

- Status Quo: May 16 – Dec 20, 2 fish with 20” min size **AND** only 1 fish can be >28”
- Proposed: reduce min size to 19” during all or part of summer/fall months, AND keep all other measures status quo (i.e., 2 fish **AND** only 1 fish can be >28”)

Size limit and Season Length	Estimated Change in Total Removals	
discard mortality rate during summer months:	9%	27%
19” May 16 - Dec 15, circle hooks mandatory for bait fishermen	0% (B)	NA
19” May 16 - July 31; 20” Aug 1 - Nov 30	-1% (A)	-1% (G)
19” May 16 - Aug 31; 20” Sept 1 - Nov 30	1% (C)	0% (H)
19” May 16 - July 31; 20” Aug 1 - Dec 15	4% (D)	2% (I)
19” May 16 - Nov 30	6% (E)	3% (K)
19” May 16 - Aug 31; 20” Sept 1 - Dec 15	6% (F)	3% (J)

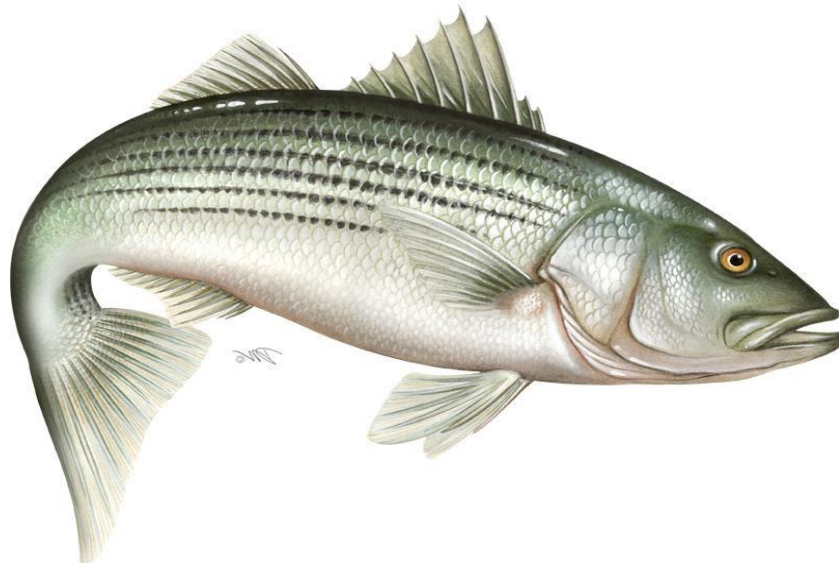
- Status Quo: May 16 – Dec 20, 2 fish with 20” min size **AND** only 1 fish can be >28”
- Proposed: reduce min size to 19” during all or part of summer/fall months, AND keep all other measures status quo (i.e., 2 fish **AND** only 1 fish can be >28”)

Size limit and Season Length	Estimated Change in Total Removals	
discard mortality rate during summer months:	9%	27%
19” May 16 - Dec 15, circle hooks mandatory for bait fishermen	0% (B)	NA
19” May 16 - July 31; 20” Aug 1 - Nov 30	-1% (A)	-1% (G)
19” May 16 - Aug 31; 20” Sept 1 - Nov 30	1% (C)	0% (H)
19” May 16 - July 31; 20” Aug 1 - Dec 15	4% (D)	2% (I)
19” May 16 - Nov 30	6% (E)	3% (K)
19” May 16 - Aug 31; 20” Sept 1 - Dec 15	6% (F)	3% (J)

- Status Quo: May 16 – Dec 20, 2 fish with 20” min size **AND** only 1 fish can be >28”
- Proposed: reduce min size to 19” during all or part of summer/fall months, AND keep all other measures status quo (i.e., 2 fish **AND** only 1 fish can be >28”)

Size limit and Season Length	Estimated Change in Total Removals	
	discard mortality rate during summer months:	9%
19” May 16 - Dec 15, circle hooks mandatory for bait fishermen	0% (B)	NA
19” May 16 - July 31; 20” Aug 1 - Nov 30	-1% (A)	-1% (G)
19” May 16 - Aug 31; 20” Sept 1 - Nov 30	1% (C)	0% (H)
19” May 16 - July 31; 20” Aug 1 - Dec 15	4% (D)	2% (I)
19” May 16 - Nov 30	6% (E)	3% (K)
19” May 16 - Aug 31; 20” Sept 1 - Dec 15	6% (F)	3% (J)

Maryland Conservation Equivalency Proposal – Technical Committee Report



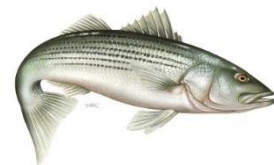
Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

February 7, 2018

Overview



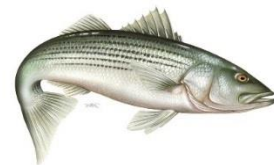
- Conservation Equivalency and Addendum IV
- Review of Maryland Conservation Equivalency (CE) Proposal
- Technical Committee (TC) Comments



Conservation Equivalency



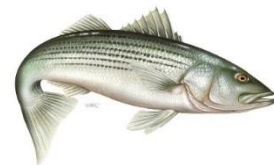
- From Addendum IV:
 - “Amendment 6 (Section 4.6) allows for states to submit alternative regulations that are conservationally equivalent to regulations approved in this document for Board review and approval.”
- Addendum IV did not approve a set of regulations for the Chesapeake Bay (CB).



Conservation Equivalency



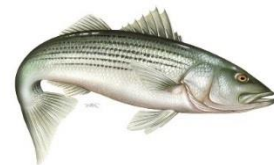
- From Addendum IV:
 - “The Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions will submit a management program that achieves at least a 20.5% reduction from 2012 harvest (including estimated dead discards) in the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery for Technical Committee review and Board approval.”



Maryland CE Proposal



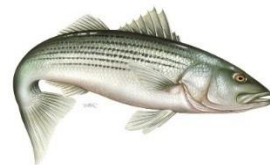
- Proposing a number of alternative management measures to be implemented in 2018 with the primary goal of reducing dead discards.
- All options propose a reduced size limit of 19” during all or part of the summer and fall months
- By reducing the minimum size limit from 20” to 19” during that time, direct harvest will increase but dead discards would decrease.
- The estimated change in total removals relative to current levels, ranges from a 1% decrease to a 6% increase.



TC Comments



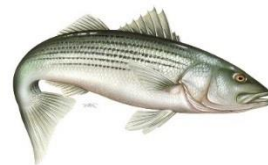
- In general, the TC concluded that the data sources and methodologies used in the proposal are appropriate, with the exception of the option (B) that includes the mandatory use of circle hooks



TC Comments



- The TC supports the implementation of circle hook requirements to improve post release survival rates, but does not endorse such requirements for CE proposals at this time due to:
 - Uncertainty in realized mortality reductions due to angler response and other variables
 - Challenges of enforceability



TC Comments



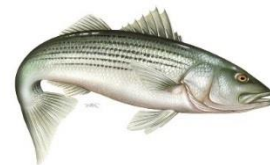
- The proposal demonstrates that all other proposed measures (excluding Option B) may have minimal impact on total removals relative to current regulations.
 - Typical caveats regarding size limit analysis would apply here: angler behavior, population size structure, etc.
 - The 2011 year class has likely been an important factor in recent years, the 2014 year class will likely be a factor in coming years.



TC Comments



- The proposal did not follow all of the CE criteria set by the TC (Memos 14-110 and 17-007).
 - A longer time series of data was used (2000-2014) which did not include the most recent three years
- Additional info also needed on the specific type of circle hook that would be required, and which anglers the circle hook provision would apply to



TC Comments

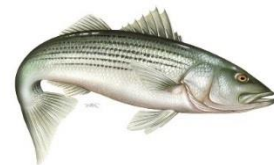


- Although the proposal did not have a specific analysis to demonstrate a 20.5% reduction relative to 2012, implementation of options A, G, and H are likely to result in minimal change from current levels, thus being CE to current regulations but not the measures stipulated in Addendum IV.
- Interpretation of whether this proposal meets the letter or the spirit of the conservation equivalency policy is a decision for the Board.

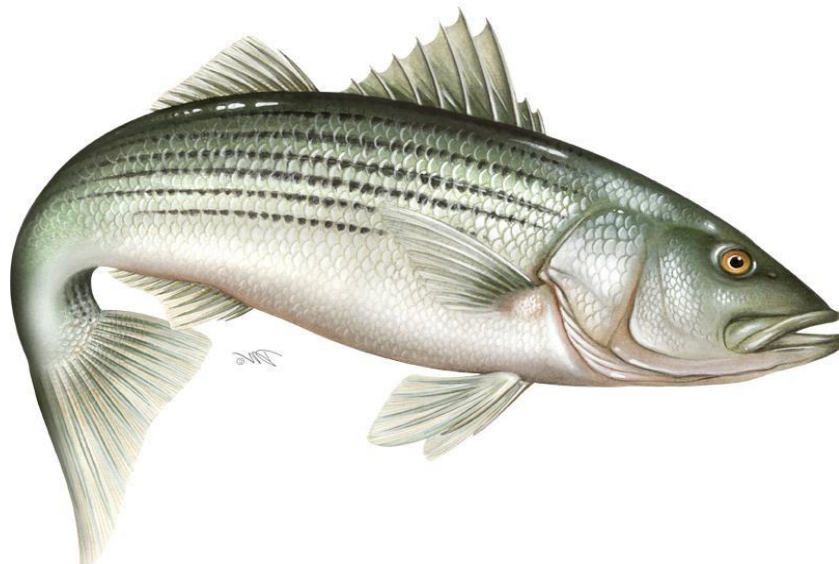




Questions???



AP Report: Maryland CE Proposal



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

February 7, 2018

Overview

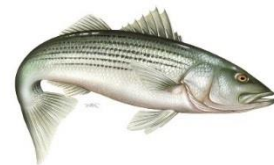


The AP met via teleconference on 1/12/18:

1. Review Maryland's CE Proposal and TC and LEC reports
2. Provide comment for Board consideration.

AP members in attendance:

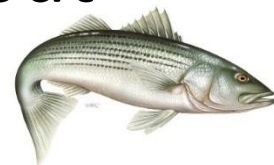
Peter Whelan (NH)	Lou Bassano (NJ, AP Chair)
Edwin Cook (RI)	John Pedrick (PA)
Arnold Leo (NY)	Ed O'Brien (MD)
John McMurray (NY)	David Sikorski (MD)
Al Ristori (NJ)	Joe Fletcher (DC)
	Kelly Place (VA)



AP Comment



- The discussion focused on the mandatory circle hook requirement to improve post release survival
- AP believes circle hooks provide much needed conservation benefits
 - Should be implemented in all striped bass fisheries, not just in the Bay
 - Don't support use of treble hooks
 - Discussed the precedence of approving a circle hook requirement to achieve CE, but benefits outweigh those concerns



AP Recommendation



- AP supports CE proposal Option B:
 - 19” min from May 16 – Dec 15, with a mandatory circle hook requirement.
- Requirement must be explicitly defined
 - Realized conservation benefit dependent on circle hook specifications
 - Non-offset, and larger hooks generally have higher post-release survival

