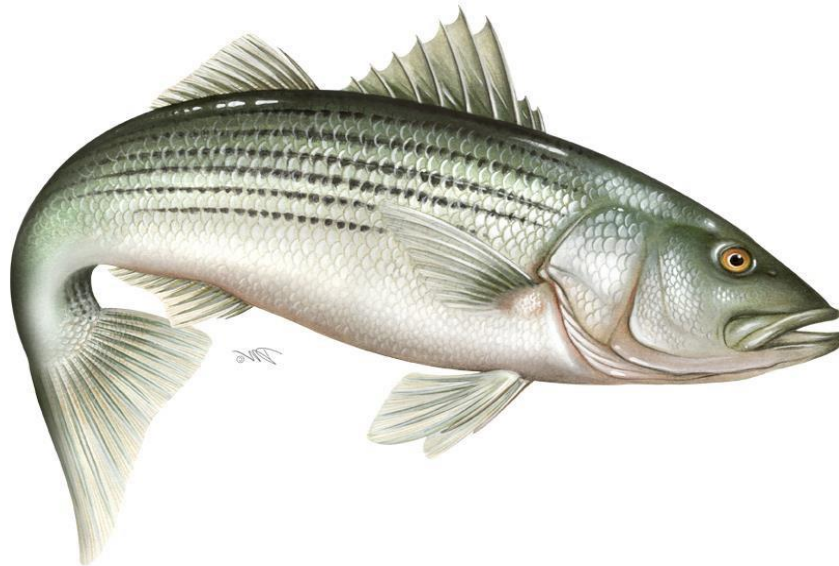




# ANPR: Striped Bass Fishing in the Federal Block Island Transit Zone

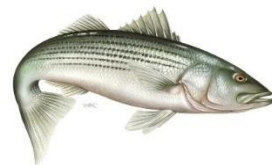


Atlantic Striped Bass Board  
October 23, 2018

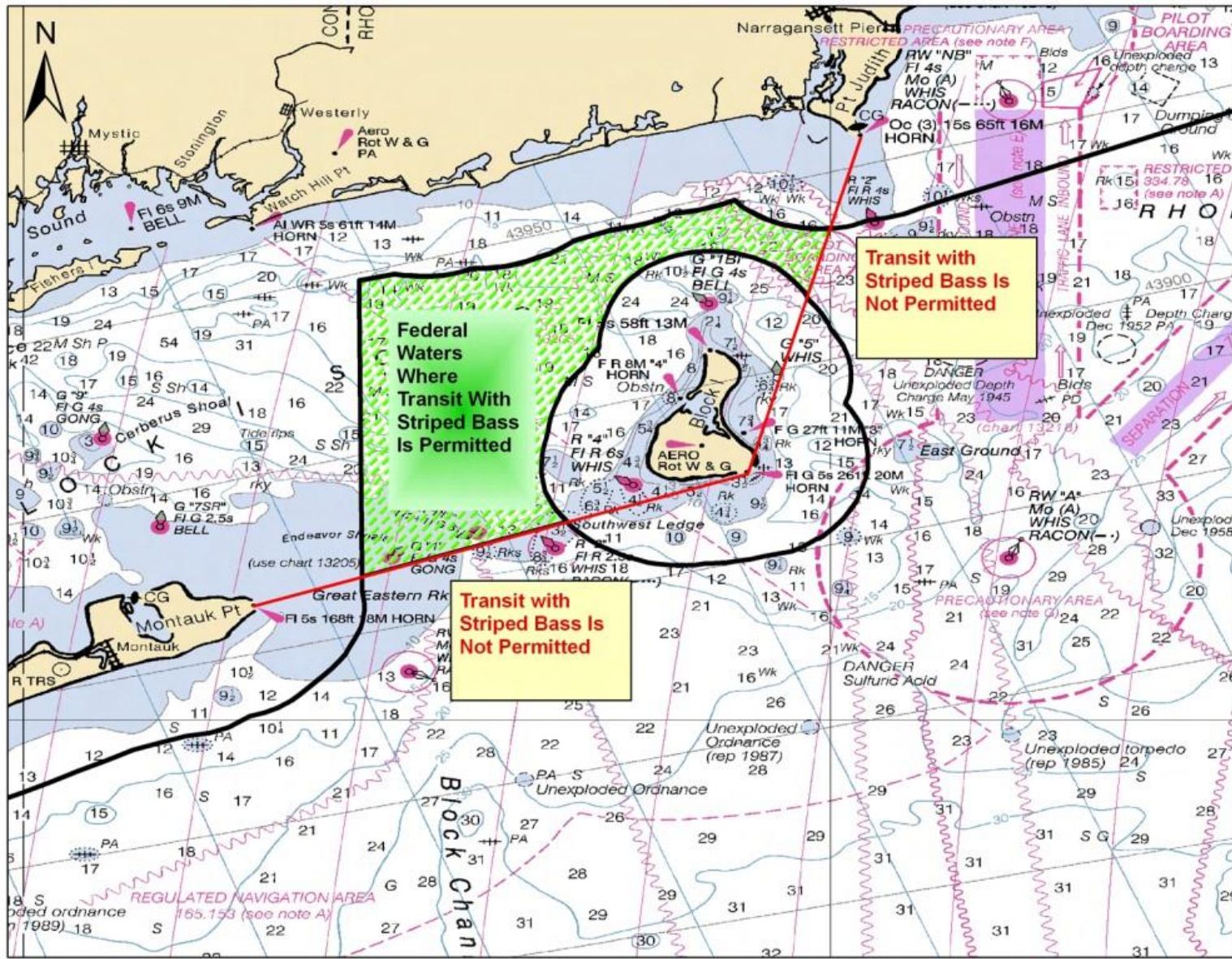
# Background



- Harvest and possession of Atlantic striped bass is prohibited in the EEZ, with the exception of a defined transit zone within Block Island Sound  
– F.R. 55-40181 (1990)
- Striped bass caught in adjoining state fisheries may be transported through this defined area, provided the vessel is not used to fish while in the EEZ and the vessel remains in continuous transit.



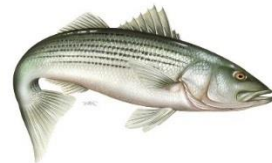
# Block Island Sound Transit Zone



# Background, cont.



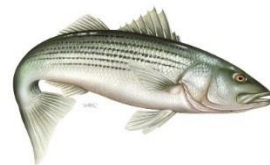
- “NOAA, in consultation with the ASMFC, to consider lifting the ban on striped bass fishing in the Federal Block Island Transit Zone.”
  - FY18 Omnibus Appropriations Act
- NMFS communicated the intent to issue an ANPR to the ASMFC at its August 2018 Striped Bass Board meeting



# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking



- F.R. 83-50061, published October 4, 2018
- ANPR is not a proposed rule
- Intent is to provide background information and make the public aware of a proposal to remove the current prohibition on recreational striped bass fishing in the Transit Zone
- NMFS is not proposing to allow commercial striped bass fishing in the Transit Zone due to E.O. 13449 which prohibits the sale of striped bass caught in the EEZ.



# ANPR, Next Steps



- NMFS is requesting comments related to the potential regulatory revisions described in the ANPR by COB November 19, 2018.
- Options for the Board to consider:
  1. Board sends a letter to NMFS based on comment collected from the Board today; or
  2. States submit individual comments to NMFS; or
  3. Both

