

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Striped Bass Management Board

*August 6, 2013
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Alexandria, VA*

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Welcome/Call to Order (<i>T. O'Connell</i>) | 1:30 p.m. |
| 2. Board Consent | 1:35 p.m. |
| • Approval of Agenda | |
| 3. Public Comment | 1:40 p.m. |
| 4. Fishery performance review of landings and indices (<i>K. Drew</i>) | 1:45 p.m. |
| 5. Discussion of next steps for management pending peer review results
(<i>T. O'Connell</i>) Possible Action | 2:15 p.m. |
| 6. Other Business/Adjourn | 2:30 p.m. |

The meeting will be held at the Crown Plaza, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-683-6000

MEETING OVERVIEW

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board Meeting

August 6, 2013

1:30 – 2:30p.m.

Alexandria, Virginia

Chair: Tom O’Connell (MD) Assumed Chairmanship: 02/12	Technical Committee Chair: Alexei Sharov (MD)	Law Enforcement Committee Rep: Kurt Blanchard (RI)
Vice Chair: Doug Grout	Advisory Panel Chair: Kelly Place (VA)	Previous Board Meeting: October 23, 2012
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, PRFC, VA, NC, NMFS, USFWS (16 votes)		

2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting, public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance, the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Fishery performance review of landings and indices (1:45 – 2:15 p.m.)

Background

- In July 2013, the striped bass benchmark stock assessment was reviewed at the 57 SAW/SARC, but the final benchmark stock assessment results and peer review report are not available until late August or early September.
- In the interim, fishery data included in the benchmark stock assessment will be reviewed

Presentations

- Fishery performance review of landings and indices by K. Drew.

5. Discussion of next steps for management pending peer review results (2:15 – 2:30 p.m.)

Possible Action

Background

- At its March 2011 meeting, the Board instructed the Plan Development Team (PDT) to draft an addendum to Amendment 6 aimed at reducing striped bass fishing mortality (F) up to 40% and further protecting the spawning stock when it is concentrated and vulnerable.
- At its August 2011 meeting, the Board postponed consideration of the draft addendum for public comment until the November 2011 meeting when results from the 2011 stock assessment update became available.
- At its November 2011 meeting, after review of the 2011 stock assessment update results, the Board postponed further action on the draft addendum until completion of the next benchmark stock assessment in 2013. As a result, the draft addendum did not go out for public comment.
- In July 2013, the striped bass benchmark stock assessment was reviewed at the 57 SAW/SARC, but the final benchmark stock assessment results and peer review report are not available until late August or early September.
- To prepare to respond to the final benchmark assessment results, the Board is considering the next steps for striped bass management, and may reconsider the postponed draft addendum to reduce F.

Presentations

- Discuss management action timelines by M. Waine

Board Actions for Consideration

- Postponed motion: Motion to postpone further action on this addendum until completion of the next benchmark stock assessment.

6. Other Business/Adjourn

From: colin@theaverageangler.com
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Colin- The Average Angler- TECHNICAL COMMITTEE NOTES
Date: Monday, June 24, 2013 7:38:56 AM

Sir-

I am a fly fishing guide based in New Jersey and I am very concerned with how striped bass are doing up and down the coast. I run catch and release only charters and am doing everything I can to help keep the bass around.

I got involved and followed the recent menhaden reduction voting from attending public meetings here in New Jersey down to Washington in December for the vote. I would like to be as informed and involved in the striped bass stock assessment and decisions also.

Are there notes from the recent Technical Committee meetings that are available for the public? It looks like on the 17th there was a meeting held in Maryland.

After following the menhaden issue from start to finish I came away with the feeling that fisheries management comes down to two things, politics and money. I saw how certain states aligned with others and how commercial and recreational lobbyists were working the rooms trying to get their voice and side in.

Striped bass get hammered in south during the winter up to New England during the summer, and then in between twice per year. Everyday they are targeted and harvested.

In my opinion, the harvesting of big fish needs to stop as well as bonus tag programs and smaller bag and size limits.

Thanks for any help with this matter and thanks for your work on this issue.

Best,

Captain Colin Archer

The Average Angler
www.theaverageangler.com
www.theaverageangler.blogspot.com
732.261.7291



ORVIS®

ENDORSED
FLY FISHING
GUIDE

From: [Messina, Edward](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Subject: Last nights meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 3:06:36 PM

Dear Michael:

I want to personally thank you for your appearance and presentation last night at the Striper Surf Club meeting.

You handled yourself extremely well given the tough questions addressed to you about striped bass management. In fact, after the meeting I felt badly that I may have been a bit tough on you. In fact, it is not you who I want to be tough with, it is the ASMFC board, the Commissioners and the State representatives who deserve the ire from recreational fisherman.

The reason for this is that the ASMFC cannot point to a single success in fishery management that has lead to a sustainable fishery for any species. Certainly they have had enough time to accomplish this as one of their primary goals.

What most recreational fishermen feel is that the ASMFC has made far too many wrong decisions, pay no attention to the public comments and discredits the veracity of the empirical observational powers of the recreational fisherman, who are on the water day in and day out, coast wide. Their reports of stock assessment have far greater validity then the shameful, unscientific surveys that are used for judging the health of the fishery. They, as a group have been warning that the striped bass fishery has been in trouble for years and yet no action has been taken because of one outlier data point on a descending trend curve for the juvenile abundance index. It was apparently shocking to you that of the 12 surf fishing clubs represented, at the meeting, who each have memberships ranging from ten to 100, that not one of the attendees or their fellow members have ever participating in one of the fish surveys. That begs the question as to the accuracy of your data collection procedure.

As a research scientist for over 50 years, if there is one thing I have learned, it is that bad data leads to bad conclusions and terrible consequences. Due to this practice and the philosophy that exists at the ASMFC, striped bass as well as other species (examples: weakfish, fluke and flounder) have not achieved the level of sustainable fisheries. Thus, the ASMFC has FAILED miserably. Perhaps it is the wrong model for fishery management and a better alternative should be found. It is this last point that I would like you to convey to the decision makers in addition to all the ones made by the attendees at last nights meeting.

On a positive note, we all wish you the same success with striped bass management that you were able to achieve for the bunker initiative.

I will stay in touch and hope you do the same.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Messina, Ph.D.
Professor of Physiology
New York Medical College
Valhalla, NY 10595

Phone: 914-594-4099
Facsimile: 914-594-4018

From: [Comments](#)
To: [Mike Waine](#)
Cc: [Kate Taylor](#)
Subject: FW: Striped Bass Management
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2013 5:59:55 PM

Received through comments in-box. Should probably include in next Commissioners mailing

From: VETCRAFT@aol.com [mailto:VETCRAFT@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2013 10:26 PM
To: Comments
Cc: vetcraft@aol.com
Subject: Striped Bass Management

Striped bass management board

Gentlemen,

I would like to submit comments for our consideration regarding the current regulatory measures for striped bass management on our east coast, in particular, the northeast and midatlantic spawning stock..

My name is Dr. Harvey Yenkinson. I am chairman emeritus of the Pa chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. I have written over 200 scientific articles on our east coast fisheries for magazines including The Fisherman Magazine, New Jersey Angler, and On the Water. I am a veterinarian and a charter boat captain in Cape May, NJ where I have been fishing over 40 years.

My concern is how soon the ASMFC will address the declining striped bass population. I am fairly familiar with the regulatory process regarding management of the species under regulation by the ASMFC.

I am aware of the stock status survey which most recently show a declining overall population, a reduced spawning stock biomass, and subpar CPUE data. Other data from organizations such as Stripers forever show declining catches all up and down the east coast. I am aware of the variations in YOY indices for the various stock spawning estuary systems.

As a charter captain in Cape May I can tell you with absolute certainty that the stock in my area which is the Delaware River breeding stock is on the verge of collapse. I would ask the ASMFC to consider this stock to be an early indicator of the status of this stock.

In the spring, with each segment of the stock present in it's own natal rivers, we get a good chance to see the health of each river stock. To give you an example of how poor of a spring fishery we are seeing, I would submit to you direct information I have. Delaware bay commercial striped bass fisheries are catching very few stripers (New Jersey has no commercial quota). Bunker netters are catching few to any stripers in their nets whereas normally sometime they have to pull their nets due to too many striped bass. Almost no stripers have been caught in the lower bay this spring. Last year most of the charter fleet ran 30-40 miles up the bay (where it narrows and concentrates the fish). This year, even those boats are catching few fish.

I could go on and on but I can tell you that the Delaware River stock is in dismal shape. As one of the smaller stocks, I would consider this a model for the larger segments such as the Hudson River stock and of course the main Chesapeake stock.

In the fall, the Chesapeake runs past Cape May and last fall we caught fish but no where near like in

years past. Each year we are catching fish and have seen a decline in the big fish from previous high YOY years.

My biggest concern is the way the ASFMC is forced to manage this species. All the data used such as previous years spawning stock and total stock biomass are by nature retrospective studies. YOY reports are the same. By the time the scientific and statistical committee and the striped bass board report, even more time is lost.

We are currently fishing on commercial quotas and recreational catch limits that are nearly identical to the catches limits that caused the stock to deplete in the 1980's.

I would encourage the members of the ASFMC to do everything in their power to preserve this important recreational and commercial fishery. I would encourage the following changes.

1. Recreational catches should be reduced by using a slot allocation with fish over a certain size and under a certain size to be released. This has worked well for other stocks like redfish. One fish per person should be a maximum for all states.
2. Commercial quotas need to be reduced. I would also encourage commercial quotas to be limited to pin hook fisheries with netting gradually phased out due to its quota mortality caused by dead discards.
3. Illegal fisheries enforcement needs to be continually maintained and funded.
- 4, The spring stock needs to be protected from both commercial and recreational entities through fisheries closures when the stock is entering its natal rivers to spawn.

As a charter captain, you may wonder why I am asking you to reduce our catch which may cause me to have less charter customers. I do so because I have much concern for the status of our fish populations. If managed properly, we can have healthy fish stocks with reasonable commercial and recreational catches

I would encourage the entire hierarchy of the striped bass management segments of the ASFMC to act proactively and not let the stock collapse again. If we make no changes, I can say with absolute certainty, it will!

Thank you for your consideration

Captain Dr. Harvey Yenkinson