



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmfmc.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

FROM: Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee

DATE: April 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Board-Requested Sensitivity Runs for Draft Addendum III Projections

The projection scenario that the TC-SAS considered most likely was that fishing mortality (F) would increase somewhat in 2025 and then decline to 2024 levels for 2026-2029 as the above-average 2018 year-class entered the ocean slot in 2025 and then grew out of it in subsequent years, with no strong year-classes behind it over that time period. Recruitment was drawn from the low recruitment regime of 2008-2023. This scenario, referred to as the base run, was used to estimate the reductions needed in 2026 to have a 50% or 60% probability of rebuilding by 2029.

In addition to the TC-SAS's preferred base run for the projections, the Board also requested a set of sensitivity runs to provide context for the base projections. Specifically, the Board requested runs that:

1. Extend base run projections to 2035
2. Use the most recent 6 years of very low recruitment instead of the 2008-2023 values
3. Project a moderate F value for 2026 onwards (i.e., higher than the very low value projected for 2024 but lower than the F target)

The Board was interested in extending the projections to 2035 to better understand the trajectory of the population after the 2029 rebuilding deadline, since the very weak year-classes from 2019-2024 will only just be beginning to enter the spawning stock biomass by 2029. Using a very low recruitment assumption would provide information on what could happen to the population after the 2029 deadline if recruitment continues at current very low levels into the near future. Previous projections showed that fishing at F_{2024} from 2026-2029 resulted in ~50% probability of rebuilding by 2029, while fishing at F target meant the population would stabilize somewhere between the SSB target and the SSB threshold, so Board members were interested in a scenario where F for 2026-forward increased somewhat from F_{2024} but was still below the F target. F_{2024} was considered a low F in this scenario because it is the lowest full F the stock has experienced since the stock was rebuilt, although the TC-SAS considers $F=F_{2024}$ to be the most likely scenario for 2026-2029, absent any management changes.

These runs were completed after the March 2025 TC-SAS calls where the base run scenario was determined, and reviewed by the TC-SAS over e-mail.

Recruitment Scenarios

For the base run, recruitment of age-1 fish in 2024 was predicted from the MD young-of-year (YOY) index value for 2023, and recruitment for 2025 onward was drawn from the current low-recruitment regime years (2008-2023). For the very low recruitment sensitivity run, recruitment was drawn from the most recent 6 years of data, representing the 2019-2024 year-classes, which is a combination of model-estimated recruitment and recruitment predicted from the MD YOY index (Figure 1).

Median recruitment for the base run is 116 million age-1 fish per year, while median recruitment for the very low recruitment sensitivity run is 86 million age-1 fish.

F Scenarios

For the base scenario, the TC-SAS recommended projecting $F=F_{2024}$ for 2026 onward, with a 17% increase in F in 2025 only as the above-average 2018 year-class enters the ocean slot limit. For the moderate F scenario requested by the Board, F was assumed to be equal to the average of F_{2024} and F_{2025} . This scenario, with $F=0.134$, was between the F_{2024} value (0.123) and the F target (0.17), but still consistent with the TC-SAS's most likely scenario where F increases in 2025 and then decreases again for 2026 onwards. In both scenarios, F in each year is drawn from a distribution centered around those values to include uncertainty around F going forward (Figure 2).

Results

The base run projections, drawing from 2008-2023 recruitment and using $F=F_{2024}$ for 2026-2035, resulted in a 49% probability that SSB will be at or above the SSB target by 2029. In this scenario, SSB will continue to increase after 2029 (Figure 3 - Figure 4).

In the scenario where recruitment is drawn from the very low recruitment regime (i.e., the 2019-2024 year-classes) with the same F as the base run, SSB will be close to the SSB target in 2029, with a 44% probability of being at or above the SSB target in that year. However, SSB will begin to decline after 2030, as the 2015 and 2018 year-classes continue to die off due to natural and fishing mortality and are replaced by the weak 2019-2024 year-classes (Figure 3 - Figure 4).

In the moderate F scenario, SSB has a 30% probability of being at or above the SSB target in 2029, although there is a high probability that it will be above the threshold. Under the base recruitment scenario, SSB begins to increase towards the end of the projection as the weak 2019-2024 year-classes are replaced by what are projected to be somewhat stronger cohorts, but if recruitment continues to stay at 2019-2024 levels, SSB will decline after 2029, approaching the SSB threshold more quickly than in the F_{2024} scenario with very low recruitment (Figure 3 - Figure 4).

Figures

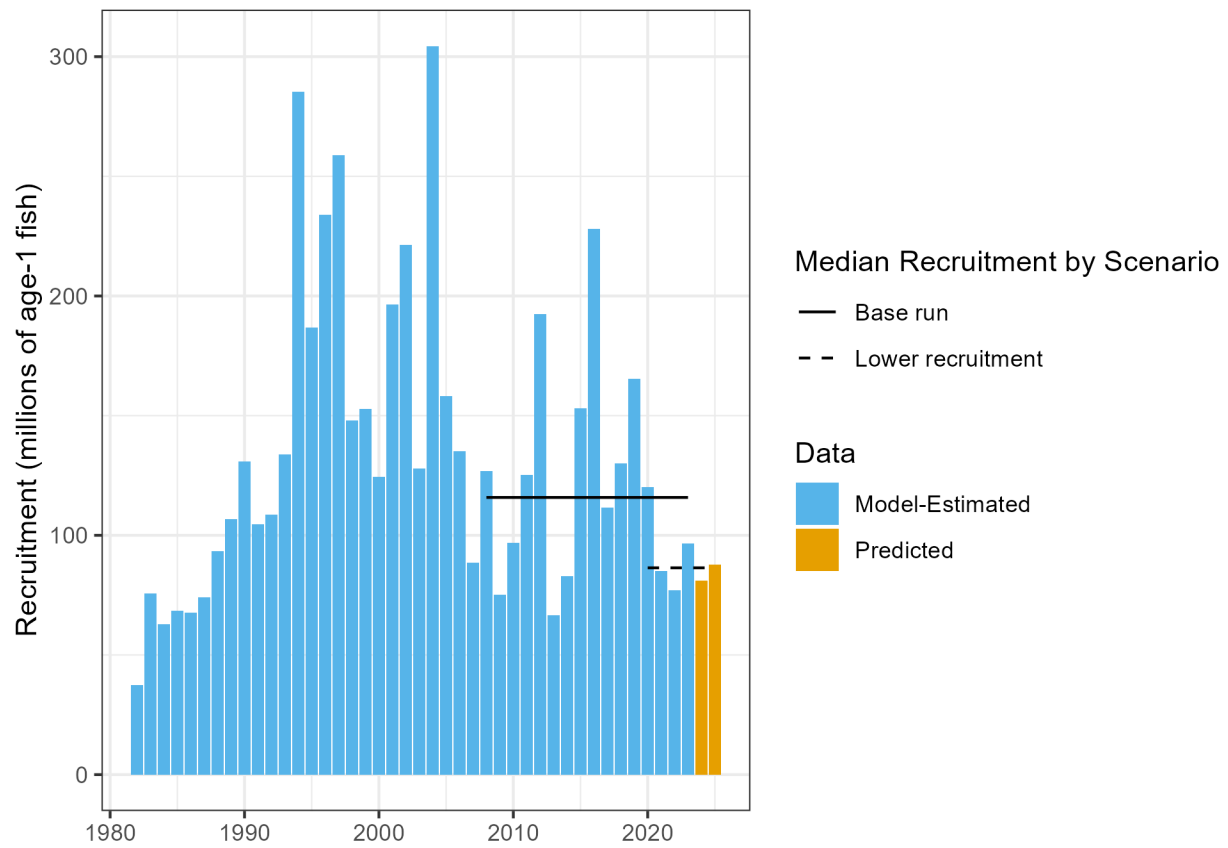


Figure 1. Recruitment time-series used in projections. 1982-2023 values are estimated by the stock assessment and 2024-2025 are predicted from the MD YOY index.

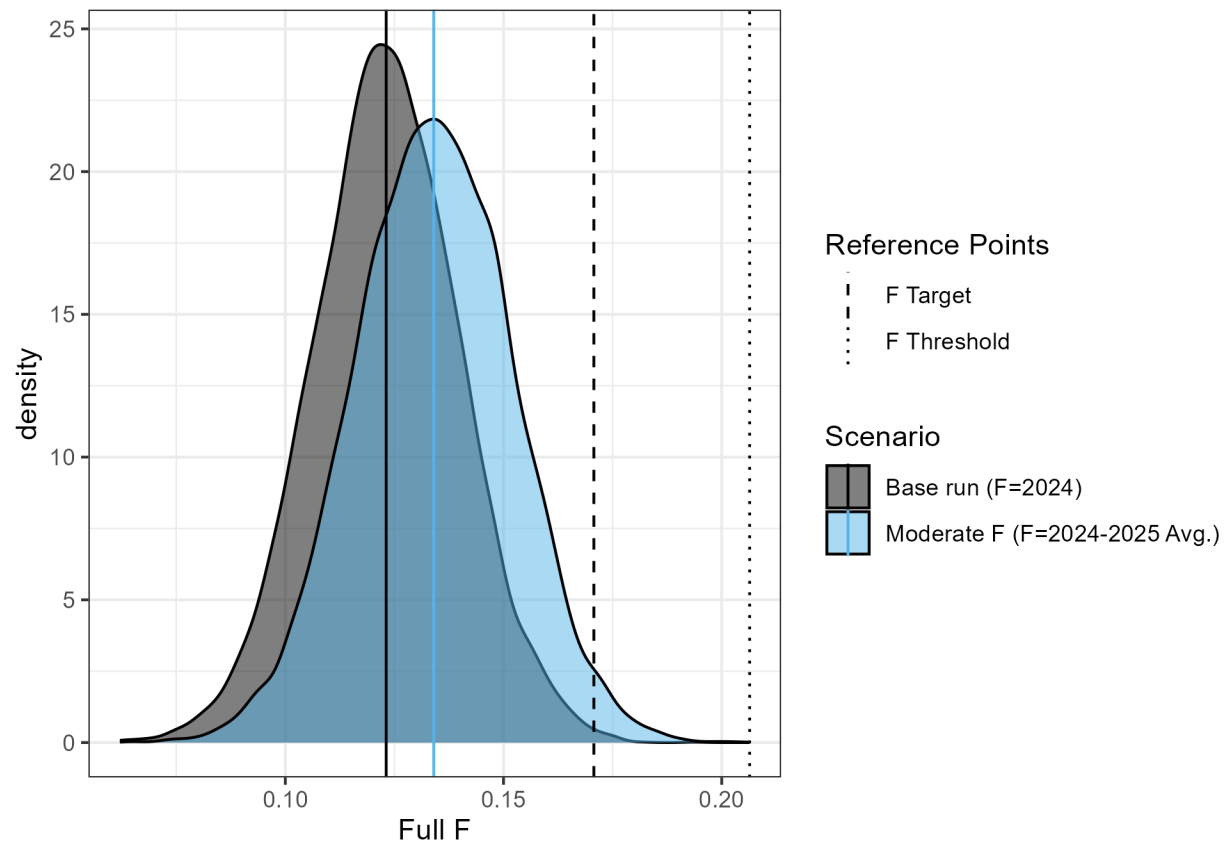


Figure 2. Distribution of F rates for 2026-2035 used in the different projection scenarios plotted with the F reference points.

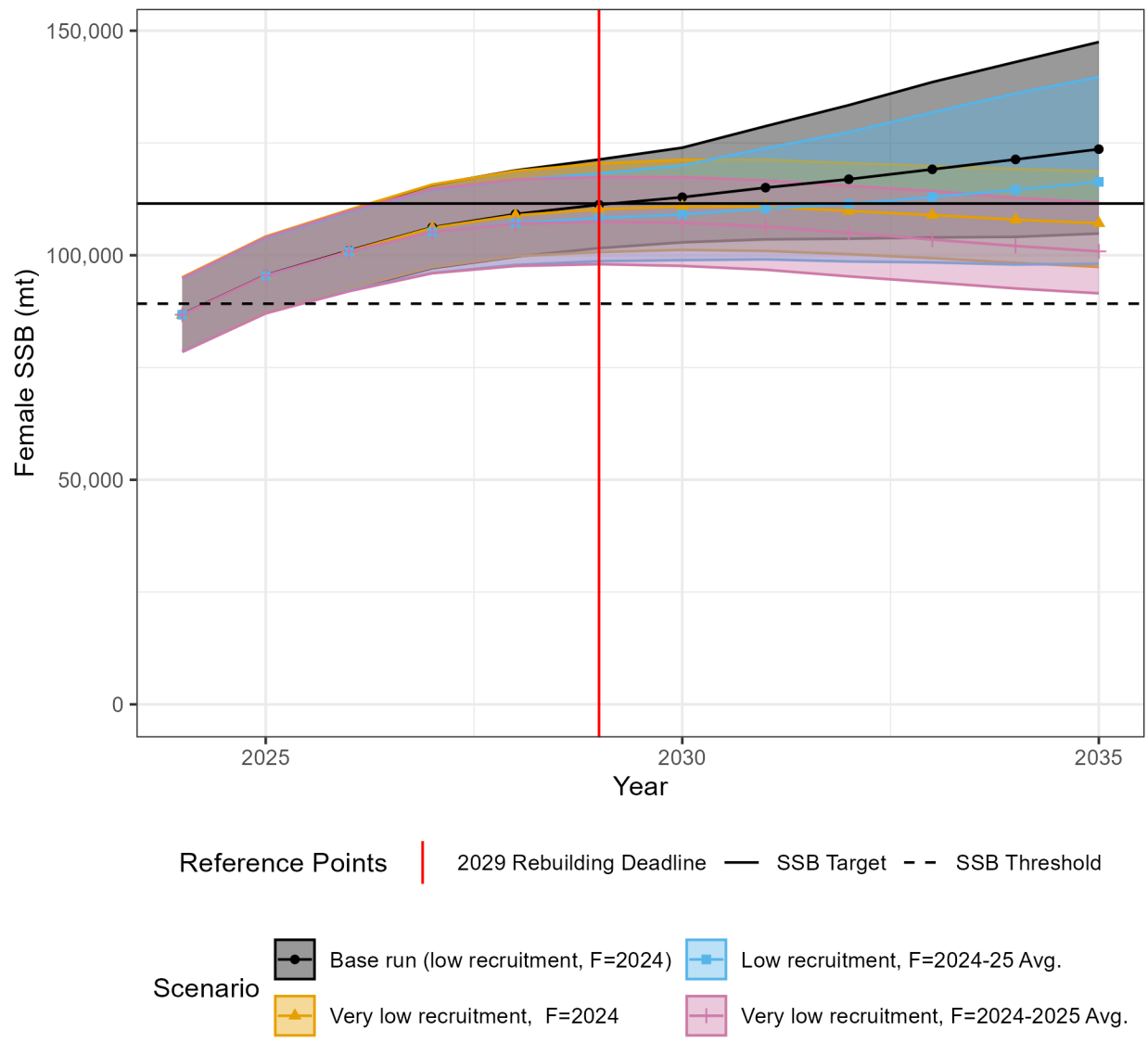


Figure 3. SSB trajectories under different assumptions about future F and recruitment. Shaded areas indicate 95% confidence intervals.

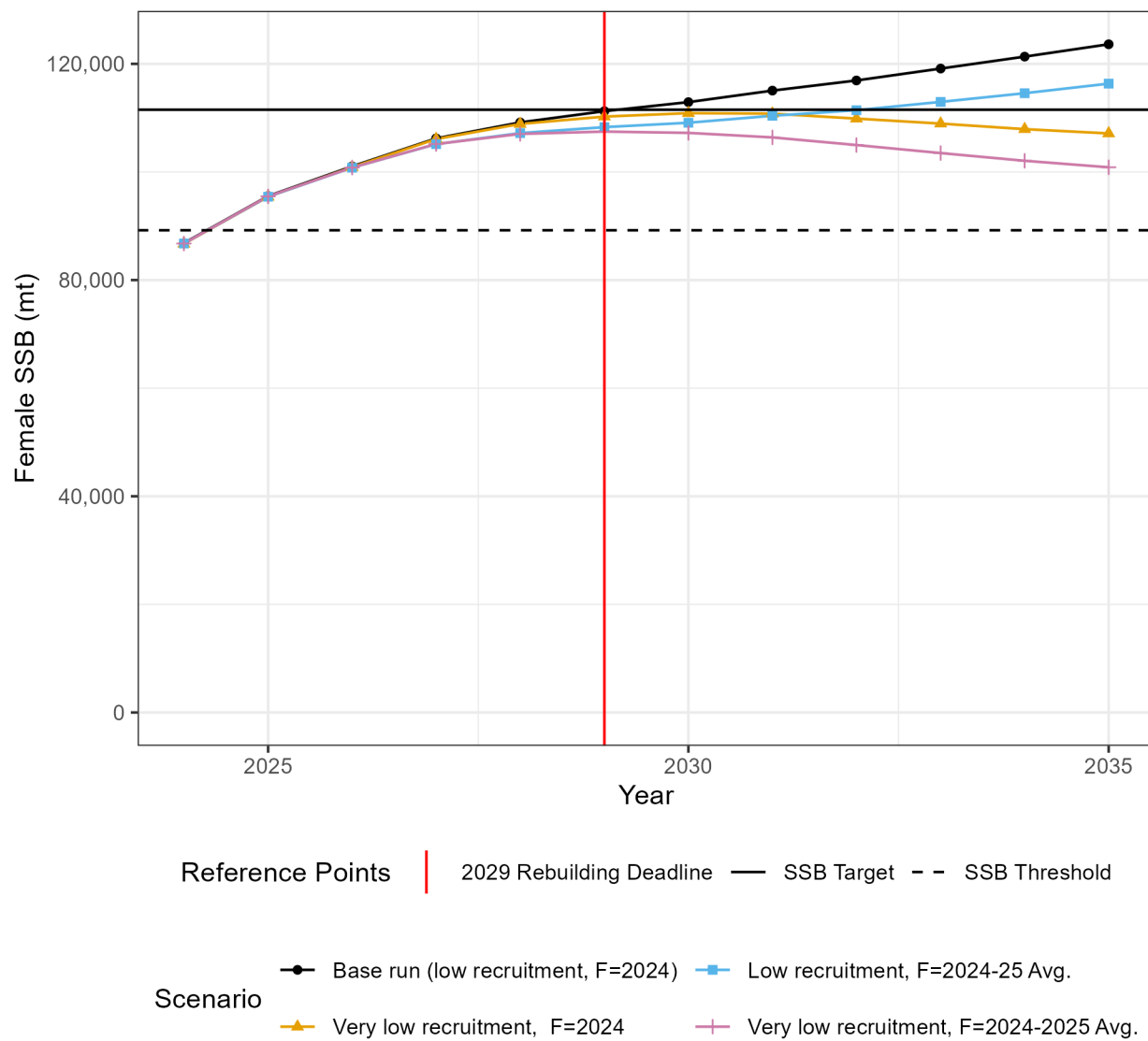


Figure 4. Median SSB trajectories under different assumptions about future F and recruitment, plotted without confidence intervals for clarity.



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

Maryland Proposal to Reset the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

*Submitted to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
April 28, 2025*

Introduction

Since 2015 when Addendum IV was implemented, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) has modified their regulations for the Chesapeake Bay recreational striped bass fishery seven times, with changes including size, bag limit, and season modifications as well as gear and targeting restrictions. These changes have built off regulations that were previously in place when each action was taken, which has resulted in newer regulations becoming increasingly complicated through time. In addition, the current understanding of discard mortality rates and environmental stressors within Chesapeake Bay has resulted in stakeholders' desire to have seasons adjusted to better take advantage of fishing opportunities when conditions are favorable to lower striped bass discard mortality (i.e. cooler water with less hypoxia) with the understanding that any increased fishing mortality in one part of the year would need to be offset by reductions in fishing mortality at another time of the year to have the same overall impact (i.e. resulting in the same number of total removals). In order to simplify regulations, which we believe will improve compliance and enforcement, and re-align access to support our anglers' needs, Maryland is proposing a new baseline for possible inclusion in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Addendum III to Amendment 7 for striped bass. This adjusted baseline would only modify the harvest seasons and/or the catch and release vs. no targeting seasons and would not include any changes to the size or bag limits. It also would not affect any spawning area closures that are in effect March-May.

To determine stakeholder preferences when resetting the baseline, as well as to discuss what tradeoffs would be acceptable for all sectors of the striped bass fisheries in Maryland, MD DNR has convened a Joint Striped Bass Committee to discuss these issues and provide input on a preferred option to present to the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board for possible inclusion in Addendum III. The first meeting of this group was on March 13, 2025 where potential ideas were discussed. Following this meeting, potential methods to calculate the estimated total removals under various scenarios were finalized and submitted to the ASMFC for review by the Striped Bass Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee (TC/SAS). The Striped Bass TC/SAS reviewed the methods over two meetings on March 25 and 28, 2025. The TC/SAS provided recommendations to incorporate more years of data (2021-2024) into the analysis, where possible, to better align the analysis with other draft Addendum III calculations while still calculating the reductions relative to 2024 catch when current seasons, size limits, and bag limits were in place. The TC/SAS also recommended the use of the standard 9% discard mortality rate for the entire year. After updating the calculations in the MD DNR analysis to align with the TC/SAS recommendations, a second meeting of the Joint Striped Bass Committee was held on April 3, 2025 to review specific options that would potentially meet the stakeholders' goals while not increasing total removals beyond those observed in 2024.

The current Maryland Chesapeake Bay recreational season and the new seasonal baseline preferred by the Joint Striped Bass Committee are shown in Figure 1. The new preferred baseline would allow for catch and release of striped bass from January 1-April 30. The harvest season would open on May 1 with a 19-24" slot

limit and a 1 fish/person bag limit. This season would go through July and a no-targeting closure would be in place for the entire month of August. The harvest season would reopen on September 1 with the same size and bag limits (19-24", 1 fish/person/day) and end on December 6. While removals are estimated to increase in waves 2 and 3 from these changes, it is balanced by reductions in total removals estimated in waves 4 and 6 (Figure 2). This option simplifies regulations across the year and brings Maryland's seasons more into alignment with neighboring jurisdictions. If the Striped Bass Management Board agrees to the inclusion of the new Maryland Chesapeake Bay recreational season baseline in Addendum III, this new baseline could be used as the starting point for any additional potential reductions that may be required as part of Addendum III.

Methods

Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) catch data were used in these analyses. Harvest and release estimates for the Maryland inland area, all modes combined, for 2024 were used in these analyses as the baseline. These were the most straightforward data to use as the regulations for size and bag limits were consistent with what we'll be starting from in potential future management actions. All estimated changes in total removals by wave under the new baseline were therefore estimated from these values, as the only adjustments that would need to be made are to the season types (catch and release allowed vs. no targeting, as well as harvest vs. closed to harvest).

While the 2024 MRIP data served as the baseline from which estimates of total removals were made, the TC/SAS had recommended using data from 2021-2024 to calculate the average changes expected when switching from a no targeting season back to a catch and release season in waves 2 and 3 and when expanding the number of days in wave 4 under a no targeting closure. Given the data were being used at the wave level, and in the case of wave 2, the month level, the TC/SAS noted that the precision of the data would be improved by pooling data wherever possible when calculating the estimated changes in total removals. These multi-year average estimated changes were applied to the 2024 estimates to account for the effects of the change in season types across the year, assuming that the effort in 2024 would continue into future years given it is the most recent year and most representative of current stock conditions.

The percent standard errors (PSEs) for the 2021-2024 harvest and release estimates for each year and wave used in the analyses are presented in Table 1. For all calculations, a 9% discard mortality rate was assumed.

Changing the April No Targeting Season to Catch and Release

MRIP data from 2021-2024 for wave 2 were split into March and April to determine how the releases per day differed between the March no harvest/catch and release season and April no harvest/no targeting season (see "2021-2024 Avg Calcs" tab of the Excel file). The original methods proposed to the TC/SAS examined the number of releases per day between March and April which in 2024 showed a lower number of releases in April when no targeting rules were in place as compared to March when catch and release was allowed. This relationship did not hold when additional years of data were analyzed. Releases per day were higher in April when compared to March for 2021-2023 and lower in April when compared to March in 2024. This was largely driven by greater fishing effort in April as compared to March. Comparing instead the number of releases per trip in March versus April, however, did generally show that more fish are released per trip in March when catch and release is allowed than in April, with the exception of 2021. Given these differences, the April analysis focused on releases per trip and number of trips per day when calculating the effects of converting from a no targeting closure back to allowing catch and release.

By converting a no targeting period to a catch and release period, we expect releases to increase. To calculate how much the releases per day would increase, the number of trips per day taken in April 2024 were

multiplied by the 2021-2024 average number of releases per trip observed in March when catch and release was allowed. This method assumes that April effort will stay the same as observed in the recent past and that the release rate of striped bass will increase and be the same as observed on average in March.

Expanding the Wave 3 Harvest Season and Changing the May 1-15 No Targeting Season to Catch and Release

May 1-15 were the dates of Maryland's former trophy fishery since Addendum VI in 2020. This fishery was closed in 2024 and the April no targeting season was extended through May 15. The rest of wave 3 is currently open to harvest and is the start of the summer/fall fishery in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay.

To estimate how much harvest would increase by extending the harvest season in the beginning of wave 3 under the current 1 fish/person, 19-24" regulations, the 2024 wave 3 daily harvest rate was used to increase the overall wave 3 harvest estimate by the number of days being proposed to expand the harvest season.

In addition to harvest increasing in wave 3, releases may also increase due to the conversion of May 1-15 from a no targeting season to allowing for catch and release during the newly opened harvest season. While the release rate for the first 15 days of wave 3 could be calculated to see how it compared to the rest of the wave when the harvest season is open, there were concerns about breaking down the wave data to anything less than a month. Instead, a method similar to that described above for wave 2 was used. The number of wave 3 trips per day in 2024 were calculated and multiplied by the 2021-2024 average number of releases per trip in March. These releases were added to the number of releases estimated in the rest of wave 3 in 2024.

Calculations for Increasing the Wave 4 No Targeting Closure

The same methods as have been used previously by MD DNR in the Addendum VI Implementation Plan as well as by the Technical Committee to develop options for the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board in December 2024 were used in these calculations. Given previous analyses presented to the Technical Committee showing that the "Combined Method" assumptions were valid for Maryland's portion of Chesapeake Bay, only this method was used in the analysis. Under this method, all trips that only targeted striped bass are assumed to no longer occur. All trips that were not targeting striped bass or had no target are assumed to still release all striped bass originally released. Trips targeting striped bass and another species were assumed to still occur but released striped bass at the non-targeted rate.

For expanding the no targeting closure in wave 4, data from 2021-2024 by target species grouping, were used to estimate how the harvest per day and releases per day would change, on average, over those years. The estimated reductions in harvest and releases summed over these four years were converted to proportions in order to adjust the 2024 wave 4 harvest and release estimates to account for the extended wave 4 no targeting closure.

Reducing the Wave 6 Harvest Season Further

As in past striped bass reduction analyses, if additional wave 6 harvest season days were closed to harvest and catch and release still allowed (i.e. not a no targeting closure), the wave 6 daily harvest rate was calculated based on the 40 days the season is currently open to harvest. This was multiplied by the days of additional closure and subtracted from the 2024 harvest estimate. Any previously harvested fish were assumed to now be discarded and were added to the New Releases for wave 6.

Caveats to the Analysis

While this analysis tried to include additional years of data (2021-2024) where possible to determine what the average change in releases would be when converting between no harvest and no target seasons, it

was assumed that effort in the future years would be the same as was observed in 2024, the baseline year of the analysis. The 2024 baseline year was chosen as all regulations on size and bag limit were consistent with current regulations and only the seasons would need to be adjusted. In addition, being the most recent year, it also reflects the most current stock conditions. However, 2024 directed effort, defined as the number of trips where an angler was fishing for striped bass as either their primary or secondary target, was lower than the effort observed in previous years (2021-2023) and it is unclear whether effort will increase or remain steady by reopening April and early May to allow catch and release fishing. As has been noted previously by the TC/SAS, we are not able to predict changes in effort year to year and it may be affected by factors other than just regulatory changes such as stock status, weather, and economics.

In addressing the TC/SAS recommendations and comments on the original methods, MD DNR worked to include 2021-2024 data wherever possible in the analysis while still using 2024 as the baseline year. However, some of the original methods had to be further modified once the full set of 2021-2024 estimates were considered. These methods have been updated from the original proposal sent to the TC/SAS; however, due to timing, these updated methods have not been reviewed by the TC/SAS.

Conclusion

MD DNR is proposing the inclusion of this new baseline (Figure 1) for the Maryland Chesapeake Bay recreational seasons in Addendum III to reduce regulatory complexity, re-align access to support our anglers' needs, and adjust seasons to better consider updated data regarding discard mortality under varying conditions. Based on the assumptions of this analysis, this alternative baseline should not increase total removals as compared to 2024 levels and any additional potential reductions needed in Addendum III could be calculated from this new baseline. Maryland appreciates the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board's consideration of this proposal for inclusion in draft Addendum III to Amendment 7.

Table 1. MRIP estimates of harvest and releases by year and wave used in the Maryland Chesapeake Bay recreational season baseline analysis. Percent standard errors (PSEs) are presented to describe the precision of the estimates.

		Harvest (A+B1)		Releases (B2)	
Year	Wave	Harvest Estimate	PSE	Release Estimate	PSE
2021	2			272,771	44.2
	3	196,571	17.7	985,977	25.0
	4	140,112	26.9	849,772	37.7
	5	144,129	21.6	918,297	22.7
	6	102,890	23.1	869,453	29.5
2022	2			117,909	36.2
	3	140,995	21.6	966,481	29.1
	4	151,059	27.1	702,055	26.4
	5	250,956	31.7	1,011,618	28.7
	6	99,184	21.6	491,463	30.9
2023	2			437,296	21.1
	3	156,525	28.2	534,970	27.7
	4	129,309	25.9	575,292	37.2
	5	61,020	22.7	526,736	32.5
	6	155,405	28.1	1,058,626	35.8
2024	2			303,551	61.1
	3	55,904	15.8	210,934	28.2
	4	65,958	34.1	207,260	31.9
	5	42,503	23.9	251,496	35.9
	6	43,153	46.4	1,392,202	53.2

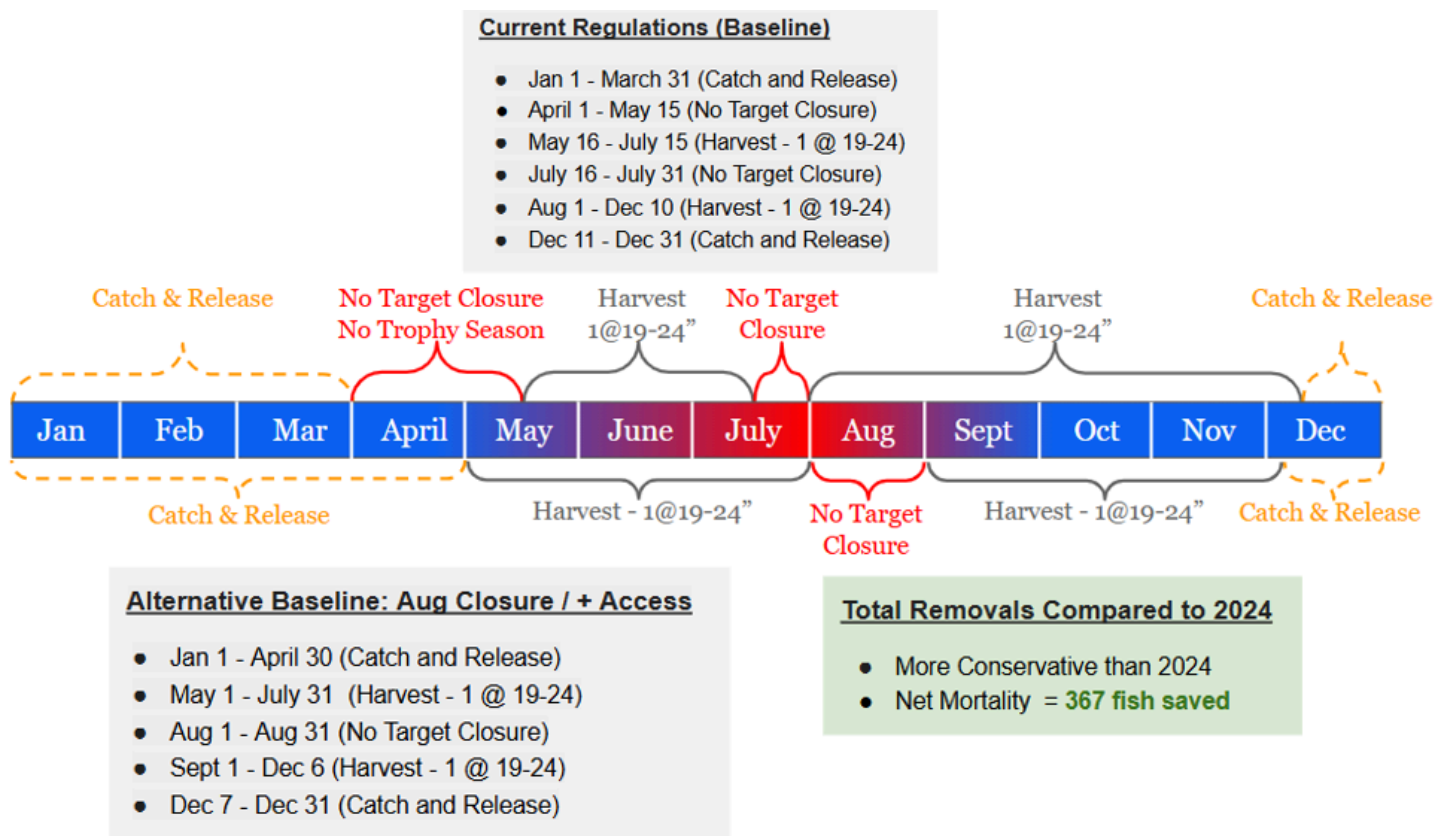


Figure 1. The current Maryland Chesapeake Bay seasons (top) and the preferred alternative Maryland seasonal baseline proposed for Addendum III (bottom). Colors of the brackets align with the different seasons.

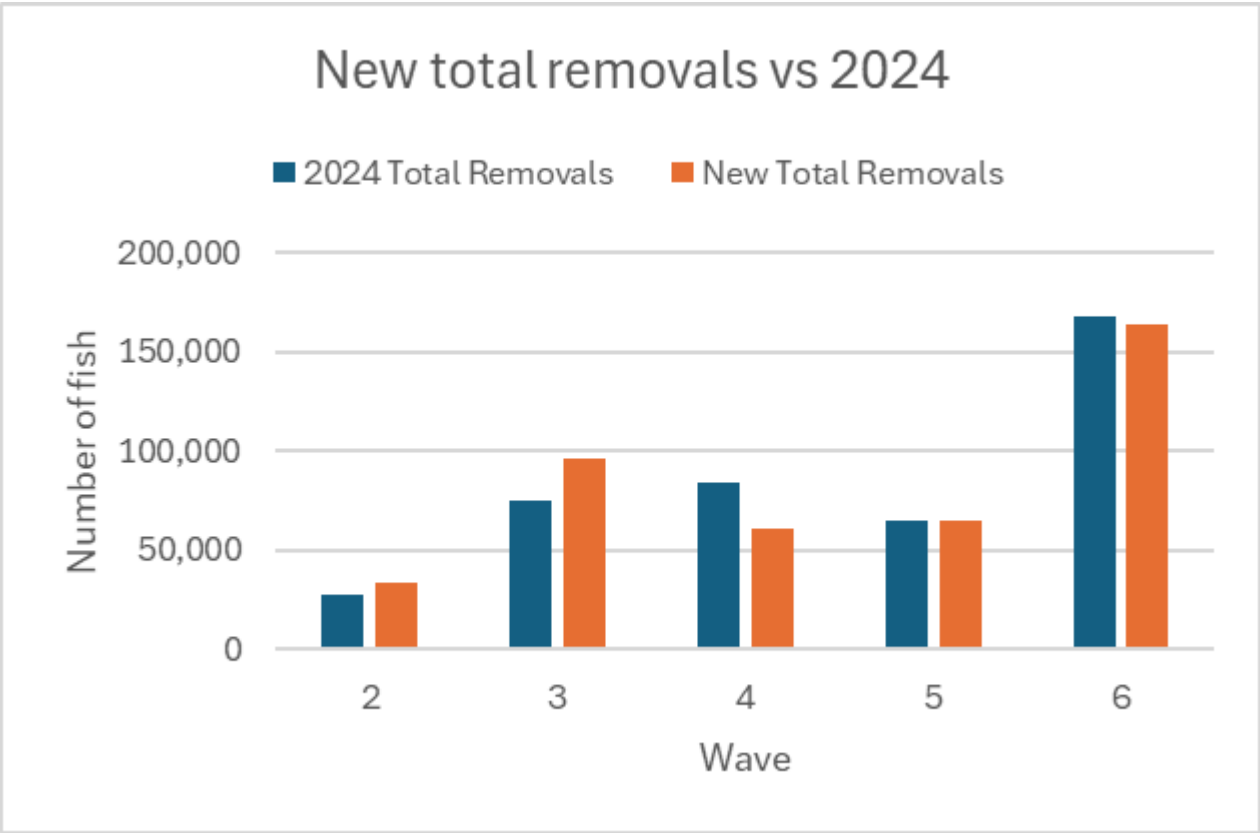


Figure 2. Total removals estimated by MRIP for 2024 vs. those estimated under the proposed alternative Maryland Chesapeake Bay recreational season baseline.



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Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel Meeting Summary

Webinar
April 14, 2025

Advisory Panel Members in Attendance

Bob Humphrey (ME for-hire)	Toby Lapinski (CT recreational)
Peter Fallon (ME for-hire)	Eleanor Bochenek (NJ rec, fisheries scientist)
Peter Whelan (NH recreational)	Tom Fote (NJ recreational)
Patrick Paquette (MA recreational)	Will Poston (DC recreational)
Craig Poosikian (MA commercial)	Kelly Place (VA commercial)
Peter Jenkins (RI recreational)	Jon Worthington (NC recreational)

AP Member Julie Evans (NY commercial) submitted comments via email.

ASMFC Staff: Emilie Franke, Katie Drew

Public in Attendance: Brandon Foor, Chris Batsavage, Corrin Flora, David Sikorski, Elise Koob, Jake Hardy, Kristen Thiebault, Tony Friedrich

The Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel (AP) met via webinar on April 14, 2025 to receive an overview of issues being developed for Draft Addendum III, provide input to the Plan Development Team on requirements for measuring striped bass total length in Draft Addendum III, and elect an AP Chair and Vice Chair. If Draft Addendum III is approved for public comment, an AP meeting will be scheduled during the public comment period to gather AP recommendations on the specific options in the draft addendum.

Staff provided an overview of the types of management measures being considered in Draft Addendum III for options to reduce fishery removals. One AP member noted concern that the Board is not focused on research to determine the underlying cause of low recruitment and to determine whether the male to female ratio is sufficient in the Chesapeake Bay. For recreational options that consider different measures between private vessels/shore anglers and for-hire vessels, one AP member noted concern that separate quotas for modes are not being considered. It was noted that a full evaluation of mode split management should include evaluation of quota allocation.

Staff provided an overview of the commercial tagging option in Draft Addendum III that considers requiring tagging at the point of harvest. This would impact Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and North Carolina where tagging is currently implemented at the point of sale. One AP member noted point of sale tagging has been in place for a long time in Massachusetts, and it may be difficult to determine how many tags each fisherman should receive for a point of

harvest model. One AP member noted all states should have the same type of commercial tagging program.

Staff provided an overview of the option in Draft Addendum III that would implement a coastwide definition of 'total length' as it applies to measuring a striped bass, including requiring the fish be laid flat on a measuring device and requiring squeezing the tail. The Plan Development Team specifically requested input from the AP on whether there are any concerns about requiring fish to be laid flat on a measuring device, for example when fishing from shore or from a pier.

AP consensus is that a standard coastwide definition of total length, including a requirement to lay the fish flat, is reasonable and preferred. AP members noted it is the responsibility of every angler, no matter if fishing from a boat or shore or pier, to ensure they can properly measure the fish. Measuring devices are available in many popular shore or pier fishing areas, and it would be easy for an angler to bring their own measuring device and find a flat platform to lay the fish. All anglers, especially those who intend to harvest a fish, should have a plan for how they will measure the fish. AP members noted the importance of a consistent definition for all states coastwide. One AP member noted the recent discussion of this issue in Massachusetts and the importance of enforcement's input that a standard definition would be beneficial and make it very clear to anglers and to enforcement officers how a fish should be measured. Overall, the AP agreed a standard definition for measuring striped bass should be implemented for all anglers in all states.

The Advisory Panel elected Eleanor Bochenek from New Jersey as the AP Chair and Peter Whelan from New Hampshire as the AP Vice Chair.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

FROM: Emilie Franke, Plan Development Team Chair

DATE: April 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Supplementary Analyses for Draft Addendum III

Enclosed are two supplementary analyses for Draft Addendum III on state-specific reduction estimates and kind of day closure analysis (weekend and weekday calculations). Due to time constraints, these results were not reviewed by the Plan Development Team (PDT) and Technical Committee (TC) and Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS).

State-Specific Reductions

The Board requested estimates of state-specific reductions for season closure options to understand how uniform closures across each ocean region would impact individual states. The draft addendum calculated options to achieve equal reductions by region. The only way to achieve equal reductions by state would be to calculate state-specific closures; the Board noted during the 2025 Winter Meeting that it did not want to pursue state-specific closures for the ocean.

Table 1 provides the estimated reductions by state for a 14-day closure in each wave. The reductions scale linearly, so a 28-day closure would result in double the reduction listed in the table. This table is intended to provide context on state-specific impacts from a regional closure. For example, in wave 3 for a 14-day no-targeting closure (striped bass only trips eliminated) for Maine through Massachusetts, the estimated reduction in Maine is 4.6%, in New Hampshire is 4.6%, and in Massachusetts is 5.8%.

The state-specific reductions depend on the distribution of harvest and releases by wave for each state, the type of removals in each state (percent harvest vs. percent release mortality), and the breakdown of trips that release striped bass for no-targeting closure calculations in each state (trips only targeting striped bass, trips targeting striped bass and another species, trips not targeting striped bass). Note that conducting these analyses at the state-level instead of the region-level reduces the sample size and increases the PSE and the uncertainty in the reduction calculations.

Kind of Day Closure Analysis

As noted in the TC-SAS March 2025 meeting summary included in the Board's [Main Materials](#), the season closure analysis assumes a constant daily savings of harvest and/or releases but in

M25-45

reality, catch is not constant per day. In particular, weekends/holidays tend to have higher effort and catch. The TC-SAS agreed a case study example incorporating weekend vs. weekday would be informative to determine how adding in the weekend/weekday aspect would impact the season closure analysis.

The season closure analysis for ocean-wide closures (all ocean states close during the same wave) was re-analyzed to separate MRIP catch data by kind of day as defined by MRIP with Monday-Thursday as weekdays and Friday-Sunday plus Federal Holidays as weekends. Note that conducting these analyses at the kind-of-day-level instead of combining data across all days reduces the sample size and increases the PSE and the uncertainty in the reduction calculations.

Table 2 summarizes the results for an example 18-day closure for all ocean states in each wave when:

- 1) accounting for weekend vs. weekday for a closure starting on a Monday;
- 2) accounting for weekend vs. weekday for a closure starting on a Friday;
- 3) base case (analysis does not take into account kind of day and data for all days are combined).

The results indicate a less than 1% difference between the analysis types, with the highest reduction estimated for a closure starting on a Friday (more weekend days closed) and the lowest reduction estimated for a closure starting on a Monday. The base case analysis used in the draft addendum combining data across all kinds of days (i.e., not separating weekend and weekday catch data) falls in between. This highlights one of the challenges of trying to account for kind of day in the closure analysis: the expected reduction will depend not just on the length of the closure, but on how many weekend days vs. weekdays are closed. The PDT discussed whether to specify in the draft addendum which day of the week to start a closure on, or include specific dates for closures, so the number of weekend days/holidays vs. weekdays would be known for this type of analysis. However, the PDT preferred not to do so in order to give the regions more flexibility in determining which closure would work for them. This analysis suggests that the uncertainty from different catch rates on different types of days may be minimal in the season closure analysis compared to other sources of uncertainty, especially when the closures are long enough to encompass both weekends and weekdays. The PDT and TC-SAS could discuss this analysis if requested by the Board.

Table 1. State-specific reductions for a 14-day season closure.

	State	No Target (SB only trips eliminated)	No Target (SB trips switch targets)	No Harvest		State	No Target (SB only trips eliminated)	No Target (SB trips switch targets)	No Harvest
Wave 3	Ocean	-3.8%	-2.8%	-2.0%	Wave 5	Ocean	-3.1%	-2.2%	-1.5%
	ME	-4.6%	-2.8%	-1.1%		ME	-7.5%	-6.2%	-1.0%
	NH	-4.6%	-1.2%	-0.9%		NH	-3.8%	-2.8%	-1.1%
	MA	-5.8%	-2.9%	-2.3%		MA	-4.2%	-2.9%	-2.0%
	RI	-7.5%	-6.0%	-2.9%		RI	-4.8%	-3.9%	-1.9%
	CT	-4.5%	-3.4%	-2.0%		CT	-2.5%	-1.2%	-0.6%
	NY	-3.1%	-2.6%	-2.2%		NY	-3.5%	-3.0%	-2.5%
	NJ	-2.6%	-2.3%	-1.8%		NJ	-1.8%	-1.4%	-1.0%
	DE	-0.9%	-0.1%	0.0%		DE	-0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	MD	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%		MD	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	VA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		VA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	NC	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		NC	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Wave 4	Ocean	-2.9%	-1.9%	-1.6%	Wave 6	Ocean	-6.6%	-5.0%	-3.2%
	ME	-7.6%	-5.0%	-2.1%		ME	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	NH	-12.1%	-7.3%	-3.2%		NH	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	MA	-7.3%	-3.7%	-4.6%		MA	-0.6%	-0.5%	0.0%
	RI	-3.2%	-2.3%	-2.0%		RI	-2.2%	-1.7%	0.0%
	CT	-3.1%	-2.6%	-1.7%		CT	-3.8%	-3.5%	-0.1%
	NY	-2.0%	-1.7%	-1.4%		NY	-7.6%	-3.7%	-3.1%
	NJ	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%		NJ	-11.2%	-8.4%	-6.6%
	DE	-2.0%	-1.4%	-0.6%		DE	-11.8%	-9.0%	-1.4%
	MD	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		MD	-14.1%	-13.8%	0.0%
	VA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		VA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	NC	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		NC	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 2. Reduction estimates for an 18-day closure calculated 1) accounting for weekend vs. weekday for a closure starting on a Monday; 2) accounting for weekend vs. weekday for a closure starting on a Friday; 3) analysis for all days combined (does not take into account kind of day).

18-Day Closure	Wave	Weekend Closure Days	Weekday Closure Days	No Target (SB only trips eliminated)	No Target (SB trips switch targets)	No Harvest
Closure starting on a Monday	2	6	12	-5.0%	-3.8%	-1.9%
Closure starting on a Friday	2	9	9	-5.4%	-4.3%	-2.2%
Closure calculated all days combined	2	18		-5.2%	-4.4%	-2.1%
Closure starting on a Monday	3	6	12	-4.4%	-3.2%	-2.3%
Closure starting on a Friday	3	9	9	-5.4%	-4.1%	-2.8%
Closure calculated all days combined	3	18		-4.9%	-3.6%	-2.6%
Closure starting on a Monday	4	6	12	-3.6%	-2.2%	-2.0%
Closure starting on a Friday	4	9	9	-3.9%	-2.6%	-2.1%
Closure calculated all days combined	4	18		-3.8%	-2.5%	-2.1%
Closure starting on a Monday	5	6	12	-3.7%	-2.5%	-1.8%
Closure starting on a Friday	5	9	9	-4.1%	-2.9%	-2.0%
Closure calculated all days combined	5	18		-4.0%	-2.8%	-2.0%
Closure starting on a Monday	6	6	12	-8.2%	-6.1%	-3.9%
Closure starting on a Friday	6	9	9	-8.8%	-6.6%	-4.3%
Closure calculated all days combined	6	18		-8.5%	-6.4%	-4.1%



R.I. Party and Charter Boat Association
P.O. Box 171
Wakefield, RI 02880
401-741-5648
www.rifishing.com



President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Director

Capt. Rick Bellavance
Capt. Jasper Coutu
Capt. Andrew D'Angelo
Capt. John Rainone
Capt. Nick Butziger

Striped Bass Board,

April 27, 2025

The RIPCBA appreciates the opportunity to provide our comments pertaining to Striped Bass management prior to the May 6th Striped Bass Board meeting.

Reading through the meeting materials, including the Technical Committee (TC-SAS) meeting summaries, we would like the Board to consider the possibility of discontinuing work on the Addendum until after the 2027 management track assessment scheduled for early 2027. The projections developed by the TC-SAS indicate even under a more precautionous approach to management which considers a 60% probability of achieving rebuilding, reductions needed would be less than 10%. The TC-SAS notes changes in measures less than 10% are statistically indistinguishable from the status quo.

As the Board considers the socio-economic impacts of further reductions during its risk assessment, we ask that you reflect on the years of public input describing the need for stability within the for-hire sector of the recreational fishing stakeholder community. Additionally, keeping status quo measures through the potential terminal year of 2027 benchmark assessment may lead to better use of MRIP data and offer better assumptions in that assessment.

The DRAFT Addendum document is pretty long and contains a lot of ideas and alternatives. We feel this could be confusing too many and difficult for the public to weigh in meaningfully. If the Board does in fact decide to move ahead with this action at this time, our recommendation would be to pare down the alternatives significantly. Maybe a few alternatives that create coastwide "No Target Closures" during the warmest water temps to reduce discard mortality from stress to the fish resulting from the warm water and shark depredation. The nature of for-hire businesses, which mainly harvest the fish, could achieve conservation through a larger slot that allows them to move off the fish more quickly and interact with fewer fish overall, so a coastwide alternative with split sector measures could be appropriate to keep in the document.

We feel the other issues and those alternatives could wait until after the 2027 benchmark. Thanks for the chance to offer our input. We are encouraged by the TC-SAS positive projections and are hopeful the board will recognize the contributions the Striped Bass harvest fishery has made to the rebuilding to date by holding steady until the next benchmark assessment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Capt. Rick Bellavance

Capt. Rick Bellavance, President
RI Party and Charter Boat Association



The Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association is comprised of 40 professional charter boats sailing from ten different Connecticut ports, covering the Western, Central and Eastern Long Island Sound. Our Captains have verified credentials, are held to the highest ethics standards and are out on the water everyday often acting as the Sheppard's of their areas.

Re: Striped Bass Addendum III

MRIP has finalized 2024 Striped Bass Angler effort and harvest. Both Effort and Harvest Coastwide are at an ultra-low level. Far lower than anyone expected. This data will certainly thrust Striped Bass calculations of likely rebuild near 60% or higher by 2029, eliminating the need for any future closures or further reductions.

The Striped Bass board directed the PDT to consider the importance of the Social Economics impacts to the For-Hire mode when they dealt out Addendum III tasks. The For-Hire mode, unlike any other modes, has participated in every Striped Bass reduction resulting in loss of business and loss of income. The PDT and Technical committee completely missed the Board's direction with Addendum III proposed For-hire options. These proposed options are more punitive and difficult to understand. Addendum II proposed For-Hire 28 -33" at the cost of less than .1% in rebuild effort (14.0% vs 14.1% reduction). This option should be re-generated without any seasonal closures to be voted upon in Addendum III.

This coming 2025 season, the 2018 year class enters the slot. Many plan on effort and harvest to greatly increase. If data shows minimal impact again, the "Emergency Action" must be terminated and swiftly return to 28 -35" slot. These reductions proved to be unnecessary and very costly to the For-Hire Fleet coastwide. An immediate return to 28 -35" is imperative to keep the industry viable.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association

President- Capt. Marc Berger
Vice President- Capt. Seth Margarale
Treasurer- Capt. TJ Karbowski
Secretary- Capt. Michael Pirri

From: [Earl Granderath](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [External] Stripes
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 1:27:31 PM

Stop the before George Washington bridge foolish harvest. That's where your spawning fish are getting decimated

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [Mike Handte](#)
To: [Emilie Franke](#)
Subject: [External] Striper
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 10:28:06 PM

You people are fools and out of touch with reality. Protecting the striper is eliminating all other fish species and blue claw crab populations. Recreational and Commercial Fishermen should be allowed to keep more than one fish between 28-31 inches. It's not worth the effort to get one fish and again it's killing all salt water fishing. I guess that's what you really want though...

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From: [ASMFC](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [External] New public comment for 2025 Spring Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 11:41:19 AM

2025 Spring Meeting

Action Title
2025 Spring Meeting
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/2025-spring-meeting/
Name
Brian Hardman
Email
Leaddog@rockfishing.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I want to briefly discuss the importance of protecting the female spawning stock during this stock rebuilding in the state of MD Chesapeake Bay

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [ASMFC](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [External] New public comment for 2025 Spring Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 11:21:24 PM

2025 Spring Meeting

Action Title
2025 Spring Meeting
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/2025-spring-meeting/
Name
Eddie Green
Email
greeneddie@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
<p>Stripe Bass Board Members/ Emily Franks, I am going to try and keep these comments short and to the point.</p> <p>Addendum 2- The recommendation and implementation of Addendum 2 has had a severe economic impact on the for hire fleet on the Chesapeake bay. Bookings were down 30%-50% for most in 2024 and they are looking worst this season. Here is some data provided to the Maryland Charter Boat Association by MDDNR. They are from the Facts Pilot Program. You had be registered in the Facts program and have a Charter blanket fishing license to be eligible to catch 2 fish On a Charter Boat.</p> <p>Year # of vessels # of Stripe Bass Harvested # of Stripe Bass Released # of Trips</p> <p>2022 352 100,997 21,139 11,362</p> <p>2023 380 92,880 32,373 10,781</p> <p>2024 392 26,595 12,988 5,412</p> <p>ALL 2024 # are preliminary as of 9/20/24</p> <p>The Possession and size limits of this Addendum Just could be the end of a Industry and Heritage on The Chesapeake Bay.</p> <p>Social & Economic Impact- Add. 2 did include a short Economical Impact section noting the potential for SHORT TERM negative economic impact from Add. 2 measures and the potential for LONG TERM positive impact if the stock is not rebuilt. With the Impact we had last year the for hire Industry will not last until 2029.</p> <p>It also relies on the boards perceptive and public comment The ASMFC needs to rethink how they do these statements because they drop the ball on this one.</p> <p>Public Comment- Could ASMFC add a space on the public comment form to declare if you are Recreational, Commercial or For Hire and furnish more information on what user groups are making these comments. Also does the ASMFC take into consideration the overall total number of a user group compared to the number of comments.</p> <p>Add. 3- My vote is no to Add 3. A 9% reduction in wave 4 of 22 days on top of the 16 day reduction we have in wave 4 already would be devastating to the For Hire Industry.</p> <p>Maryland Baseline Change- My vote is no to Changing the baseline. The option presented does not</p>

benefit the Recreational Anglers/ For Hire Industry in any way. Closing 31 days in wave 4 with potential of Add. 3 adding 22 more days of closure in wave 4 in the busy summer season when schools are closed would be totally devastating to the for hire industry. I could go on about this subject but its late i am tierd and iam not a computer person.

Thanks, Eddie Green

Charter Boat Plumb Crazy - Chesapeake Beach MD

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