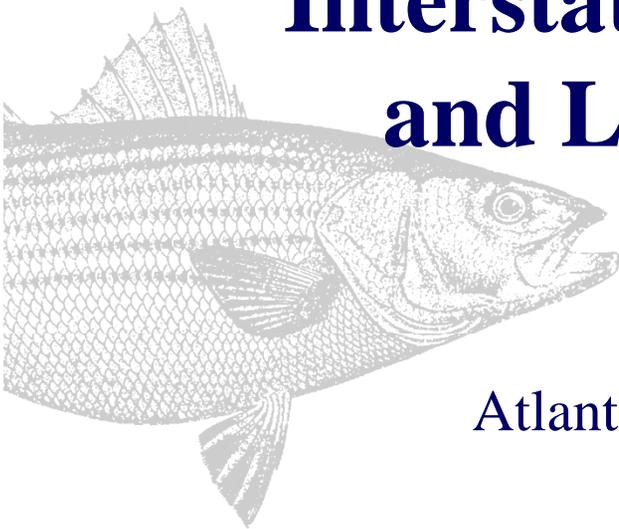




*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
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restoration well in progress by 2015*

Interstate Watershed Task Force and LEC Recommendations



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
February 7, 2012



Recommendations to Improve Enforceability & Accountability

- Make commercial striped bass tags uniform for all member states, each year.
- Year of validity
- All unused tags returned
- All states tag
- Size limit printed on tags – Officers in Other States
- Site Tagging Required
- License Revocation – state or federal violation
- Issue a set number of tags





LEC Recommendations

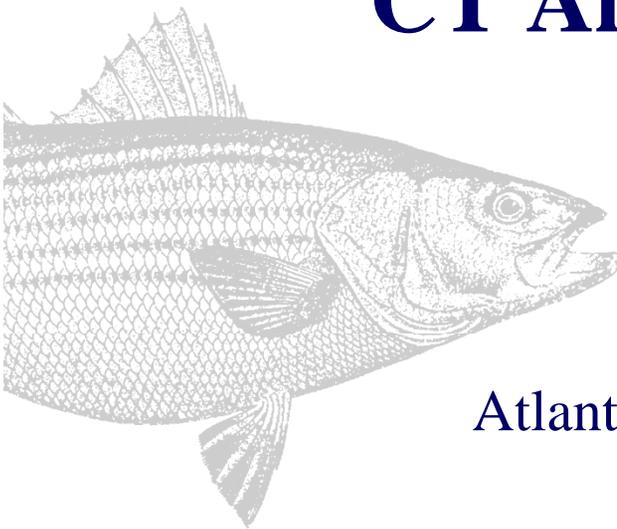
- Implement a uniform commercial tagging system.
- Require all fish harvested for sale to be tagged upon possession.
- Issue a set number of tags based on a sound scientific sample of the average (mean) weight of legal-sized fish harvested in open season for that gear type divided into the weight quota.
- Require all unused tags to be returned on an annual or seasonal basis; Prohibit license renewal if unused tags are not returned.
- Strengthen reporting of tag numbers used on dealer reports or trip tickets.
- Implement License Revocation or suspension as a primary penalty for state or federal violations.
- Ensure that law enforcement officers have real-time access to tag numbers issued to each fisherman.





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CT Alternative Management Program



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2011

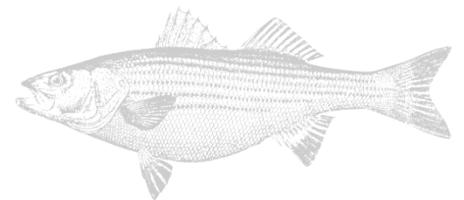
- Commercial striped bass quota approved for use in 2011 as a spring “bonus” recreational fishery.
- Recreational fishing allowed in the Connecticut River under an open slot limit from 22 to 27.9 inches total length.
- Conservation equivalency of quota (23,750 pounds) is conservatively estimated to be 4,025 fish





2011

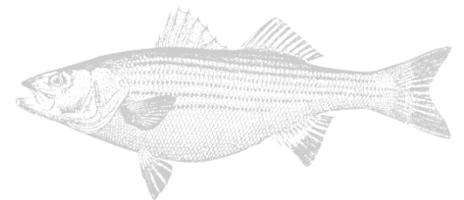
- No more than 2,000 tags were handed out
- A total of 80 tags were returned with information, 4 other tags were returned unused and 34 “protest” tags were returned
- The low harvest rate is primarily attributed to high river flows





2012

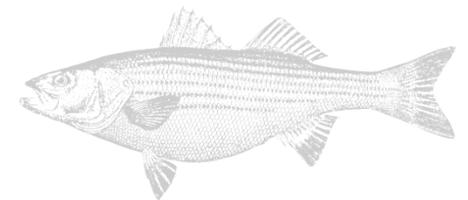
- Program modifications considered for 2012:
 - Expansion of the program outside the Connecticut River basin
 - Mitigating predation pressure RH populations
 - Provide public fishing opportunity, particularly in urban areas





PRT Review

- The PRTs consensus was that the program did not have any consequences beyond the scope initially considered.
- However, the PRT notes that it was clear that river flow in 2011 impeded the fishery and resulted in less catch than expected.
- The PRT is concerned over the potential lack of enforcement in requiring anglers to mail in their harvest cards.





PRT Review

- The PRT recommends the program continue for an additional year under the initial parameters so that:
 - It would be possible to judge the impact to the fishery under a normal flow year
 - It would be easier to assess compliance in harvest reporting if the fishing grounds were limited in size rather than opened further.

