

*Fishery Management Report
of the
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*



**Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management
Atlantic Striped Bass**

October 1985

**AMENDMENT #3 TO THE ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION'S INTERSTATE
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE STRIPED BASS**

In order to meet the goal of the original 1981 Striped Bass Management Plan, which is to maintain a spawning stock, minimize the possibility of recruitment failure and to insure rebuilding of the severely depleted Chesapeake spawning stock, an additional third amendment is approved.

This measure is designed to supplement the management measures already in place through the 1981 Plan and its amendments. In the event this amendment is repealed or superseded, the 1981 Plan and previously adopted amendments will remain in effect until and unless the Commission acts to modify or replace them.

The ISFMP for Striped Bass is hereby amended as follows. The effective date of this amendment is October 10, 1985.

- Objective 1. That the states prevent directed fishing mortality on at least 95% of the 1982 year class females, and females of all subsequent year classes of Chesapeake Bay stocks until 95% of the females of these year classes have an opportunity to reproduce at least once. This objective is intended to apply to the fishery until the 3-year running average of Maryland young-of-year index attains 8.0. Management measures which will accomplish this objective include combinations of the following which insure that no fishing mortality occurs on the target year classes:
- a) Total closures of striped bass fisheries. Where a state whose waters border on or are tributary to those which are closed should take complementary actions to insure the enforceability of such closures.
 - b) Establishment of minimum size limits below which 95% of females have spawned at least once.
 - c) Establishment of minimum size limits in combination with seasonal closures which insure that sub-adult females are not taken in open fisheries.
 - d) Elimination of any allowable bycatch below minimum lengths.

Such measures need to be made effective prior to the time at which 1982 year class females become exploitable under a given jurisdiction's regulations.

- Objective 2. That the Striped Bass Board support restoration efforts in the Delaware River system including the Delaware Bay and that a moratorium on striped bass fishing in the Delaware Bay system be implemented upon the onset of restoration efforts.

Approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on October 10, 1985.

ASMFC Time Table for New Striped Bass
Coastal Size Limits (ME-NC)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Projected Growth Rate of 1982 year class fish by season</u>	<u>Total Length in inches</u>
85	Spring May-July	20
	Summer Aug-Oct	23
86	Fall Nov-Jan	23
	Winter Feb-April	24
87	Spring May-July	25
	Summer Aug-Oct	29
87	Fall Nov-Jan	30
	Winter Feb-April	31
88	Spring May-July	31
	Summer Aug-Oct	33
88	Fall Nov-Jan	33
	Winter Feb-April	33

Note: States should institute size limits to stay ahead of 1982 year class growth rate.