

Summary of Atlantic striped bass **recreational** measures under Addendum II to Amendment 7 as of May 1, 2024. State implementation plans were approved in March 2024 and May 2024. Please refer to each state’s regulations for any additional gear/fishing restrictions in that state.

STATE	SIZE LIMITS (TL)/REGION	BAG LIMIT	GEAR/FISHING RESTRICTIONS	OPEN SEASON
ME	28" to 31"	1 fish/day	Hook and line only and no gaffing of striped bass. Regulations define bait as it pertains to the required use of circle hooks; immediate release if incidentally caught on unapproved hook type; maintains the circle hook exemption for rubber and latex tube rigs. It is unlawful to possess striped bass unless the fish are whole with head on.	All year, except spawning areas are closed 12.1-4.30 and C&R only 5.1-6.30
NH	28" to <31"	1 fish/day	Gaffing and culling prohibited; Use of corrodible non-offset circle hooks required if angling with bait. If taken contrary to restrictions, return fish to water immediately. A person may possess up to 2 striped bass fillets so long as they also possess the fish rack that the fillets came from with the head and tail intact and the rack measures at least 28 inches in total length; Any striped bass fillet shall have the skin still attached for the purpose of identification of the fillet as striped bass.	All year
MA	28" to <31"	1 fish/day	Hook & line only; no high-grading; gaffs and other injurious removal devices prohibited. Inline circle hook requirement when fishing with bait, except with artificial lures; mandatory release of catch on any unapproved method of take. For-hire operators or crew may fillet striped bass for their patrons at any time during the for-hire trip prior to the patrons departing the vessel, provided: (1) the racks are retained in a manner that does not interfere with species identification or total length measurement until such time as the vessel has docked and all customers from that trip have departed the vessel and the racks may subsequently be disposed of in any legal manner; (2) at least two square inches of skin is left intact and no more than two fillets, representing the equivalent of one fish, may be possessed by each customer.	All year

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RI	28" to <31"	1 fish/day	Circle required while fishing recreationally with bait for striped bass (except for artificial lures with bait attached); must release if caught on unapproved method of take. No gaffing. For filleting, racks must be retained and must be kept whole. No striped bass shall be mutilated in a manner that prevents the accurate measurement of the fish. No more than two fillets taken from legal striped bass. Racks must be disposed of before the commencement of fishing activity on the next fishing trip. For Private Recreational Vessels: Racks must be retained until the vessel is secured to a dock or removed from the water and all of the fillets have been offloaded from the vessel. For Party/Charter Vessels: Racks must be retained until the vessel is secured to a dock or removed from the water, all paying passengers have disembarked the vessel, and all fillets have been offloaded from the vessel. For Shore-based Anglers: No filleting of striped bass will be permitted while still actively fishing with fishing lines in the water.	All year
CT	28" to 31"	1 fish/day	Inline circle hooks only when using whole, cut or live natural bait. Exemption of artificial lures/ release of incidental non-circle hook provision. Spearing and gaffing prohibited. If taken contrary to the provisions, shall, without avoidable injury, be returned immediately to the waters. No person shall land or possess on the waters of this state or on any parcel of land, structure, or portion of a roadway abutting tidal waters of this state any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed or which has otherwise been rendered unidentifiable as a striped bass or unable to be measured.	All year

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NY	Ocean and Delaware River: 28” to 31”	1 fish/day	Angling only. Spearing permitted in ocean waters. C&R only during closed season, except no targeting in Hudson River during closed season. Circle hook requirements. No gaffing. Mandatory release of catch on any unapproved method of take. For Party/charter vessels, i) fish may be filleted for customers only; (ii) only fish which are legally possessed may be filleted and fillets are limited to two per legal fish; (iii) striped bass may only be filleted prior to customers leaving the vessel or the dock area prior to customers departing the area; (iv) it is unlawful to mutilate any striped bass carcass to the extent that the total length or species of fish cannot be determined; (v) all striped bass carcasses must be retained (unmixed with any other material) in a separate container readily available for inspection until such time as the vessel has docked and all passengers from that trip have left the vessel and the dock area. Any such carcasses are included in the possession limit; (vi) all striped bass carcasses from any previous trip must be disposed of prior to any person beginning to fish on a subsequent trip;	Ocean: 4.15-12.15 Delaware River: All year
	Hudson River: 23” to 28”	1 fish/day		Hudson River: 4.1-11.30
NJ	28” to 31”	1 fish/day	Circle hooks required when fishing with bait; must release if caught on unapproved method of take. Authorizes at-sea filleting only for party boats who hold a Special Fillet Permit, includes the following provisions. i. Once fishing commences, no parts or carcasses of any species specified in (c) above and no flatfish parts or carcasses shall be discarded overboard; only whole live fish may be returned to the water; ii. No carcasses shall be mutilated to the extent that its length or species cannot be determined; iii. All fish carcasses shall be retained until such time as the vessel has docked and been secured at the end of the fishing trip adequate to provide a law enforcement officer access	Closed 1.1 – Feb 28 in all waters except in the Atlantic Ocean, and closed 4.1-5.31 in the lower DE River and tribs

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			to inspect the vessel and catch; v. No fish of any species less than the minimum size limit shall be filleted and no fillet of any species listed below shall have the skin removed and no fillet shall be less than the minimum length in inches. Vii. Fish carcasses from the previous trip shall be disposed of prior to commencing fishing on a subsequent trip. Adding clarification limiting possession to no more than two fillets per legal fish.	
<b>PA</b>	Upstream from Calhoun St Bridge: 28” to <31”, 1 fish/day		Unlawful to take or attempt to take fish unless the method is specifically authorized. Circle hooks required when fishing with bait downstream from Calhoun St. Bridge. Unlawful to possess a fish in any form or condition other than in the whole or having the entrails removed while on shore, along the waters of Pennsylvania, onboard a boat or on a dock, pier, launch area or a parking lot adjacent thereto. Fish may only be processed fully if they are being prepared for immediate consumption. However, a charter boat operator or fishing guide may fully process the fish at any time provided the charter boat operator or fishing guide retains the carcass until possession of the fish is transferred to the customer on shore. Adding clarification limiting possession to no more than two fillets per legal fish.	All year
	Downstream from Calhoun St Bridge: 28” to <31”, 1 fish/day* *except from 4.1-5.31: 22” to <26”, 1 fish/day			All year. 1 fish/day at 22” to <26” slot from 4.1-5.31
<b>DE</b>	28” to 31”	1 fish/day	Hook & line, spear (for divers) only. No gaffing. Inline circle hooks required when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural baits. No at-sea filleting: Unless otherwise authorized, it is unlawful to possess any striped bass for which the total length has been altered in any way for the purpose of retaining said striped bass.	All year. C&R only 4.1-5.31 in spawning grounds. 20” to 24” slot from 7.1-8.31 in DE River, Bay & tributaries

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MD	Ocean: 28” to 31”	1 fish/day	Circle hooks if chumming, live-lining, or bait fishing and targeting striped bass; no gaffing	All year
	Chesapeake Bay and tribs^	C&R only	Circle hook requirement with bait; no eels as bait; no stinger hooks; barbless hooks when trolling; max 6 lines when trolling; no gaffing	1.1-2.28, 3.1-3.31, 12.11-12.31
	Chesapeake Bay and tribs^	No targeting	No targeting	4.1-5.31, 7.16-7.31
	Chesapeake Bay: 19” to 24” 1 fish/day^		<a href="#">Geographic restrictions apply</a> ; circle hooks if chumming, livelining, or bait fishing and targeting striped bass; no gaffing. Striped bass must be landed whole.	5.16-5.31
	Chesapeake Bay and tribs: 19” to 24”, 1 fish/day^		All Bay and tribs open; circle hooks if chumming, livelining, or bait fishing and targeting striped bass; no gaffing. Striped bass must be landed whole.	6.1-7.15, 8.1-12.10
			A licensed charter boat captain or mate may fillet striped bass taken on a vessel displaying a current commercial charter boat decal under the following conditions: A striped bass carcass may not be mutilated to the extent that the total length or species of fish cannot be determined; (b) All striped bass carcasses: (i) Shall be retained, unmixed with any other material, in a separate container readily available for inspection until the vessel has docked and all passengers from that trip have left the vessel and the dock area; and (ii) Are included in the possession limit; and (c) All striped bass carcasses from any previous trip shall be disposed of before any person begins to fish on a subsequent trip. Adding clarification limiting possession to no more than two fillets per legal fish.	

^ Susquehanna Flats: C&R only 1.1-3.31 and 12.11-12.31 (circle hooks when bait fishing, no eels as bait); No targeting 4.1-5.31; 1 fish at 19”-24” slot 6.1-7.15 and 8.1-12.10 (circle hooks if chumming, livelining, or bait fishing and targeting striped bass); No targeting 7.16-7.31

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<b>PRFC</b>	Summer/Fall: 19” to 24”	1 fish/day	No more than two hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line; non-offset Circle Hooks are required when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait; no spearing or gaffing; any fish caught other than lawful fishing activities immediately released. No at-sea filleting; No person shall alter the natural state of any species of fish listed in (a) above such that its length cannot be measured.	Open 5.16-7.6 and 8.21-12.31; No Targeting 7.7-8.20
<b>DC</b>	19” to 24”	1 fish/day	Hook and line only; unlawful to take fish except as specified. No filleting at-sea: Unlawful to possess aboard any boat, while fishing, or while in the possession of fishing equipment, any fish that has had the head or tail removed for which size or a weight limit is prescribed.	5.16-12.31
<b>VA</b>	Ocean: 28” to 31”	1 fish/day	Hook & line, rod & reel, hand line, spearing only. No gaffing. Circle hooks required if/when using live bait. Unlawful to take/attempt take by any other gear/method. Filleting at sea will be allowed if the carcass is retained to ensure proper species identification and compliance with size limitations. Cleaning and/or filleting at sea will be allowed if the fillet or cleaned fish exceeds the minimum length for the species and at least one square inch of skin is left intact to assist in identification of the species. It shall be unlawful for any person	1.1-3.31, 5.16-12.31
	Bay Spring/Summer/Fall: 19” to 24”	1 fish/day		5.16-6.15, 10.4-12.31

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			while aboard any boat or vessel or while fishing from shore or pier to alter any striped bass or to possess any altered striped bass such that its total length cannot be determined.	
<b>NC</b>	Ocean: 28” to 31”	1 fish/day	No gaffing allowed. Circle hooks required when fishing with natural bait. t shall be unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing any species of finfish that is subject to a size or harvest restriction without having head and tail attached.	All year