast! **They say** the **Spawning Stock Biomass** of striped bass, the number one game fish on the east coast and our rivers, is reaching critical **levels!** What the **ASMFC** is saying is that the number of large female stripers that return to the spawning grounds each year has declined to a point not seen since the **mid 80's**.

This wonderful fish, the backbone of the saltwater fishing industry in New York State as well as **12** other states **from Maine to Florida**, is declining. This new ASMFC report is sounding the alarm before the fishery drops below **a critical threshold, they say, is needed to maintain a sustainable fishery for future generations. They also say that numbers** cannot return without drastic action, such as **tightening creel limits, or** complete closure of the striped bass season for a number of years.

What this report and the hearings that have followed are suggesting is two basic options to return striped bass stocks to a level that was reached in the 1990's. The report is 32 pages long and, to a layperson, will give you a migraine headache in trying to figure out what the ASMFC is trying to do!

These two options are:

Option A is a one-year recreational reduction in catch limits that will produce a 25% decrease in the number of stripers caught. This will yield the highest return rate the fastest.

Option B is a one-year plan that will reduce the recreational catch by 17% the first year. This will yield less return stock than option A

Option C is a three-year plan that will reduce the recreational catch by 7% the first year, then 7% the next, then 7% the third year. This is the least effective rate of returning stock

What this means is that some striper fisherman are going to be affected by a size or reduction limit on stripers caught in 2015 in certain, **if not all** areas along the east coast. (The reality of it is that public pressure, carried over to political pressure, and finally to the actual facts will determine who gets to keep stripers and **and** who doesn't in 2015.)

Slot limits and sizes seem to be a way for fisherman to "have their cake and eat it to" and are constantly bantered about at these meetings.

The hearings have been designed to present these two options and get input from recreational and commercial fisherman before the end of 2014. There will be changes put in place by spring of 2015!

This 32 page, ASMFC draft addendum presents background on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's management of striped bass, the addendum process and timeline, a statement of the problem, and proposed management options. To read it you can go to [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org).

As most striper fisherman are aware, each year's spring run of stripers is affected by the **Spawning** that took place 8 years before. **That is the timeframe needed for return of mature Stripers to come back to their birthplace and produce fry or young stripers. Since 2015 is supposed to be the highest-level return of Stripers in years, why not wait to see if Mother Nature handles this herself, before we jump the gun. Too often we interject our solutions to issues that a larger power already has plans for.**

These conditions are known by the ASMFC as the reports from various state agencies that assess each spring's striper run are turned into the central control the ASMFC each year.

Further dramatic weather changes have a significant impact on these spring runs. Hurricane Irene and hurricane Sandy did tremendous damage to these spring runs on the Hudson River, (many individuals believe that much of the spring run was washed out to sea during these hurricanes as small fry could not survive under these terrible conditions) and will play an important part in future spring runs of stripers.

Not mentioned in the ASMFC report is economic and social conditions in areas that are prime striped bass fishing grounds. On the Hudson River, the Tappan Zee Bridge, once a favorite for striper fisherman and also the home of the largest striped bass fishing contests on the Hudson River is now a restricted work zone; fisherman and recreational boaters are banned from entering this work area for a half mile on either side of the construction site. The marinas and restaurants that once supported this fisherman have been closed any fishing activity in the area of the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Also not mentioned in this report is the economic downturn on recreational boaters, since 2008 and the high cost of fuel to go fishing on the Hudson River. Fishing and boating in general has been reduced significantly on the Hudson River. It has affected businesses and communities up and down the Hudson River far more than other areas of the east coast. In my opinion everyone is brushing all this "under the rug" and hoping that the general population does not see the reality that is before them.

It is interesting for us to see how agencies and beaurcracts over look the tremendous negative affect that police, Coast Guard blockades, and outright harassment of boaters and fisherman on the Hudson River over the past eight years has caused a huge drop in striper fisherman on the Hudson River.

Lets face it, there is a lot more to a report by an agency such as the ASMFC than just the content. Other conditions not mentioned in the report have as much an affect as the report itself.

Our Hudson River Fishery should not be lumped into the same restrictions as the east coast. We are already on the lowest end of a sustainable “one fish at 18” per day” creel limit! The number of fisherman on the Hudson River has declined dramatically! The ASMFC report does not take into account this major drop in Hudson River striper fisherman nor the reduced amount of stripers actually caught.

Eight years ago there would be 30 or 40 boats lined up next to the channel off of Croton, NY on a weekend morning. Now there are just a few. The ASMFC report totally ignores the dramatic reduction in number of fisherman on the Hudson River an total number of stripers caught.

The striper mortality, in the ASMFC report is occurring before or after the fish leave the river.

When Hudson River stripers go out to sea, everyone else up and down the coast has the ability to catch them, most with higher creel limits than Hudson River striper fisherman.

Any fish leaving the Hudson could be caught in the Long Island Sound, off the tip of Montauk, Rhode Island, or even in the Outer Banks, or the Chesapeake Bay, depending upon Migration. Lowering mortality out in the ocean will eventually see numbers come back up. Recreational fishermen in other areas along the east coast are, percentage wise, taking 60% more stripers than Hudson River fisherman simply because the creel limits are larger and the number of fisherman are at least 60% more than the number of Hudson River fisherman.

A good example of recreational fisherman is a “head boat” fishing along the coast.

A charter boat has 60 people on board and sails 7 days per week, two times per day, sometimes more. I will err on the lowest side of creel and say 10% of fares catch their limit. Let’s say only 12 people (10% of 120 fares per day) keep 2 bass per day as they are allowed to now. That would be 24 bass per day for ONE BOAT. Times that by 7 days and that is 168 Striped bass per week, and that is not even counting the night trips. That is at 10% success rate, which is VERY LOW! In a six-week season that boat would catch approx. 1,008 Stripers,

Then realize that there are 4000 of these boats up and down the coast in every salt water Marina for 1500 miles of coastline chasing the same fish. Think about if we could cut that in half by installing ONE fish per person, per day, on all charters, even for a year. I’m all for having a sustainable fishery, but we that fish the Hudson are not the reason the numbers are declining, and seem to be penalized like we are overfishing it.

Just a thought!

It is time to wake up and look reality in the eye.

September 2, 2014



Mr. Michael Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 North Highland St.  
Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, Va, 22201

Dear Mr. Waine

I am writing to urge The ASMFC to approve an immediate 30% reduction in Striped Bass Landings. As you and the other members of the commission are aware The Spawning Stock biomass (SSB) has and is still undergoing a serious decline. No species can sustain such a reduction in female numbers and survive. My wish is that a Recreational Catch be limited to 1 fish at 36" to include Party/Charter Boats and an equal reduction (30%) in commercial landings. This must be a Coast Wide Reduction. Thank You for giving me the opportunity to voice my concerns.

  
Vito Orlando  
14 Longleaf Lane  
Medford, NY 11763

**WILLIAM E. CRAMER, PE**  
— Consulting Engineer —

216 Upson Terrace  
New Haven, CT 06512

Tel 203-467-2297  
Fax 203-467-2297  
Mobil 203-623-3469

FAX: TUESDAY SEPT 30 3:35 PM

TO: MR DAVID SIMPSON

AT: FAX: 703-342-0741

PAGES #1

FROM: WILLIAM CRAMER

AT: FAX 203-467-2297  
TEL 203-623-3469

TITLE

ASMFC FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
COMMENTS FOR MIKE WAINE

PAGE #2

TIME SENSITIVE!  
TODAY

(1)

**WILLIAM E. CRAMER, PE**  
— Consulting Engineer —

216 Upson Terrace  
New Haven, CT 06512

Tel 203-467-2297  
Fax 203-467-2297  
Mobil 203-623-3469

**To: MR. DAVID SIMPSON**  
**MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION CT**  
**OLD LYME, CT.**

**SEPT 30, 2014**

**SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR STRIPED BASS PRESENTED BY MIKE WAINE, ASMFC**

MIKE WAINE DID A GOOD JOB PRESENTING THE PROBLEM OF THE DWINDLING STRIPED BASS WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE FISHERY AND FISHING RESULTS. HE PROVIDED US WITH A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & RECOMM. TO DISCUSS.

AS A CONCERNED RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN WHO HAS FISHED THE CT SHORES & WATERS SINCE 1952 FOR BASS WHEN THE LIMIT WAS 16", WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE 28" LIMIT FOR 1 FISH 28" OR LONGER AND STILL BE ABLE TO FISH FOR A TROPHY AS "FISH WE (CONN) SHOULD ALSO MAKE OUR LIMIT COMPARABLE TO N.Y. & R.I. AS WE ALL FISH THE SAME WATERS.

THE ASMFC FORM BELOW WAS SENT TO ME BY RFA AND MY RESPONSE AND CHOICES ARE IN THIS ORDER!

B9, B8, B7

As a member of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), I've given thought to the following options being considered by the ASMFC:

| Option | Reg Limit            | Size limit         | Trophy fish    | % reduction from 2013 harvest |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| B1     | 1                    | 28" min            | n/a            | 31%                           |
| B2     | 1                    | 30" min            | n/a            | greater than 31% <sup>1</sup> |
| B3     | 1                    | 32" min            | n/a            | greater than 31% <sup>2</sup> |
| B4     | 1                    | 28-40" slot        | n/a            | greater than 31% <sup>2</sup> |
| B5     | 2                    | 33" min            | n/a            | 29%                           |
| B6     | 2                    | 28-34" slot        | n/a            | 28%                           |
| B7     | 2 (1 slot, 1 trophy) | 1 fish 28-34" slot | 1 fish 36" min | 28% <sup>2</sup>              |
| B8     | 2 (1 slot, 1 trophy) | 1 fish 28-36" slot | 1 fish 38" min | 26% <sup>2</sup>              |
| B9     | 2 (1 slot, 1 trophy) | 1 fish 28-37" slot | 1 fish 40" min | 26% <sup>2</sup>              |

B7 3RD CHOICE  
B8 2ND CHOICE  
B9 1ST CHOICE

TODAY YOU WERE VERY HELPFUL IN CLARIFYING SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE ASMFC PLAN DETAILS WHICH CONTROLLED SOME OF US WHO WERE AT THE MEETING, AND THOSE TO WHOM I SENT COPIES OF THE REPORT,

I SHOULD HAVE CALLED YOU SOONER.

HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE,

William E Cramer

(2)

**WILLIAM E. CRAMER, PE**  
— Consulting Engineer —

216 Upton Terrace  
New Haven, CT 06512

Tel 203-467-2297  
Fax 203-467-2297  
Mobil 203-623-3469

To: MR. DAVID SIMPSON  
MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION CT  
OLD LYME, CT.

SEPT 30, 2014

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR STRIPED BASS  
PRESENTED BY MIKE WAINE, ASMFC

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|--------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| B1     |                      | 28" min            | n/a            | 31%                           |
| B2     |                      | 30" min            | n/a            | greater than 31% <sup>1</sup> |
| B3     |                      | 32" min            | n/a            | greater than 31% <sup>2</sup> |
| B4     | 1                    | 28-40" slot        | n/a            | greater than 31% <sup>3</sup> |
| B5     | 2                    | 33" min            | n/a            | 29%                           |
| B6     | 2                    | 28-34" slot        | n/a            | 28%                           |
| B7     | 2 (1 slot, 1 trophy) | 1 fish 28-34" slot | 1 fish 36" min | 28% <sup>4</sup>              |
| B8     | 2 (1 slot, 1 trophy) | 1 fish 28-36" slot | 1 fish 38" min | 26% <sup>5</sup>              |
| B9     | 2 (1 slot, 1 trophy) | 1 fish 28-37" slot | 1 fish 40" min | 26% <sup>6</sup>              |

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B8 2ND CHOICE  
B9 1ST CHOICE

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HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE,

William E Cramer

(2)

Consulting Engineer

FAX: TUESDAY SEPT 30 3:35 PM

TO: MR DAVID SIMPSON

AT: FAX: 703-342-07A1

PAGES #1

FROM: WILLIAM CRAMER

AT: FAX 203-467-2297

TBL 203-623-3469

TITLE

ASMFC FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
COMMENT FOR MIKE WAINE

PAGE #2

TIME SENSITIVE!  
TODAY

(1)

**WILLIAM E. CRAMER, PE**  
— Consulting Engineer —

216 Upson Terrace  
New Haven, CT 06512

Tel 203-467-2297  
Fax 203-467-2297  
Mobil 203-623-3469

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**FROM: WILLIAM CRAMER**

**AT: FAX 203-467-2297**

**Tel 203-623-3469**

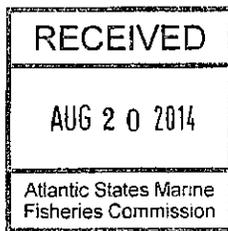
**TITLE**

**ASMFC FURBER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
COMMENTS FOR MIKE WAINE**

**PAGE #2**

**TIME SENSITIVE!**  
**TODAY**

(1)



7 Pine Hollow Court  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

August 12, 2014

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

To Mike Waine:

I am writing to express my support for long overdue striped bass harvest reductions. Striped bass have been over fished once again. Recreational and commercial over fishing has caused another decline in the striped bass population. There are fewer fish and fewer large striped bass. The quality of the recreational fishing for striped bass is poor. It is not even worth attempting to fish for them anymore. There are so few striped bass and even fewer large ones

I support the reducing F to its target in 1 year with 25% reduction. Ideally, the harvest should be reduced more than 25% considering the lack of larger striped bass and the overall decline in abundance of striped bass. The other proposals simply do not reduce the harvest quickly enough and will delay the rebuilding of the striped bass population. A 17% and 7% reduction in harvest is simply not sufficient. Striped bass have been over fished before and it took many years for the population to recover. Unfortunately, striped bass were allowed to be over fished yet again. Only an immediate, significant reduction in recreational and commercial harvest will allow the population to quickly recover. The harvest reductions need to be permanent.

There should be a reduced striped bass bag limit in all Atlantic coast states, an increased size limit that includes a slot that protects the larger breeder fish, shortened season, and drastic reductions in the commercial harvest of striped bass. All fish larger than 40 inches should be required to be released. Closing the season during the spring and summer to allow striped bass to spawn should be considered. Striped bass should be given "game fish" status in all Atlantic coastal states. Only a limited recreational harvest should be allowed.

I hope the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will implement the significant harvest reductions necessary to rebuild the striped bass population and try to manage striped bass for a quality, mostly catch and release, fishery. I also hope that the ASMFC will not take half measures that do little to rebuild the striped bass population.

Sincerely yours,

*William Doan*

William Doan



**William A. Muller**  
**183 Oakside Drive**  
**Smithtown N.Y. 11787**

**September 16, 2014**

**Mr. Mike Waine**  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 North Highland Street  
Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**One thing is clear:** *the time to conserve striped bass stocks is overdue.* ASMFC delays have weakened the coastal population and it is now time for board members to vote in a manner that is consistent with the science, the recommendation of the ASMFC enforcement unit. The condition of the stocks, the reality of diminishing angling quality, and a pressing need to reduce the annual harvest dramatically.

**Recommendations:**

**Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option**

**Option B:** Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment

**Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point Option**

**Option B:** Uses the preferred stock assessment reference point.

**Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction**

**Option A:** Reduces mortality by 25% in one year

**Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:**

**Option B-3:** one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

**Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Option B-10**

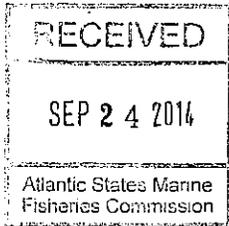
**Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Option B-17**

**Section 3.1 Commercial quota Transfers**

**Option A:** Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Yours truly;

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. Muller". The signature is written over the "Yours truly;" text and extends across the width of the page.



William F. Rienhoff, III - M.D.  
24426 Smithville Rd.,  
Worton, MD 21678

September 22, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine  
Finley Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

I have been a recreational fisherman in the upper Chesapeake Bay for over 50 years. I have noticed a definite decline in the larger rock fish.

The reduction in the numbers of spawning females is very disturbing. One form of relief to this problem is the reduction or elimination of the spring trophy season. I have been on several charter trips in April and every fish caught was a large female that had not spawned (ie. The fish were full of roe).

In view of the current problems with these fish, it would seem that careful evaluation of the trophy season is in order.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William F. Rienhoff, III". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

William F. Rienhoff, III - M.D.

RECEIVED

OCT 01 2014

Atlantic States Marine  
Fisheries Commission

September 28, 2014  
Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201  
RE: Subject: Draft Addendum I

Mr. Waine,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum II to Amendment 6 of the ASMFC's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan. I believe the reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time.

Striped Bass are one the most sought after game fish on the Atlantic coast. The keys to managing any fishery are access and abundance. Striped Bass abundance has declined dramatically since the mid-2000s while the harvest limits have stayed level despite a documented decline in the species, and in particular the big fish or breeders. I believe this must be addressed sooner rather than later.

Additionally, recreational releases have plummeted from a high of 23.4 million fish in 2006 to a low of 5.4 million fish in 2012. . Often the dominant fish in the recreational catch are those of the dominant year classes in the stock. The most abundant ages are the ones that end up being caught most often. As you know, the 2011 year class was very strong, with poor year classes prior to and after 2011. The 2011 year class will suffer disproportionate harvest levels if it is not unprotected. Protecting this strong year class could help jump-start the recovery of striped bass abundance. I believe the Board should consider further management measures protecting the 2011 class until they have entered spawning size.

Accordingly, I support the 25% reduction in quota in year 1 and conservative maximum size reductions protecting fish over 34" in length.

My comments on each Option are below:

#### 2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options

I support Option B. This is the option recommended by the Technical Committee, and makes the Fishing Mortality Reference points internally consistent with the Spawning Stock Biomass reference points. They are more conservative and should allow for increased abundance (under average recruitment regimes) than previous reference points and should help to expand the age structure of the striped bass population.

#### 2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options

I support Option B. Until we receive better guidance from the Technical Committee, the coast wide reference points represent the best available advice for management.

#### 2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options

I support Option B. The Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River stock contributes little to the coast wide striped bass stock; therefore it makes sense to allow for management under an approved North Carolina Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

(OVER)

The following letter was submitted by 2 individuals.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my preferences on the above mentioned draft addendum.

On proposed management scenarios, my preference would be options B4, B10, B16, and B17. Concerning Commercial Quota Transfers, my preference would be option A.

I am choosing these options as I believe they represent the greatest reduction in harvest from current levels. If there were options that further reduced harvest, I would select those instead. My overall choice would be a zero harvest.

Striped bass stocks are in serious trouble due to overharvest. Immediate action to correct this is badly needed.

Regards  
Robert Como

The following letter was submitted by 4 individuals.

Please accept the following comments on the “Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan” for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries. I would like to express my support for Option B under 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target and Option D8 under 3.0 Proposed Management Program.

I support ASMFC’s development of a range of management measures to reduce fishing mortality in the striped bass stocks because I recognize the importance of conserving the 2011 year class and the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Sustainability is of the utmost importance, and because Option A, status quo, would not reduce mortality below its proposed target levels on the current trajectory, it is not a viable option.

2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option B: Commercial Fishery

Please revise management trigger 3 to require the reduction of fishing mortality (F) to a level at or below the target within three years to provide management flexibility and reduce potential social and economic impacts by spreading out required harvest reductions over time.

3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B: Commercial Fishery

The reduction of F to a level at or below the target within one year by implementing a 25% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay would provide minimal protection of the SSB. The SSB migrate into the Bay to spawn and leave for the coast shortly thereafter. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers currently implement commercial seasons that minimize the mortality and interactions with SSB in the Bay by commercial fisherman; therefore, there are already measures in place in the Chesapeake Bay to conserve SSB.

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and proactively respond to the exploitable stock biomass in the Bay. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fisherman in 2013. If management Option B16 or B17 is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 39% or greater reduction in income from 2012. If the decision is made to adopt Option B, ASMFC would be doing so without fully accounting for the social and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay’s waterfront communities. Without a full economic impact study, Option B should not be considered.

Option C: Commercial Fishery

In 2013, commercial fishermen Bay-wide took a quota reduction of 14% from 2012 harvest, as a reactionary measure to reduce mortality and respond to the exploitable stock biomass. This reduction translated to a 14% reduction of income for commercial fishermen in 2013. If management option C10, a 17% reduction, is adopted, commercial fisherman would see a 31% reduction in 2015 income from 2012 levels.

If ASMFC adopts option C11, then commercial harvest in 2015 would be similar to the 2014 quota. Option C11 mitigates the social and economic impacts whereas option C10 does not. As such, I would ask ASMFC to adopt option C11 if, and only if, option D8 becomes unviable. Chesapeake Bay fishery managers recognize the unique interaction Chesapeake Bay commercial fishermen have with striped bass. Because of strict, scientifically sound season restrictions and maximum size limits, commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB, but rather interact with predominately male fish. Until the technical committee, charged with establishing Bay-wide reference points can complete this task, there is no need to pass down economically damaging reductions considering: stocks are at similar levels to where they were first declared rebuilt; Chesapeake Bay commercial fisherman have little interaction with SSB; and ASMFC has

recognized a need for Bay-wide specific reference points based on migration patterns and sex ratios in the Bay.

#### Option D8: Commercial Fishery

Based on the best available data at the time of Addendum IV's initiation, Option D8 is the most viable option for the Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries. Because fishery managers in the Chesapeake Bay recognize the Bay population of striped bass is fundamentally different than the coastwide population of striped bass in age, gender, and reproductive ability, it is imperative that management measures be taken that recognize these factors. Until the Technical Committee can address the need for Bay specific reference points, option D8 provides commercial fisherman in the Bay with the best possible chance at maintaining viability while still reducing mortality of the 2011 year class.

By allowing for reductions from the 2012 harvest, Option D8 recognizes the Bay managers' past efforts, most recently in 2013, to use harvest control models to react to biomass increases and decreases in the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability for fishery managers in the Bay to react to changing populations ensures a sustainable striped bass population and an economically viable commercial fishery while taking into account: the predator prey relationships in the Chesapeake Bay; the sex ratio unique to the Chesapeake Bay; SSB migration patterns; year class data; and the socio-economic impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region.

Please strongly consider option D8.

#### 3.2 Commercial Size Limits

##### Option B

Please adopt measures that would allow for the commercial fishery to maintain current minimum size limits for the commercial fishery if the recreational fishery adopts a size increase. Increasing the commercial size limit could increase discard mortality and require commercial fisherman to make costly changes to commercial gear

# Group and Organization Letters



September 30, 2014

Mike Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

**Re: Draft Addendum IV**

Dear Mr. Waine:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. Striped bass is arguably the single most important saltwater fishery to the U.S. recreational fishing industry. While the stock is significantly healthier than it was when the moratorium was enacted in the 1980s, recent declining trends in the fishery are cause for concern. While many factors influence the health of the striped bass stock, including environmental conditions, disease, and forage availability, fishing mortality clearly has an impact on the stock. There would be risk in maintaining current harvest levels and only taking action to reduce harvest once the stock reaches an overfished level. The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) believes that harvest levels need to be reduced as soon as possible to allow the stock to improve quickly before conditions worsen and rebuilding becomes even more difficult.

As the nation's recreational fishing trade association, ASA represents sportfishing manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, and angler advocacy groups, as well as the interests of America's 46 million recreational anglers. ASA also safeguards and promotes the social, economic, and conservation values of sportfishing in America, which result in a \$115 billion-a-year impact on the nation's economy.

After decades of overharvest brought the stock to the brink of collapse, prompting a moratorium in the 1980s, managers, industry and anglers collectively made hard sacrifices and wise management decisions. These efforts helped rebuild striped bass and create the tremendously popular fishery that is enjoyed by millions of anglers. For the past two decades, striped bass has been held up as a prime example of a successfully managed fishery. Part of good management includes proactively responding to challenges before the situation worsens and severe sacrifices are made. ASA believes that Draft Addendum IV provides an opportunity to safeguard the striped bass fishery and increase its abundance before the stock reaches overfished levels and drastic reductions are needed.

AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

1001 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 501, Alexandria, VA 22314 • 703-519-9691 • Fax: 703-519-1872  
Web: [www.ASAFishing.org](http://www.ASAFishing.org) • Email: [info@ASAFishing.org](mailto:info@ASAFishing.org)

## **Industry Survey**

To gather industry feedback on striped bass management, ASA recently partnered with Big Rock Sports and Southwick Associates to conduct a survey of fishing tackle retailers from Maine to North Carolina. The results of this survey can be found in Attachment 1 and are summarized below:

- Most (59 percent) think reductions in recreational and commercial striped bass harvests are needed to help ensure future striped bass fishing opportunities.
- The most popular (53 percent in favor) approach to meeting harvest reductions was a slot limit while maintaining a 2 fish bag limit. A 1 fish bag limit was supported by only 20 percent of respondents.
- Three-quarters of respondents thought that measures to reduce recreational striped bass harvest should be fully implemented in 2015, as opposed to a three-year phase-in.

## **Management Options**

ASA recommends the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) support the following options:

- **2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options**  
ASA supports Option B. The new, more conservative Fishing Mortality Reference points are internally consistent with recommendations of the 2013 stock assessment, as well as the ASMFC Technical Committee's recommendations.
- **2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options**  
ASA supports Option B, as the coastside reference points currently represent the best available information to use for the Chesapeake Bay.
- **2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options**  
ASA supports Option B, which would manage the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River stock using reference points from the latest North Carolina A/R stock assessment.
- **2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target**  
ASA supports Option A. ASA is concerned that any further delays in reducing fishing mortality would create unnecessary risk in addressing the decline in striped bass abundance. In addition, phasing in reductions over a three year period would create a burden on anglers who must keep up with changes in fishing regulations; a difficult task to achieve in millions of individuals each year.
- **3.0 Proposed Management Program**  
ASA supports Option B, which would reduce F by 25 percent compared to 2013 total harvest. We believe a 25 percent harvest reduction is appropriate for addressing the declining trends in the stock while mitigating negative impacts on the individuals and businesses that depend on the fishery.

- Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options  
Every option for reducing harvest in the recreational fishery meets or exceeds the 25 percent harvest reduction. Individual states are encouraged to work with their stakeholders to enact, through conservation equivalency, the most appropriate regulations for their state.
- 5.0 Recommendation for Federal Waters  
ASA strongly supports the existing prohibition of striped bass harvest in federal waters, and would oppose any efforts to lift this restriction. Rather than considering allowing directed fishing for striped bass in federal waters, ASA strongly believes managers (specifically NOAA Fisheries) should focus more resources on better enforcing the current prohibition by addressing bycatch and illegal harvest of striped bass in federal waters. The potential benefits of the harvest reductions currently being considered by the ASMFC will only go so far unless the serious harm being done to the fishery in federal waters is fully addressed.

### **Conclusion**

The sportfishing industry has a strong track record of supporting fisheries conservation and willingly making sacrifices for the good of the fisheries resources we depend on. The current situation with striped bass calls for preemptive action now to help ensure future benefits to the fish stock and those who depend on it. ASA believes that the management options recommended within this letter are needed to help ensure the future sustainability of this highly important resource.

Sincerely,



Mike Leonard  
Ocean Resource Policy Director

## Results of the American Sportfishing Association Survey of Fishing Tackle Retailers about Striped Bass Management

A total of 88 completed responses were received between August 26 and September 10, 2014. A copy of the survey tool used is located on the "Survey Tool" tab of this document.

| 1) Do you think reductions in recreational and commercial striped bass harvests are needed to help ensure future striped bass fishing opportunities? For the recreational sector, these reductions would result from either larger size limits, reduced bag limits. |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Percent of respondents |
| Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 59.1%                  |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 30.7%                  |
| Not Sure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 10.2%                  |
| Total                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 100.0%                 |
| Number of respondents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | N=88                   |

Fifty-nine percent of respondents felt that reductions in recreational and commercial striped bass harvests are needed to help ensure future striped bass fishing opportunities.

| 2) Please check which statement best reflects your thoughts about striped bass management (only answered by those who said "no" nor "not sure" to Q1). |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                        | Percent of respondents |
| Striped bass populations are fine. There is no need to change anything.                                                                                | 31.4%                  |
| Striped bass populations need attention, so I support reducing fishing mortality.                                                                      | 11.4%                  |
| Striped bass populations need attention, but other approaches can be taken. Please describe:                                                           | 57.1%                  |
| Total                                                                                                                                                  | 100.0%                 |
| Number of respondents                                                                                                                                  | N=35                   |

Fifty-seven percent of those who responded "no" or "not sure" to reductions in recreational and commercial striped bass harvests, stated that striped bass populations do need attention but other approaches can be taken. These other responses are listed in the table below:

| Write-in responses to "Striped bass populations need attention, but other approaches can be taken. Please describe:"                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| address the commercial end of problem..recreational fisherman have suffered enough                                                                                                                                                                            |
| bring back the slot fish so it would save some of the larger fish                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| close inshore 3 mile out netting                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Commercial adjustments that eliminate releasing dead fish and by catch. Sport anglers get 1 or 2.                                                                                                                                                             |
| Commercial by catch is the culprit                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| cut down on pound nets and overfishing of menhaden. most recreational guys get out once or twice a week, commercial guys everyday. most rec guys I speak with are in favor of more restrictions, maybe even a limit on how many per season with tags issued.  |
| How about reducing pollution instead. Its not just about how many fish are being taken out of the waters                                                                                                                                                      |
| I feel no problem can be fully addressed with a blanket response, such as 'Reduce fishing mortality.' I personally need to be further educated on the factors contributing to the decline in striped bass population. Are we simply facing an over-fishing pr |
| Its the commercial fisherman netting all the fish, then they cull out the ones that are too small and dead back into the ocean. Obviously it's commercial overfishing and under regulating.                                                                   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| limit commercial more but not recreational. i don't fish for these fish so i have no bias.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| More information needed in order to have real opinion .                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Nature has dictated fish populations for ever. If the striped bass polpulation is in decline, it is a natural occurance. In the next few years I believe you will see an increase in the weakfish and blue fish populations as the striped bass populations con |
| Per fish the recreational fisherman spends far more than commercial. I do not know the number caught by both but I suspect the commercial fisheries take far more fish. Might also considerer a ban on commercial fishing in the sounds for a year or two       |
| reduce commercial harvest only                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| severly restrict or prohibit netting of striped bass commercially. i would limit commer ial fishing for striped bass to rod and reel only and have limits similar to recreational limits.ly                                                                     |
| Stop targeting Prime Breeding Age fish target smaller fish before they breed and allow a large trophy fish with some sort yearly allowance                                                                                                                      |
| Stop the bunker boats in the Virginia waters                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| The 10 fish limit for commercail fishing is ridiculous, a pound limit is much better so that the trawlers are not throwing fish back dead or alive, please look at this, do not waist a food source, if they catch 1,000 they are only allowed to keep 10 how   |

| 3) To reduce recreational catches, which approach do you think is best for striped bass and your business? (only answered by those who said "yes" to Q1). |                                                                                                       |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                         |       |        |                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|
| 5) Please report in which state you are located:                                                                                                          | Reducing the coastwide daily bag limit from 2 fish to 1, while maintaining the current 28" size limit | Increasing the size limit to 33" while keeping the bag limit at 2 | Introduce slot limits that protect juvenile fish while requiring larger fish to be released for breeding purposes. Bag limits would remain at two fish. | Other | Total  | Number of respondents |
| Connecticut                                                                                                                                               | 50.0%                                                                                                 | 0.0%                                                              | 50.0%                                                                                                                                                   | 0.0%  | 100.0% | N=2                   |
| Delaware                                                                                                                                                  | 0.0%                                                                                                  | 0.0%                                                              | 100.0%                                                                                                                                                  | 0.0%  | 100.0% | N=1                   |
| Maine                                                                                                                                                     | 100.0%                                                                                                | 0.0%                                                              | 0.0%                                                                                                                                                    | 0.0%  | 100.0% | N=1                   |
| Maryland                                                                                                                                                  | 0.0%                                                                                                  | 28.6%                                                             | 42.9%                                                                                                                                                   | 28.6% | 100.0% | N=7                   |
| Massachusetts                                                                                                                                             | 50.0%                                                                                                 | 0.0%                                                              | 25.0%                                                                                                                                                   | 25.0% | 100.0% | N=4                   |
| New Hampshire                                                                                                                                             | 0.0%                                                                                                  | 0.0%                                                              | 100.0%                                                                                                                                                  | 0.0%  | 100.0% | N=1                   |
| New Jersey                                                                                                                                                | 11.1%                                                                                                 | 0.0%                                                              | 55.6%                                                                                                                                                   | 33.3% | 100.0% | N=9                   |
| New York                                                                                                                                                  | 0.0%                                                                                                  | 20.0%                                                             | 80.0%                                                                                                                                                   | 0.0%  | 100.0% | N=5                   |
| North Carolina                                                                                                                                            | 30.8%                                                                                                 | 7.7%                                                              | 61.5%                                                                                                                                                   | 0.0%  | 100.0% | N=13                  |
| Rhode Island                                                                                                                                              | 0.0%                                                                                                  | 0.0%                                                              | 100.0%                                                                                                                                                  | 0.0%  | 100.0% | N=1                   |
| Virginia                                                                                                                                                  | 20.0%                                                                                                 | 60.0%                                                             | 20.0%                                                                                                                                                   | 0.0%  | 100.0% | N=5                   |
| All respondents                                                                                                                                           | 20.4%                                                                                                 | 14.3%                                                             | 53.1%                                                                                                                                                   | 12.2% | 100.0% | N=49                  |

53.1% of respondents who think reductions in recreational and commercial striped bass harvests are needed to help insure future striped bass fishing opportunities thought that introducing slot limits that protect juvenile fish while requiring larger fish to be released for breeding purposes (and maintaining a 2 fish bag limit) was the best approach for their business. Twelve percent of respondents said that another approach would be best for striped bass and their business. These responses are listed in the table below:

|                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Write-in responses for those who selected "other" for the best approach for striped bass and their business to reduce recreational catches: |
| 1@34'                                                                                                                                       |
| for maryland i would like to see a closed season for the months of july and august, keeping the current size and creel limit.               |
| I like the way Maine is doing it. 1 fish per day, 20 to 26 inches, or one over 40'                                                          |
| Increase boating minimum sizes, keeping shore fishing the same.                                                                             |
| Only allow 1 fish over 36'. Second Fish from 28 to 36 only                                                                                  |
| Slot limit with one trophy fish per season, similar to Bluefin tuna regs                                                                    |

There are too many 'kill the big fish' tournaments. Charge a hefty fee to hold a tournament and there would only be a handful of them and not the hundreds we now have!

We are immersed in the commercial fishing/crabbing in southern maryland industry since they live and work around my business. The local industry is very exploited by unethical practices. Recreational fisherman have almost no effect compared to the comme

| 4) Regardless of the measures used to reduce recreational striped bass harvest, do you think any new restrictions should be implemented fully in 2015 or should they be phased in over three years? (only answered by those who said "yes" to Q1). |                                          |                                                     |          |        |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------|
| 5) Please report in which state you are located:                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Fully implement new restrictions in 2015 | Phase in new restrictions over the next three years | Not sure | Total  | Number of respondents |
| Connecticut                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 100.0%                                   | 0.0%                                                | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=2                   |
| Delaware                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 100.0%                                   | 0.0%                                                | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=1                   |
| Maine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 100.0%                                   | 0.0%                                                | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=1                   |
| Maryland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 57.1%                                    | 42.9%                                               | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=7                   |
| Massachusetts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 100.0%                                   | 0.0%                                                | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=4                   |
| New Hampshire                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 0.0%                                     | 100.0%                                              | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=1                   |
| New Jersey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 33.3%                                    | 66.7%                                               | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=9                   |
| New York                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 100.0%                                   | 0.0%                                                | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=5                   |
| North Carolina                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 92.3%                                    | 7.7%                                                | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=13                  |
| Rhode Island                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 100.0%                                   | 0.0%                                                | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=1                   |
| Virginia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 80.0%                                    | 20.0%                                               | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=5                   |
| All respondents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 75.5%                                    | 24.5%                                               | 0.0%     | 100.0% | N=49                  |

Three-quarters of respondents thought that measures to reduce recreational striped bass harvest should be fully implemented in 2015, while the remaining quarter would prefer a three year phase-in period.

| 5) Please report in which state you are located: |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                  | Percent of respondents |
| Connecticut                                      | 4%                     |
| Delaware                                         | 2%                     |
| Maine                                            | 2%                     |
| Maryland                                         | 14%                    |
| Massachusetts                                    | 8%                     |
| New Hampshire                                    | 2%                     |
| New Jersey                                       | 18%                    |
| New York                                         | 10%                    |
| North Carolina                                   | 27%                    |
| Rhode Island                                     | 2%                     |
| Virginia                                         | 10%                    |
| Total                                            | 100%                   |
| Number of respondents                            | N=49                   |

## Survey Tool

### Invite Email:

FROM: Big Rock Sports

SUBJECT: Big Rock and ASA need your input on Atlantic striped bass management –

EMAIL TEXT: New regulations are being considered for Atlantic coast striped bass fishing. Big Rock Sports is working with the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) to ensure retailers and industry's opinions and concerns are heard. In response to declining striped bass stocks, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is exploring options to reduce both recreational and commercial fishing mortality by 25 percent. We ask that you please take one minute to help guide the industry's position on future striped bass harvest regulations. All responses will remain fully anonymous.

### Survey Tool:

#### INTRO ON SURVEY PAGE:

In response to declining populations of striped bass, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is considering a reduction in recreational and commercial fishing mortality by 25 percent. Changes to striped bass regulations could have a significant impact on retailers like you, so your input can help ensure that these decisions are made in the best interest of the resource and the businesses that depend on it. Big Rock Sports and the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) ask you to spend a minute to complete this short, fully anonymous survey. The results will be used to formulate a cohesive industry position on future striped bass harvest regulations. Click here to begin. Thank you!

- Mike Leonard, Ocean Policy Director, American Sportfishing Association
- Gary Zurn, Senior Vice President, Big Rock Sports

1) Do you think reductions in recreational and commercial striped bass harvests are needed to help ensure future striped bass fishing opportunities? For the recreational sector, these reductions would result from either larger size limits, reduced bag limits, trophy and slot size restrictions, or a combination of these approaches.

- Yes (go to #3)
- No (go to #2)
- Not sure (go to #2)

2) Please check which statement best reflects your thoughts about striped bass management:

- Striped bass populations are fine. There is no need to change anything.
- Striped bass populations need attention, so I support reducing fishing mortality.
- Striped bass populations need attention, but other approaches can be taken. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

[END OF SURVEY]

3) To reduce recreational catches, which approach do you think is best for striped bass and your business?

- a. Reducing the coastwide daily bag limit from 2 fish to 1, while maintaining the current 28" size limit
- b. Increasing the size limit to 33" while keeping the bag limit at 2
- c. Introduce slot limits that protect juvenile fish while requiring larger fish to be released for breeding purposes. Bag limits would remain at two fish.
- d. Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Regardless of the measures used to reduce recreational striped bass harvest, do you think any new restrictions should be implemented fully in 2015 or should they be phased in over three years?

- Fully implement new restrictions in 2015
- Phase in new restrictions over the next three years
- Not sure

5) Please report in which state you are located:

[DROP DOWN LIST]



9/5/14

Dear Mike-

Please find below the comments of the Anglers Conservation Network (ACN) regarding [Draft Addendum IV to the striped bass management](#) plan. After careful consideration of this important yet controversial matter, ACN has concluded that decisive action by the striped bass management board is necessary to return this stock to a healthy state.

Although it is virtually impossible to pin point a single cause of the current demise of striped bass population, one thing is for sure: we have witnessed a collapse due to overfishing before. The resulting moratorium is an ideal example of what happens when striped bass are given a viable chance to recover. Once again, we are witnessing over exploitation and lack of a conservation mindset across the entire fishery.

We feel strongly that action needs to be taken in 2015 to reduce mortality by at least 25% coast wide. The phased in three year plan is unacceptable. Recreational fisherman should not bear the entire burden of the correction and any changes to the fishery should be applied to all participants. Specific Draft Addendum option recommendations are below.

In addition to reducing fishing mortality through Addendum IV, the ASMFC, NMFS, and other state and federal agencies should work to further reduce overall mortality and increasing population of striped bass by focusing on improvements to habitat, forage and other issues outlined below.

It is understood that many of these suggestions will require significant investment over time. In no priority order, we encourage your increased attention to:

- enforcement of fishing regulations, both in state waters and the EEZ
- growing the forage base, of menhaden, alewife and blue-back herring, sand-eel, grass shrimp and blue claw crab
- better accounting for commercial fishing discards bottom trawl & gill net fisheries
- the impacts of water temperature changes to bass and forage species migration patterns

- upgrading and prohibiting open loop power plant systems to avoid destruction of post spawn fry and young of year in nursery areas
- examine destructive causes to habitat and implement replacement programs of vital grasses and estuary structure
- removal of combined sewer outflows (CSO) in critical areas
- selective harvest, primarily catch and release breeder sized bass for the future
- development of pre-spawn catch and release only zones at staging areas

In summary and to be exact as per each issue in question:

Section 2.5.1 & 2.5.2 we select option **B**, which adopts the best available science as set out in the 2013 Benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6-

We select Option **A**- which prevents the three year phase in time period and requires the reduction to occur all at once in the 2015 year

Section 3.0-

Require a full **25%** harvest reduction from 2013 levels to take place next year.

We select Option **B3**- a one fish bag limit and a **32"** size limit. This option selected because it allows them to spawn several times and keeps the spawning stock biomass (SSB) intact longer.

For the Chesapeake Bay options, we select the hard quota Option of **B15**

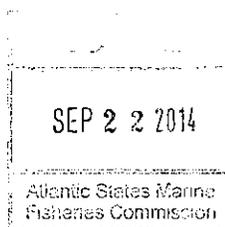
On behalf of our membership, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on the management of our fisheries.

Sincerely,

Capt. Paul Eidman



Paul Haertel, Legislative Representative  
Berkeley Striper Club  
P.O. Box 9  
Seaside Park, N.J. 08753



September 15, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, Va. 22201

Mike and ASMFC,

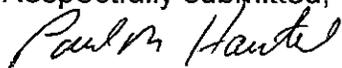
The Berkeley Striper Club is based in Seaside Park, New Jersey and is composed of approximately 200 avid striped bass fishermen. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. We discussed the addendum thoroughly and our position is as follows:

- 2.5.1 We support option B and urge the Commission to adopt the new reference points as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment.
- 2.6 We support option A and would like action to be taken to reduce mortality within a one year time frame.
- 3.0 We support option B and would like to have F reduced by 25% or more within one year. The striped bass biomass been declining since 2003. We would like to see stripers managed so that they remain near peak abundance rather than just sustainability.

We also support B-3, a one fish limit at 32". We believe that this option will best protect the 2011 year class. They are currently about 18" long but the females will be large enough to breed by 2016 or 2017. We would like to ensure that this last good year class is able to spawn at least a couple of times before they are harvested.

- 3.1 We support option A, status quo. We are vehemently opposed to the transfer of commercial quotas from one state to another. In an addendum that is mostly about remaining at status quo or reducing mortality it is appalling that this section would allow an increase in mortality. We would like any unused quotas to be conserved rather than harvested.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Haertel  
BSC Legislative Representative

**To:** Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

**From:** Bob Hussey, President, Cape Cod Charter Boat Association (CCCBA).

**Subject:** Comments on proposed Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan (ASB).....

**Date:** September 24, 2014

The Board of Directors of the CCCBA, acting on behalf of our membership, met on September 17 and voted to send the following comments to ASMFC regarding proposed Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the ASB Plan..

-We strongly support Option 2B1 of the proposed addendum, a one fish bag and 28" minimum size for the coastal recreational fishery starting in 2015.

-We also support a commensurate reduction in the coastal commercial fishery, Option B16. Some of our members have traditionally participated in the commercial fishery and recognize the need for comparable reductions in that important coastal fishery.

-We further urge that the subject of requiring circle hooks when using live bait is revisited and given serious consideration. Other states have this requirement, and its reduction of fish mortality has been well documented in a number of studies.

-We encourage our neighboring charter boat operators in our border states of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and the other coastal New England states to also support Option 2B1. A united front by the professional for-hire charter boat operators that have been and are traditionally dependent on a viable striped bass resource will hopefully weigh heavily on the decision making process.

-Lastly, we lived and survived through the recovery process that created the successful restoration of this magnificent species which included a one fish bag and 36" minimum size. We are prepared to endure this most rigorous option and, if adopted, anticipate rebuilding of the stock to desired restoration levels. The CCCBA is one of the oldest professional for-hire organizations on the East Coast (1959) with a current membership of 74 boats and associate members

Sincerely,



Captain Robert Hussey  
President  
Cape Cod Charter Boat Association

**From:** [FRANK A. KEARNEY III](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** CCA Virginia Comments on Addendum IV  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 9:27:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

---

September 27, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Email [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org)

ASMFC Commissioners,

As Virginia striped bass anglers have been painfully aware, striped bass abundance has declined steadily since the mid 2000s.

Striped bass are one the most sought after fish in Virginia. Clearly abundance has declined and must be addressed as soon possible. In the eyes of Virginia anglers, the striped bass stock has already been significantly harmed due to the decrease in abundance.

There is currently a very strong 2011 year-class, with poor year classes surrounding it in the population. It could suffer disproportionate harvest levels if left unprotected. However, this strong year class, if protected, could help jump-start the recovery of striped bass abundance. CCA Virginia believes ASMFC should consider further management measures that protect the 2011 year class until they enter spawning size so we support the following options in Addendum IV.

#### **2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options**

*CCA Virginia supports Option B for the Coast wide population.* This is the option recommended by the Technical Committee, and makes the Fishing Mortality Reference points internally consistent with the Spawning Stock Biomass reference points. They are more conservative and should allow for increased abundance (under average recruitment regimes) than previous reference points and should help to expand the age structure of the striped bass population.

#### **2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options**

*CCA Virginia Supports Option B for the Chesapeake Bay.* Until such time as we receive better guidance from the Technical Committee, the coast-wide reference points represent the best available advice for management.

#### **2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options**

*CCA Virginia supports Option B.* Since the AR stock contributes little to the coast-wide striped bass stock, it makes sense to allow for management under an approved North Carolina Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.

#### **2.6 Timeline to Reduce F (Fishing Mortality) to the Target**

*CCA Virginia supports Option A.* The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced, the sooner abundance can begin to be restored. One of the enduring lessons from the last 30 years of fishery management is that delayed management often has little or no management effect. Taking the necessary reductions as early as possible is usually the best solution.

### **3.0 Proposed Management Program**

*CCA Virginia supports Option B. We see no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality. The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced the sooner abundance may begin to rebound.*

### **Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options**

*CCA Virginia supports Option B2(1 fish-30"-min) for the Coastal fishery and B10(1 fish-18" min) for the Chesapeake Bay.*

### **Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options**

*CCA supports Option B16(25% reduction from the Amendment 6 quota) for the Commercial Coastal Fishery and B18(25% reduction from the 2012 commercial harvest) for the Chesapeake Bay Management Area.*

---

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Frank A. Kearney III  
CCA VA Government Affairs Committee  
Hampton, VA 23669  
Phone 757-723-7652  
Cell 757-880-2888



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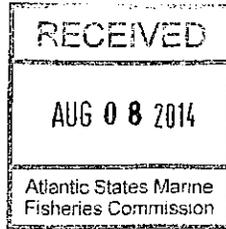
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CONSERVATION & PROTECTION OF MARINE LIFE  
6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100 | Houston, Texas 77024  
p 713.626.4234 | f 713.626.5852 | www.JoinCCA.org



August 1, 2014

Douglas E. Grout, Chairman  
ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board  
NH Fish and Game Dept.  
Marine Fisheries  
225 Main Street  
Durham, NH 03824-4732

Dear Mr. Grout,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan. The Coastal Conservation Association has long proposed reductions in fishing mortality of striped bass to help maintain or increase abundance and to enhance the age structure of the population.

Striped bass are one of the most valuable species to the Atlantic recreational fishery. They are an important economic driver for many Atlantic coastal communities. The recreational fishery depends on abundance to realize its full economic potential, yet striped bass abundance has declined steadily since 2006.

We understand the Striped Bass Management Board will consider management options in Addendum IV at their August meeting. We are dismayed to hear the subcommittee of the Striped Bass Board has recommended elimination of all options that make real reductions in fishing mortality. The advice of the Technical Committee was clear – if the new reference points are adopted then there must be at least a 25% reduction in fishing mortality to have a 50% chance in reaching the new target fishing mortality reference point. That does not mean a 25% reduction in quota's, but rather a real reduction in harvest.

We have the following concerns:

- The female spawning stock biomass has declined steadily since 2004; it was just barely above the proposed threshold in 2012 (i.e., nearly overfished).
- According to the 2013 stock assessment, we have been fishing over the proposed fishing mortality threshold (overfishing) for 6 of the preceding 9 years.

RB

TK

MW

DT

- The Technical Committee suggested that at least a 25% reduction in mortality was necessary to reverse these declines and that with only a 50% probability of being successful. More stringent reductions would be necessary to have a higher level of probability than a coin toss.
- Amendment 6 requires management action by the Board if overfishing is occurring: *Should it be determined that overfishing is occurring (F greater than threshold defined in Section 2.5) the Management Board will take action to reduce the fishing mortality rate on the stock to at least the desired target level.*
- Anglers up and down the East Coast are encountering far fewer fish. The number of striped bass caught and released alive declined precipitously from over 23 million fish in 2006 to just over 5 million in 2012.

These are all warning signs that the Board seems willing to ignore, potentially risking one of the greatest fishery management success stories in the history of our country. While the current stock condition is nowhere near the level it was before the moratorium, we are concerned that it is headed towards depletion and the Board is still contemplating minimal reductions in harvest. We believe the time is past for excuses and inaction, it's time to start restoring striped bass abundance and halt the decline.

We strongly urge you to put options in Addendum IV that make real reductions that get us back to the Target fishing mortality rate and begin restoring abundance as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bill Bird, Chairman  
Government Relations Committee Chairman  
Coastal Conservation Association

cc: Michael W. Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201



---

**To: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)**

**From: Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF)**

**Re: Comments on ASMFC Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan**

**Date: September 30, 2014**

---

As fisheries managers up and down the Atlantic Coast are well aware, striped bass abundance has declined in recent years, which is likely the reason for reduced harvest figures of 19% from 2008. Abundance is one of the key features for managing a successful recreational fishery that provides diverse social, economic, and conservation benefits to our society. Following the moratorium on fishing for striped bass in the 1980s, recreational anglers and state fish and wildlife agencies played a pivotal role in rebuilding the stock to a robust and thriving feature of our Atlantic angling community. Recent projections show that it is now necessary to take corrective measures in management strategy so that the stock can rebound quickly and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's highly successful model of Atlantic striped bass management continues to benefit all anglers along the East Coast.

As found by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in their *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation*, there are more than 40 million recreational anglers in the nation that collectively support our nation's economy through generating \$61.7 billion in direct spending while engaged in their pursuits. This spending supports over 828,000 jobs and generates over \$8 billion in federal taxes, which is enough to pay the salaries of 410,000 active duty privates in the U.S. Army.

Not only are recreational anglers a powerful economic force, they also provide the vast majority of funds for fisheries conservation through the American System of Conservation Funding. In 2013 alone, \$359,871,868 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 \$637,650,071.38 to state fisheries management efforts, bringing the total contribution by America's anglers in 2013 to nearly \$1 billion.

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation 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, and social consequences of a collapsed striped bass fishery, as well as the current data that project striped bass to be overfished by 2017 unless corrective measures are implemented, CSF supports reducing fishing mortality by 25% in 2015. CSF recommends this approach to realize the highest probability that fishing mortality will be brought to its target level in the shortest time possible. CSF further recommends the reduction be applied to both the commercial and recreational sectors, and that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission continues to afford states the flexibility to manage their fisheries with conservation equivalency proposals that use the best available data, meet the needs of their commercial and recreational sectors and ensure the necessary harvest reduction is achieved.

The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced to target levels, the sooner abundance can be restored within the fishery. Therefore the below options represent the most effective means of ensuring minimal social and economic disruption to those dependent on the fishery while the stock rebounds:

### **2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point**

*Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points*

The fishing mortality reference points will be adjusted to be internally consistent with the SSB target and threshold.

### **2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target**

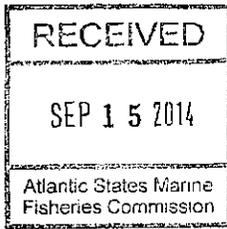
*Option A: Status quo: One year time frame*

Management Trigger 3 requires reducing F to a level at or below the target within one year.

### **3.0 Proposed Management Program**

*Option B: Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year.*

This represents a 25% reduction from 2013 total harvest. The desired reduction would be achieved by approximately equal relative reductions to both the commercial and recreational fisheries.



Mike Mullen,  
25 Noyes Rd.  
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Sept. 3, 2014

Mike Waine  
Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

*Subject-Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV*

*I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken a very long time to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially large breeders. I have personally caught fewer large striped bass each year from shore since 2006. The numbers of smaller striped bass in our local estuaries have also been declining for that same period of time.*

*I support a 25% reduction in one year, a reduction in the daily bag limit from two to one fish, and an increase in the size limit to 32" in length. I further support a coast wide reduction of 25% in the commercial harvest of striped bass*

*Respectfully,*

*Mike Mullen, President, Connecticut Surfcasters Association*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Mullen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

**From:** [Peter Nilsen](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:41:42 AM

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

Dear Mr. Waine,

My name is Peter Nilsen and I am the President of Rhody Fly Rodders, located here in Rhode Island.

I'm writing today to voice our position on the striped bass conservation issue and the upcoming addendum.

Please find our choices below.

Rhody Fly Rodders is the oldest saltwater fly fishing club in America, started in 1963 by Harold Gibbs and Al Brewster. Harold Gibbs was a noted authority on fish & marine life in Narragansett Bay and that experience elevated him to the position of Director of Fish & Game for the state of RI for many years. He was very involved in marine conservation back then and based this club on those sound conservation principles. We as a club have follow his lead for over 50 years.

Our club membership consists of 85% recreational shore fishermen and 15% boat fisherman, and most are catch & release fishermen, with some taking an occasional fish for the table. We practice this and we teach this. We as a group, and as individuals are extremely concerned about the diminishing stock of our favorite fish, the striped bass. Now is the time to take action – three years is too late!

Thank you for your time & effort,

Sincerely,

Peter Nilsen  
President / Newsletter Editor  
Rhody Fly Rodders  
75 Massasoit Ave.  
Barrington, RI 02806  
H – 401-245-7172  
C – 401-633-5329  
[pdfish@fullchannel.net](mailto:pdfish@fullchannel.net)

**RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:**

Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

**Option B:** Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

**Option A:** Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

**Option B3:** one fish per person per day at 32 inches.

Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

**Option A:** Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

**Option A:** Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

**From:** [Solomons Captains](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 19, 2014 2:44:40 PM

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Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

As you know, the Striped Bass fishery is of vital importance to all Charter boat operators and recreational anglers within the Chesapeake Bay. The members of the Solomons Charter Captains Association, many of which are also members of the Maryland Charter boat Association have seen a dramatic decrease in the numbers of Striped Bass in the Chesapeake Bay. Amazingly Maryland DNR saw fit to increase the Striped Bass quotas by approximately 14% in 2014. We were against such an increase and notified Mr. O'Connell (MDDNR) of our position. SCCA would like to see ASMFC stand firm and implement meaningful restrictions on Striped Bass coast wide now. It's our opinion the proposal by Maryland DNR to implement restrictions over a 3 year period will cause more harm than good. We encourage all ASMFC members to place the resource above any political requests and do what's right to help the fishery recover as quickly as possible for everyone's benefit. SCCA believes the reductions can be accomplished by size and creel changes without any season closures.

We have had a rapid and steady decline of Striped Bass in the Chesapeake Bay south of Poplar Island for 4 years straight. We would like to see the few remaining Striped Bass protected now to allow the fishery to recover sooner than later.

While a long-awaited strong recruitment year occurred in 2011, such an occurrence was an anomaly. The most recent stock assessment (2013) proposed new reference points by which to judge the health of the stock. It indicated for the first time that the fishing mortality was above the target and the spawning stock biomass was below the target. In short, a clear signal that the population is headed in the wrong direction and corrective action is warranted. Fishery scientists have advised managers there should be at least a 31 percent reduction in mortality to return to the target and halt the decline in spawning stock biomass.

Fishing at a rate above the target and nearer the threshold can lead to an age structure with fewer older, "trophy" sized fish. The best way to ensure a healthy number of larger, old fish is to reduce mortality and allow them to live to an advanced age. Anglers along our coast want striped bass restored to a higher level of abundance so they have a better chance of catching a Striped Bass.

We believe the ASMFC should act as now to halt the current decline. That means approving Addendum IV without the three-year phase-in option and putting in place measures that achieve at least a 31 percent reduction in harvest in 2015.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

The 26 members of the Solomons Charter Captains Association  
1745 Forest Glen Dr.  
Prince Frederick, Maryland . 20678  
[410-808-3832](tel:410-808-3832)

9/29/2014

James Candia, Rear Commodore  
Forked River Tuna Club  
18 Bay Ave, Forked River, NJ

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

**Dear Mr. Waine,**

After careful consideration of the various options presented in the "Draft Addendum to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan", the 125 member Forked River Tuna Club ("the club") would like to express their support for the following options:

With regard to section 2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options, the club supports **option B** use the 2013 benchmark stock assessment.

With regard to section 2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options, the club supports **option B** use the same coast wide population F reference points for the Chesapeake Bay

With regard to section 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target, the club supports **option A** implement proposed measures over a one-year time frame.

With regard to section 3.0 Proposed Management Program, the club support Option B and believes **B3** (1 fish bag limit with 32-inch minimum size) is the best option to achieve the goal of this proposed addendum.

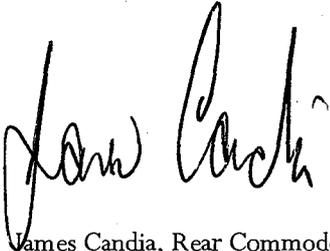
The club recognizes that the addendum must address both recreational and commercial management options and is concerned that no options presented by the Commission will reduce commercial harvest. The recreational community alone cannot address a problem that is result of both commercial and recreational fishing. The club believes the Commission should implement similar reductions across the aboard and address the provision that allows the harvest of immature 18" Striped Bass. The club would support **option B17 for the Coastal Commercial Fishery** if this option were proposed. This option applies a 25% reduction from the 2013 harvest. For so long as commercial fisherman are permitted to take immature stock the club supports the maximum reduction in commercial harvest quotas.

With regard to the Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery, The club supports option **B18** which takes a 25% reduction from the 2012 commercial harvest.

With regard to section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfer, the club does not support any option that will increase either commercial or recreational Striped Bass Harvest. Therefore the club supports **Option A** which prohibits commercial quota transfer.

With regard to section 3.2 Commercial Size Limits, the club supports **option A** which imposes the same size limit on commercial and recreational harvest. The continued harvest of immature fish cannot be allowed if the Commission is truly interested in reducing mortality to increase the spawning stock biomass. Any other choice by the Commission can only be seen as duplicitous and counter-productive to the stated goals of the draft addendum.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Candia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

James Candia, Rear Commodore

[Type the sender title]

Forked River Tuna Club

September 29, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine

ASMFC

1050 N. Highland St.

Suite 200 A –N

Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate  
Fisheries Management Plan

Dear Mr. Waine:

The Hi-Mar Striper Club of Middletown, New Jersey, a fishing club of approximately 50 members, hereby wishes to advise the ASMFC of its position in regard to the above referenced Draft Addendum to the management plan for Striped Bass. This position is a result of a pole of our members. It is as follows:

Section 2.5.1 – Option B – Use the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

Section 2.6 - Option A – Reduce mortality by 25% in one year.

Section 3.0 - Option B7 – 1 fish at 28 – 34” and 1 fish at a minimum of 36”

Section 3.1 - Option A – Maintain the Status Quo and prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

Section 3.2 - Option A – Require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limits be increased.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow us to present our club’s position.

Yours truly,

Timothy Behany

President, Hi-Mar Striper Club

P.O. Box 126, Middletown, NJ 07748





## Massachusetts Striped Bass Association

Since 1950

September 30, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine  
Atlantic States Marine fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Striped Bass-Draft Addendum IV

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the hundreds of fishing families and small business owners that make up the Massachusetts Striped Bass Association. Incorporated in 1950, MSBA has long been recognized as a major voice representing the Massachusetts recreational fishing community. Our membership includes over a dozen charter boat operators and over two dozen commercial striped bass harvesters. An internal process that included multiple open meetings and a final vote by our membership on September 24, 2014 determined the following positions.

**2.1. Statement of the Problem:** MSBA agrees with the statement of the problem. The striped bass fishery in Massachusetts and elsewhere is in a significant decline. Other than a few "hot spots" fishing is generally poor. Shore based anglers and private boaters alike are encountering very few fish per trip. Participation across all modes, including for hire, is declining at an alarming rate causing significant economic impacts.

**2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options:** MSBA agrees that ASMFC should adjust the F target and threshold based on reference points developed in the 2013 benchmark stock assessment and approved during SARC 57. We feel this represents the best available science concerning striped bass. ***MSBA urges ASMFC to adopt 2.5.1 Option B and set Fthreshold at .22 and Ftarget at .18.***

**2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target:** ***MSBA supports 2.6 Option A; Status Quo: One year time frame.*** Simply put, our membership feels that the decline in the striped bass fishery must be addressed immediately. Aggressive conservation is the best chance of a quick return to robust stocks that will be available for increased opportunity and harvest. To water down the reductions over three years could result in even further reductions in the future and this is not a risk our membership feels ASMFC should take considering the vast recreational and economic value that comes with a strong striped bass fishery. Another reason ASMFC should take the

reduction all in one year is that the recreational fishing community (including industry and anglers themselves) from across the nation have made it clear a top priority is that we want stable & predictable regulations. A complicated reduction with higher risk that may or may not have to be adjusted does not align with this overwhelmingly agreed upon national opinion. Finally, we feel that ASMFC even considering a three-year reduction violates the mandate and principles of Amendment 6.

**3.0 Management Measures:**

Our membership feels that it is important to choose a coast wide management measure that has a high likelihood of achieving the necessary reduction. After considering uncertainty within the data involved, our members decided that a reduction of greater than 30% was required to ensure the goals of the addendum are met and further reductions in the future are avoided. *After significant debate and discussion the MSBA membership voted unanimously to support Option B3 (1 fish bag limit & minimum size of 32 inches).* Of special note is that multiple members that are also for hire operators feel strongly that it is more important to achieve the reduction and stop the decline of the fishery as opposed to choosing a higher risk option that includes a two fish bag limit. These for hire operators feel strongly that they can continue to be profitable under a one fish bag limit just as they did for most of the past 25 plus years.

MSBA is known to support the MA commercial rod and reel fishery. Our membership includes MANY commercial harvesters that are concerned with the significant decline in the fishery. *MSBA urges ASMFC to choose Option B16 for commercial coast wide harvest (25% reduction from Amendment 6 quotas).*

**3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers:** MSBA is concerned that this option is not developed with enough detail to have its ramifications adequately analyzed . In addition we are concerned that to allow quota transfer will actually lead to increased harvest annually. We do not feel this action is appropriate for this addendum. *It is for these reasons that MSBA supports Option A: Status Quo, no commercial quota transfer.*

Thank you for considering our positions.

Sincerely;



Mike Jones; President  
Massachusetts Striped Bass Association  
410 Quincy Ave  
Braintree, MA 02184



Maine Association of Charterboat Captains  
74 N. Marriner St.  
South Portland, ME 04106  
mainechartercaptains.org

September 30, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Mr. Waine, Commissioners,

As the only organization representing all charter boat captains in Maine, the Maine Association of Charterboat Captains speaks with a unified voice in strongly encouraging a single-year, 25% reduction in striped bass mortality.

Striped bass represent, by far, Maine's most important saltwater charter species; recent years have seen drastic reductions in our stocks, and clients are recognizing the fact that our fishery is not what it was. As the "canary in the coal mine," Maine's fishery ought to speak loudly and clearly about the future of our stocks coast-wide. As an industry, statistics bear out what our anecdotal evidence is telling us: These fish are in trouble.

Despite a 32% reduction in harvest since 2008 industry-wide, and despite the fact that we are confident we will be overfishing our bass within the year, some members of the charter community and commercial interests are lobbying to push the fishery to the brink. As a process, the cyclical nature of our "Overfish, Ignore, React Drastically" would be laughable, were it not so serious. As members of MACC, we would like to see this cycle broken permanently, starting with a serious commitment to rebuilding our stocks as quickly as possible, and then following with a serious and sustainable fisheries management program that dictates, industry-wide, that we never find ourselves in this position again.

We are well aware that some of our contemporaries both in the charter boat and commercial industries are asking that ASMFC not make a decision that will compromise the fishery from which they benefit; as charter boat operators in Maine, we have been suffering from a compromised fishery for five long years. It is time for *all* interested parties to sacrifice in the name of saving the fishery from its imminent demise and to rebuild these stocks so that all parties can benefit.

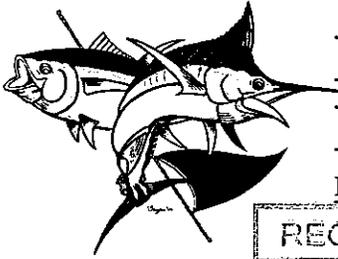
To recap, as an organization, MACC urges ASMFC to encourage stock recovery by amending the current stock management plan with a one year plan to reduce mortality by 25%.

Thank you for your commitment to our fishery.

Sincerely,

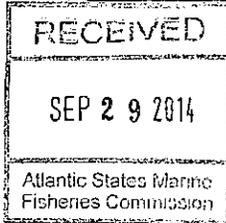
Capt. Michael J. Faulkingham  
On behalf of the Maine Association of Charterboat Captains

PO box 0251  
Brielle, NJ 08730



# Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club

Established in 1936



September 23, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
ASMFS  
1050 North Highland Street  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mike,

The Manasquan River & Marlin Club, [www.mrmtc.com](http://www.mrmtc.com), is the second oldest formally organized fishing club in the country. Organized in 1936 our mission is "to promote the sport of salt water angling, to foster good sportsmanship and cooperation among its members and like minded organizations and to encourage conservation of salt water species and their habitat". Our 228 members applaud the ASMFC and NMFS for being proactive in trying to maintain a healthy, sustainable striped bass fishery and feel the choices below will help achieve that status.

- 2.5.1 We support Option B adjusting the F reference points
- 2.6 We support Option A using a one year time frame
- 3.0 We support Option B7, 2 fish (one slot at 28-34" and one fish at 36" minimum)
- 3.1 We support Option A No transfer of commercial quota.

In addition, we recommend ASMFC consider discontinuing the bonus tag program in NJ. It is unregulated, highly abused and serves no purpose in trying to manage and conserve the stock. We would also like consideration of implementing a requirement to use circle hooks when bait fishing. Lastly, we would like to see the practice of charter boats utilizing "boat limits", whereby the captain and mate(s) include themselves in the possession limit, prohibited. This practice has a significant impact on the number of fish caught.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Mellett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Mellett  
President

**From:** [Greg Jetton](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Maryland Charter Boat Association  
**Date:** Thursday, September 18, 2014 7:22:57 AM

---

Maryland Charter Boat Association  
4874 Patience Place  
Huntingtown, MD 20639

Dear Commissioners,

As president of the Maryland Charter Boat Association, I feel that it is necessary to re-state our policy on Maryland's striped bass season. Recent letters of communication to Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission from a small, regional charter boat group, might have left the impression that they are the majority opinion. This is in fact, quite the contrary. Some of those captains are strongly opposed to a one year reduction.

The Maryland Charter Boat Association is the only statewide association representing charter boats. We represent more charter boats in the state than any other group. After many conversations with our board of directors and one general meeting, our policy remains the same. We need the most days possible in order to keep our industry economically viable. The economic impact of a large reduction taken all at once would be insurmountable to many in our industry. Spreading out the reduction over three years allows us to absorb the impact gradually and prepare for each consecutive year. We would ask that you consider the State of Maryland's plans carefully.

We remain committed to maintaining the striped bass fishery in a viable and sustainable state. We will be one of the first associations to call for caution when it comes to this fishery. In this case we believe the lack of reference points in the state of Maryland, for this reduction, brings the whole scope of this action into question. Most charter boat captains of the mid and upper bay and will say they are seeing the most fish they have seen in years. It has been a fantastic year overall. The cool summer, lack of "dead" spots in the Chesapeake Bay, abundant fish, and increased customer calls have made this one of the best seasons in decades. Small towns in Maryland such as Deale, Chesapeake Beach, Rock Hall, Tilghman Island, Kent Island, Solomons Island, Crisfield, and others have come to depend on the charter fishing industry as a significant source of income within their community.

Sincerely,

Greg Jetton,  
President, Maryland Charter Boat Association

Ed O'Brien,  
Vice-President, Maryland Charter Boat Association



## Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association

8461 Ft. Smallwood Rd, Suite C, Pasadena, MD 21122 - 410-255-5535 - [www.mssa.net](http://www.mssa.net)

September 30, 2014

Mike Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine and ASMFC Members,

For over 31 years the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association (MSSA) has been representing Maryland's recreational anglers. With over 7,100 members we have created the most diverse and largest fishing organization in Maryland and perhaps the Mid-Atlantic.

For the past few months the MSSA has been seeking feedback from its extensive and diverse membership base regarding the proposed striped bass reductions outlined in Draft Addendum IV. The feedback came from social media sites, online forums, monthly chapter meetings, and several Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) informational meetings. We feel that our position accurately represents the overall sentiment of sportfishermen throughout Maryland.

When looking at Draft Addendum IV and deciding on the proposed options we considered the overarching statement – balancing conservation with socio-economics.

### **Key Facts When Making A Decision:**

- Striped bass is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring
- Current stock biomass is just above the point when ASMFC declared striped bass recovered in 1995
- Coastal impact on Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) mortality is considerably higher than that of the Chesapeake, therefore should have separate reference points
- 70 – 90% of Chesapeake Bay striped bass are male
- Maryland has been more conservative than coastal states when it comes to protecting the SSB (current Trophy Season regs: 1 fish, minimum 28")

When making this decision it is also important to understand the values adopted by the ASMFC within their strategic plan for 2014-2018. Here are a few of the more important values

- Decisions based on sound science
- Work cooperatively with honesty, integrity, and fairness
- Balancing resource conservation with the socio-economic success

### **Coastal Recreational Options**

**At this time the MSSA believes Option B1, a bag limit of one fish at the current 28-inch minimum within a one year time frame is in the best interest of our anglers here in Maryland**

#### **Coastal Recreational OPTION B1**

#### **Chesapeake Bay Recreational OPTION C4**

#### **Important Note**

Imperative the ASMFC initiates a draft addendum for Chesapeake Bay reference points as soon as possible



## Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association

8461 Ft. Smallwood Rd, Suite C, Pasadena, MD 21122 - 410-255-5535 - [www.mssa.net](http://www.mssa.net)

and for the sustainability of our striped bass fishery. This option would translate into a 36 inch minimum for our Spring Trophy season according to Maryland DNR. We would like to note that the MSSA has implemented a 36 inch minimum within its spring tournament for the past three years.

Why MSSA is Suggesting Option B1:

- Reducing the individual bag limit by one fish on the coast offers a 31% reduction in harvest, bringing the fishing mortality in line or above the target
- With the 2010 and 2011 recruitment years being the most robust of recent, it's important to protect those females until at least 90% can spawn (age 5-8) at least once before harvest.
- ASFMC has previously stated that reducing fishing mortality on fish aged 8-12 (32- to 40-inch fish) by half would result in "much greater egg production in the stock and an age distribution in which older fish are much more dominant"; as such, any slot option (proposed in options B4, B6, B7, B8, or B9) which focuses undue harvest pressure on more 'fertile' age/size fish in the stock could be counterproductive to conservation efforts.

### Summer/Fall Chesapeake Bay Options:

**At this time the MSSA believes Option C4, a two fish bag limit with a 20 inch minimum, is in the best interest of Maryland recreational anglers and represents a majority of angler sentiment. This option would achieve an estimated 21% reduction **within 3 years**. We received a tremendous amount of feedback on this fishery with a large majority agreeing that a two fish bag limit was important to maintain as well as season length.**

### Additional Recommendations

- In addition to Option B1 and C4, we believe the ASMFC should continue its efforts to press the Technical Committee to agree on Chesapeake Bay reference points and initiate another draft addendum as soon as possible.
- Continue the efforts to put in place a maximum size limit on the commercial striped bass fishery in Virginia, similar to Maryland which is a 36 inch maximum.
- Continue to focus enforcement on the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) up and down the Atlantic Coast.

The MSSA believes that we can, and should, manage this fishery balancing both conservation and socio-economics. For many years the MSSA has been advocating for more economic data not only for Maryland's recreational fishery but for the entire Atlantic Coast, as this should play a major role in determining management options such as these. We are encouraged to see the DNR and the ASMFC using this language moving forward.

V/R

Dave Smith  
Executive Director



# Milford Striped Bass Club



**September 13, 2014**

**Mr. Mike Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201**

**Dear Mr. Waine:**

**In response to Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan, the Milford Striped Bass Club will support any management plan that ensures that the stock of striped bass is not overfished and will not become a situation where the fishery will have to be shut down.**

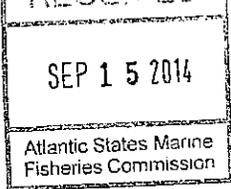
**We hope that any management plan is consistent with all user groups, i.e., recreational, commercial and charter boats. We cannot and will not support any plan that gives preference to any user group over recreational fishermen.**

**We therefore hope a plan is consistent and amicable to all parties interested.**

**Sincerely,**

**William M. Blotney  
President, Milford Striped Bass Club**

**MONTAUK BOATMEN & CAPTAINS ASSOCIATION**



~~P.O. Box 9928~~  
~~Montauk, N.Y. 11954~~

CAPT. JOE McBRIDE  
PO BOX 1908  
EAST HAMPTON, NY 11937  
631-329-0973

To: ASMFC / commissioners  
subject: striped Bass Reductions options.  
From: MONTAUK Boatmen & Captains Assoc. / Capt. Joe  
McBRIDE, Legislative Representative.

Please be advised of the position of the MBCA  
on the preferred option:

1. The MBCA supports option D as follows:
  - a. D1 - 7% each year
  - b. 2015 2 fish @ 30"
  - c. 2016 2 fish @ 31"
  - d. 2017 2 fish @ 32"

This option is the lesser of the "evils" proposed  
we would also like to respectfully remind  
the N.Y.S. delegation that:

1. we need the same size & log limits as  
our competitive states have (N.J., Conn. R.I.)
2. we pay \$250 as Charter / Head Boat operators  
in N.Y.S. Our competitors pay nothing in  
N.J. and \$25 for 2 years in R.I.

Thank you for your assistance. Please call me  
for more specifics.  
Sincerely,  
Capt. Joe McBride (Leg. Rep. / MBCA)



P.O. BOX 511  
SEASIDE PARK, NJ 08752

[www.NJBBA.org](http://www.NJBBA.org)

**President**  
Tim Burden

**1st Vice President**  
Paul Novello

**2nd Vice President**  
Kurt Renart

**Treasurer**  
Angel Prouty

**Membership Secretary**  
Ken Hollins

**Recording Secretary**  
Kathy Burden

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Doug Taylor

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United Four Wheel Drive Association  
New Jersey Outdoor Alliance  
Jersey Coast Anglers Association  
Clean Ocean Action  
Blue Ribbon Coalition

Sept. 18, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Email: [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org)

**Subject: Draft Addendum IV**

This letter is being submitted on behalf of the 1400+ members of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association concerning Addendum IV to Amendment 6 concerning Striped Bass.

We are in favor of under Section B concerning the *Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference* of changing the **Fthreshold** to **1.22** and the **Ftarget** to **0.18**.

Under Option B concerning the reduction of Recreational Harvest the NJBBA favors **the reduction by 25% for year** following the **plan of B7** (*Bag Limit of 2 fish – 1 fish slot 28-34inches and 1 Trophy fish at 36inches*).

Concerning the Commercial Fishery, we have concluded that the reduction should be based on each state's Am6 Quota.

Under the section concerning the Commercial quota transfers, the NJBBA favors **Option A** (*Status quo – No commercial quota transfers*).

Thank you for your time in this important matter concerning the future of the Striped Bass.

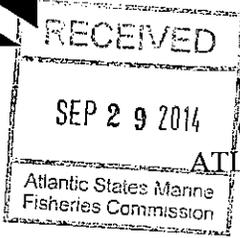
Respectfully,

Douglas A. Taylor, Corresponding Secretary



# NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS

P. O. Box 841  
Eatontown, NJ 07724-0841  
<http://www.scubanj.org>



9/25/14

COMMENTS – DRAFT ADDENDUM IV  
ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS INTERSTATE FMP

Mike Waine, FMP Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street, suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear FMP Coordinator Waine:

The NJ Council of Diving Clubs (NJCDC) is a statewide organization of 14 sport diving clubs with a few clubs in nearby states. Striped Bass are normally taken recreationally by the sport diver /spearfisherman along our coastal beaches and jetties when conditions are favorable (clear and calm). We respectfully submit the following comments.

The NJCDC would reduce F to a level that is at or below target within 3 years, a 17% reduction over 3 years, or the 20% reduction of D1. I believe the charter boat fishery for striped bass would probably be adversely affected by a 1 fish limit, although there are very few charter boats that specialize in spearfishing for striped bass in NJ.

Although we are amendable to a number of options, the sport diver/spearfisherman must determine the size of the fish before spearing. We do this by safe siding. Normally we will only shoot a fish if it appears considerably larger than the minimum length (for example, 4 inches over). We therefore do not like slots that have a maximum because you are forced to safe side in both directions, which can be hard to do in somewhat murky water. We would go along with option C1, but not C2 because of the maximum. The only slot we would consider is C3, since this would allow us to take at least one fish over 28 inches (either the slot or trophy). We would also consider Option D1

The NJCDC will not comment on the Chesapeake Bay region since we know nothing about it. We favor status quo under 3.1 – no commercial quota transfers. The commercial fishery for Striped Bass is prohibited in New Jersey.

Respectfully,  
  
Jack Fullmer  
Legislative Committee  
NJCDC

Please reply directly to :

Jack Fullmer  
443 Chesterfield-Arneytown Rd  
Allentown, NJ 08501  
[jf2983182@msn.com](mailto:jf2983182@msn.com)

**NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL**

501 EAST STATE STREET, 3RD FLOOR

Mailing Address

P.O. BOX 420 Mail Code 501-03

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0420

609-292-7794

609-984-1408 FAX

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JOSEPH A ZABOROWSKI

September 29, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine

ASMFC

1050 N. Highland St

Suite 200 A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

On behalf of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (Council), I would like to submit the following public comment in regards to ASMFC Draft Addendum IV (Addendum) to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan. Our Council's Striped Bass Advisory Committee recently met to initiate a dialogue with recreational advisors in regards to the Addendum and to develop a public comment strategy from the Council to ASMFC.

At our September 23, 2014 meeting, the Council approved the following as public comments to ASMFC:

**2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options**

The Council recommends that ASMFC adopt Option B (2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points).

**2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target**

The Council recommends that ASMFC adopt Option A (Status Quo: One year time frame).

**3.0 Proposed Management Program**

Because of the diversity of New Jersey's recreational striped bass fisheries, the Council was unable to reach consensus on a specific option. The Council did agree that a 25 percent reduction is warranted, especially a reduction in the harvest of big fish, but that a two fish bag limit was necessary to be fair to all anglers. The Council preferred the conceptual structure of Option C3 but would like ASMFC to explore an option within Option B with no gap within the size ranges. For example, a slot/trophy option such as 1 fish @ 28-40 inches and 1@40 inches or greater that meets the 25% reduction. The

Council also decided that any new regulations need to be enforceable coastwide with all states adopting no mutilation regulations for their fisheries to help ensure enforceability especially if a slot/trophy option with a gap in size limits is chosen.

**3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers**

The Council recommends that ASMFC adopt Option A (Status Quo, no commercial quota transfers)

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Herb", written in a cursive style.

Richard Herb  
Acting Chairman

# New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association

P.O. Box 3210  
Patchogue, New York 11772

September 20, 2014

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Attn: Mike Waine  
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington VA 22201

Subject: Draft Addendum IV – NYFTTA Supports Option B1

Founded in 1997 as the collective voice of New York's recreational fishing industry, the New York Fishing Tackle Trades Association (NYFTTA) represents more than 300 business and trade associate members in the New York marine district. Comprised primarily of bait and tackle shops, manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors in the New York marine district, the sustainability of our coastal fisheries is of the utmost concern to NYFTTA membership.

After comprehensive discussion with our members, NYFTTA, fully supports efforts by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to address the recent downtrend in striped bass, specifically the spawning stock biomass, and we appreciate this opportunity to comment on Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV. Many NYFTTA members attended the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 public hearing at Stony Brook University and listened to the comments made by members of the recreational fishing community. NYFTTA membership, particularly our bait and tackle shops, have also had extensive discussions with individual customers who fish for striped bass throughout the New York marine district. There are close to 300,000 saltwater anglers in New York (USFWS, 2006), and while not all of these recreational fishermen attend hearings, they do buy bait and tackle!

Based on our own business records and in speaking with customers, NYFTTA believes it's important to reduce fishing mortality to a level that is at or below the ASFMC target reference point in 2015; furthermore, the majority of NYFTTA membership believes that one option in particular presents the most efficient way to meet the needs of this important coastal resource:

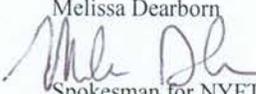
### **Section 3.0, Proposed Management Program - NYFTTA supports Option B1, one fish at 28 inches**

The majority of NYFTTA members do believe that the full reduction should be taken in year one. Thus the 31% harvest reduction represented by Option B1 will help deliver the necessary conservation measures to help the spawning stock biomass rebuild over the next three years, while ensuring we don't put striped bass in an overfished status. We also feel it is important that the commercial industry does not remain status quo and accepts a comparable reduction as well through **Option B16**. Since this option does not meet a 25% reduction if all states harvest their full allowable quota, we do not support a state transfer option at this time, and therefore **support 3.1 Option A**.

While a percentage of saltwater anglers have requested an increase in the size limit, NYFTTA believes keeping the size limit at 28 inches will keep bycatch mortality from being increased as would undoubtedly result from any increase in the size limit (B2, B3 or B5). The 'one fish at 28-inch' option allows anglers fishing specifically for harvest - which make up a large section of New York's angling population - to catch their 'table' fish more efficiently and call it a day, without undue harm caused to releasing a multitude of undersized fish. We also ask ASMFC commissioners to keep in mind that NYFTTA membership (as with retail businesses in other states) shoulders significant responsibility in disseminating season, size and bag limit information to the general public. Options contained in Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV which deviate from the present 28-inch coastwide standard, particularly those represented by various slot options, would require some 'learning curve' at the retail level; if retaining the 28-inch coastwide standard while simply reducing the bag limit will achieve a 31% reduction, then NYFTTA believes this represents the simplest, most efficient regulatory change.

Our members are also concerned about inadequate 'length/frequency' data in the recreational sector with regard to striped bass. We find it troubling that options B2-B4 and B7-B9 are footnoted to indicate that "data available to estimate the percent reduction is limited because the combination of a bag limit and size limit changes simultaneously means only measured fish from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) were included in the analysis which is a small subsample of the MRIP dataset for striped bass." It's clear that there's far too much error in the NOAA Fisheries data to reasonably assume what percentage of reduction can be represented in those increased size limits, or how such options impact release mortality. Coupled with the obvious release mortality increase resulting from such options, it helps confirm our position that B1, one fish at 28 inches, is the most efficient option presented by ASMFC with regard to a coastwide management plan for striped bass.

NYFTTA members also felt it was important to note that while status quo is an option in the addendum, we do not support any continued conservation equivalency among states or within modes. In the New York marine district, the present limit for recreational anglers as set by the state Department of Environmental Conservation is one fish at greater than 28 inches, and one fish greater than 40 inches (with two fish at 28 inches for anglers fishing aboard licensed party/charter boats.) NYFTTA customers have been fishing on a more conservational set of regulations than the coastwide 'two at 28' limit for years; while some of our fishermen and business owners recommended slot options (B7, B8 or B9) that are in line with our current limits, the fact that the majority of our community is leaning towards increased conservation speaks to the deep commitment by NYFTTA membership to conserving and sustaining this important coastal resource.

Melissa Dearborn  
  
Spokesman for NYFTTA  
[melissa@regalbait.com](mailto:melissa@regalbait.com)  
631-385-8284



September 22, 2014

Mike Waine  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington VA 22201

*Subject: Draft Addendum IV – Support for Option B2 & B3*

Mike Waine & ASMFC members,

New York Sportfishing Federation was founded in 1981 specifically to develop and promote programs designed to protect and conserve the marine environment and fisheries, and also to protect and promote the interests of the marine recreational fisherman. Today, our Board of Directors is made up of 13 members – club delegates, individual ‘unaffiliated’ anglers, tackle representatives, and for-hire captains who come from all areas of the New York Marine district, north shore, south shore, east end and west.

Having surveyed our membership in 2013 and following extensive discussion amongst members, the New York Sportfishing Federation Board voted on July 8<sup>th</sup> to “*support a reduction in the harvest of striped bass starting in 2015, including a reduction in the recreational restrictions of the daily angler bag limit from two fish to one fish, and an increase in the minimum size limit from the 28-inch coastwide standard.*”

Respectfully, the New York Sportfishing Federation offers the following official comments to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) with regard to *Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV*.

***As that relates to the suite of options presented by ASMFC, our organization supports the following options with detailed citation following;***

**Section 2.5.1, Coastwide Population Reference Point**, we support Option B - use the 2013 Benchmark Stock assessment F Reference Points.

**Section 2.5.2, Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Reference Point options**, we support Option B – Use Coastwide population F reference points as stated in Section 2.5.1

**Section 2.6, Timeline to Reduce F to the Target**, we support Option A – Status Quo: One year Time Frame

**Section 3.0, Proposed Management Program**, we support Options B2 and B3, a one fish bag limit and 30-inch size limit, or one fish bag limit and 32-inch size limit with a Fallback position of Option B1 should either Option B2 or B3 fail to be approved.

**Section 3.1, Commercial Quota Transfers**, we support Option A – Status Quo: No Commercial Transfers

**Section 3.2, Commercial Size Limits**, we support Option A – Status Quo with amendment 6

**Section 5.0, Recommendation for Federal Waters**, we continue to support the closure for targeting Striped Bass within the EEZ and would not support any recommendation to change the EEZ closure at any time.

***Recognizing that 2010/2011 year classes are the most robust of recent record, the New York Sportfishing Federation supports both B2 and B3 as options which offer a better than 31% reduction in recreational harvest while allowing more opportunity for those 4- and 5-year one or even two (or more) chances to spawn before reaching harvestable lengths.***

(page 1 of 3)

NEW YORK SPORTFISHING FEDERATION, 73-11 AUSTIN STREET, SUITE 144, FOREST HILLS, NY 11375

2014- President Jim Hutchinson; Vice-President Chuck Hollins; Secretary Jeffrey Leavitt; Treasurer Tom Wallace;  
Directors Mike Barnett, Bob Danielson, Kathy Heinlein, Alberto Knie, John Malizia, John Meringolo, Tom Mikoleski, Joe Paradiso, Reed Riemer  
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Specifically, the New York Sportfishing Federation has taken the following three points into consideration when arriving at our recommendation.

1. Reducing the individual bag limit by one fish offers a better than 31% reduction in harvest (according to ASMFC), but would also effectively cut the number of broodstock fish harvested during the spring migration when pre- and post-spawn fish are congregated in key areas.
2. New York Sportfishing Federation remains concerned about the current recruitment classes; with the 2010 and 2011 recruitment years being the most robust of recent record, it's important to better protect age 4 to 5 females until better than 90% can spawn (age 5 to 8) at least once before harvest.
3. ASFMC has previously stated that reducing fishing mortality on fish aged 8-12 (32- to 40-inch fish) by half would result in "*much greater egg production in the stock and an age distribution in which older fish are much more dominant*"; as such, any slot option (*proposed in options B4, B6, B7, B8, or B9*) which focuses undue harvest pressure on more 'fertile' age/size fish in the stock could be counterproductive to conservation efforts.

Striped bass is an iconic species; in the state of New York, it's designated the State Marine Fish and it's very important to the recreational community. New York Sportfishing Federation believe both sectors, recreational as well as commercial, need to take an equal harvest reduction and a full harvest reduction starting in 2015, and not 'staggered' over the course of several years – we don't have the luxury of 'loitering' here with this important fishery.

In terms of the regulatory options and the timing for implementation, we believe the majority of fishermen support taking the full reduction necessary starting in 2015 to ensure we don't overfish and to protect and preserve that 2010/2011 year class coming up, options B2 and B3 meet that goal in our opinion (with a fallback option of B1).

Our Board has been discussing striped bass management and the topic of potential reductions for the better part of three years; and while ASMFC data indicates the stock is not overfished nor is it experiencing overfishing, the science shows that if we fail to act as a community to take an immediate action to conserve this iconic fishery, there's an 85% chance that the striped bass stock will be designated as overfished within the next two years. For that reason, doing nothing cannot be an option.

As ASMFC considers options to sustain the striped bass fishery through this downtrend, the New York Sportfishing Federation also asks respectfully that Commissioners consider the following items:

#### ***ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING***

Pirate fishermen have a strong economic incentive: many species of fish, particularly those prone to over-exploitation (like striped bass) and in limited supply are of high value. On April 3, 2014, the U.S. Senate approved a pair of international treaties to combat IUU fishing, predominantly in the face of issues occurring in the North Pacific Ocean; ASMFC, in consult with NOAA Fisheries the Department of Commerce, can work to address IUU in the striped bass fishery without waiting for an Act of Congress.

#### ***NO COMMERCIAL QUOTA TRANSFERS***

Section 3.1 of the *Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV* presents an option for commercial quota transfer between states. New York Sportfishing Federation is opposed to this change; of particular concern is the pressure this could apply to localized striped bass populations. When fish, particularly big fish, are congregating in certain coastal locations at particular times - late summer and early fall of Block Island, RI for example – taking unused quota from one state to maximize a 'time and area' harvest above and beyond allowable commercial harvest for another can have serious negative impact on the local stock.. Such activity could also have deleterious impacts on the recreational fishing community when those fish fail to make their way along the coast because of localized overharvest elsewhere.

(page 2 of 3)

**NEW YORK SPORTFISHING FEDERATION, 73-11 AUSTIN STREET, SUITE 144, FOREST HILLS, NY 11375**

2014- President Jim Hutchinson; Vice-President Chuck Hollins; Secretary Jeffrey Leavitt; Treasurer Tom Wallace;  
Directors Mike Barnett, Bob Danielson, Kathy Heinlein, Alberto Knie, John Malizia, John Meringolo, Tom Mikoleski, Joe Paradiso, Reed Riemer  
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## **TIME & AREA CLOSURES**

One topic of concern which was brought up at the September 16, 2014 ASMFC hearing on Long Island was with regard to the Hudson River breeding stock of fish. New York Sportfishing Federation would welcome a limited 'time and area' closure for the prime breeding grounds on the Hudson River during a two- to three-week period identified as the critical spawning time. As with portions of the Chesapeake (Susquehanna Flats) and Delaware (Salem River to Trenton) where a spawning area closure and 'catch and release' fishery (mandatory circle hooks) exists presently, we would ask ASMFC and the state authorities to consider such a change to conserve breeding fish in the Hudson River complex.

## **2.6 TIMELINE TO REDUCE F TO THE TARGET**

To reiterate the position of the New York Sportfishing Federation in relation to the timeframe for reducing mortality, we do not support a modification of Management Trigger 3 under Section 4.1 in Amendment 6. While we appreciate the desire to "provide management flexibility" by spreading out required harvest reductions over time, New York Sportfishing Federation believes the deadline to address the conservation of striped bass is upon us now (if not already passed the date for action). We therefore support the one-year time frame and Management Trigger 3 which requires reducing harvest to a level at or below the target within one year.

While it's certainly good news that the striped bass stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, the fact that the spawning stock biomass is approaching its overfished threshold and stock projections show it's likely to fall below the threshold in coming years is of great concern to New York Sportfishing Federation and our membership.

In response to these concerns, *Draft Addendum IV* proposes a wide range of options to broadly address several management objectives including conservation of the strong 2011 year class and conservation of large spawning fish to enhance the long term sustainability of the striped bass resource and the fisheries that it supports. We hope that ample consideration will be given to the position stated by the New York Sportfishing Federation, as we believe that giving serious attention to meeting the needs of the striped bass fishery in full as of 2015 will ensure a more healthy and robust fishery within the next three to four years.

Sincerely,



Jim Hutchinson, Jr.  
*President (718-896-3132)*

(page 3 of 3)

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### *Article III – Our Purpose*

- <sup>i</sup> To develop and promote programs designed to protect and conserve the marine environment and fisheries in the area of the eastern seaboard of the United States of America, including, but not limited to the southern part of New York State and its environs;
- To protect and promote the interests of the marine recreational fisher;
- To disseminate, to marine recreational fishers and the general public, information concerning proposed laws, rules and regulations and those already passed, which relate to the marine environment, fisheries, and marine recreational and commercial fishing;
- To distribute, to marine recreational fishers and the general public, research and other information concerning the marine environment, fisheries, and marine recreational and commercial fishing; and
- To support any other purpose that is consonant with the protection of the marine environment and the interests of the marine recreational fisher.

**NEW YORK SPORTFISHING FEDERATION, 73-11 AUSTIN STREET, SUITE 144, FOREST HILLS, NY 11375**

2014- President Jim Hutchinson; Vice-President Chuck Hollins; Secretary Jeffrey Leavitt; Treasurer Tom Wallace;  
Directors Mike Barnett, Bob Danielson, Kathy Heinlein, Alberto Knie, John Malizia, John Meringolo, Tom Mikoleski, Joe Paradiso, Reed Riemer  
1586



Mike Waine

30 September 2014

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N

Arlington, Virginia 22201

The Peninsula Saltwater Sport Fisherman's Association (PSWSFA) approximate 300 members has reviewed the Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan, and would like to make the following comments:

**2.5.1 Coast wide Population Reference Point Options**

*Supports Option B for the Coast wide population.*

**2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options**

*Supports Option B for the Chesapeake Bay.*

**2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options**

*Supports Option B.*

**2.6 Timeline to Reduce F (Fishing Mortality) to the Target**

*Supports Option A.*

**3.0 Proposed Management Program**

*Supports Option B. We see no reason to delay reducing fishing mortality. The sooner fishing mortality can be reduced the sooner abundance may begin to rebound.*

**Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options**

*Supports Option B2 for the Coastal fishery and B11 for the Chesapeake Bay.*

**Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options**

*Supports Option B16 for the Commercial Coastal Fishery and B18 for the Chesapeake Bay Management Area.*

*David Agee*

*Government Affairs*

*Peninsula Saltwater Sport Fisherman's Association*

# **Plum Island Surfcaster**

**Established 1957**

Plum Island Surfcaster  
P.O. Box 1585  
Newburyport, MA 01950

The Plum Island Surfcaster is a 175 member fishing club located on the Massachusetts North Shore. Since we are located at the Northern range of the striped migration we are the first to see the effects of the reduced stocks. In addition, stripers are about the only fish surf fisherman have available to them. The last five years we have seen a steady decrease in the availability of stripers, with 2014 being a dismal year at best. Based on this the club voted on and authorized making the following recommendations in the club's name. The Plum Island Surfcaster recommend the following changes to the striped management based on the options outlined in the ASMFC draft addendum IV to Amendment 6. It should be noted that the membership felt the commercial quota on the migratory stripers should be reduced by at least 50%, if not eliminated entirely.

Thank You

Michael Toole  
Plum Island Surfcaster Executive Board - Recording Secretary.

## **Plum Island Surfcaster Surfcaster recommends the following:**

### **Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV**

Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F reference points, adjusted to be consistent with the recommendation in the 2013 benchmark assessment.

Option A: One year time frame, reduce to a level at or below the target in one year.

Harvest reduction:

Option B: A 25% reduction harvest reduction from 2013 levels to take place in 2015 to achieve F target in one year.

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options:

Option B3: One fish at 32"

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options:

Option B16: 25% reduction from the amendment 6 quota for coastal fishery.

Option B17: 25% reduction from 2013 commercial quota for Chesapeake Bay Management.

Commercial Quota Transfer:

Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfer.

Commercial Size limit:

Option A: Status quo with amendment 6.

Recommendation for Federal waters:

Recommend to NOAA that they continue with no striper fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

[mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org)

(Subject line: Draft Addendum IV). For more information, please contact Mike Waine, at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.



September 30, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

**RE: Comments on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan**

Dear Mr. Waine:

Please accept the following comments from the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) in regards to Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. Our comments are derived from extensive discussion with our membership, businesses directly involved with the recreational striped bass fishery, scientists, and managers. Those discussions find tremendous interest in both the health of the Atlantic striped bass fishery as well as its proper management. After thorough consideration, the RFA fully supports a 25% reduction in striped bass harvest along the Atlantic Coast, with an equal reduction to both the commercial and recreational sectors. Based on our on the water observations and extensive review of the stock assessment and recruitment data, RFA believes it's important to reduce fishing mortality to a level that is at or below the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) target reference point as of 2015, and not by delaying action over several years.

RFA does not view the initiation or necessity of Addendum IV as negating any of the past management achievements associated with striped fishery but as a response to the inherent challenges associated with managing and maintaining a stock once it has become rebuilt. It is unrealistic to assume that any fish stock can be maintained at a high level of abundance without minor fluctuations in recruitment and/or spawning stock biomass. That said, we are now experiencing the first prolonged dip in stock size since having the stock rebuilt to a historic high level of abundance. Such dips in biomass are expected considering the significant influence that environmental factors have on striped bass recruitment and modifications to striped bass management measures are warranted. Unfortunately, ASMFC does not have any control over these environmental factors and therefore is forced to modify fishing mortality when poor recruitment triggers management action.

RFA offers the following comments to the proposed measures in Addendum IV.

**2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options**

RFA supports Option B to update biological reference points consistent with the findings of the 2013 benchmark assessment for striped bass.

RECREATIONAL FISHING ALLIANCE  
PO Box 3080 New Gretna, NJ 08224  
888 JOINRFA,<sup>1590</sup> www.joinrfa.org

### **2.5.2 Chesapeake Bay Stock Reference Point Options**

RFA supports Option B to use the coastwide population fishing mortality reference point as a proxy reference point for the Chesapeake Bay Stock.

### **2.5.3 Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Stock Reference Point Options**

RFA supports Option B to allow the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River stock reference points to be derived from the North Carolina A/R stock assessment. This assessment was accepted by the Technical Committee and approved by the full Board and therefore, RFA views it as the best available science for the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River stock. However, RFA believes the use of the NC A/R stock assessment to set reference points should be periodically reconsidered at an interval no greater than 5 years.

### **2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target**

RFA supports Option A to reduce fishing mortality to a level at or below the target within one year. RFA believes this option offers the greatest opportunity to prevent overfishing from occurring during the next three years. Moreover, reducing fishing mortality to the fishing mortality target beginning in 2015 would provide additional protection to the very robust 2011 year class which will be recruiting into the coastal fishery in the coming years.

### **3.0 Proposed Management Program**

RFA supports Option B which would result in a reduction of fishing mortality of 25% relative to 2013 harvest beginning in 2015. The reduction would be achieved through equal reductions from both the commercial and recreational sectors.

With regard to the ASMFC options presented to the public specific to the proposed recreational fishery management options, RFA staff, chapter leaders, board members and volunteers have given consideration of the organization's stated mission ("*to safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs and ensure the long-term sustainability of U.S. saltwater fisheries*"), and we believe that **Option B1** in particular presents the most efficient way of meeting the needs of the fish, the fishermen and the recreational fishing industry.

**For the coastal recreational fishing sector, RFA views the following immediate and long-term benefits of Option B1, a bag limit of one fish at the current 28-inch minimum size limit:**

1. Reducing the individual bag limit by one fish offers a 31% reduction in harvest (according to ASMFC), but would also effectively cut the number of broodstock fish harvested during the spring migration when pre- and post-spawn fish are congregated in key areas.
2. Keeping the size limit at 28 inches will reduce bycatch mortality resulting from any increase in size limit (*proposed in options B1, B2 or B5*); the 'one at 28' option allows anglers fishing specifically for harvest to catch their 'table' fish more efficiently without undue harm caused to undersized fish.

3. While a traditional ‘slot’ option to preserve and protect smaller fish and breeding fish alike is a sensible management option, RFA is concerned about the current recruitment classes; with the 2010 and 2011 recruitment years being the most robust of recent record, it’s important to protect those females until better than 90% can spawn (age 5-8) at least once before harvest.
4. ASFMC has previously stated that reducing fishing mortality on fish aged 8-12 (32- to 40-inch fish) by half would result in “*much greater egg production in the stock and an age distribution in which older fish are much more dominant*”; as such, any slot option (*proposed in options B4, B6, B7, B8, or B9*) which focuses undue harvest pressure on more ‘fertile’ age/size fish in the stock could be counterproductive to conservation efforts.
5. RFA continues to place little faith in the NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) and their ability to effectively account for recreational fishing effort and harvest. Specifically, options B2, B3, B4, B7, B8 and B9 are footnoted to indicate that “*data available to estimate the percent reduction is limited because the combination of a bag limit and size limit changes simultaneously means only measured fish from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) were included in the analysis which is a small subsample of the MRIP dataset for striped bass.*” Since NMFS has limited data to make such calculations, there is far less confidence in calculating overall impact of such options.

### **3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers**

RFA supports status quo in regards to prohibiting commercial quota transfers.

### **4.0 Compliance Schedule**

RFA supports the adoption of January 1, 2015 as the compliance schedule to implement the requirements of Addendum IV. RFA understands that some states are required to introduce and approve legislation in order to change their striped bass regulations which may present a challenge when complying with the January 1, 2015 implementation date. RFA hopes that state agencies can impose temporary emergency regulations if legislative changes can’t be made in time. RFA suggests that the ASMFC take this into consideration and look upon the best faith efforts of the states before proceeding to a finding of non-compliance if they are unable to meet the adopted compliance schedule.

### **5.0 Recommendation for Federal Waters**

While RFA does not support allowing directed fishing for striped bass in federal waters or lifting the federal closure, RFA believes that NMFS needs to do more to manage and assessment striped bass outside of 3 miles. This would include measures to minimize bycatch of striped bass through possible time/area closures, enhance enforcement efforts to eliminate poaching of striped bass in federal waters and providing more resources to assess the contribution that the federal waters closure provides to the overall conservation and management of striped bass.

### **Inclusion of Additional Section**

Considering that this document is in draft form, RFA suggests adding section 4. In the current draft, there is no discussion in regards to the duration of the new measures that will go into place beginning in 2015. Our discussions with our membership and with the recreational fishing industry found that there was broad consensus that action needed to be taken now and that 1 fish at 28" was the best option based on the condition of the stock. However, there were reservations about have those regulations in place for a long period of time. In addition, there was interest in exploring other potential regulations once the stock begins to improve in 2017 and when the data has become available. RFA suggests adding a section that includes the following options:

**Option A: Measures adopted as a result of Addendum IV will remain in effect until changed by the ASMFC.**

**Option B: Measures adopted upon the passage of Addendum IV will expire on December 31, 2016. If no measures are put in place by December 31, 2016, recreational and commercial measures will revert to measures in place on 9/30/2014.**

**Option C: Measures adopted upon the passage of Addendum IV will expire on December 31, 2017. If no measures are put in place by December 31, 2016, recreational and commercial measures will revert to measures in place on 9/30/2014.**

#### **Additional Comments**

RFA encourages the ASMFC to work with ACCSP to collect harvest and discard length frequency data from the recreational striped bass fishery during 2015 and 2016 fishing years. Not only would the data collected help to better evaluate the effectiveness of the measures adopted by Addendum IV in terms of reducing fishing mortality but such data would also allow the ASMFC to put forward potential management measures such as slot limits, when the management measures are revisited in 2016 or 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Donofrio  
Executive Director



R.I. Party and Charter Boat Association  
70 Gladys Drive  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
401-741-5648  
[www.rifishing.com](http://www.rifishing.com)



President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Director

Capt. Rick Bellavance  
Capt. Steven Anderson  
Capt. Andrew D'Angelo  
Capt. Lynn Smith  
Capt. Nick Butziger

Mr. Mike Waine  
FMP Coordinator ASMFC  
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200  
Arlington, VA 22201

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Re: Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP

Dear Mr. Waine,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass FMP. I am the owner operator of Priority Charters in Point Judith, RI and I serve as the President of the RI Party and Charter Boat Association. On behalf of the 65 members of RIPCBA and the tens of thousands of people that we carry aboard our vessels each year, I offer the following.

#### Section 2.5 Proposed Fishing Mortality Rates:

Preferred Option B, reference points established that are consistent with SSB Targets and Threshold Values. Use those same coast wide F reference points for the Chesapeake Bay Management area until the T/C can develop appropriate scientific based RP's specific for that management area.

#### Section 2.6 Time to Reduce F Target:

At this time, Striped Bass are the most important species to the economic vitality of RI's Charter Boat Fleet and an important component of the Party Boat Fleet. RIPCBA supports aggressive responsible management of Striped Bass with a vision for the future. At the same time we recognize that without practical economic considerations as part of management, the Party Charter Fleet has no future.

The RIPCBA recommends adopting Option B, a three year timeframe to reduce F. This timeframe gives the Board significantly more options to choose from for management measures. If the Board selects Option B, The Board can choose management measures from either the one year or three year timeframe options in Section 3. Considering the retrospective patterns that underestimate SSB and overestimate F values and projections, as well as above average recruitment in recent years, it clearly makes sense to keep management options open.

### Section 3.0 Proposed Management Scenarios:

The thousands of recreational fishermen that fish aboard RI's Charter and Party Boats need to find value in their purchase and that value generally comes in the form of a big bag of fresh fish to bring home to eat or put in the freezer. Any management measures that reduce the current bag limit from 2 fish per person run the risk of eliminating the value that our customers need. The Board should consider that under a 2 fish per person bag limit, a recreational fishermen can still choose to take one fish or zero fish, but under a 1 fish bag limit a fishermen who may buy 1 charter a year, loses the value he or she needs make that purchase. Options that reduce F while maintaining the current bag limit will not discriminate against those who wish to bring fish home.

As a preferred option Under Section 3, the RIPCBA recommends Option D1 which results in a 21% reduction over 3 years and appears to be the easiest to enforce and understand. As an alternative, Option B8 which results in a 26% reduction in F over 1 year could be considered, although this option may be more complicated for fishermen. The important point to take home is that RI's Charter and Party Boat Captains, Crew and Clients recommend that status quo (2 fish Bag Limit) be maintained for bag limits into the future.

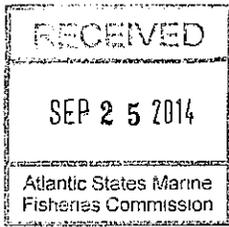
We defer on comments directly related to commercial fishing management measures at this time, but we do recommend that any reductions be fair and equitable across all sectors to the extent practical.

We appreciate the chance to comment on this significant addendum and we look forward to working with the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife, Commission Staff, and the Striped Bass Management Board in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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

# SALT WATER ANGLERS Of Bergen County



AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 170  
33 WEST PASSAIC STREET  
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662

Mr. Mike Waine,

The Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County have reviewed the Draft Addendum IV concerning striped bass and have the following comments to offer:

1. Our members have voted for **Status Quo - No Change** to the current striped bass regulations in effect. Our decision was based on several factors that include: a large 2011 class of stripers that will increase the stock levels of striped bass making cutbacks unnecessary, Dr. Desmond Kahn's comments indicating that the model used to make projections for striped bass stocks are not accurate and that some of the proposed options would have an injurious effect on the charter/party boat industry.
2. Our club also voted that **NO Commercial Transfers should be allowed** as referenced in section 3.1. These transfers only serve to reduce stock levels and go against the purpose of Draft Amendment IV that is intended to increase striped bass stock levels.

While our club has voted for Status Quo, we recognize that new changes to striped bass regulations may be adopted by the ASMFC. We have reviewed the various options that are proposed to regulate striped bass and our club has **voted for Option C3**. We feel **Option C3** is easier for anglers to comprehend (1 fish 28 inches to 35 inches, and the 2nd striped bass at 35 inches and above. It also spreads the reduction over three years instead of one making this option less onerous to the angling community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Toth". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Toth,

President, Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County

September 30, 2014

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)  
C/o Mike Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 North Highland Street  
Arlington, VA 22201

**Re: Draft Addendum IV to the Striped Bass Management Plan**

Dear Commissioners:

Save The Bay represents thousands of members and supporters committed to preserving, restoring, and protecting the ecological integrity and value of Narragansett Bay and coastal Rhode Island. We are greatly concerned over the status of the Atlantic Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*). Striped bass is a key top predator, an important source of wild food, and an iconic sport fish in Southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic. Recreational pursuit of striped bass is among the key drivers of an estimated \$208 million recreational fishing industry in Rhode Island alone. Recent studies have indicated that the sustainability of the population is threatened by overfishing. Studies also suggest that key striped bass food sources are declining regionally due to overfishing, by-catch, and other factors.

Save The Bay supports reducing total harvest of striped bass from 2013 levels by 25% in one year. Of the options listed in the Draft Addendum, recreational options B1 and B10, one fish per day with a 28" minimum size (18" for Chesapeake Bay) would increase chances of recovery for this important resource over status quo, while allowing anglers to take smaller fish that are healthier for human consumption. Larger fish tend to have considerably higher concentrations of toxic mercury and PCBs in their tissues. A recent study in Narragansett Bay found that 75% of striped bass had already exceeded the EPA threshold for safe consumption by the time they reached the current legal limit of 28", and that concentrations increased exponentially with length (Piraino and Taylor 2008). A one-fish per day limit with a smaller minimum size has a greater potential to benefit both the stock and human health than any of the proposed two-fish limits.

Save The Bay also supports reducing the Chesapeake Bay commercial fishery from 2013 quota levels by 25% (option B17). No option for reducing the coastal commercial quota below 2013 harvest levels exists. It seems unfair that recreational fisheries should absorb the entire burden of coastal harvest reduction, when so many more individuals participate in recreational fisheries and are affected by the changes. Both recreational and commercial fishermen should reduce harvest equally, as is identified as a goal of Option B (Draft Addendum p 13). Both listed options for single year reduction of the coastal commercial fishery actually *increase* harvest over 2013 levels (i.e. over status quo). As part of an equitable and effective striped bass management action, Save The Bay urges the ASMFC to impose a 25% reduction from 2013 harvest levels on the coastal commercial fishery.

Save The Bay additionally urges the ASMFC to consider ecosystem dynamics in the management of striped bass. Atlantic menhaden and river herring are among the most important food sources for adult striped bass, and these species are declining regionally due to overharvest and by-catch, respectively.

Additionally, the American lobster, another important food source of striped bass, has declined throughout the striped bass's core range. All of these species are under the management jurisdiction of the ASMFC. While the Draft Addendum recognizes the potential top-down influence of striped bass restoration on these declining species, no recognition of the potential bottom-up influence of these declining food sources on the current status of striped bass is offered, even as it has been indicated in fisheries literature (e.g. Uphoff 2003). More stringent management of striped bass forage species could directly benefit the forage species, striped bass populations, and all associated fisheries.

Save The Bay urges the ASMFC to consider closure of the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery for menhaden, which may directly affect the health of the striped bass population in those important breeding waters (Uphoff 2003). Save The Bay also urges the ASMFC to require strict oversight and enforcement of by-catch avoidance and minimization measures in the Atlantic herring fishery to restore and preserve important spring runs of river herring. In New England adult striped bass follow river herring during the early spring run, focus on crabs and lobsters during June and July, and focus on menhaden for August and September (Nelson et al. 2006). As generalist predators, striped bass may focus more on crustaceans in the absence of abundant fish (Walter et al. 2003; Nelson et al. 2006). This suggests that restoring menhaden and river herring populations could reduce striped bass predation pressure on lobsters. Save The Bay urges ASMFC to consider all of these factors in the management of striped bass.

Thank you for considering these comments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 272-3540 x116.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Kutcher  
Narragansett Baykeeper

CC:

Mark Gibson, Deputy Chief, DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Mr. Robert Ballou, RI Commissioner  
Mr. David V. D. Borden, RI Commissioner  
Sen. Susan Sosnowski, RI Commissioner

Literature Cited:

Nelson, G. A., Chase, B. C., & Stockwell, J. D. (2006). Population consumption of fish and invertebrate prey by striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) from coastal waters of northern Massachusetts, USA. *J. Northw. Atl. Fish. Sci.* 36, 111-126.

Uphoff, J. H. (2003). Predator-prey analysis of striped bass and Atlantic menhaden in upper Chesapeake Bay. *Fisheries Management and Ecology*, 10(5), 313-322.

Walter, J. F., Overton, A. S., Ferry, K. H., & Mather, M. E. (2003). Atlantic coast feeding habits of striped bass: a synthesis supporting a coast-wide understanding of trophic biology. *Fisheries Management and Ecology*, 10(5), 349-360.

**From:** [stripers@stripersforever.org](mailto:stripers@stripersforever.org)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped Bass Amendment 6  
**Date:** Monday, September 08, 2014 7:50:20 PM

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STRIPERS FOREVER COMMENTS TO  
DRAFT ADDENDUM IV TO AMENDMENT 6  
TO THE ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS INTERSTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Stripers Forever is a not for profit organization that advocates for the conservation and responsible stewardship of striped bass.

Stripers Forever (SF) believes that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has given too much consideration to reducing potential social and economic impacts on the commercial striped bass fishery, and too little on managing the striped bass fishery as a public resource for the greatest user of this resource, the recreational angling community and the industry it supports. The signs of diminishing abundance have been ignored for years and have finally resulted in yet another attempt to follow the failed policies of the past instead of actually doing something proactive to improve fish abundance. The draft addendum for public comment at best proposes measures that fit the "too little, too late" model that has plunged this resource toward pre-moratorium abundances and now proposes measures that have a 50% probability of failure.

We believe that ASMFC should take as large a bite out of this apple as it can and we support the following options:

Proposed Fishing Mortality Reference Points (2.5.1) While the Technical Committee has been candid in their assessment of risks associated with the proposed new reference points, managing under the old reference points (Option A) has failed to stabilize SSB. We support the 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points (Option B) for both coastwide and Chesapeake Bay fisheries because they represent the most conservative approach to the problem.

Proposed Fishing Mortality Reference Points (2.5.2) We support Option B since the Technical Committee does not have the needed information to set up separate reference points for separate Chesapeake Bay management.

Albemarle Sound Reference Points (2.5.3) We have no comment on this question.

Timeline to Reduce F to the Target (2.6). Since the one year time frame represents the most aggressive approach to reaching the stated goals, we support Option A.

Proposed Management Scenarios (3.0). It seems redundant and confusing to select Option A under section 2.6 and then to have to select Option B in this section to support taking the largest possible reduction (25% of the 2013 harvest) in one year. We support Option B.

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options, Coastal Recreational Fishery.

Stripers Forever supports option B3 which is a one fish bag limit with a minimum size of 32-inches.

Proposed Recreational Fishery Management Options, Chesapeake Bay. Since the objective is to increase the SSB, it doesn't make sense to kill the largest, most productive spawners we already have. We support Option B12.

Proposed Commercial Fishery Management Options. The statement, "It is important to note none of the management options presented in the tables achieve a 25% reduction from 2013 harvest" reveals an apparent inconsistency regarding the commitment to treat all stakeholders equitably. For the Coastal Commercial Fishery, it appears that Option B16 (taking a reduction of 25% from the Amendment 6 quota) is the only choice provided. It isn't clear why this fishery isn't held to the 2013 harvest baseline like the others.

The consideration of alternate options for the Chesapeake Bay Management Area Commercial Fishery seems unwarranted. The Bay jurisdictions claim they had a lower quota in 2013 so they would like to have their cut come from the 2012 harvest. Missing from this discussion was the fact that the Bay jurisdictions increased their quota (and probably harvest) for 2014 when the exploitable biomass increased due to the 2011 year class reaching 18" in length. We support Option B17 to take the 25% from the 2013 commercial quota. The Bay commercial fishermen have already been repaid for whatever happened in 2013.

3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers - SF is opposed to commercial quota transfers. If a state can't catch their quota, it may be because they don't have enough fish. It doesn't make sense to transfer that quota to another state that does have fish and maintain the coastwide harvest to help ensure that more states won't have enough fish next year. We support Option A – no commercial quota transfers.

All stakeholders should be fishing on the same size limits. We support Option A to constrain the commercial fishery in each jurisdiction by the same size limits established for that jurisdiction's recreational fishery.

Compliance Schedule (4.0). The schedule has been compressed by the protracted debate over Chesapeake Bay reference points but the end point seems firm – no later than January 1, 2015, as it should be.

Sincerely;  
Ken Hastings  
Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission Policy Coordinator for Stripers Forever



*Virginia Waterman's Association*

[www.virginiawaterman.com](http://www.virginiawaterman.com)

September 30, 2014

Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mr. Waine and the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

The Virginia Waterman's Association has deep concerns regarding many of the options and the underlying science in the proposed Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. We are concerned over the treatment of the Bay jurisdictions in the proposed Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. The options for proposed cuts to the Baywide Striped Bass Quota indicate that the Bay's fishermen will bear a disproportionate burden in the plan to increase the striped bass population to the new targets and thresholds recently proposed by the ASMFC Striped Bass Board. Considering the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, we urge the ASMFC to ensure the burdens of the Addendum IV measures it adopts are proportionately shared by the other jurisdictions which participate in the striped bass fishery. Nevertheless, we strongly urge the Board to adopt the options that are least injurious and inequitable to your constituents in the Chesapeake Bay.

The options of achieving the target F and SSB in a three year timeframe with 7% reductions each year are quite painful, but still achieve the goals adopted by the Board. Considering that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, to impose new restrictions more draconian than that is unfair, unnecessary and potentially very unwise regarding the carrying capacity of the Bay ecosystem.

The Bay jurisdictions are uncomfortable with the implications of being managed by the untested Coast Wide reference points when Chesapeake Bay specific reference points used in the tag based Harvest Control Model have been proven successful for 20 years. Failure to develop Bay specific reference points as directed by the Board, and the decision to manage the Bay with the Statistical Catch at Age model with its newly developed and unproven coastwide reference points is not equitable to the Bay jurisdictions. In fact, it and other actions under consideration by the Board will likely constitute a de facto reallocation of Chesapeake Bay striped bass resources to other states on the East coast. We urge the commission to develop Bay specific reference points as rapidly as possible so as to limit the

detrimental impact on the Bay's economy and stakeholders. Otherwise, the characterization of the Chesapeake Bay stocks will always be inaccurate, and most likely, inequitable.

For example, the initial plan to take the chosen fishery reductions from the 2013 harvest instead of the coastwide quota allocations under Amendment 6 will subject the fisheries in the Bay jurisdictions to excessive reductions no other jurisdictions would experience. In 2013 the Bay proactively self-imposed a 14% reduction in its Amendment 6 quota. On top of that Virginia managed its 2013 fishery conservatively, as usual, thereby self-imposing another de facto reduction in its total allowable landings. Essentially, the Bay jurisdictions would be punished for proactive and conservative risk averse fishery management. It seems obvious that the coastwide reductions should be taken from the respective state quotas allocated under Amendment 6. If that is not possible at this point, until it is, we urge the Commission to establish the Bay's baseline using the 2012 harvest data as proposed in several options in the Public Information Document. After all, 2012 is the terminal year in the new stock assessment, not 2013.

Since the Bay's recreational fisheries have been managed under the single Bay-wide quota, unlike the other coastal states, the Bay jurisdictions have avoided having their recreational fisheries exceed the mortality rates they were allowed, unlike so many of the coastal jurisdictions. Consequently, the coastal states have enjoyed robust emigration of Chesapeake fish into their fisheries, regardless of the strength of the year class.

Additionally, we note that in the various ASMFC policy documents there are certain elements that are supposed to be included in the ASMFC management plans. The fishery management measures are supposed to be "fair and equitable", "based on the best scientific information available", account for unwarranted socioeconomic impacts, "designed to achieve equivalent management results throughout the range of a stock or subgroups of that stock" and account for "multi-species and ecosystem issues". It is quite clear that in the fishery management plans "Fishery resources shall be fairly and equitably allocated or assigned among the states". Unfortunately, it seems that most of these aspects are not adequately considered in the options that are available for this fishery management plan.

We are concerned that the "best available science" has not been used in this plan. We are well aware of issues such as the consistent inaccuracies, or "retrospective bias" that seems to be inherent in the Statistical Catch at Age model with which this species is being managed. This is exacerbated by the well known aging bias resulting from the overuse of scale based aging techniques. We presume you are acquainted with the peer reviewed paper "*Quantifying the Effects of Aging Bias in Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment*" by Liao et al, published in 2013 in the "Transactions of the American Fisheries Society". One of the authors is Dr. Cynthia Jones from the Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology at Old Dominion University. In addition to being the Chairwoman of the Striped Bass Stock Assessment Peer Review Committee, a former Commission Member of the VMRC and a former "Scientist of the Year in Virginia", she is also an internationally recognized expert in many areas of fishery science. When this paper and others claim that striped bass scale based aging used in the Statistical Catch at Age Model results in a 15% underestimation of population abundance, a 19% underestimation of female spawning stock biomass and a 19% overestimation of fishing mortality, among other inaccuracies, it concerns us. We can't help but wonder if in fact the "best available science" has become a matter of choice in what is considered available science.

We especially note the absence of consideration of multi-species and ecosystem issues. Considering that Virginia's rivers had the highest Young of the Year Index ever in 2011, this year class is now recruiting into the Bay fisheries. We expect that with the highest abundance of three year old fish ever seen in Virginia, the demands on their prey species will likely be higher than ever. We hope you recognize that they are already experiencing intense competition for food from both native and non-native species.

For example, the Bay and its estuaries have an unprecedented explosion in the population of red drum which largely prey on the same species as striped bass. At the same time, there is an incredible and growing infestation of the non-native and extremely piscivorous blue and flathead catfish in the natal estuaries of our striped bass populations. Though these species were not supposed to be salt tolerant, a ten year sturgeon bycatch survey conducted by Virginia watermen under the auspices of Va SeaGrant at VIMS has produced more blue catfish by number in the brackish portions of the James River than all the other species combined, by both weight and number of fish. Virginia's other estuaries have a similar problem.

Even under the best of conditions, when you have an unprecedented super abundance of three year old striped bass such as now exists in Virginia, it is questionable whether the carrying capacity of the Bay can provide sufficient nutrition for the year class to remain healthy. We presume you are aware that insufficient nutrition is one of the factors that render striped bass vulnerable to the worst effects of mycobacterial infections. Therefore, I hope you have adequately considered that the density of three year old striped bass we now have, in conjunction with the aforementioned factors could well result in unprecedented mycobacterial effects which could accrue to the significant detriment of all. In your deliberations, please consider the strong possibilities of this type of unintended consequence that may result from the overly aggressive and inequitable management measures now proposed for the Bay jurisdictions.

Consider this an urgent forewarning. In the unfortunate, but extremely possible manifestation of this type of scenario resulting in the Bay's ecological carrying capacity being far outstripped by the population of the unprecedented 2011 year class and its competitors at the same trophic level, it is predictable that there could be a catastrophic trophic collapse with unpredictable consequences. The likely result would be that the current plethora of desirable fish like striped bass, red drum, and speckled trout would be the ones whose populations would be in danger of collapse. Unfortunately, it is the non-native catfish which would likely survive such a trophic collapse considering they are able to survive on a wide range of organic material and in a wide range of habitats.

**If something like this scenario occurs due to the inequitable and overly restrictive striped bass and red drum management measures imposed upon the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions , *we want the Commission and the supporters of these measures to own and take responsibility for what may happen. It would be far preferable for the Commission to manage these species in balance with their existing ecosystem and its existing food resources. Unfortunately, it is our majority opinion that the Commission has usually just payed lip service to its expressed goals of multi-species and ecosystem management.***

We hope the Commission takes note of these and the other controversial issues inherent in this fishery management plan. If striped bass were overfished and overfishing were still occurring, we would answer the call for robust management and conservation measures. Since that is not the case we would like to see the commission take a more measured, moderate, fair and equitable approach to managing the striped bass fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions.

On behalf of the Virginia Waterman's Association,

Sincerely,

Kelly V Place

Director of Research and Policy – Virginia Waterman's Association

Cell: 757-897-1009

Email: [kelltron@aol.com](mailto:kelltron@aol.com)



September 29, 2014

Mr. Mike Waine  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Striped Bass - Draft Addendum IV

Dear Mike,

In his 2005 book Striper Wars: An American Fish Story, author Dick Russell, a member of the *Wild Oceans* Advisory Council, writes that "(p)robably no near-shore fish arouses so much emotion as striped bass," a fish he goes on to call "the aquatic equivalent of the American bald eagle."

The striper's status as the premier game fish on the east coast only half explains why so many anglers care so deeply. It's also the blood, sweat and tears so many of us invested in bringing the striped bass back from the brink of extinction in the 1980s, to a declared "full recovery" in 1995, and our determination to never let it happen again.

But as Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass states right up front (Section 2.1), there are now unmistakable signs that striped bass numbers, falling off since peak highs a decade ago, are dropping dangerously close to the FMP's overfished threshold. The decline is likely to continue if we don't fish more conservatively, especially during this current period of below-average spawning success in Chesapeake Bay, where most of the coastal stock originates.

***Wild Oceans* joins with thousands of striper fishermen from Maine to North Carolina in supporting the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's proposal to reverse the decline by reducing fishing pressure 25% beginning with the 2015 fishing season.**

ASMFC Chairman Louis Daniel, during the Striped Bass Management Board's approval of Draft Addendum IV for public comment, called striped bass the commission's "flagship stock," referring to its signature success story. "As chairman," he said, "I want to make sure that whatever we do has the greatest possibility of restoring the stock to the level that our constituents are hoping (we) will." So do we. In that spirit, we urge the ASMFC to do what it takes to restore the striped bass spawning

P.O. BOX 258 ♦ WATERFORD, VA 20197  
(703) 777-0037

population to its target, that is, safely above the 1995 population level, and to do it sooner rather than later.

Draft Addendum IV features a suite of options for reducing fishing mortality. *Wild Oceans* supports the following measures:

- New Fishing Mortality Target. Adopt new, more conservative fishing mortality target and threshold reference points that will maintain the striper population above the target (1995) level. [**2.5 Option B**] These new reference points should be applied coast-wide, including the Chesapeake Bay fishery, until such time as appropriate bay-specific benchmarks are identified and recommended [**2.5.2 Option B**].

*Comment: The adoption of these new reference points, as recommended by the Technical Committee, would be consistent with achieving the spawning stock abundance target which is, after all, the end to which controlling fishing mortality is the means.*

- Timeline to Reduce Mortality. Reduce fishing mortality to the target level within one year [**2.6 Option A**], which requires an across-the-board reduction in total recreational and commercial landings of about 25% in 2015 [**Management Scenario B**].

*Comment: Even the most conservative measures proposed, under the strictest timetable, are not likely to restore striped bass to the plan's abundance target before 2020. Further delaying restoration only postpones the benefits of a healthy and abundant fishery while increasing costs of management, including lost fishing opportunities, during the extended rebuilding phase.*

- Ecosystem Considerations. Continue aggressive conservation programs to increase numbers of important ASMFC-managed prey species, such as menhaden, river herring and shad, to provide adequate forage for healthy populations of striped bass and other predators [**2.2.3 Ecosystem Considerations**].

The ASMFC, responsible for the future of the iconic striper and the recreational and commercial fisheries it supports, owes it to the fishermen who gave up so much to save striped bass the first time to ensure that they, and following generations, never have to go through that again. We all do.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



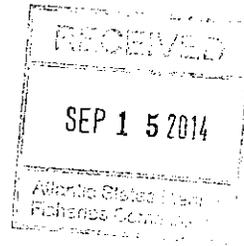
Ken Hinman  
President

# Form and Sign On Letters

The following letter was submitted by 22 individuals.

August 30, 2014

Michael Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 North Highland Street  
Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, Va 22201



Email: [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org)

Mr. Michael Waine,

ASMFC may have delayed too long. It is unfortunate that changes to the striped bass management plan have been proposed, revised, discussed, but then ultimately punted away for several years. Now, ladies and gentlemen the time has come for significant action before we teeter-totter towards the dismal population contraction of the 1980s.

Please, let us do everything possible to preserve the 2011 Chesapeake and 2007 Hudson year classes. Let us commit to restoring the stocks to population levels that existed between 1995 and 2004.

Therefore we recommend the following:

**Section: 2.5.1 Stock Assessment Reference Point**

Option B: Uses the 2013 benchmark assessment

**Section: 2.5.2 Chesapeake Assessment Reference Point**

Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment point

**Section 2.6 Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction**

Option A: Reduces mortality by 25% in one year

**Section: 3.0 Management Scenario Options**

Coastal Recreational Fishery: B-3 One fish per person @ 32"

Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: B-13

Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: B-17

**Section: 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers**

Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one region to another should quotas not be reached in a given region.

Sincerely,

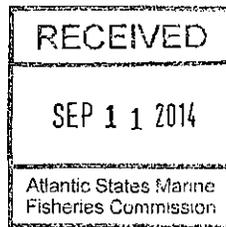
A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Steve Kreyer Sr.".

Steve Kreyer Sr.

10 Clement St.

Green Cove Mt. 11542.

Mr. Mike Waine  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201



Dear Mr. Waine,

I am writing to express my profound concern over the striped bass fishery and to register my endorsement of specific options of Addendum IV to Reduce Striped Bass Mortality under Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass Management plan now being considered the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC).

I am a member of the Striper Surf Club, Inc. Established in 1951, we are one of the oldest and most esteemed recreational fishing and conservation organizations in New York State. Our club has passed down more than 62 years of real-world observation and knowledge of striped bass. Many of our members have lived through years of striped bass abundance as well as a near collapse of the fishery during the mid-1980's. We have an innate understanding of the circumstances underlying the present issues and as such, strong and well-founded opinions on the most effective policy options that need to be followed to manage the striped bass fishery. Something must be done **NOW** to properly manage the Striped Bass population for future generations.

Please note my endorsement for options noted below pertaining to the provisions of Addendum IV to Reduce Striped Bass Mortality under Amendment 6 of the Striped Bass Management plan:

- **Section 2.5.1: Stock assessment Reference Point Option**
  - **Option B: Uses the preferred 2013-benchmark assessment**
- **Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point Option**
  - **Option B: Uses a preferred stock assessment reference point**
- **Section 2.5.3: Albemarle/Roanoke Reference Points**
  - **Option B: To be managed by State of North Carolina**
- **Section 2.6: Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction (mortality)**
  - **Option A: Reduce mortality by 25% in one year**
- **Proposed Management Scenario Options**
  - **B3 – One fish @ 32 inches**
- **Section 3.1: Commercial Quota Transfers**
  - **Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one area to another should quotas not be reached among fishers in a given region.**
- **Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits**
  - **Option A: Status quo with Amendment 6**

**Please take particular note of my endorsement of option A of Section 2.6 – to reduce mortality by 25% in one year and option B3 of the Proposed Management Scenario – one fish at 32 inches. These are the only sound options for restoring the biological well-being of the striped bass fishery.**

I appreciate your consideration of the information in this letter as well my best intentions for writing to express my firmly held views my on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. DeVerina".

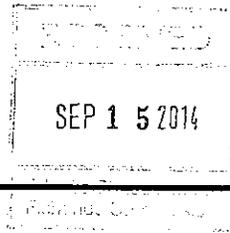
Charles A. DeVerina  
118 Marlborough Rd  
West Hempstead, NY 11552  
516.482.2872  
charlesdeverina@gmail.com

The following letter was submitted by 143 individuals.



# New York Coalition For Recreational Fishing

89 Narwood Road  
Massapequa, NY 11758-5925  
Tel: 516-647-8492



Form C

**Mr. Michael Waine**  
**Fishery Management Plan Coordinator**  
**1050 North Highland Street**  
**Suite 200 A-N**  
**Arlington, Va. 22201**

Dear Michael Waine

ASMFC may have delayed too long. It is unfortunate that changes to the striped bass Management plan have been proposed, revised, discussed, but then ultimately punted away for several years. Now, ladies and gentlemen the time has come for significant action before we teeter-totter towards the dismal population contraction of the 1980s.

Please, let us do everything possible to preserve the 2011 Chesapeake and 2007 Hudson year classes. Let us commit to restoring the stocks to populations level that existed between 1995 and 2004.

Therefore we recommend the following:

**Section: 2.5.1 Stock Assessment Reference Point.**

- Option B: Uses the 2013 benchmark assessment Point
- Section: 2.5.2 Chesapeake Assessment Reference Point.
- Option B: uses a preferred stock assessment point
- Section: 2.6 Timeline To Reach Harvest Reduction
- Option A: reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

**Section: 3.0 Management Scenario Options.**

- Coastal Recreational Fishery: B-3 One fish per person @ 32"
- Chesapeake Recreation Fishery: B-13
- Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: B-17

**Section: 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers.**

Option A: Prohibits the transfer of quotas from one region to another should quotas not be reached in a given region.

**Section: 3.2 Commercial Size limits.**

Option A: Would require the same size limits for commercial harvest as recreation

Yours truly,

*Greg L. Lippert* President  
26 Bay Lane  
Farmingdale, NY 11756

The following letter was submitted by 114 individuals.

**From:** [Peter Crommett](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Addendum IV  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 02, 2014 1:07:59 PM

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*I believe that reductions in striped bass quotas should conserve the greatest number of large fish in the shortest amount of time. It has taken way too long to get a commitment to conservation while the harvesting limits have stayed level in spite of a documented decline in the species.... especially the large breeders. I support the 25% reduction in quota in one year, the elimination of all trophy seasons, and conservative maximum size restrictions protecting fish over 34" in length.*

Pete

The following letter was submitted by 9 individuals.

**From:** [Stephen Currier](#)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** ASMFC  
**Date:** Thursday, August 28, 2014 6:24:50 PM

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*Dear Sirs,*

I recommend the following to be adopted by the council when they meet in September.

#### Section 2.5.1: Stock Assessment Reference Point Option

- **Option B:** Uses the preferred 2013 benchmark assessment.

#### Section 2.5.2: Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reference Point Option

- **Option B:** Uses the preferred stock assessment reference point.

#### Section 2.6: Timeline to Reach Harvest Reduction

- **Option A:** Reduces mortality by 25% in one year.

#### Section 3.0: Management Scenarios: Coastal Recreational Fishery:

- **Option B3:** one fish per person per day at 32 inches.
- **Chesapeake Recreational Fishery: Option B10**
- **Chesapeake Commercial Fishery: Option B17**

#### Section 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

- **Option A:** Prohibit quota transfers from one region to another.

#### Section 3.2: Commercial Size Limits

- **Option A:** Would require the same size limits for commercial harvesters should the recreational size limit be increased.

Sincerely,

Stephen Currier

12 Homestead Cir.

Old Lyme, Ct. 06371

The following letter was received by 9 individuals.

Dear Mike;

In reference to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission's Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan, please register my following comments on the public record.

#### 2.5.1 Coastwide Population Reference Point Options

Option B: 2013 Benchmark Stock Assessment F Reference Points

#### 2.6 Timeline to Reduce F to the Target

Option A: Status quo: One year time frame

#### 3.0 Proposed Management Program

Option B3: 1-fish bag limit with a 32-inch minimum size

#### 3.1 Commercial Quota Transfers

Option A: Status quo, no commercial quota transfers

#### 3.2 Commercial Size Limits

Option B: Status quo with existing size limits

Thank you.

The following letter was submitted by 6 individuals.

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV, I Support option D1

Option D1: Size limit changes with corresponding implementation year are shown below.

Year Bag Limit Size limit Trophy fish % reduction

2015 2 30" min n/a Approximately a 21% reduction

2016 2 31" min n/a from 2013 harvest over three years

2017 2 32" min n/a

If you support this option, please email or mail this letter or one similar to all of the following addresses;

Mr Jim Gilmore  
Bureau Chief Marine Resources Bureau  
205 N Bellemeade rd.  
East Setauket NY 11733

The following letter was submitted by 11 individuals.

Dear ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board Members,

I support your efforts to reduce mortality of striped bass and restore the population to a level which provides the greatest benefit to the fishing public. If left on its current course, the striped bass stock will soon reach the overfished threshold, a devastating outcome for a game fish that is so vital to anglers up and down the U.S. Atlantic coast. Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass includes long overdue measures needed to halt the alarming decline in striped bass numbers and restore the population to a healthy level.

I urge the ASMFC to approve the following measures in Addendum IV:

- Adopt new, more conservative fishing mortality target and threshold reference points to achieve the target population level [2.5. Option B].
- Reduce fishing mortality to the target level within one year [2.6 Option A], which requires an across-the-board reduction in total landings of about 25% in 2015 [Management Scenario B].
- Continue efforts to increase numbers of important ASMFC-managed prey species, such as menhaden, river herring and shad, to provide adequate forage for healthy populations of striped bass and other predators [2.2.3 Ecosystem Considerations].

Sincerely,

The following letter was submitted by 34 individuals.

I am for a status quo option for the Striped Bass Management Regulations. Since that does not seem to be one of the options available, of the options that are available I would prefer Option 7.

The following letter was submitted by 14 individuals.

I am in favor of B7

The following Keep America Fishing letter was submitted by 264 individuals. Excerpts from personalized letters are also included.

Dear Mr. Waine, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

As an angler who strongly supports sound fisheries management and conservation, I urge the ASMFC to support an immediate 25 percent reduction in striped bass fishing mortality. While the stock is significantly healthier than it was when the moratorium was enacted in the 1980s, recent declining trends in the fishery are cause for concern. Many factors influence the health of the stock, including environmental conditions, disease and forage availability, though fishing mortality clearly has an impact on the stock. Harvest levels need to be reduced as soon as possible to allow the stock to improve quickly before conditions worsen and rebuilding becomes even more difficult.

Specifically, I support:

- The new, more conservative Fishing Mortality Reference points which are internally consistent with recommendations of the 2013 stock assessment, as well as the ASMFC Technical Committee's recommendations.
- Reducing Fishing Mortality to the Target within a one year timeframe.
- Achieving a 25 percent harvest reduction.

For the past two decades, striped bass has been held up as a prime example of a successfully managed fishery. Part of good management includes proactively responding to challenges before the situation worsens and severe sacrifices are made. Draft Addendum IV provides an opportunity to safeguard the striped bass fishery and increase its abundance before the stock reaches overfished levels and drastic reductions are needed.

Sincerely,

**Additionally, the following personalized comments were added as part of the Keep America Fishing form letter.**

My friend and I fish have fished catch & release from a 16 foot boat nearly every Monday and Thursday evening from May through October in the Connecticut River and Eastern Long Island Sound for the past 20 years. We have noticed a steep decline in the striped bass population in the past 3 years. Yesterday we fished from 3:30 PM until 8:00 PM at Sea Flower reef, North Dumpling, the Race, Bartlett's reef, Ocean Beach and the mouth of the Thames River and caught 2 school stripers. That was a good night!! Many nights we are skunked. Up until 3 years ago, we would each catch an average of 6 school stripers and bluefish this time of year. We did not see any signs of fish at any location or when travelling between locations.

We fish the CT, NY and RI waters where you can keep only stripers larger than 28". I understand that only females grow larger than 28". If this is true and people are keeping mostly large breeding females, the future of striped bass is not bright.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Reed Cass  
11 Arrowood Dr  
Cromwell, CT 06416-1201

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Option B7 is the wright course of Action I believe. Also no fish over 40in. should be kept for they are breeding fish Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Robert Schlink  
475 Hazel Ave  
Feasterville Trevoese, PA 19053-3332  
(215) 498-0820

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I have been a recreation fisherman for over 30 years, and fish every weekend off the waters off Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Massachusetteb. Everyone knows what is going on with the fishery, the commercial guys and the recreational guys. We all need to do our part, and we need to protect Americas gamefish from overharvesting to the point of extinction. This can happen, and we have avoided the brink once before and should not wait any longer to take action. I am willing to do my part, please do yours, and do not let the lobbyists skew the facts. This is not just about what they can harvest and cash in today, it is about creating sustainability and being responsible, so there will be Striped bass in the future for all to enjoy. These fish can only handle so much pressure from fishing, and I assure you that to many breeders are being killed each year with current allotments. For that reason I support the 25% harvest reductions. I also believe there need to be studys to look at slot limits, for fish being kept. The way slot limits typically work, the big fish that are breeders and make young are taken or harvested, and the young fish are let go. I think it is important to do research on protecting this class of large striped bass, as state laws typically protect smaller fish that do not breed. If you have any questons, I would be glad to share my experiences on the water. You would not

believe the damage one dragger can do to the fishery with modern electronics and harvest technologies.

The fish migrate up and down the coast and are exposed to too much pressure. I thank you for your time, and hope you will consider the outpouring of responses you are receiving. The people see some really destructive practices and want to do our part. You can't put a price on the value of these fish, while lobbyists have set a dollar amount that they can make off continuing to destroy the fishery. If nothing is done, they will decimate the striped bass fishery, then target another species, then another. It is time to stand up for these fish, before it is too late. This issue is so very important, and I am truly worried about the future for these fish and their future as Americas Gamefish.

Sincerely,  
Joe Apanowitch, LCSW  
14 Pearl Street  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096

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Additionally Catch and Release should be banned during the closed season.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Steve Samlal  
7215 Lavender Ln  
Springfield, VA 22150-3106

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Striped bass is such a fantastic sportfish and we need to preserve it. We are recreational fishers with our own boat and we also go on partyboats in ct (niantic) and RI (pt judith) we truly enjoy it and we care for thos buisnesses. We need to have a sustained and well managed striper population.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Ulf Jonsson  
100 Sally Dr  
South Windsor, CT 06074-3549  
(860) 416-8022

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There also needs to be restrictions or reductions in commercial harvest of striped bass.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jim Micinilio  
211 Green Valley Rd  
Stratford, CT 06614-2088  
(203) 339-2295

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I would like to add, that it is not the hook and line fisherpeople that are causing the problem. It is the commercial Fisherman. There is a limit for use, why not a limit for commercial. Also, lets clean up the water. Why do Stripe Bass have so much Mercury in them?  
Thank You for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Barbara Morrison  
452 Main St  
East Hartford, CT 06118-1403

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And please, stop "pretending" that thousands upon thousands of Bass are NOT killed every day in gill nets, that poaching DOESN'T exist, that commercial fishermen DON'T lie about their harvest numbers and that it's OK to devastate forage fish like Bunker without consequences to the Striper population.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Edward Ochman  
2 Cocheco Ave  
Branford, CT 06405-5209  
(203) 481-2894

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again..FOCUS ON THE BAIT!!!  
MANAGE THE BAIT.  
MANAGE THE BAIT.  
again..FOCUS ON THE BAIT!!!  
MANAGE THE BAIT.  
MANAGE THE BAIT  
again..FOCUS ON THE BAIT!!!  
MANAGE THE BAIT.  
MANAGE THE BAITagain..FOCUS ON THE BAIT!!!  
MANAGE THE BAIT.  
MANAGE THE BAIT

Sincerely,  
Mr. carl freeman  
25 Pruett Pl  
Oakdale, CT 06370-1820  
(860) 442-3680

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As an avid angler who has caught and released thousands of striped bass on Fisher Island Sound over the last 20 years, I can attest to the fact that the population has definitely declined. Lets give Mother Nature half a chance.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Michael Burns  
225 Old Evarts Ln  
Mystic, CT 06355-2154  
(860) 536-8413

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Specifically, I support:

1. An end to ALL commercial fishing of Striped Bass in ALL waters.
2. Standardize fishing regulations between states.
- 3 Introduce slot limits.
4. More enforcement of the regulations

Sincerely,  
Mr. David Macha  
459 Devotion Rd  
Baltic, CT 06330-2305

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Specifically, I support:

Reduction of takes on mature (spawning age) fish.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Brooks Howell  
30544 Back Creek Rd  
Hacksneck, VA 23358-4605

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I also support a ban on commercial tuna fishing worldwide until stocks rebuild.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Andrew Slousky  
2045 Butternut Dr  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006-1735

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I notice first hand a great decrease in striped bass where we fish. I support action to increase their numbers.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Watson  
507 Canterbury Tpke.  
Norwich, CT 06360

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Specifically, I support: We need the changes in Draft Addendum IV and also we need to change the slot sizes to protect the female breeders.

Look at what Florida does to protect the female Snook fisheries as an example. I've been on the water of the bay and lower Potomac for over 50 years and the recent changes frighten me.

Sincerely,  
Dr. David Montague  
325 Yeocomico Ln  
Callao, VA 22435-2022  
(804) 874-6902

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Specifically, I support: your proposal. I think you should require the commercial fishermen to cut back on their catch as well. They should have the same length requirements as I do. I have seen six inch stripped bass in the store. And they were supposedly wild caught.

Sincerely,  
Miss Joyce Turner  
823 Ekonk Hill Rd.  
Voluntown,, CT 06384  
(860) 564-3147

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I am also a property owner near the water in Coles Point, VA. For over 50 years my family has been fishing the area waters. The fishing in that area has been on the decline now for a couple of years with less and less fish to be found. This year has been the worst in a long, long time. I believe that commercial over harvesting of stripers and menhaden are a major factor in this decline. Bait fish such as the menhaden must also be protected as they are a primary food source for the other species. The commercial operation in the area has essentially cleaned the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay areas of this important part of the food chain. It too must be regulated to reduce the over harvesting of it.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Mark Comer  
20207 Simmons Gap Rd  
Elkton, VA 22827-3709

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2.5.1 Option B  
2.5.2 Option B  
2.5.3 Option A  
2.6 Option A  
3.0 Option B  
Option B3  
Option B15

Option B17

3.1 Option A

For too long we have pretended that the successful recovery of striped bass from collapse has continued while both commercial and recreational interest have damaged this resource. Not only is it clear that the stocks have suffered dramatically, there has been obvious and demonstrable economic damage as well to the various businesses that benefit from a healthy fishery (not simply guides and tackle shops, but boat dealers, restaurants and hotels). A guide on Cape Cod asked me a few years ago what I thought it would take to make the Cape a world class fishing destination. My answer was obvious - have a world class fishery. That is true from the Carolinas to Maine.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Popeo

27 Mount Vernon St # 2

Charlestown, MA 02129-3410

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I personally believe that gill netting has been one of the most abused privileges adding to the decline in striped bass populations. In the Chesapeake Bay, they not only capture many fish, but are also a hazard to navigation, particularly at night. I can see no reason why this method of capture shouldn't be more strictly regulated, but better, completely eliminated.

Sincerely,

Russell A. Bertino

P.O. Box 555

Ophelia, Va. 22530

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In addition, it appears to me that the reason we have this problem currently is that regulations were NOT set at appropriate levels in recent years. Therefore, the ASMFC needs to more closely monitor and control the harvest of coast-wide striped bass on an annual basis, not be lax and then have to react to a diminishing population.

Sincerely,

Ken Schultz

24492 Dix Farm Dr.

Accomac, 23301

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I have witnessed a significant decline in the abundance of the Striped Bass in Cape Cod Bay over the last four years. We need to act now to halt this decline.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Butler

14 Pendell Cir

Boylston, MA 01505-1541

(508) 869-2369

The following letter was submitted by 12 individuals.

**From:** [MSL49@aol.com](mailto:MSL49@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike Waine](#)  
**Subject:** Striped bass management  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:03:07 PM

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**"We want the maximum reduction of 25% in the first year for all sectors in all management areas."**

Mike Lofton  
Harwood, Md

The following petition accrued 1,439 signatures.

Change.org

To:

Michael Waine, Fisheries management plan coordinator

Save Striped Bass from another crash by reducing the recreational bag limit to one fish over 32”  
for all anglers in all regions of the fishery and reduce total fishing mortality by 50% in 2015.

Sincerely,  
[Your name]

ASMFC,

As a member of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), I've given thought to the following options being considered by the ASMFC:

Coastal Recreational Fishery (All jurisdictions would implement)

Option A: 4

| Option | Bag Limit            | Size limit         | Trophy fish    | % reduction from 2013 harvest |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 182 B1 | 1                    | 28" min            | n/a            | 31%                           |
| 7 B2   | 1                    | 30" min            | n/a            | greater than 31% <sup>3</sup> |
| 11 B3  | 1                    | 32" min            | n/a            | greater than 31% <sup>3</sup> |
| 17 B4  | 1                    | 28-40" slot        | n/a            | greater than 31% <sup>3</sup> |
| 7 B5   | 2                    | 33" min            | n/a            | 29%                           |
| 17 B6  | 2                    | 28-34" slot        | n/a            | 28%                           |
| 35 B7  | 2 (1 slot, 1 trophy) | 1 fish 28-34" slot | 1 fish 36" min | 28% <sup>3</sup>              |
| 3 B8   | 2 (1 slot, 1 trophy) | 1 fish 28-36" slot | 1 fish 38" min | 26% <sup>3</sup>              |
| 6 B9   | 2 (1 slot, 1 trophy) | 1 fish 28-37" slot | 1 fish 40" min | 26% <sup>3</sup>              |

I understand RFA's position, and as an individual RFA member and saltwater angler I want ASMFC to know I support the following:

(write option letter/number on space provided)

Sincerely,

Name

BRIAN MANNING

Address

48 COPLEY ST

City

BOSTON

State

MA

Zip

02128

Signature

1628 SH • I VOTE

292 of this postcard were received. 182 favored B1, 7 favored B2, 11 favored B3, 17 favored B4, 7 favored B5, 17 favored B6, 35 favored B7, 3 favored B8, and 6 favored B9.



October 14, 2014

Robert Beal  
Executive Director  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

**RE: Public Input During the Development of FMPs, Addendums and Amendments**

Dear Mr. Beal:

The Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) <sup>1</sup> wants to bring to the attention of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) an inconsistency with regard to the public participation specific to Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fisheries Management Program Charter (Charter). Specifically, it is the opinion of the RFA that public was denied an opportunity to participate, review and comment on all possible management alternatives that may be approved by the Striped Bass Management Board in regards to Addendum IV.

As you are well aware, the ASMFC in conjunction with partner states, initiated a public comment period for draft Addendum IV. Public hearings were held in all states with management interest in striped bass and stakeholders were permitted to submit comments through September 30, 2014. In the version of Addendum IV made available to the public during this period, Section 3.0 Option B included 15 potential management options for the coastal and Chesapeake Bay recreational striped bass fisheries with associated reductions from 2013 harvest levels that ranged from 26 to greater than 31 percent. On page 14 of the draft Addendum IV document, it was explained that measures adopted under Addendum IV would apply to all jurisdictions relative to the coastal or Chesapeake Bay fisheries. Noting this statement, the majority of the public who reviewed this document interpreted this to be that if Option B of Section 3.0 was selected that the possible management alternatives for the coastal fishery would be limited to options B1 through B9 and for the Chesapeake Bay, Options B10 through B15.

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<sup>1</sup> The Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) is a national, grassroots political action organization representing individual recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing industry. The RFA Mission is to safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs and ensure the long-term sustainability of U.S. saltwater fisheries. RFA members include individual anglers, boat builders, fishing tackle manufacturers, party and charter boat businesses, bait and tackle retailers, marinas, and other businesses in fishing communities

Contradicting this interpretation, wording in Section 3.0 found on page 10 of Addendum IV states that conservation equivalency is allowed under Amendment 6 and that states wishing to implement conservation equivalency would need to submit their programs for Board approval. This statement implies that management options may be presented to the Board and approved that were not included in draft Addendum IV released to the public and that underwent an official public comment period. It is the perspective of the RFA that draft Addendum IV did not include all the possible management alternatives that could be implemented by the Board for the recreational striped bass fishery.

The ASMFC Charter is very clear with regards to requirements to allow for public participation in the preparation of fishery management plans, amendment and addendums.

Section Four. Management Boards (e) Functions. (2) of the Charter states;

*Management boards/sections shall solicit public participation during the process of FMP proposal, development, amendment, or addendum by submitting public information documents and FMP, amendment, or addenda drafts to each interested state for public comment*

Section Six. Standards and Procedures for Interstate Fishery Management Plans (a) Standards.6) of the Charter states;

*Development and implementation of FMPs shall provide for public participation and comment, including public hearings.*

Section Four. Management Boards (e) Functions, (b) Contents of the Charter states;

*An FMP should be a readily available, concise, and understandable document. It is designed to inform the Commission and the public of the need for and nature of management action, to provide for conservation of coastal fisheries, to allow the public to have effective participation in the management planning process, and to help Commissioners to make decisions on fishery management plans.*

And finally, Section Six. Standards and Procedures for Interstate Fishery Management Plans (c) Procedures. (8) Public Participation:(i) of the Charter states;

*The management board/section shall in coordination with each relevant state, utilizing that state's established public review process, ensure that the public has an opportunity to review and comment upon the problems and alternative solutions addressed by the PID (see Section Six [c][3]).*

Noting the cited sections of the ASMFC Charter above, RFA believes that by allowing states to submit conservation equivalency programs after the official comments period has closed (9/30/2014), the public would be denied the opportunity to effectively participate in the management planning process and helping the Commissioners to make decisions on fishery management plans consistent with the ASMFC Charter. Moreover, the RFA believes that the public would be denied the opportunity to review and comment on all the alternative solutions that maybe adopted by the Board resultant of Addendum IV. There is the possibility that numerous states may submit conservation equivalency programs to the Board and that the Board may approve those programs without any input from the stakeholders. RFA believes that such an approach is not an open and transparent way to manage such an important species as striped bass.

RFA does not necessarily have an issue with the use of conservation equivalency in the striped bass fishery and understands that conservation equivalency has been a management option for this fishery since it was included in the FMP through the approval of Amendment 6. However, RFA believes that changes need to be made to allow all fishermen from Maine to North Carolina the opportunity to review and comment on, if desired, conservation equivalency programs. Having the opportunity to review this information during the Addendum IV public comment period may have influenced the comments submitted by the public in a different way than those comments submitted based on the limited management options in draft Addendum IV. While RFA understands that conservation equivalency by definition will require states to propose programs that result in the same harvest reductions as the measures adopted by the Board, it must be noted that the most contentious issue during the Addendum IV comment period was not the percent harvest reduction but the actual management measures. A great deal of time and effort was made by state agencies, the fishing industry and fishing organizations to deliberate and vet the management measures included in Addendum IV. It is unfortunately that now with the comment period closed, a near infinite number conservation equivalency management measures could potentially be submitted and approved Board without any public comment at the ASMFC level. RFA believes that this is wrong.

To resolve future situations where the public is excluded from participating in the approval or disapproval of state level conservational equivalency programs, RFA suggests that the ASMFC mandate that all states that are considering submitting conservation equivalency programs must submit those proposals to the ASMFC who in turn will make them available to the public during the official public comment period of the larger Addendum or Amendment. States should not be permitted to put forward conservation equivalency programs that have not been reviewed and vetted by the public during a public comment period. RFA believes this approach is only fair considering the coastal striped fishery is managed as one management unit. From a business and recreational fishing opportunity standpoint, striped bass management measures in one state have an impact on other neighboring states especially when those states have shared waters. During this time in striped bass management when the fishing community from Maine to North Carolina is deliberating reductions to striped bass harvest, it is important that reductions in harvest are fully understood by the public and equally shared by the fishing community. RFA is uneasy

about any program that has the potential to give a state an unfair advantage by putting forward management measures after the public comment period has closed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Donofrio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jim Donofrio  
Executive Director



October 21, 2014

Governor Andrew Cuomo  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

*Subject: ASMFC Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV – Support for Option B2 & B3*

Governor Cuomo,

New York Sportfishing Federation was founded in 1981 specifically to develop and promote programs designed to protect and conserve the marine environment and fisheries, and also to protect and promote the interests of the marine recreational fisherman. Today, our Board of Directors is made up of 13 members – club delegates, individual ‘unaffiliated’ anglers, tackle representatives, and for-hire captains who come from all areas of the New York Marine district, north shore, south shore, east end and west.

On September 22, 2014, New York Sportfishing Federation submitted our official comments to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) with regard to Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan, in support of options B2 (one fish bag limit, 30-inch size limit) and B3 (one fish bag limit, 32-inch size limit), with fallback support of option B1 (one fish bag limit, 28-inch size limit). Our official comments are available for review at [www.nysf.org](http://www.nysf.org).

The ASMFC will meet from October 26-30, 2014 in Mystic, CT, at which point the commissioners are expected to take action on striped bass management measures to begin in 2015. The New York Sportfishing Federation is concerned about an inconsistency with regard the public participation specific to Addendum IV to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fisheries Management Program Charter (Charter).

As you are aware, the ASMFC in conjunction with partner states, initiated a public comment period for draft Addendum IV. Public hearings were held in all states with management interest in striped bass, and stakeholders were permitted to submit comments through September 30, 2014. In the version of Addendum IV made available to the public during this period, Section 3.0 Option B included 15 potential management options for the coastal and Chesapeake Bay recreational striped bass fisheries with associated reductions from 2013 harvest levels that ranged from 26 to greater than 31 percent.

On page 14 of the draft Addendum IV document, it was explained that measures adopted under Addendum IV would apply to all jurisdictions relative to the coastal or Chesapeake Bay fisheries. Noting this statement, the majority of the public who reviewed this document interpreted this to be that if Option B of Section 3.0 was selected that the possible management alternatives for the coastal fishery would be limited to options B1 through B9 and for the Chesapeake Bay, Options B10 through B15.

Contradicting this interpretation, wording in Section 3.0 found on page 10 of Addendum IV states that conservation equivalency is allowed under Amendment 6 and states wishing to implement conservation equivalency would need to submit their programs for approval. This statement implies that management options may be presented to the Striped Bass Management Board (Board) and approved that were not included in draft Addendum IV released to the public during the official public comment period. The New York Sportfishing Federation believes that draft Addendum IV did not include all the possible management alternatives that could be implemented by the Board for the recreational striped bass fishery.

The ASMFC Charter is very clear with regards to requirements to allow for public participation in the preparation of fishery management plans, amendment and addendums, as spelled out more specifically on the following page.

*(page 1 of 3)*

**NEW YORK SPORTFISHING FEDERATION, 73-11 AUSTIN STREET, SUITE 144, FOREST HILLS, NY 11375**

2014- President Jim Hutchinson; Vice-President Chuck Hollins; Secretary Jeffrey Leavitt; Treasurer Tom Wallace;  
Directors Mike Barnett, Bob Danielson, Kathy Heinlein, Alberto Knie, John Malizia, John Meringolo, Tom Mikoleski, Joe Paradiso, Reed Riemer

Section Four. Management Boards (e) Functions. (2) of the Charter states;

*Management boards/sections shall solicit public participation during the process of FMP proposal, development, amendment, or addendum by submitting public information documents and FMP, amendment, or addenda drafts to each interested state for public comment*

Section Six. Standards and Procedures for Interstate Fishery Management Plans (a) Standards.6) of the Charter states;

*Development and implementation of FMPs shall provide for public participation and comment, including public hearings.*

Section Four. Management Boards (e) Functions, (b) Contents of the Charter states;

*An FMP should be a readily available, concise, and understandable document. It is designed to inform the Commission and the public of the need for and nature of management action, to provide for conservation of coastal fisheries, to allow the public to have effective participation in the management planning process, and to help Commissioners to make decisions on fishery management plans.*

And finally, Section Six. Standards and Procedures for Interstate Fishery Management Plans (c) Procedures. (8) Public Participation:(i) of the Charter states;

*The management board/section shall in coordination with each relevant state, utilizing that state's established public review process, ensure that the public has an opportunity to review and comment upon the problems and alternative solutions addressed by the PID (see Section Six [c][3]).*

Noting the cited sections of the ASMFC Charter above, the New York Sportfishing Federation believes that by allowing states to submit conservation equivalency programs after the official comment period has closed (9/30/2014), the public is being denied the opportunity to effectively participate in the management planning process and helping the Commissioners to make decisions on fishery management plans consistent with the ASMFC Charter.

Moreover, we believe that the public is denied the opportunity to review and comment on all the alternative solutions that maybe adopted by the Board resultant of Addendum IV. There is the possibility that numerous states may submit conservation equivalency programs to the Board and that the Board may approve those programs without any input from the stakeholders, which our members don't view as an open and transparent way to manage such an important species as striped bass.

Respectfully, we are writing you today and submitting copies to fellow New York representatives at the ASMFC (Emerson Hasbrouck, Sen. Phil Boyle, and Jim Gilmore) to urge our New York delegation to stress to the Board the critical importance of maintaining openness and transparency with regard to striped bass management measures. While we understand that conservation equivalency by definition requires states to propose programs that result in the same harvest reductions as the measures adopted by the Board, it must be noted that the most contentious issue during the Addendum IV comment period was not the percent harvest reduction but the actual management measures.

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**NEW YORK SPORTFISHING FEDERATION, 73-11 AUSTIN STREET, SUITE 144, FOREST HILLS, NY 11375**

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A great deal of time and effort was made by state agencies, the fishing industry and fishing organizations to deliberate and vet the management measures included in Addendum IV. Unfortunately, now with the comment period closed, a near infinite number conservation equivalency management measures could potentially be submitted and approved Board without any public comment at the ASMFC level. For the past several years, New York has maintained a recreational season, size and bag limit for striped bass that is more restrictive and therefore more conservation-minded than the coastwide allowance; allowing other states to devise their own conservation equivalency standards now after the public comment period is closed threatens to undermine New York's historical efforts with regard to striped bass management.

States should not be permitted to put forward conservation equivalency programs that have not been reviewed and vetted by the public during a public comment period. From a business and recreational fishing opportunity standpoint, striped bass management measures in one state have an impact on other neighboring states. For many years now, the New York recreational fishing community has adhered to striped bass regulations that were more conservative than neighboring states; should ASMFC and the Board allow other states now to devise their own conservational equivalency standards after the September 30<sup>th</sup> window has been shut, they would essentially be giving those states an unfair advantage by putting forward management measures after the public comment period has closed.

The New York Sportfishing Federation strongly believes that allowing states to devise measures not necessarily included in a public scoping document will erode the public confidence in the management process, and we respectfully ask our ASMFC delegation to make this a strong point when the meetings are held in Mystic, CT.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Hutchinson, Jr.  
President (718-896-3132)

(page 3 of 3)

CC: Emerson Hasbrouck, Sen. Phil Boyle, Jim Gilmore

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Article III – Our Purpose

- <sup>i</sup> To develop and promote programs designed to protect and conserve the marine environment and fisheries in the area of the eastern seaboard of the United States of America, including, but not limited to the southern part of New York State and its environs;
- To protect and promote the interests of the marine recreational fisher;
- To disseminate, to marine recreational fishers and the general public, information concerning proposed laws, rules and regulations and those already passed, which relate to the marine environment, fisheries, and marine recreational and commercial fishing;
- To distribute, to marine recreational fishers and the general public, research and other information concerning the marine environment, fisheries, and marine recreational and commercial fishing; and
- To support any other purpose that is consonant with the protection of the marine environment and the interests of the marine recreational fisher.

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