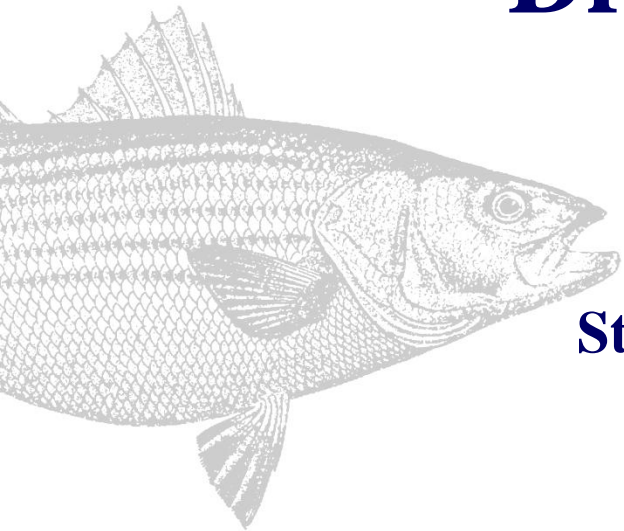


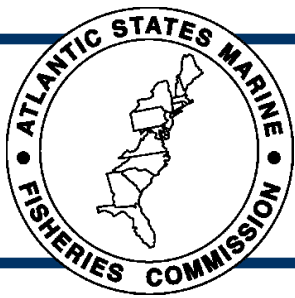


*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015*

Draft Addendum III

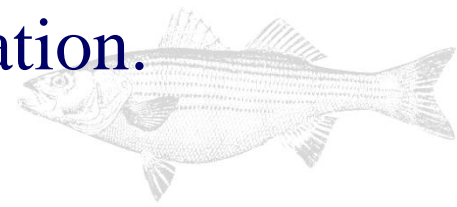


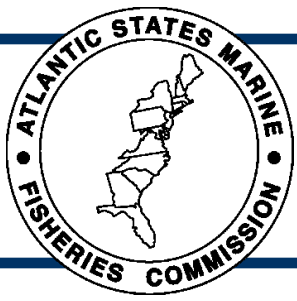
**Striped Bass Management Board
August 7, 2012**



Task Force Investigation

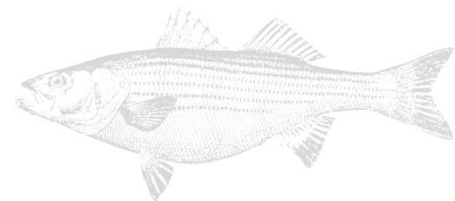
- IWTF's investigation within Chesapeake Bay resulted in over \$1.6 million dollars against 19 individuals and 3 corporations for more than one million pounds of illegal striped bass harvested worth up to \$7 million.
- The investigation revealed that control measures in place for regulating harvest were ineffective or inadequately designed to maximize compliance.
- Additionally greater accountability of wholesalers would be difficult to achieve without uniform tags and tagging requirements, valid year and size limits inscribed on tags, and increased dealer compliance education.





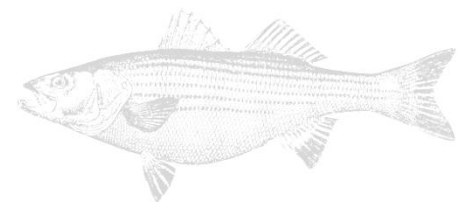
Objective

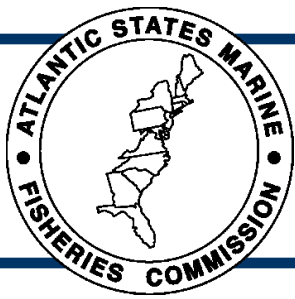
- Illegal harvest of striped bass has the potential to undermine the sustainability of striped bass populations on the Atlantic Coast, as well as reduce the economic opportunities of commercial fishermen who are legally participating in the fishery.



State	Massachusetts	Rhode Island	New York	Delaware	Maryland	PRFC	Virginia	North Carolina
2011 Weight Quota (Lbs.)	1,073,134	232,974	828,293	203,120	1,963,873	739,097	1,615,214	480,480
Number of Tags Issued	None	~25000	93,948	~31,000 harvest, ~33,000 dealer	~1,421,000	~107,000	284,000	40,000
# of Participants	~4,000	Unknown	487	111	1,231	~400	~450	700-800
Limited Entry	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
License Application Deadline	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Point of Tag	N/A	Sale	Harvest	Harvest and Dealer	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Sale
Unused Tags Turned In	N/A	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Tag Color	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
# of Tag Colors	N/A	2	1	2	5	7	2	2
Tag Color By	N/A	Gear	N/A	Fishermen/Dealer	Gear/Area	Gear	Area	Area
Year on Tag	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*
Size Limit on Tag	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

Pages 9 – 20 of the Addendum

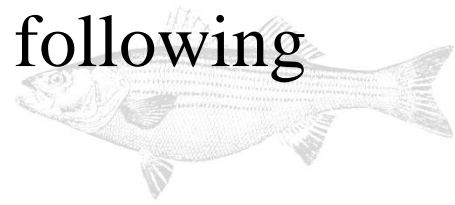


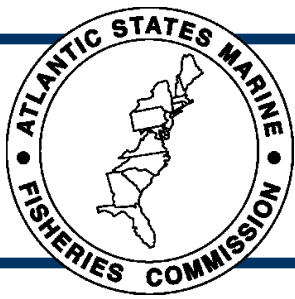


Commercial Fishery Management Measures

➤ Commercial Tagging Program Implementation

- Option 1 – Status Quo
- Option 2 – Mandatory Tagging Program (**LEC**)
 - Under this option states would be required to implement a tagging program when striped bass are commercially harvested within the state or jurisdictions waters.
 - The Board may choose to adopt for public hearing some or all of provisions in each of the following categories.

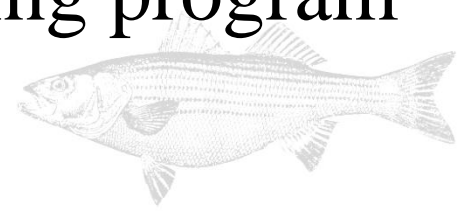


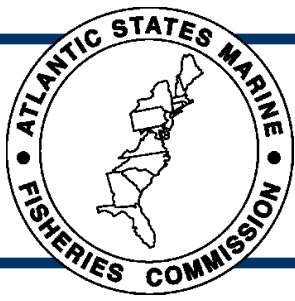


Commercial Fishery Management Measures

➤ A. Tag Information and Type

- Option 1 – State Program
 - States are required to submit annually to ASMFC commercial tag color, style and inscription for all gears/areas
- Option 2– Uniform Tagging Program (**LEC recommendation** with modification)
 - Board will develop a uniform tagging program



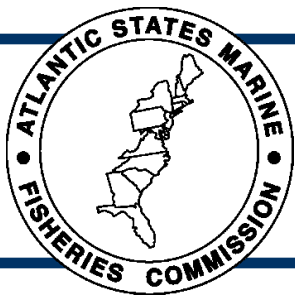


Commercial Fishery Management Measures

➤ B. Tag Timing

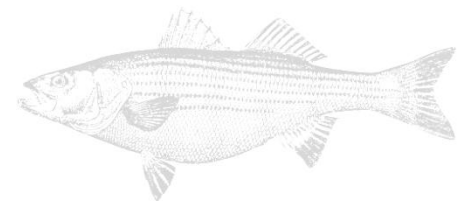
- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – Point of Harvest.
 - After removing fish from the gear, prior to attending another piece of gear, moving beyond a specified distance from the gear, or before removing fish from a boat. Exceptions are permitted for safety concerns.
 - Sub-option 1 – Coastwide
 - Sub-option 2 – Programs initiated through this addendum (**LEC recommendation**)

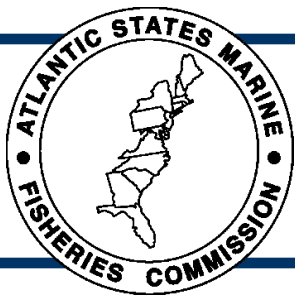




Commercial Fisheries Management Measures

- Option 3 – Point of Sale
 - Sub-option 1 – Coastwide
 - Sub-option 2 – Programs initiated through this addendum

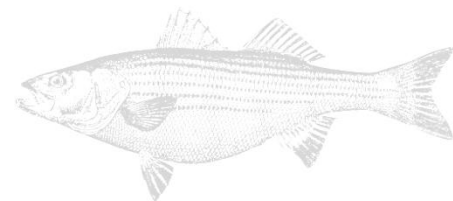


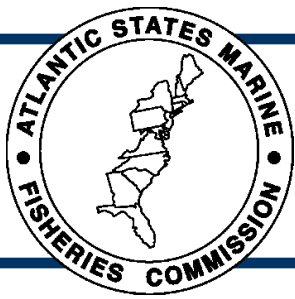


Commercial Fishery Management Measures

➤ C. Tag Allowance

- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – Biological Tag Allowance
(LEC Recommendation)
 - Under this option states or jurisdictions will be required to distribute commercial tags to permit holders based on a biological metric.



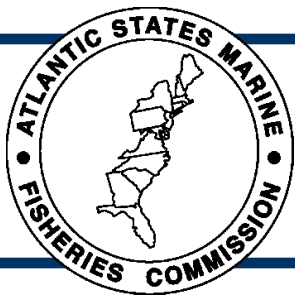


Commercial Fishery Management Measures

➤ D. Tag Accounting

- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – Tag Accountability (**LEC Recommendation**)
 - Commercial tagging program must require permit holders issued tags to turn tags in or provide an accounting report for any unused tags prior to the start of the next fishing season.



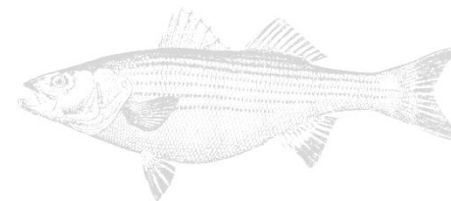


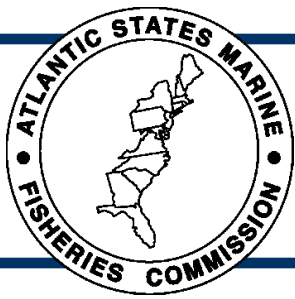
Commercial Fishery Management Measures

➤ E. Tag Reporting

- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – ACCSP Standards (Monthly)
(LEC Recommendation)

STATE	COMMERICAL REPORTING - FISHERS	COMMERICAL REPORTING - DEALERS
Massachusetts	Monthly	weekly
Rhode Island	Floating Trap - 3x/week; Gen. Cat. - none	bi-weekly
New York	Monthly	Weekly
Delaware	30 days after end date of fishery	daily
Maryland	Monthly	Weekly
PRFC	weekly	X
Virginia	monthly	monthly
North Carolina	None	daily





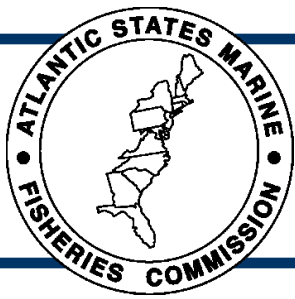
Commercial Fishery Management Measures

➤ F. Exportation

- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – (**LEC Recommendation**)

Under a mandatory tagging program it would be unlawful to purchase striped bass without a commercial tag. This is to prevent the sale of striped bass into a state or jurisdiction where there is currently no commercial fishery program.

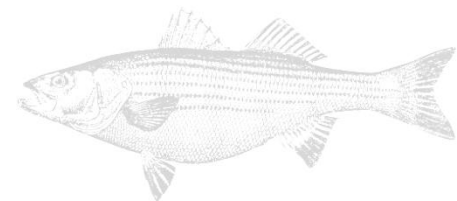


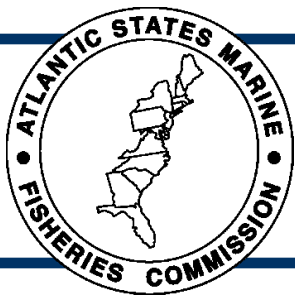


Commercial Fishery Management Measures

➤ G. Processing

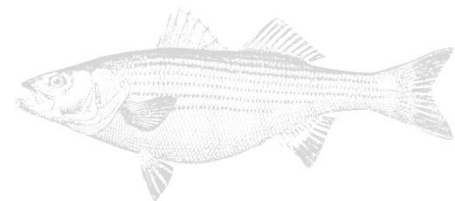
- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – (**LEC Recommendation**)
Tags must remain affixed until
processed for consumption by the
consumer

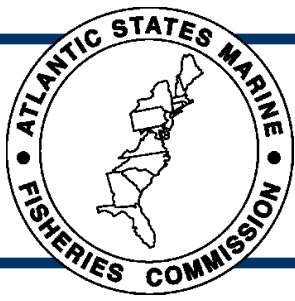




Recommended Penalties

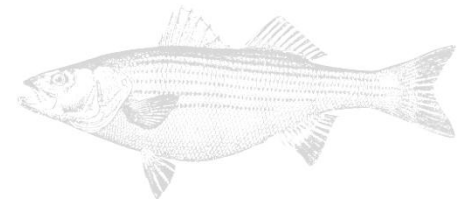
- It is recommended that states and jurisdictions strengthen their penalties for striped bass violations so that the penalties are sufficient to deter illegal harvest of striped bass.
- Tag Accountability





Implementation

- The implementation schedule will depend on the measures approved by the Board and the ability for the states to respond.
- Many states already have contracts in place for purchasing 2013 commercial tags.





*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015*

Draft Addendum III Public Comment Summary

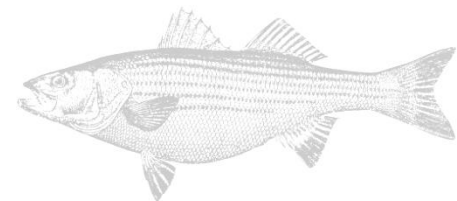
**Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
August 2012**





Public Hearings

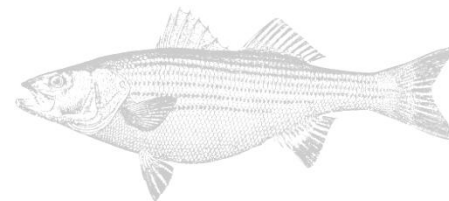
- Every state with a commercial fishery held a hearing, with the exception of PRFC
- 44 people attended 7 public hearings.
- 26 people were at MD hearing.
- No public attendance at three hearings
 - RI, DE and NC





Public Hearings

- **Tagging Program** – all comments received were in favor of mandatory commercial tagging.
 - **Tag Information** – Majority supported state program
 - **Tag Timing** – Majority supported point of harvest tagging. Concerns were expressed for safety.
 - **Tag Allowance** – All comments received on this issue were in favor of Option 1 (No Action).
 - **Tag Accounting, Reporting, Processing, Exportation** – All comments received on these issue were in favor of Option 2.





Public Hearings

➤ Additional Comments:

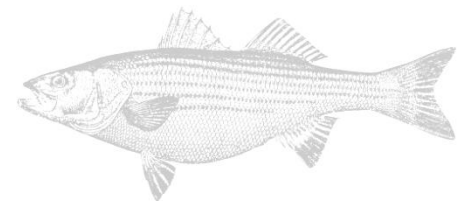
- Fishermen should be tagging the fish before they come off the boat, not immediately when removed due to safety concerns.
- Tagging requirements could depend on the type of gear
- If fishermen start paying for their tags, the number of active fishermen could decline.
- Concern for fishermen not having access to tags when they have fish.
- Reduced discarding in ITQ fisheries; ASMFC needs to adjust discarding rate used in quota allocation





Public Comments

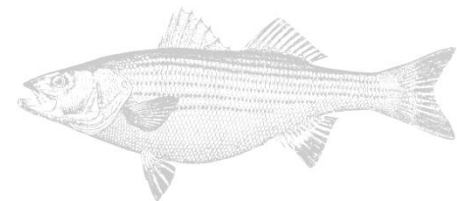
- Public comment period: May 22 to July 13
- 24 individuals submitted comments
- Three organizations: Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Atlantic Surfcasters Club, and NY Coalition for Recreational Fishing
- Two form letters: Stripers Forever and unknown organization





Public Comments

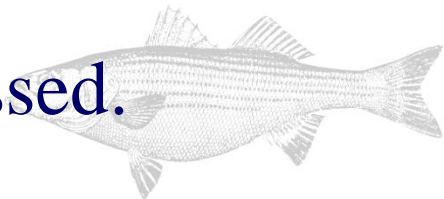
- All comments received were in favor of a mandatory tagging program.
- **Tag Information** – Majority were in favor of a uniform tagging program
- **Tag Timing** – All comments received were in favor of point of harvest (Option 2); one comment in favor of coastwide (Sub-option A)
- All comments received on Categories C – G were in favor of Option 2.
- Support for increased penalties.





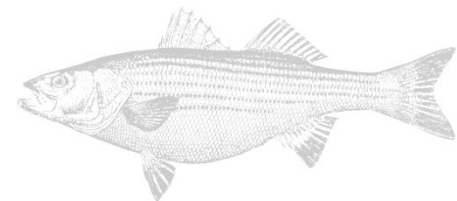
Additional Comments

- Illegal practices and over-harvest are far more commonplace than we would like to believe, but are difficult to prove with limited resources
- Action, or inaction, taken by one state affects all of the others.
- Even significantly larger fines too often are regarded as only a cost of doing business to some fishermen
- Striped Bass numbers on the north Atlantic coastline are declining drastically in population and average size.
- Stop all commercial striped bass fishing
- The recreational fishery needs to be addressed.





Questions?





*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015*

Virginia Commercial Fisheries Request

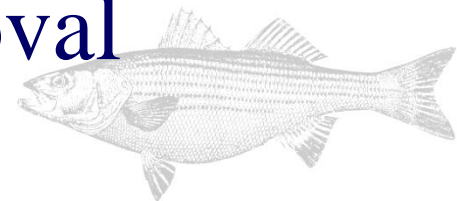


Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
Date



Modification #1

- Open the Virginia commercial striped bass fishery on January 16. Current starting date is February 1.
 - Area closures provisions of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan have greatly reduced the fishing time and has created unsafe fishing conditions.
 - The TC recommends Board approval





Modification #2

- Allow pound nets in the Chesapeake Area from May 1 through June 15 to harvest up to 50 striped bass over 28-inches.
 - TC recommends additional information be gathered through the benchmark assessment process and the proposal be re-submitted for consideration at the February Board meeting.

