

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

**AMENDMENT 5 TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC STRIPTED BASS**

ADDENDUM IV

**2000 - 2001 Fisheries
Law Enforcement Reporting Requirements**



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**Addendum IV to Amendment 5
Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass**

INTRODUCTION

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board has approved this Addendum to address interstate striped bass fisheries for the years 2000 and 2001. Specifically, this Addendum outlines the changes that the states are required to make for the year 2000, and possibly in 2001. This action was taken under the Commission's adaptive management process, which permits the states to make periodic adjustments to their cooperative management plans.

In order to reduce the frequency of changes to the striped bass management program, the Management Board developed Addendum III to Amendment 5 to maintain the 1998 fishing regulations through 1999 and 2000. However, Addendum III included a provision that if the 1998 fishing mortality estimate was significantly above the target, the states could take action in 1999 to reduce harvest to safe levels for the year 2000. The Management Board met on August 5, 1999 to review the results of the latest striped bass stock assessment. The assessment indicated that the 1998 fishing mortality on fully recruited (age 4 and older) striped bass exceeded the target established in Amendment 5. Therefore, the Management Board developed this Addendum to make the following changes for the years 2000 and 2001.

This Addendum also changes the law enforcement reporting requirements that are contained in Amendment 5.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

This Addendum requires the states to implement management changes for the year 2000 that reduces the fishing mortality on age 8 and older striped bass by 14% (see attached motion). The states that have been more conservative than the size limit and bag limit benchmarks established in Amendment 5 will receive a "credit" against the 14% reduction proportionate to the reduction attributable to such conservation measures. Therefore, any state that implemented a bag limit lower than the benchmark or a minimum size limit higher than the benchmark will be eligible to take a reduction of less than 14% for year 2000. The exact amount of the "credit" against the 14% reduction will be established on a state-by-state basis.

During the year 2000, the Management Board will be developing the next amendment or addendum to the Plan to address long-term management issues for striped bass. If the next addendum or amendment is not completed by year 2001, Addendum IV also requires that the states, in year 2001, implement management measures that result in additional reductions in fishing mortality to achieve the target of $F=0.31$ on age 8 and older striped bass. The exact reductions that the states will be required to make in year 2001 will be determined based on the next striped bass stock assessment that will be conducted in the Summer of 2000.

CHANGES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Amendment 5 currently requires that all states submit semi-annual law enforcement reports for Commission review during its Spring and Fall Meetings. This Addendum changes the law enforcement reporting requirement to a single annual report. The annual report will cover the period from March 1 of one year through February 28 of the following year. This report will be submitted prior to the Commission's Spring Meeting. Due to the timing of this change, the states will be required to submit one more semi-annual law enforcement report that will cover the period from September 1, 1999 through February 28, 2000 for review at the year 2000 ASMFC Spring Meeting. The first annual report will be due prior to the year 2001 ASMFC Spring meeting and will cover the period from March 1, 2000 through February 28, 2001. The contents of the report remain unchanged and the report will follow the format shown in Table 9 contained in Amendment 5

Motion passed by the Management Board detailing the required changes for year 2000 and 2001.

Move that all states be required to implement a management program in 2000 that achieves a 14% reduction in fishing mortality for age 8 and older striped bass; that the Board proceed with the preparation of a new addendum/ amendment to the plan; and that if such addendum/ amendment is not approved for 2001, that states be required in 2001 to implement an additional reductions of F to reach $F= 0.31$ on age 8 and older fish. The benchmark for measuring the required reductions is a two-fish daily limit and 28" minimum size. Coastal states with management measures more conservative than the benchmarks shall receive a credit against the 14%, proportionate to the reduction attributable to such conservation measures.

Motion passed by a vote of 9 to 4, with one null vote and one abstention