

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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

ADDENDUM V

2001 – 2002 Fisheries



Approved November 29, 2000

Prepared by Robert Beal
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

STRIPED BASS

Addendum V to Amendment 5

INTRODUCTION

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board has approved this Addendum to address interstate striped bass fisheries for the years 2001 and 2002. Specifically, this addendum outlines the guidelines that the states are required to use to develop their management programs for 2001 and 2002. 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 1998, 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 which stated that if the 1998 fishing mortality estimate was significantly above the target, the states could take action in 1999 to reduce the harvest to safe levels in 2000. In 1999, the Management Board met to review the 1999 stock assessment results, which indicated that the 1998 levels of striped bass fishing mortality exceeded the target established in Amendment 5. Therefore, the Board developed Addendum IV to reduce fishing mortality during the years 2000 and 2001.

The Management Board met again during the summer of 2000 to review the results of the 2000 striped bass stock assessment. This assessment indicated that the 1998 and 1999 estimates of fishing mortality on striped bass essentially equaled the target contained in Amendment 5. Therefore, the Management Board determined that no additional reductions in fishing mortality were required, and further that the reductions taken in 2000 may not have been necessary.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

This Addendum requires the states to implement management programs for 2001 and 2002 that are identical or equivalent (through conservation equivalency) to the measures that were in place during 1998/1999 or 2000. Under this addendum states also have the option of implementing management measures that satisfy the management benchmarks that were in place in 1998/1999 or 2000.

During 2001 and 2002, the Management Board will be developing Amendment 6 to the Fishery Management Plan to address long-term management, scientific, and policy issues for striped bass for implementation on January 1, 2003. The Management Board can, if necessary, extend this Addendum until Amendment 6 is approved and implemented.