Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Law Enforcement Committee
Meeting Summary

October 10, 2025

Committee Members: Scott Pearce, Chair, FL; Delayne Brown, NH; Jeff Mercer, RI; Thomas Gadomski, NY; Nicholas Couch, DE; David Bailey, MD; Matt Rogers, VA; Jason Walker, NC

ASMFC Staff: Emilie Franke, Madeline Musante and Kurt Blanchard

Other Participants: Captain Daniel Ipock and Lt. Sean Reilly

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) conducted a virtual meeting on October 10, 2025, to discuss a request by the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board to review the Plan Review Team's (PRT) Commercial Tagging Ten-Year Review Meeting Report. Specifically, the task was to review the report and discuss any further LEC recommendations on point of tagging and potential improvements to state tagging programs.

Emilie Franke, ASMFC FMP coordinator, provided the following background to the development of this report. The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board tasked the Plan Review Team (PRT) with reviewing the striped bass commercial tagging program since it has been over a decade since the program was implemented. The PRT and state commercial tagging contacts met via webinar on July 24 and July 30, 2025, with the following objectives:

1. Inform the Board: Compile a summary of each state's tagging program.
2. Look Across Programs: Report any key observations and takeaways across programs, including common challenges faced by multiple states and the various biological metrics used to determine the number of tags for each season.
3. Share Information: Opportunity for states to share best practices and information on common issues, challenges, and solutions.
4. Streamline Reporting: Minimize duplicate information submitted in annual commercial tagging reports vs. annual state compliance reports. Confirm what information is most useful to law enforcement in tagging reports (e.g., tag color) vs. what is more relevant in state compliance reports (e.g., tag accounting).

Each state provided a written overview of their tagging program and presented an overview of their state program during the meetings. This report summarizes the subsequent discussion of observations and differences across state commercial tagging programs for striped bass.

The LEC appreciates the effort taken by the PRT to provide such a detailed report on this topic and welcomes the opportunity to review this report and offer comments as requested by the Board.

Discussion

The general discussion by the LEC was that the current state programs are effective and each in their own way offer a level of protection to the resource and meet the spirit of Addendum 3 to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan and Amendment 7. This plan in part is derived from recommendations from the 2012 Interstate Watershed Taskforce Investigation which offered the following recommendations.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the comprehensive investigation and criminal proceeding, the following recommendations were made by the Interstate Task Force and are endorsed by the Law Enforcement Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Recommendations to Improve Enforceability & Accountability:

- *Implement a uniform commercial tagging system among all states where striped bass are harvested and landed for sale. This includes:*
    - *Uniformity by year, style, color, and inscriptions.*
    - *Tags should be valid for one year only.*
    - *Inscriptions should include the year, state, state size limits, and a unique number.*
    - *Use standardized, tamper-proof tags.*
- *Require all fish harvested for sale to be tagged immediately upon possession.*
- *Issue a set number of tags based on a scientific sample of the average (mean) weight of legal-sized fish harvested during the open season for that gear type, divided into the weight quota.*
- *Require all unused tags to be returned annually or seasonally and prohibit license renewal if unused tags are not returned.*
- *Strengthen reporting of tag numbers used on dealer reports or trip tickets.*
- *Implement license revocation or suspension as a primary penalty for state or federal violations.*
- *Ensure that law enforcement officers have real-time access to the tag numbers issued to each fisher.*

Many of these recommendations still have merit in the striped bass fishery today. The following is a more detailed response to the questions posed by the Board.

LEC Recommendation on Point of Tagging

Point of Tagging - The historical perspective of the above recommendations has softened in respect to time of tagging. In general, the ability to inspect a commercial catch of striped bass at multiple points from take to consumption provides law enforcement the ability to be most effective in our protection of the resource. Recent management measures in the ocean fishery have made the commercial take of striped bass more easily distinguished from a recreational take of striped bass. Management measures in the ocean fishery creating different size and possession limits between sectors gives law enforcement the ability to clearly define a commercial take from a recreational take while at sea and at the dock. This reduces the enforcement concern in a point-of-sale (POS) program. Point of Sale or Point of Landing tagging is less desirable for enforcement in states that are managed through individual quotas, and/or that allow for multiple commercial limits on board a vessel, or that have overlapping size limits between the commercial and recreational fishery. In these instances, states should strongly consider point of harvest (POH) tagging. The report shows that one state, Delaware, has a point of landing (POL) provision. State law enforcement has indicated that due to their fishery being small, they have experienced good compliance with this provision. If a POL provision were to be considered more widely, law enforcement would recommend that a clear and consistent definition of landing be used.

Tag Distribution – The LEC does not have a concern with how states are managing their respective tag distribution. Although there are several processes being used, they all meet the requirements of the plan. A concern arose amongst the LEC regarding the use of weigh stations and the accurate reporting of striped bass weights attributed against an individual's quota. For distributing additional tags in-season in states that have individual quotas, the LEC recommends the current strategy of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. The assigning of tags based on an estimated average fish weight that each fisher receives a set number of tags where extra tags in-season are only provided in the case of lost/defective/broken tags. This encourages better compliance with regulations. By distributing a single annual allotment of tags, fishers have less reason to underreport their catch weights. In contrast, if additional tags are distributed throughout the season according to weights reported by fishers or private weighmasters, there is a higher temptation to understate actual landings.

Tag Accountability – all jurisdictions have a process in place to account for the lost, damaged, or delinquent tags. Again, these processes differ among agencies, but all meet the standards of the plan. Tag accounting through commercial tagging reports is a valuable management tool. This report offers insight into how this accounting of tags is conducted and the length of time it takes to gather the appropriate level of data. The PRT and State Commercial Tagging Contacts have offered that although it may take more time, more accurate data can be provided in the

annual striped bass compliance reports versus preliminary reports. The LEC supports this recommendation.

Potential Improvements to State Tagging Programs

Tag Traceability – While this report did not specifically address tracking tag numbers, the LEC wanted to emphasize the importance of being able to trace a tag back to the fisher. Most states with a POH program seem to follow this practice, but not all states with a POS program allow for tags to be traced to the fisher.

The following is an excerpt from the Guidelines for Resource Manager on the Enforceability of Fisheries Management Measures in reference to tagging, labelling, or marking of marine species.

TAGGING, LABELING OR MARKING OF MARINE SPECIES

Definition: The act of placing an approved manufactured tag, label, or a manipulation/alteration of the respective marine species for the purpose of marking a marine species for a management purpose.

Average Overall Rating: 4.00

Recommendation:

- *The tag should be an approved device that is identifiable, traceable, and tamper proof.*
- *The tag should be placed on a marine species in a location that will cause least harm to the species whether alive or dead.*
- *When any alteration to a marine species (i.e., fin clipping, v-notching or other) the requirement should be consistent among all jurisdictions.*
- *Improved documentation and labeling of fish and fish products would enable law enforcement to track such products back to the harvester and/or the initial purchaser and to intercept unlawful seafood product at various points between harvest and final sale for consumption.*

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MEMORANDUM

TO: **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

FROM: **Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel**

DATE: **October 21, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Advisory Panel Recommendations on Draft Addendum III Options**

The Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel (AP) met via webinar on October 9 and October 16, 2025 to discuss AP recommendations on proposed options in Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7. ASMFC staff provided the AP with an overview of the proposed options and a summary of public hearing comments. The following is a summary of AP members' recommended options and rationale discussed during the two webinars.

Four AP members submitted comments via email which are enclosed after the summary.

October 9 AP Members in Attendance

Eleanor Bochenek (AP Chair, NJ rec., fisheries scientist)
Peter Whelan (AP Vice Chair, NH recreational)
Peter Fallon (ME for-hire)
Patrick Paquette (MA recreational)
Craig Poosikian (MA commercial)
Andy Dangelo (RI for-hire)
Peter Jenkins (RI recreational/tackle shop)
Kyle Douton (CT recreational/tackle shop)
Julie Evans (NY for-hire, commercial)
Tom Fote (NJ recreational)
Leonard Voss (DE commercial)
Charles (Eddie) Green (MD for-hire/rec)
Will Poston (DC recreational)
Bill Hall (VA recreational)
Kelly Place (VA commercial)
Jon Worthington (NC commercial)

October 16 AP Members in Attendance

Eleanor Bochenek (AP Chair, NJ rec., fisheries scientist)
Peter Whelan (AP Vice Chair, NH recreational)
Peter Fallon (ME for-hire)
Craig Poosikian (MA commercial)
Andy Dangelo (RI for-hire)
Julie Evans (NY for-hire, commercial)
Tom Fote (NJ recreational)
Charles (Eddie) Green (MD for-hire/rec)
Will Poston (DC recreational)
Bill Hall (VA recreational)
Kelly Place (VA commercial)

ASMFC Staff: Emilie Franke

There were 14 public attendees.

Section 3.1: Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass
This topic was discussed on the October 16th AP webinar.

6 AP members on the webinar support Option B. standard definition of total length noting:

- Need standardization and consistency along the coast, including from a scientific perspective.
- Especially important to have this definition with the narrow slot limit and close any loopholes.

3 AP members on the webinar also support Option B. standard definition of total length but prefer fanning the tail, instead of pinching the tail, noting:

- It is unclear how hard to pinch the tail; concern pinching too hard would injure the fish
- Fanning the tail is more of a natural position for the fish.

General agreement that law enforcement should go through training on how to measure a fish.

Section 3.2: Commercial Tagging Requirements: Point of Tagging
This topic was discussed on the October 16th AP webinar.

3 AP members on the webinar support Option A. Status Quo states choose the point of tagging noting:

- There will always be some level of illegal harvest no matter what the tagging program is.
- Each state should figure out what works best for their fishery.
- In Rhode Island, the season is very short (9 days) so point of harvest tagging does not seem appropriate for this fishery and would be challenging to get tags to individuals.
- In Massachusetts, it is unclear how tags would be distributed to individual fishermen and if harvesters need more tags throughout the season, how would that process work.
- Concern about how Massachusetts would reduce the number of harvesters eligible for tags (currently there are 4,500 commercial endorsements and the state has indicated capacity for about 450 harvesters to receive tags for tagging at point of harvest or point of landing).
- Safety concerns if required to tag immediately would also apply to the hook-and-line fishery. Many people are often fishing at night with a lot of boat traffic at that time and potentially fishing the rips. There would need to be some leeway allowing some time after harvest before tagging is required.

3 AP members on the webinar support Option B. point of harvest tagging noting:

- Illegal commercial activity is occurring and point of harvest would be the best option and would help law-abiding harvesters.
- Low-hanging fruit to require everyone to tag fish point of harvest.
- Definition could be specific like “tag prior to resetting”, i.e., if fishing a net, fish the net, get to a safer location to tag the fish, then reset the net.

- Acknowledge that Massachusetts has a lot of challenges to switch to point of harvest or point of landing.
- Acknowledge states with point of sale programs would have to change their quota monitoring from dealer-based reporting to tracking harvester reports instead. Can look to other fisheries/species as examples.

4 AP members on the webinar support a combination option with point of harvest tagging for hook-and-line and point of landing for other gears noting:

- Safety concerns with point of harvest tagging for gears like gill nets and pound nets if a harvester is trying to tag fish coming out of the net in rough conditions.
- There is no reason why hook-and-line fisheries cannot tag right away upon harvest; it would be difficult to keep track of fish coming in otherwise.
- Tagging before the dealer would help limit illegal activity.
- Given the limited number of enforcement officers, all fish should be tagged as soon as possible and easily identifiable for enforcement.
- Concerns about the Massachusetts commercial fishery harvesting large fish and how easy it is to get a commercial permit.
- New Jersey's recreational bonus program requires tagging immediately and that system has been working well.

Section 3.3: Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

This topic was discussed on the October 9th AP webinar.

7 AP members on the webinar support Option A. Status Quo season baseline noting:

- Concern about allowing catch-and-release fishing on spawning females in the spring.
- Concern about making this type of state-specific change during a rebuilding plan.
- Concern about the calculations and assumptions and associated data uncertainty, primarily the inability to predict changes in effort.
- Concern from MD AP member about the season in general and the original summer no-targeting closure being in place to allow 2-fish for charter, but not getting those summer days back when charter was reduced to 1-fish.
- 1 AP member noted that if the Board were to allow the new baseline, then the 10% uncertainty buffer in Option C should be applied.

Section 3.4: Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

This topic was discussed on the October 9th AP webinar.

9 AP members on the webinar support Option A. Status Quo no reduction noting:

- A reduction is not going to address the real issues of environmental conditions, low recruitment, predation concerns, etc.
- Any kind of season closure would devastate the for-hire industry and industry conditions are already hard enough now under current regulations, including the narrow slot and the Chesapeake Bay reduction to a 1-fish bag limit for charter.

- The negative economic impacts are far greater than the potential reward.
- The for-hire and commercial industries are already disappearing. Both sectors have taken multiple cuts already, and effort has already declined due to current regulations like the narrow slot.
- Projections are based on MRIP data with assumed higher fishing mortality in 2025, but 2025 has not been a good year with the lack of available menhaden in NJ.
- Recommend waiting until the 2027 stock assessment is complete to consider management changes.
- Fishermen have been promised results for a long time from all the previous reductions, but the management system is not working.
- The commercial quotas are already so low and businesses will no longer be profitable with future cuts.
- Concern about the accuracy of MRIP data. For-hire and commercial have more accurate reporting while private anglers only have MRIP estimates.
- Questioned whether the spawning stock biomass target is attainable; it was only achieved for a few years in the early 2000s.
- In the early 2000s when the stock was at the target, the fishery and conditions were very different than current conditions. Since the early 2000s, striped bass catch-and-release has increased, temperature has increased, other environmental conditions have changed, the male:female sex ratios have changed, and specific competition for available forage species has changed.

5 AP members on the webinar support Option B. 12% reduction for both sectors noting:

- Striped bass are the lynchpin of the economy and not taking a reduction now would lose valuable time to reach the target; want to ensure there is a fishery in the future.
- The fishery is in trouble and rebuilding needs to stay on track. If action is not taken now, there will be a bigger reduction in the future.
- Spawning success and recruitment were poor for six consecutive years and there is concern about the stock's ability to recover; the priority is making sure spawning females are protected to have a chance to spawn.
- This draft addendum addresses effort control, which is the current necessary reality with a shrinking stock and a fishery that needs to shrink alongside it as fish become less available.
- The Board cannot control environmental factors, only fishing mortality.
- There is always going to be variability in data, and data uncertainty goes both ways (e.g., could be overestimating fishery removals OR underestimating fishery removals).
- Surfcasters often see the first signs of decline, and that segment of an AP member's RI business has declined.
- This summer's fishery in New England was not what it should have been with no small fish around.
- Regarding the draft addendum document itself, one AP member noted concern that the figure showing spawning stock biomass in pounds and recruitment in number of fish (Figure 1 from the draft addendum) is misleading with the mismatched units (pounds vs.

number of fish). In pounds, spawning stock biomass is increasing as larger fish are growing heavier but that does not necessarily represent the same growth in number of fish. Spawning stock biomass is numbers will be facing the challenge of incoming weak year-classes and that is not apparent in the figure.

2 AP members noted on the webinar the commercial sector should not take a reduction noting:

- There have already been multiple cuts to commercial quota in recent years.
- Commercial fishery is strictly regulated and held accountable and does not exceed its quota.
- 1 of these AP members does support a reduction for the recreational sector.

1 AP member noted industry differences regarding the views of tackle manufacturers based on what products they sell and what fishermen their business is focused on. Surf/light tackle tend to support a reduction, while others do not support a reduction.

2 AP members on the webinar noted opposition to any mode split options (opposed to O2/CB2 options).

Type of Season Closure

5 AP members on the webinar support no-harvest closures noting:

- Opposed to no-targeting closures due to enforceability concerns, including the Law Enforcement's position that no-targeting closures are the least enforceable measure.
- No-harvest closures would minimize some economic impact by still allowing catch-and-release, as the largest economic driver is citizen anglers going fishing and supporting associated businesses.
- Concern about the calculations and assumptions for no-targeting closures, and concern that the estimated no-targeting reductions would not be realized.

1 AP member on the webinar supports a no-targeting closure if there are season closures noting:

- While it would be difficult to enforce, most fishermen would follow the regulations. The EEZ has been closed to targeting for years.
- No-targeting closure would effect all recreational anglers, including catch-and-release.

Season Closure Considerations

1 AP member noted these large regional closures do not seem fair or equitable to all states.

1 AP member noted that seasons should be continuous with a start and end date. Short closures in the middle of the season will not be effective.

1 AP member supports grouping Rhode Island in the Mid-Atlantic region since the fishery is more similar to Connecticut and New Jersey than the New England States.

1 AP member noted the decision about the Rhode Island regional grouping is complex. From a MA perspective example, the MA fishery timing differs by up to six weeks between the northern and southern end of the state.

1 AP member recommends that any MA closure protects the spring schoolie fish.

1 AP member noted that if there is a striped bass closure in March or April, there are no other species to fish for in NJ.

1 AP member noted that any closure in the summer would devastate the MA for-hire fleet.

Other Topics

Several AP members noted the importance of angler education on proper release and handling techniques. There is a big need for this and there is good educational content available that could be shared among states. One AP member noted that education on setting fish down in a boat when trying to remove a hook should be included (e.g., setting the fish down on certain surfaces could injure the fish).

A few AP members noted concern about blue catfish predation on striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay and recommend supporting the Bay jurisdictions' efforts to promote the harvest of blue catfish.

1 AP member recommends re-establishing a hatchery stocking program. One benefit could be more males on the spawning grounds.

1 AP member expressed concern about public hearing comments regarding reducing menhaden harvest. The AP member noted the importance of menhaden as bait for other fisheries (e.g., blue crab fishery) and the idea of reducing other fisheries for the sake of striped bass defeats the purpose of mitigating socioeconomic impacts.

AP Member Comments Submitted Via Email

Enclosed are comments submitted via email from four AP members who were not able to attend the meeting and/or who provided additional comments after the meeting.

From: Dennis Fleming
To: Emilie Franke
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass AP
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:58:42 PM

This email serves as a formal response on my behalf regarding the proposed 12% reduction.

I wholeheartedly support the reduction as it maximizes the potential for a recovered fishery by 2029. My position is a "resource first" decision.

I was listening by telephone on the last discussion and will be doing so again today.

Keep up the good work and lastly,

I ADMIRE YOUR PATIENCE AND DIPLOMACY WITH THESE AP DISCUSSIONS.

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From: Toby Lapinski
To: Comments
Cc: Emilie Franke
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Comments
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:35:30 PM

I would like to submit the following on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

My name is Toby Lapinski. I am a recreational angler from the State of Connecticut. I have been an active participant in the recreational striped bass fishery for more than 40 years. I hold one of the ASMFC's Advisory Panel seats for the State of Connecticut. I am a member of the American Sportfishing Association where I sit on several committees including Government Affairs, Saltwater East, and Freshwater. I previously held the position of Managing Editor of the New England edition of *The Fisherman Magazine*. I currently hold the position of Editor in Chief at *Fishing Tackle Retailer Magazine* and *The Fishing Wire.* I am co-host of *The Surfcast Podcast*, which primarily discusses topics of fishing for striped bass and receives more than 5,000 downloads per week. I have authored many hundreds of articles on fishing for striped bass, both from shore and by boat, for more than 25 years as a freelance writer for a variety of both regional and national publications. I have been featured as a guest speaker at a variety of club meetings, seminars, events, and regional fishing shows from Massachusetts through New Jersey.

While I commend the ASMFC for offering the Survey Monkey option for submitting comments, and I would like to see this option continue for all future public comment sessions, please add an option to provide comments above and beyond each line item. As the survey was set up, respondents could only make a selection or provide a comment on the listed items, not both as I have done below.

Thank you.

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

Option B. Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition

NOTES: There should be consistency across all States on this matter. If an angler cannot accurately measure a fish to ensure compliance for harvest based on how and where they are fishing, as has been a reason for opposition to the methods for measurement as set forth in Option B, then they should not consider harvesting said fish.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

Option B. Point of Harvest

NOTES: As shown in Table 6 of the Draft Addendum, 3 States require tagging at point of sale, 4 at point of harvest, and 1 at both. This shows that there is no reason a State's commercial fishermen cannot change to a different method despite those opposing change

citing supposed problems in the other method. Theoretically, point of harvest tagging should reduce poaching which is why I chose this method. Unfortunately, it has been proven repeatedly that an angler choosing to circumvent the law will find a way to do so regardless of the law. Despite this, I feel that consistency across all States should be achieved on this matter, and with most States currently tagging at point of harvest, this option makes the most sense.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

Option C. New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer

NOTES: No additional comments.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

Option B01: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%

No position taken as to the CB fishery.

NOTES: Reductions should be spread evenly across all user groups. There should not be a mode split for striped bass with an exception made for the for-hire industry as there is currently no mandatory reporting and catch data being collected for all for-hire vessels. While there is reporting currently being done by Federally permitted vessels, this is not required for striped bass by those captains who do not operate in Federal waters. If the for-hire sector wishes to seek a mode split, I would only be in favor of this action under the condition that there was a strict quota enacted with mandatory reporting and sufficient penalties for failure to comply as is the case in the commercial fishery.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding Ocean Season Closures

I support a no-harvest (catch-and-release-only) closure.

NOTES: While a no-harvest closure comes with a longer closed season than that of a no-target closure, it has been stated by the law enforcement committee of the ASMFC that such closures are generally unenforceable. Further, as was my comment in the Commercial Tagging item, an angler so choosing to circumvent the law will find a way to do so regardless of the law meaning that some anglers will continue to target striped bass but claim their intent was to target a different species such as bluefish, black sea bass, etc. A perfect example of this occurs in the EEZ where targeting striped bass is illegal yet there are countless numbers of boats targeting striped bass with little fear of recourse.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding Closures for 12% Reduction for All Modes Region Splits

No selection for notes below

NOTES: The option to make the ocean fishery regional split demarcation line the State of

Rhode Island is a poor choice in as much as determining equitable burden of reduction. The only grouping options presented are 1) ME – MA/ RI – NC and 2) ME – RI/CT – NC. It was stated at the Connecticut public hearing on September 15 in Old Lyme that these two options were selected because NY needed to have the same season as NJ, and NY had to have the same season as CT, both because of adjoining waters. However, when RI becomes the line of demarcation, it too has common waters with MA, CT, and NY so this rationale quickly becomes nullified as there is no viable way for adjoining States not to share waters with another State that received different closure dates. Further, by grouping States from NJ south with any New England States, with each wave closure option, the burden of reduction falls squarely on one group of States while the others within said grouping experience very little burden. Based on the real-world level of angling pressure, I feel that a far better demarcation line would have been the Hudson River making the northern group of ME – NY and the southern group of NJ – NC. While it is not perfect, and there would remain some level of higher burden on some States as opposed to others, this regional breakdown reflects a far more equitable option.

GENERAL COMMENTS: I have been extremely conflicted with this current round of public hearings and comments for Draft Addendum III, specifically relating to 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding. While I do not oppose taking a cautionary approach to management in response to and based on accurate and reliable science and data, the proposed management options fail to address one of the largest problems facing striped bass at this time, recruitment. While in theory more adult striped bass should produce an equally elevated level of juvenile fish, this has shown not to be the case. Further, in years when the total striped bass population was extremely low, we have seen extremely high levels of recruitment and vice versa. By exclusively addressing harvest and putting all management effort into how many fish are left swimming in the ocean, the ASMFC is focused on the wrong problem. Until energy is put into figuring out why the striped bass is not producing robust year classes, year after year, any effort to protect the remaining adult striped bass will eventually be nullified.

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Dear Emilie,

Thank you for all your work in organizing the discussions around this tenuous issue. I took the opportunity to make a comment during last night's meeting so that it was documented during the meeting. There was a lot of great discussion from the members. I wanted to add a few more comments to clarify my position.

Just to give quick context, I am a retail tackle store owner who also owns a separate for-hire business. I pride myself on representing both the recreational boat/shore angler as well as the for-hire captains and their customers. I am the third generation in the business which began as a charter business, moved to a tackle shop (out of a van) and on to what it is now. We operate two businesses with a national presence as an omnichannel retailer and a multi-boat charter operation. I became active in fisheries management when I was 20 and I have continued since. I was old enough to be part of the Striped Bass moratorium, but young enough to take advantage of great years of future bass fishing.

After digesting last night's meeting, certain perspectives became clear. The goal of the AP, I believe, is to create diversity in user groups, geographics and levels of conservation. It seemed, through the comments, that this has been achieved. What resonated with me was that members from user groups who rely on an over abundance of striped bass, those who mainly catch and release regardless of stock health, and those at the outskirts of the bass population density all supported a reduction. The majority of the stakeholders who rely on Striped Bass to drive the “average angler” were in favor of the status quo. This would echo the same sentiment from the public hearings. There were a majority of anglers who wanted to see a status quo. In many meetings there were anglers passionate about conservation, who made compelling arguments to protect the SSB. They were passionate, but still a minority.

I was concerned, as I listened to some members of the panel make their arguments, that they were under the assumption that the board's directive is to save the Striped Bass. We are dealing with a species that has its own path regardless of human interaction. Species will increase and decline, and also become extinct if they can’t adapt to changes in the environment. Unfortunately, human interaction, both direct and indirect, has had an effect on the Striped Bass population. It is the job of the ASMFC and Mid Atlantic Council to be management boards. It is their job to MANAGE the striped bass stock in order to give the greatest access, while balancing the health of the SSB with the socio economic impact of reducing mortality. We are managing, not saving!

It has become clear over the past 6 years that just because a target is set and we continue to manage with the expectation of reaching that target, it may not be attainable. Even the most conservative on the panel admit that we are managing the SSB with very little to show for it. We are producing baby striped bass but we can’t get them to grow up! It is time that we actually manage by signalling the alarm that pushes NOAA to look outside the traditional management measures. It is time to look at ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT which gives managers and scientists options outside the narrow confines of one species management.

If the board proceeds down the path of continued reductions without advocating for measures outside their current tool box, they are not managing for the future. We are in a changing world! Using 1995 baselines and antiquated techniques will not work. In 1995, we didn't have cell phones, navionics, spot lock, or braided line. We need to manage for the environment that Striped Bass live in now.

The current path of management is not species or socio-economicly responsible and needs to be halted. We need to stay with Status Quo for striped bass, while better research and alternatives are presented. To keep reducing by attacking effort and accessibility is giving false hope to a problem that won't be fixed by reductions. Contrary to the beliefs of many, we haven't been "kicking the can down the road", we have been reducing and reducing to no avail.

On a quick side note, throughout my fisheries board career I have been told that a fully rebuilt robust fishery needs more restrictive regulation. (I didn't understand until it was explained) If the population is strong, managers should be working to reduce mortality, because any effort is going to lead to increased mortality. So many analogies could be used, but if you have 10 people racing for a sandwich and there are 20 sandwiches each person will get one and some will end up with more than one, but if there are only 5 then some people aren't going to get any. Managers should have reacted quicker when we had 2 fish at 28", but they didn't. The current population indicates we are at a stage of "5 sandwiches" and restrictive regulations. There is no reason to continue restricting effort at this point. The population is restricting harvest and mortality on its own. We are in a waiting period to see if we can do a better job managing a revitalized population in the future.

In closing, I would like to say that continued reductions and the thought of a no-targeting closure would cause my business and many others gross economic pain. Mike Pirri from the CT Charter boat association echoed the same. A 12% reduction translates to a 2-3 month closure during at most, a 5 month season. The option to transition our customers to other fisheries is fading away. I sit on the AP for Fluke,Scup and Black Sea Bass as well as this AP. The same issues are echoed there giving more reasons to support inter-board coordination and ecosystem management. Stop this methodology of following a non-working management path and begin working on other alternatives that will actually add more young of the year.

Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

October 20, 2025

Dear Emilie Franke,

RE: My input to AP discussion of Draft Addendum III to the Atlantic Striped Bass FMP

I was unable to change my schedule and attend the impromptu second meeting of the ASMFC SB AP. Last week's meeting was very frustrating as I feel two things caused the AP to not completed our work for the meeting.

The time allotted for the meeting was unrealistic. This is a pattern and quite frankly it tells me that ASMFC is just checking a box and is not actually interested in letting a group of experienced AP members have a discussion that could provide the board valuable information. Our meetings are always too short, and it only takes one or two diversions to cause a rushed agenda and hinder our work.

Secondly, I would like to humbly encourage the staff & chairperson to administer the meeting by interrupting AP members that stray from the topic. Yes, all AP members should have an opportunity to bring up new topics/idea but that is appropriate for the end of the meeting.

Moving on, please accept the following comments and incorporate them into the AP report:

3.4 Reductions in fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

I feel the addendum is missing what I believe would be the best option(s) to sustainably manage the SB fishery during this time of environmentally driven recruitment failure.

I prefer regional open seasons with data informed opening and closing dates. The rest of the year would be no targeting closures. I feel this would be best for many reasons including for the fish, compliance, enforcement and monitoring. Unfortunately, I don't see the options that get us there nor do I feel that path forward would be possible with this management board thus my comments will focus on what I feel is possible to be adopted.

I support Option 3.4 which requires a 12% reduction of removals to maintain the SSB Rebuilding Plan.

I support reductions taken evenly by both the Commercial and Recreational portions of the fishery.

I acknowledge there was a time the commercial fishery had taken reductions that were caused by the recreational fishery however that imbalance was corrected in prior management actions.

The recruitment failure driving this addendum was not caused by any sub sector of the fishery and appears to be a function of environmental changes to the producer areas. It is for this reason all participants should as much as possible, share the impacts of the reductions evenly.

I do NOT Support any type of private/for hire mode split.

Anglers on for hire boats should have no right to access a shared natural resource more or less than any other angler.

If the ASMFC chooses to go down the road of mode splits, basic fisheries management philosophy teaches us that mode splits should begin with (historical) allocation and mode split management actions should include all elements in a fishery management plan.

I reject the claim that the for-hire industry will absorb more impact than other sub sectors of the fishery. All participants in the fishery will be impacted.

The issues faced by the fishery have been known for at least all six years of the current rebuilding plan and businesses that rely on striped bass have had plenty of time to adjust their business model. It is not the responsibility of ASMFC to prop up a business that refused to adjust to predicted fishery conditions while others have made the changes needed to maintain profitability. This addendum was expected and predicted.

I support No Harvest Closures.

The fishery has come to the point that each action moving forward will be picking winners and losers. I feel this is the point in management where socio-economic data is most important to consider. I acknowledge that choosing no harvest closures prioritizes catch & release striped bass fishing over catch & harvest striped bass fishing. I feel the catch & release portion of the fishery is by far the dominant factor as to why the striped bass fishery is the most popular fishery on the east coast and has the largest socio economic and financial impact both the state and national economy of all the East Coast recreational fisheries on

I feel no harvest closures lessens the impact of the reductions on the largest number of participants in the fishery including private anglers, for-hire operations, local tackle shops, tackle manufacturers and lessens the financial impact from ex-vessel striped bass fishing driven tourism.

I have no preference and will NOT comment on regional closures.

I have commented on multiple prior occasions that I prefer a state-by-state season with an opening date and a closing date that is based on recent data. I feel the overly complicated tables and short in-season, no harvest closures are likely to fail for many reasons. I feel a classic structured season, even in mixed target fisheries are easily digested by the public and are proven to be successful and effective management tools.

I was appointed to represent the recreational anglers of Massachusetts. Based on these tables, different areas of Massachusetts will be affected in very different ways depending on which in season closure is chosen. To choose one of these options requires a regional discussion that includes NH & RI and without that discussion I don't feel I have enough info to choose an option.

<u>Section 2.0 – Overview</u>

Although the Spawning Stock Biomass is rebuilding, that growth appears to be driven by weight due to the 2011 & 2015 year classes getting older and larger as opposed to growth from numbers of fish

increasing the size of the SSB. I doubt the current total focus of management on spawning stock rebuilding will prevent the predicted significant decline of the fishery.

In addition, I speculate that "if" the reason eggs are not surviving is a deficiency of nutrients in the spawning areas due to temperature changes and reduced water flow, then it is possible adding additional eggs to compete for a reduced amount of nutrients could have a negative impact on spawning success. Additional conservation is the only path forward as managers and increased research work to find a long-term sustainable future for the fishery.

I suggest that the striped bass fishery is in an emergency and a significant portion of ASMFC research resources be immediately redirected to explore alternative actions for addressing the fishery's predicted imminent decline.

3.1 Method to measure total length of a striped bass

I support Option B which further defines and standardizes how to measure a striped bass.

I feel there needs to be a coast wide standard.

I am personally aware that in MA, anglers are spreading tails to reduce length of an over slot sized fish in order to make what should be a keeper slot sized fish appear as a slot sized fish. This behavior defeats the management priority of protecting the tow remaining strong year classes.

I agree and support the comments of the MA Environmental Police on this issue.

3.2 Commercial Tagging

I support Option 3.2 which requires commercial tagging happen at the point of harvest.

I reject the claim that this is unsafe. Commercial fish must be stored properly and tagging a fish will only add a couple minutes to that process. Tagging is a part of why commercial fishing is a business and not a recreational activity.

I support this proposal because it will prevent the existing practice (in MA) of individuals buying the ability to harvest larger commercial sized fish for personal/recreational use.

I reject the argument that this is too complicated to manage because it is accomplished in many states.

I support this proposal because it will eliminate some commercial high grading which adds to commercial release mortality.

I reject the claim that this process will be overly costly. States should consider management expenses when determining the cost of a commercial fishing permit or endorsement.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

I support Option 3.3 which maintains the status quo recreational seasons for Maryland.

I am concerned about the constant manipulation of draft regulations by the state of Maryland. Maryland repeatedly proposes alternative management that adds additional uncertainty into the statistical analysis used to determine recreational catch in Maryland.

Recent history informs us that on more than one occasion, this type of alternative proposal has failed to achieve conservation goals when scrutinized after the fact.

This proposal violates the spirit of the recent decision to prohibit conservation equivalency proposals during rebuilding. I feel no alternative proposals should be made at this critical time in the rebuilding plan. This issue is better suited for the next amendment and only after SSB is rebuilt.

Thank You for the opportunity to complete our task for the AP meeting.

Sincerely;
Patrick Paquette

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

AMANDA LEFTON
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board
FROM: Martin Gary, Director New York State DEC Marine Resources
DATE: October 20, 2025
SUBJECT: Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 - Proposal to Modify New York's Closure Duration in Waves 2 & 6.

Background

The majority of state ocean recreational fisheries for striped bass along the Atlantic Coast are open year around. However, New York's fishery in "Marine" waters is only open April 15 to December 15 (16 out of 61 days in Wave 2 and 45 out of 61 days in Wave 6). This closure has been specified in statute since 1983. New York's regulations for recreational striped bass fishing does allow for catch and release during this closed period. Any new closure in Waves 2 or 6 would impact a larger portion of New York's fishery as compared to the same closure in other states. As noted in Section 3.4 (Reduction in Fishery Removals…) of Draft Addendum III, the Board may decide to modify New York's specified closure duration if the region is selected to close during Wave 2 or Wave 6 since the State is already closed for part of those Waves. This memo asks the Striped Bass Management Board to modify any closure during Waves 2 and 6 in New York due to the outsized impact such closures would have and proposes methods by which to do so.

Technical Considerations

1. The spreadsheets, shared with the Board by the FMP Coordinator, used to calculate seasonal closures for ocean recreational fisheries in Draft Addendum III assumes that all states are open for 61 days during both Wave 2 and Wave 6. This spreads New York's harvest of striped bass over the entire wave instead of the 16 or 45 days over which it actually occurs. Note: The Chesapeake Bay analysis did account for state-specific days open for harvest.
2. "No Targeting" reduction calculations use the release rate from trips that didn't direct on striped bass to represent all the trips that still occur but switch to a new target species. Trips not targeting striped bass only represent 7.4% of trips in NY in Wave 2 and 3.5% of trips in Wave 6. This methodology drastically increases the influence of what is likely to be a relatively poorly sampled trip type.
3. It is reasonable to expect that in most cases the number of released striped bass per angler trip (RPUE) will decrease when anglers are no longer directing on them during a trip. This non-targeted rate assumption is the basis for the reduction value generated for "No Targeting" closures. Likely stemming from the concern expressed in Point 2 above regarding inadequate sample numbers of this trip type, New York releases per directed striped bass trip in Wave 6 increases from 6.72 (striped bass only) and 5.52 (striped bass + other spp) for a weighted average 6.3 fish to 7.25 striped bass releases during non-directed trips. This pattern is not present for most

State-Wave combinations or when examining the data regionally. For example, the weighted releases of striped bass per trip during Wave 6 in the RI – NC region during Directed trips is 5.3 fish and drops to 3.6 striped bass released during non-Directed trips. This is a decrease of 1.7 fish per trip or 32%. The reverse pattern in NY's Wave 6 RPUE results in a greater reduction from a "No Harvest" closure than a "No Target" closure of the same duration.

Adjusting New York's Wave 6 Release Rate

It is assumed that release rates of striped bass for non-Directed trips will be less than release rates for Directed trips. Otherwise, "No Targeting" closures would not have been proposed as potential higher-impact management actions despite their noted drawbacks. While the limited data informing New York's Wave 6 RPUE does not support this assumption, Wave 6 release rates in CT, NJ, DE and the two options for the Mid-Atlantic Regions all show decreases in RPUE by more than one fish per trip and by more than 25%. New York proposes to decrease its Directed trip average weighted RPUE (6.3 striped bass) by the same rate as the Regional (RI-NC) RPUE decreases (32%) which results in an adjusted non-Directed RPUE of 4.26 striped bass. The relative change is preferred over a straight nominal decrease (minus some number of fish) because the magnitude of RPUEs vary across the States and the Regions. The adjusted rate for NY Wave 6 (4.26 striped bass) remains higher than non-Directed RPUEs for CT, NJ, DE and the Regions. See Table 1.

Proposal to Modify New York's Waves 2 and/or 6 Closure Duration

New York proposes to modify the closure duration for any closure during Waves 2 or 6 approved by the Board by accounting for the number of days the State is open for recreational striped bass harvest during those Waves. As discussed above, closures could be further modified by adjusting the Wave 6 non-Directed trips release rate to better represent the fishery.

New York wishes to provide its anglers with fair and equitable access to the striped bass resource while contributing to the ASMFC Striped Bass Board's fishery management goals (potentially a 12-13% reduction in coastal recreational removals). The StateSplit spreadsheet (Ocean Season Calc Template_forAddIII_StateSplit_MF2024), the basis for the tables found in Appendix E of draft Addendum III, can be used to look at each coastwide/regional closure option and determine the NY specific contribution to the reduction. One way to ensure a NY closure modification doesn't endanger achieving the required coastal reduction is to use the reduction value calculated for NY by the original StateSplit spreadsheet for a given Wave closure as a minimum target, despite days open and RPUE discrepancies.

"No Harvest" closures are simple to adjust to NYs shorter open season by multiplying the proposed regional closure in days by the proportion of the Wave NY is currently open and rounding up any decimal days. This proportion approach produces identical "No Harvest" closure durations as a modified StateSplit spreadsheet that accounts for NY's shorter current open season. These closures also meet or exceed the minimum target reduction discussed above. See Table 2.

“No Target” closures are not as straight forward. If the days open adjustment to the StateSplit spreadsheet and the adjusted Wave 6 non-Directed RPUE proposed by NY are accepted, then the proportion approach underestimates the Wave 2 closure and overestimates the Wave 6 closure necessary to achieve the reduction goals of draft Addendum III. One possible solution to this is to adjust NY’s Wave 2 or Wave 6 closures using the most conservative approach. See Table 3.

Tables 2 and 3 modify Wave 2 and 6 closures for only a small sample of the options presented in Draft Addendum III for the RI-NC Region but the proportion approach or recalculation based upon actual days open and the adjusted Wave 6 RPUE can be applied for any Wave-Region closure selected by the Board. These modifications to Wave closures are only requested for Wave 2 and 6, New York would adopt the full length of any Regional closure approved for Waves 3, 4, or 5.

Table 1. Basis for adjusting New York's Wave 6 Release Per Unit Effort.

Region	Wv	Trip Type	AB1	B2	Trips No.	RPUE	Days	Daily Trips	Weighted Dir RPUE and Δ	Mod NY Non Dir RPUE
NY	6	Other/No Targ	10,745	260,690	35,980	**7.2**	61	590	6.3	-
NY	6	SB + Other	203,444	2,041,369	369,704	5.5	61	6,061	0.96	
NY	6	SB only	246,968	4,276,464	636,145	6.7	61	10,429	115%	
NJ	6	Other/No Targ	3,928	100,184	32,611	3.1	61	535	4.3	4.52
NJ	6	SB + Other	380,272	2,553,347	674,514	3.8	61	11,058	-1.20	
NJ	6	SB only	947,877	5,947,244	1,316,373	4.5	61	21,580	72%	
CT	6	Other/No Targ	34	29,893	21,998	1.4	61	361	13.2	0.65
CT	6	SB + Other	2,165	227,776	32,233	7.1	61	528	-11.83	
CT	6	SB only	4,009	1,362,766	88,388	15.4	61	1,449	10%	
DE	6	Other/No Targ	0	67,890	33,651	2.0	61	552	7.3	1.73
DE	6	SB + Other	0	14,697	13,252	1.1	61	217	-5.32	
DE	6	SB only	7,619	540,173	62,353	8.7	61	1,022	27%	
RI-NC	6	Other/No Targ	14,707	464,317	129,898	3.6	61	2,129	**5.3**	**4.26**
RI-NC	6	SB + Other	585,881	5,038,761	1,133,865	4.4	61	18,588	**-1.69**	
RI-NC	6	SB only	1,207,190	12,567,659	2,208,966	5.7	61	36,213	**68%**	
CT-NC	6	Other/No Targ	14,707	462,234	127,816	3.6	61	2,095	5.3	4.28
CT-NC	6	SB + Other	585,881	4,957,217	1,114,614	4.4	61	18,272	-1.69	
CT-NC	6	SB only	1,206,473	12,129,570	2,104,843	5.8	61	34,506	68%	
Ocean	6	Other/No Targ	14,707	472,851	135,588	3.5	61	2,223	5.3	4.12
Ocean	6	SB + Other	588,399	5,125,652	1,172,959	4.4	61	19,229	-1.83	
Ocean	6	SB only	1,207,190	13,134,476	2,263,663	5.8	61	37,109	66%	

A review of the information provided in Appendix G. of draft Addendum III suggests that NY's Wave 6 fishery is similar in target species to NJ, CT, and DE

Table 2. Wave 2&6 No Harvest Closure Adjustments for New York based upon a subset of options in Table 10 (12% season closure reduction) of draft Addendum III. These are just examples using the RI-NC Region, methods can be used for either regional configuration. See Note (below).

Region	Wave	Reg. Closure	Original NY %Reduction	NY Reduction Recalculated	Proportion Closure		Recalculated Closure	
RI-NC	2	40	-5.2%	-7.9%	11	-5.4%	11	-5.4%
RI-NC	6	36	-9.1%	-12.4%	27	-9.3%	27	-9.3%
RI-NC	2	57	-7.4%	-7.9%	15	-7.4%	15	-7.4%
RI-NC	6	25	-6.3%	-8.6%	19	-6.5%	19	-6.5%

Table 3. Wave 2&6 No Targeting Closure Adjustments for New York based upon a subset of options in Table 10 (12% season closure reduction) of draft Addendum III. These are just examples using the RI-NC Region, methods can be used for either regional configuration. See Note (below).

Region	Wave	Reg. Closure	Original NY %Reduction	NY Reduction Recalculated	Proportion Closure		Recalculated Closure		Most Conservative Closure	
RI-NC	2	23 days	-6.4%	-11.8%	7 days	-4.8%	10 days	-6.8%	10 days	-6.8%
RI-NC	6	26 days	-5.9%	-11.5%	20 days	-9.4%	12 days	-5.9%	20 days	-9.4%
RI-NC	2	31 days	-8.6%	-12.9%	9 days	-6.1%	13 days	-8.8%	13 days	-8.8%
RI-NC	6	18 days	-4.1%	-8.0%	14 days	-6.5%	9 days	-4.4%	14 days	-6.5%

Note: The StateSplit spreadsheet (unmodified, as provided by ASMFC staff) can be used to look at each coastwide/regional closure option and determine the NY specific reduction. This target % reduction is included under the column labeled Original NY %Reduction. New York modified the StateSplit spreadsheet to account for days open for harvest in its current season and modified the Wave 6 RPUE for non-Directed trips. This modified spreadsheet was then used to calculate the reduction NY actually would take under the full Regional closure (NY Reduction Recalculated), and generate new closure durations and associated reduction values (Recalculated Closure) that met or exceeded the Original NY % Reduction. Proportion closures are generated by multiplying the proposed regional closure in days by the proportion of the Wave NY is currently open and rounding up any decimal days (Proportion Closure). The reduction value associated with that proportion closure is calculated using the NY modified StateSplit spreadsheet. Since the two methods yield different results for No Targeting closures, the Most Conservative Closure column puts forward the most conservative result as the suggested equivalent to the proposed Regional closure.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

FROM: **Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator**

DATE: **October 21, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Public Comment Summary for Draft Addendum III**

The following is an overview of all comments received by ASMFC on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan as of October 3, 2025 (closing deadline).

A total of 4,496 written comments were received on Draft Addendum III from individual comments, organizations, and form letters. A total of 59 organizations submitted written comments. A total of 1,464 comments were received through twelve multi-signatory/form letters[1]. The remainder of comments (2,973) came from individual comments including from private anglers, charter captains, commercial fishermen, tackle shops, and concerned citizens. Of those individual comments, 1,393 (47%) were received via email/webpage comment box and 1,580 (53%) were received via the comment form.

Seventeen public hearings for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III were held from September 8, 2025 through September 30, 2025. Eleven hearings were conducted in-person only (with a virtual listen-only link available for three states), three hearings were conducted in a hybrid format with attendees participating in-person and via webinar, and three hearings were conducted via webinar only.

Across all hearings, public attendance was 1,101 people (includes double counting of those who attended multiple hearings). This total does not include Board members, state staff, or Commission staff, and does not include individuals listening via virtual listen-only links.

The following pages include tables summarizing how many comments were received and how many comments were in support of each option proposed in Draft Addendum III. Some hearings included a show-of-hands for some issues as requested by commenters. The summary tables are followed by the comments themselves. The individual email comments are bookmarked/sorted by state and the open-ended responses from the comment form are also sorted by state.

[1] Form letters (3 or more of the same comment) include comments stating support for an organization's comments; however, if the commenter provided additional comments/rationale related to management beyond the organization's or letter's comments, then it was considered an individual comment.

The state-by-state public hearing summaries and attendee lists were provided as a separate attachment in the 2025 Annual Meeting Striped Bass Board main materials.

Total Written Comments Received. Number of written comments received by individuals, form letters/multi-signatory letters, and organizations.

Written Public Comments Received	
Individual Comments*	2,973
Form Letters/Multi-Signatory^	1,464
Organizations	59
TOTAL	**4,496**

**1,393 individual comments received via email/webpage comment box and 1,580 individual comments received via the online comment form.*
^ 12 different form letters/multi-signatory letters received.

Public Hearing Attendees. Number of public attendees at each hearing (not including state staff, ASMFC staff, or Commissioners/Proxies).

State	Location	Public Attendees**
ME	Yarmouth	16
ME	Webinar	61
NH	Portsmouth	14
MA	Woburn*	66
MA	Buzzards Bay*	77
RI	Narragansett/ Webinar	49
CT	Old Lyme	38
NY	Kings Park/Webinar	217
NY	New Paltz	16
NJ	Manahawkin	73
PA	Bristol*	71
DE	Dover/Webinar	11
MD	Wye Mills	182
MD	Annapolis*	64
DC/PRFC	Webinar	18
VA	Fort Monroe	14
General	Webinar	114

**Virtual listen-only link available.*
***Some people attended multiple hearings.*

Section 3.1 Method to Measure Total Length (TL) of a Striped Bass

Number of written and public hearing comments in support of each option.

	Option A. SQ No TL Definition in FMP	Option B. Mandatory Elements for TL Definition
Individual	269	1,499
Form Letter/Multi-Signatory		249
Organization	2	30
Written Total	**271**	**1,778**
ME-Yarmouth		5
ME-Webinar		4
NH		8
MA-Woburn	12	5
MA-Buzzards Bay	1	11
RI	3	5
CT	10	5
NY-Kings Park	2	9
NY-New Paltz		1
NJ		6
PA		
DE		2
MD-Wye Mills		
MD-Annapolis		
DC/PRFC		2
VA		3
General	2	8
Hearing Total	**30**	**74**

A majority of comments on this issue support Option B. Mandatory Elements for TL Definition. These comments note the importance of standardization and consistency along the coast, especially with the current narrow slot limits in place.

Comments in favor of Option A. Status Quo note concern that the new definition will slow down fish handling time, and potentially increase mortality, when the priority should be releasing the fish as quickly as possible.

Section 3.2 Commercial Tagging Point of Tagging

Number of written and public hearing comments in support of each option.

	Option A. SQ States Choose Point of Harvest or Sale (or Landing)	Option B. Point of Harvest	Option C. Point of Landing
Individual	243	1,024	425
Form Letter/Multi-Signatory		249	
Organization	1	27	3
Written Total	**244**	**1,300**	**428**
ME-Yarmouth		3	
ME-Webinar		5	
NH		8	
MA-Woburn	11	5	1
MA-Buzzards Bay	4	5	
RI	4	2	2
CT		7	
NY-Kings Park		10	
NY-New Paltz		1	
NJ		4	
PA		1	1
DE		1	1
MD-Wye Mills			
MD-Annapolis		1	
DC/PRFC		2	
VA		3	
General		7	
Hearing Total	**19**	**65**	**5**

A majority of comments on this issue support Option B. Point of Harvest tagging. Comments note that this would limit illegal activity and increase accountability.

Comments in favor of Option A. Status Quo note that point of harvest tagging is not appropriate for every state given different management systems. Comments in favor of Option C. Point of Landing this would be favorable given safety concerns with point of harvest tagging.

Section 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

Number of written and public hearing comments in support of each option.

	Option A. SQ No New Baseline	Option B. New Baseline	Option C. New Baseline + Buffer
Individual	442	581	915
Form Letter/Multi-Signatory	13	684	249
Organization	11	5	14
Written Total	**466**	**1,270**	**1,178**
ME-Yarmouth			2
ME-Webinar		1	3
NH	1		7
MA-Woburn	11	1	4
MA-Buzzards Bay	4		2
RI			2
CT		1	7
NY-Kings Park	6		3
NY-New Paltz			
NJ			2
PA	1		
DE	1		1
MD-Wye Mills	181	1	
MD-Annapolis	9	5	
DC/PRFC	1		2
VA	1		
General			7
Hearing Total	**216**	**9**	**42**

A majority of comments on this issue support either Option B. New Baseline or Option C. New Baseline with 10% Uncertainty Buffer. These comments note the new baseline would simplify the season and allow more recreational access and economic opportunity in the spring when release mortality rates are lower. Comments note the longer summer closure when release mortality is high would be beneficial to the stock. Those in favor of the uncertainty buffer note the buffer is necessary given the uncertainty around predicting increases in effort, and some comments support a buffer larger than 10%.

Those in favor of Option A. Status Quo note strong concern about allowing catch-and-release during the month of April targeting spawning and pre-spawn fish. Comments note this would be detrimental to the stock as those females would be subject to additional mortality and stress from handling and would negatively impact their ability to spawn. Comments note this risk to spawning females was not sufficiently considered during development of the baseline.

Section 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding
Reduction

Number of written and public hearing comments in support of each option.

	Option A. SQ No Reduction	Option B. 12% Reduction	No Reduction for Commercial
Individual	1,175	1,423	12
Form Letter/Multi-Signatory	1,187	249	
Organization	30	22	3
Written Total	**2,392**	**1,694**	**15**
ME-Yarmouth		3	
ME-Webinar		7	
NH		8	
MA-Woburn	34	4	2
MA-Buzzards Bay	18	7	2
RI	5	5	1
CT	16	8	
NY-Kings Park	17	12	2
NY-New Paltz		7	
NJ	30	2	
PA	6		
DE	1	1	
MD-Wye Mills	182		
MD-Annapolis	16	2	
DC/PRFC	1	2	
VA		1	6
General	4	12	
Hearing Total	**330**	**81**	**13**

A majority of comments on this issue support Option A. Status Quo No Reduction. Comments note there is no justification for the reduction considering fishing mortality is already below the target, and the reduction in fishing mortality that the draft addendum aims to achieve is statistically indistinguishable. Comments note concerns about uncertainty in MRIP data, including the ongoing revision of effort estimates, and that initial 2025 MRIP estimates are well-below 2024 estimates in contrast to the projected 2025 increase assumed in the projections. Some comments note that the stock is doing well, and they have observed a healthy striped bass population this year. Some comments note the current restrictive regulations are working and recommend waiting to consider action until after the 2027 benchmark stock assessment is complete. Some comments also note concern that the biological reference points are too high and not biologically achievable.

Comments in favor of status quo note the severe negative economic impacts of any recreational season closures far outweigh these data uncertainties, and any action would harm fishing-related businesses and local economies. Comments also note that the real issue is low recruitment and conditions in the Chesapeake Bay, which are not addressed by the reduction.

Those in favor of Option B. 12% Reduction note the Board needs to act quickly to maximize the probability of rebuilding the stock by 2029. Most comments note there should be equal reductions by sector. Comments note there have been six consecutive years of poor recruitment and there is long-term risk to the stock if action is not taken. Given the current low recruitment concerns, action is needed to protect the stock and preserve the future of the striped bass stock and fishery. Comments note that if action is not taken now, future action may be much more restrictive. Some comments note a 50% probability is not sufficient, and the Board should be aiming for a higher probability of rebuilding.

A few comments note that the commercial sector should not take any reduction. Comments note the multiple quota reductions over the past several years and the strict accountability measures for the commercial fishery including harvest reporting and quota paybacks.

When possible, staff tracked individual comments on the reduction by sector/mode as self-identified by the commenter: private recreational angler, for-hire, commercial. Some commenters (19%) were part of other stakeholder groups or did not indicate their sector/mode. Of those other/unidentified comments, 54% were in favor of status quo and 46% in favor of a reduction.

Of the identified private recreational anglers, 39% were in favor of status quo and 61% were in favor of a reduction.

Of the identified for-hire, 73% were in favor of status quo and 27% were in favor of a reduction.

Of the identified commercial, 97% were in favor of status quo and 3% were in favor of a reduction.

Section 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

Ocean and Chesapeake Bay Recreational Measures

Number of written and public hearing comments in support of each option.

1 fish bag limit for all options	**O1. 28-31" All Modes; -12% season closure**	**O2. PS 28-31"; FH 28-33"; -13% season closure***	**CB1. 20-23" All Modes; Same season as 2024^**	**CB2. PS 19-22"; FH 19-25"; Same season as 2024**	**CB3. 19-24" All Modes; -12% season closure^**
Individual	1,408	241	771	174	527
Form Letter/ Multi-Signatory	249		244		244
Organization	23	4	16		11
Written Total	**1,680**	**245**	**1,031**	**174**	**782**
ME-Yarmouth					
ME-Webinar	2				
NH	8				1
MA-Woburn	2				1
MA-Buzzards Bay	3	5			
RI	1		1		1
CT	2	9			
NY-Kings Park	12	3	7		2
NY-New Paltz					
NJ	2	1	1		1
PA	1				
DE	1				
MD-Wye Mills					
MD-Annapolis					1
DC/PRFC	2		2		
VA					1
General	7		1		1
Hearing Total	**43**	**18**	**12**	**0**	**9**

**Note: Some comments in favor of O2 support only a modified O2 where for-hire would be allowed the wider slot limit but would <u>not</u> be subject to season closures.*

^Note: For CB1 and CB3, most commenters noted support for either CB1 or CB3, in which case a tally was recorded for both options.

A majority of comments support Ocean Option O1 and either Chesapeake Bay Option CB1 or Option CB3. Most comments noted strong opposition to any mode splits and concern with allowing one segment of the fishery to have additional opportunity to harvest a fish.

Those in favor of Ocean Option O2. (wider slot limit for for-hire) noted that effort and for-hire businesses have already decreased in recent years. Some in favor of Option O2 note they would only support a modified option where for-hire would be exempt from any season closures in addition to having a wider slot limit. Comments note that for-hire industry provides an important service to patrons by providing access and putting fish on the table. For-hire businesses are an important part of local economies and further restrictions would be detrimental to the industry. Some comments note support for managing for-hire separately from private anglers.

Section 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding
Recreational Season Closures
Number of written and public hearing comments in support of each option.

Note: Individual comments from the comment form commented separately closure type for the Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay .

	No-Harvest Closure	**No-Targeting Closure***
Individual	Ocean: 1,642 Ches. Bay: 1,364	Ocean: 192 Ches. Bay: 387
Form Letter/Multi-Signatory	249	
Organization	18	5
Written Total	**Ocean: 1,909 Ches. Bay: 1,631**	**Ocean: 197 Ches. Bay: 392**
ME-Yarmouth	9	
ME-Webinar	5	
NH	8	
MA-Woburn	5	
MA-Buzzards Bay	5	3
RI	5	2
CT	4	7
NY-Kings Park	8	1
NY-New Paltz		
NJ	1	1
PA	2	
DE	1	
MD-Wye Mills		
MD-Annapolis		
DC/PRFC	1	
VA		1
General	8	1
Hearing Total	**62**	**16**

**In addition to the counts in the above table, there were 58 comments noting only opposition to no-targeting closures (i.e., it was not clear if they support no-harvest closures instead and it was not clear whether they support a reduction).*

A vast majority of comments support no-harvest closures. Comments note strong opposition to no-targeting closures noting they are unenforceable. Comments note that not allowing catch-and-release would be devastating to fishing communities and fishing-related businesses from an economic perspective and would deny anglers a culturally important pastime. Some

comments note that no-harvest closures helped rebuild the stock in the 1980s and would support a full moratorium to rebuild the stock now.

Those in favor of no-targeting closures note that release mortality also needs to be addressed, not just harvest.

Some comments addressed the region splits for the ocean. 95 comments support grouping Rhode Island in the New England region, and many of these comments also support adding Connecticut and New York to the New England region. 32 comments support grouping Rhode Island in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Some comments note the proposed season closure regions/closures are not equitable for all states and would prefer state-by-state closures.

Some comments discussed the timing of recreational closures and identified a range of preferred closure waves. Common themes include support for closures during the spawning season and/or during the summer when release mortality is higher. Some comments support closures during peak season (wave 4 in New England and wave 6 in Mid-Atlantic), while other comments are opposed to any closures during peak time periods noting they would be detrimental to fishing businesses with severe economic consequences.

Individual comments in the following pages are sorted/bookmarked by state to help identify comments on closure timing for specific areas along the coast.

Common Additional Topics Raised in Comments

Commenters raised several additional topics. Common topics included, in no particular order:

- Concern about menhaden harvest and depletion of forage species, and support for reducing/ending menhaden harvest.
- Need to address and investigate conditions in Chesapeake Bay and impact on young-of-year striped bass (e.g., water quality, blue catfish predation).
- Support for striped bass hatcheries and stocking efforts to support the stock rebuilding.
- Concern about the commercial fishery targeting large females and concern about mortality in commercial net gears.
- Support for ending striped bass commercial harvest.
- Support for ending the New Jersey bonus program.
- Need for increased angler education on best handling practices.
- Concern about predation on striped bass including by sharks, seals, and blue catfish.
- Support for additional gear restrictions to reduce release mortality, including banning treble hooks and using barbless hooks.

Written Comments were submitted by the following groups and organizations:

American Saltwater Guides Association

American Sportfishing Association

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers: New England Chapter, New York Chapter, New Jersey Chapter, Pennsylvania Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North Carolina Chapter

Boat U.S.

Calvert County Watermen's Association (MD)

Cape Atlantic Striper Club (NJ)

Captree Boatman's Association (NY)

Cape Code Charter Boat Association

Center for Sportfishing Policy

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Coastal Conservation Association, National

Coastal Conservation Association, NH

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association

Delmarva Fisheries Association

East Coast Fishing Coalition

Fish Hawks Saltwater Angler Club (NJ)

Forked River Tuna Club (NJ)

Fun Under Boats Dive Club (NJ)

Hi-Mar Striper Club (NJ)

Housatonic Fly Fishers Association (CT)

Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Maine Professional Guides Association

Marine Retailers Association of the Americas

Marine Trades Association of New Jersey

Massachusetts Striped Bass Association

Montauk Boatmen and Captains Association

National Marine Manufacturers Association

Native Fish Coalition Virginia Chapter

New Jersey Council of Divers and Clubs

New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council

New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing

New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association

North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen Club (NY)

North Fork Captains Association (NY)

Plum Island Surfcasters (MA)

Rhode Island Commercial Rod and Reel Association

Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association

Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

Riverkeeper (Hudson River, NY)

Save the Bay (Narragansett Bay, RI)

Solomons Charter Captains Association

South Jersey Saltwater Anglers

Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association

Striper Surf Club (NY)

Stripers Forever

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Twin Rivers Waterman's Association (VA)

Upper Bay Charter Captains Association (MD)

Viking Marine Group

Village Harbour Fishing Club (NJ)

Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association

Virginia Waterman's Association

Waterman's Association of Worcester County (MD)

Written Comments were submitted via the following form letters/multi-signatory letters:

American Sportfishing Association (660)*

South Shore of Long Island recreational (485)

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (239)

Calvert County Board of Commissioners (5)

Commissioners for Somerset County (5)

Commissioners of St. Mary's County (5)

County Commissioners of Kent County (3)

Form Letters from unknown sources:

- Form Letter 1 (24) [MD anglers]
- Form Letter 2 (23)
- Form Letter 3 (5) [NJ anglers]
- Form Letter 4 (5)
- Form Letter 5 (5)

**Note on ASA form letter: A total of 929 individuals submitted the ASA form letter, of which 269 included additional rationale/comments and so were considered individual comments.*

AMERICAN SALTWATER GUIDES ASSOCIATION
BETTER BUSINESS THROUGH CONSERVATION

October 03, 2025

Emilie Franke - FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N Highland Street, Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: ASGA Comments for Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan

Dear Ms. Franke and Striped Bass Board Members,

The American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA) represents conservation-minded fishing guides, private anglers, and fishing businesses who advocate for "Better Business through Conservation." Our Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan.

Based on science and precaution, our Association supports the following options to rebuild striped bass:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length
Our Recommendation: Option B – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging
Our Recommendation: Option B – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline:
Our Recommendation: Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution (propose at hearings). Simplify seasons, shift closures for better compliance/enforcement.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals
Our Recommendation: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. **For Ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures.** Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, Connecticut and New York share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. We believe New York and Connecticut should be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the Northern no harvest closure and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closure.

For Clarification: ASGA only supports 3.3 if 3.1, 3.2, and 3.4 positions are passed. We can’t open a new fishery without conservation measures in place.

All striped bass anglers, related businesses, and coastal economies are bearing witness to the second collapse of an iconic American species. The graphs included below depict the live releases and directed trips from 1995 to 2025 through end of Wave 3. While the 2025 numbers are preliminary, the trend clearly indicates a decline in fish stocks, a significant downturn in the economy, and an 84% decrease in live releases since the peak of the stock in 2006.

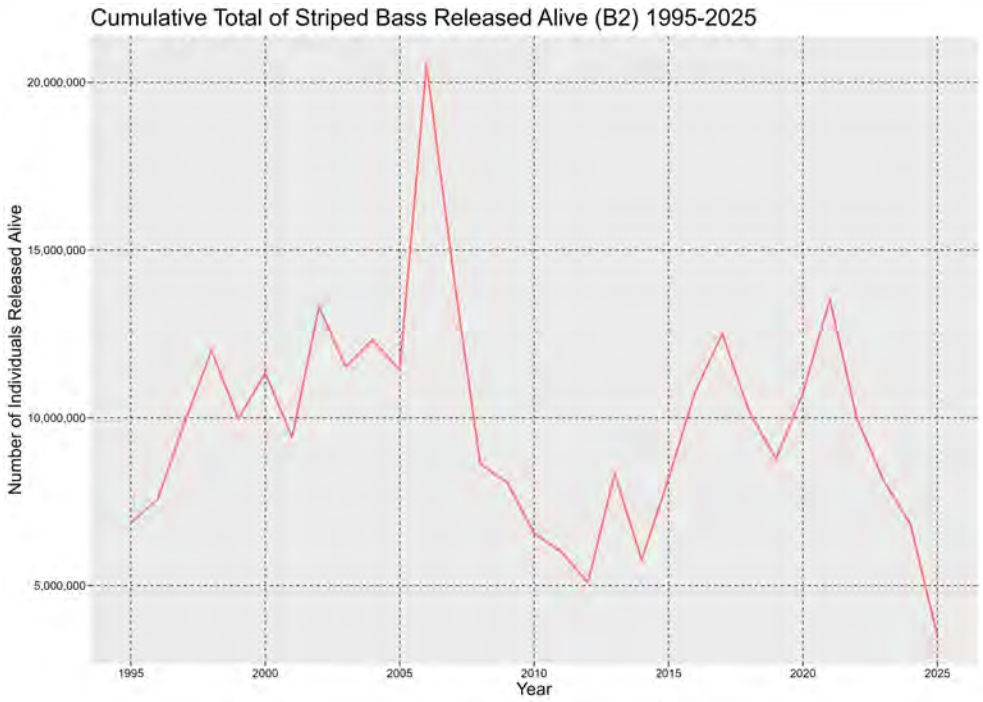


Figure 1. Cumulative Total of Striped Bass Released Alive (B2) – North + Mid Atlantic (1995-2025)

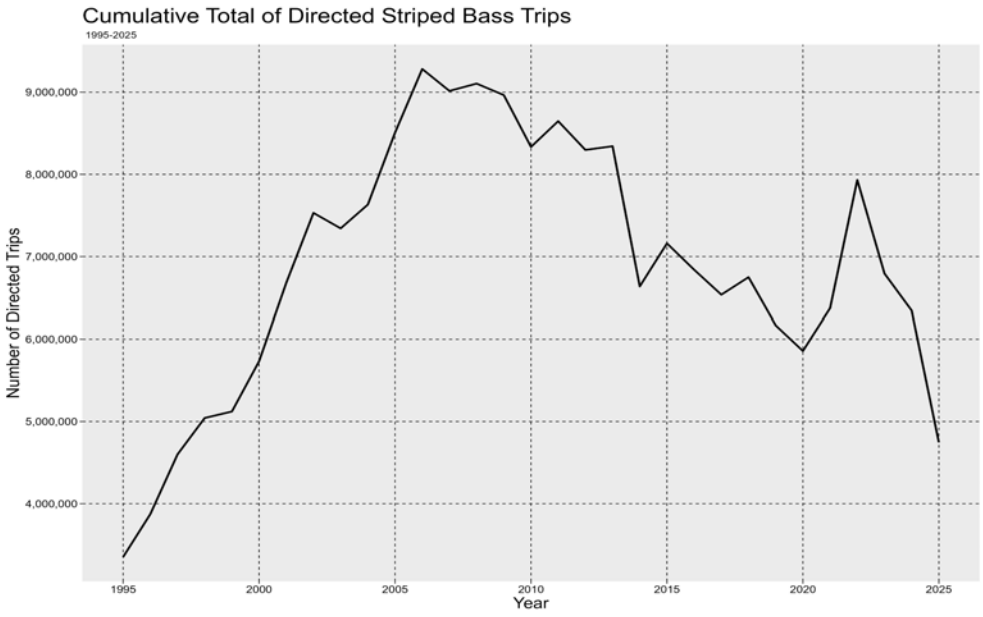


Figure 2. Cumulative Total of Directed Striped Bass Trips – North + Mid Atlantic (1995-2025)

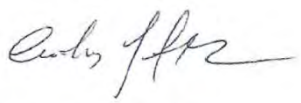
No reasonable scientist or manager reviewing this data can state that the catch and release angling community has not already contributed significantly to the conservation of this fishery. Those who suggest otherwise are lying. There has been an 84% decline in live releases. Consequently, there has also been an 84% decline in release mortality. While some entities claim fishing mortality reaching a historic low is justification for "status-quo", the real story is quite the opposite. Fishing mortality has cratered because there is less fish to target, which leads to less fish being released. There is no logical way to justify a lesser need for conservation because the fishery is already in a horrible place.

The concept of "fishing access" has be co-opted by organizations who will do anything to maximize annual harvest at all costs. Shore-based anglers account for 50% of annual trips but account for less than 12% of total catch. When the population declines, shore anglers are hit the hardest. This data reflects an inaccessible fishery managed in a way that disenfranchises anglers of lower means.

Over 95% of the public went on record multiple times asking to remove no-targeting closures for the ocean fishery from this document. Draft Addendum III stands as explicit documentation that public voices were completely ignored by state and federal representatives. The public has lost all faith that their voice makes a difference – and it is hard to blame them. At the recent PRFC/DC striped bass hearing, a voting commissioner made the first comment, stating their personal position. This was a disgusting action that undermines the entire democratic process. Members of this coastwide community sacrifice income and time with loved ones to partake in an already cumbersome process. Behavior of this nature is a conflict of interest that needs to be addressed accordingly.

We are watching the dramatic decline of the most culturally and economically critical species that ASMFC manages. Menhaden, striped bass, redfish, and lobster are all in a deeply concerning place. Our experience has gone from watching ASMFC ignore science and public input to the complete and total failure of this interstate compact. The meeting in October could be the most critical in the history of ASMFC, not only for the fish but also for the future of the managing body.

On Behalf of the ASGA Community,



Tony Friedrich
President & Policy Director
tony@saltwaterguidesassociation.org

October 1, 2025

Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mrs. Franke,

The undersigned organizations representing America's recreational fishing and boating communities support maintaining the current coastal recreational fishing seasons for striped bass and oppose the proposed 12% reduction in fishery removals (Option A; Section 3.4). Strict recreational fishery management using a narrow slot limit has effectively lowered fishing mortality (F) to a 30-year low which is well below both the F target and F threshold. The proposed reduction is not based on meaningful conservation concerns, but rather on annual fluctuations and known imprecision in MRIP data that result in ever-changing rebuilding probabilities. Imposing new restrictions under these circumstances risks unnecessary economic harm and sows division within the recreational community, without offering measurable or scientifically meaningful biological benefit. We address other proposed management issues in section 3 of Addendum III using an appendix to this letter.

Management Designed to Chase Uncertain Data is a Failed Approach

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is attempting to micromanage striped bass rebuilding by reacting to short-term, uncertain fluctuations in recreational catch data. Preliminary 2024 removals were 3.22 million fish, while final estimates increased to 3.45 million—a 7% revision caused entirely by changes in MRIP effort estimates. Yet NOAA Fisheries has acknowledged that MRIP overestimates fishing effort due to survey design flaws—a problem expected to be corrected in 2026.

These uncertain swings in MRIP data have triggered a proposed 12% reduction to address a difference of just 0.01 in fishing mortality (F rebuild = 0.12 vs F2024 = 0.13)—a difference that is not meaningful given the level of uncertainty in the estimates. In fact, the overlap in confidence intervals is so significant that the effect of a 12% reduction is indistinguishable from status quo.

Instead of acknowledging that status quo and a 12% reduction are scientifically equivalent, Draft Addendum III shifts the burden of MRIP uncertainty onto anglers by forcing a choice between two unpalatable season closures: no-targeting closures, which ban fishing altogether and impacts both harvest and catch-and-release anglers, or no-harvest closures, which fall solely on anglers who keep fish.

We believe forcing anglers into this divisive choice, when science does not justify action, will cause significant economic and social impacts while not meaningfully improving striped bass conservation.

We have serious concerns with no-targeting closures because they prohibit fishing entirely. At the same time, we must recognize that the burden of rebuilding has already fallen disproportionately on harvest anglers, even though fishing mortality is roughly evenly split between catch-and-release and harvest activities. Draft Addendum III offers no option that addresses this inequity, other than prohibiting fishing altogether. Given that the proposed 12% reduction is scientifically indistinguishable from status quo, we reject the premise that anglers must pick winners and losers and instead support maintaining current seasons as the best and most equitable alternative.

Lessons from Other Fisheries

The failures associated with micromanaging fisheries are well documented in other recreationally important fisheries in the region. This same mistake has already been made in summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. Managers tried "chasing" MRIP harvest swings each year with bag, size, and season adjustments. This became so problematic that the ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council jointly worked on recreational management reform to address it. Part of that reform resulted in Framework Adjustment 17 where NOAA Fisheries concludes, "Reacting to these large, uncertain swings in estimated harvest [from MRIP], by liberalizing or reducing those management controls [bag, size and seasons] in the subsequent year in an attempt to achieve a specific harvest target, has been unsuccessful by all standards."[1] Striped bass Draft Addendum III repeats this failed approach by using seasonal closures to chase insignificant differences in fishing mortality and their respective catch levels.

Controlling Fishing Mortality is the Rebuilding Plan, not Chasing Rebuilding Probabilities

Taking a step back, current management measures are objectively effective at achieving management goals, with a 30-year low in fishing mortality (F = 0.13 in 2024, see Table 5, PDF page 19) that is well below the threshold (F = 0.21) and target (F = 0.17)—a target that already takes into account the continued poor recruitment observed in the Chesapeake Bay in recent years. The low 2024 fishing mortality, driven by measures like the narrow recreational slot limit, is currently maintaining a fine line balance between recreational fishing access and striped bass rebuilding.

Recruitment Is Environmental, Not Fishery-Driven

Striped bass Draft Addendum III justifies the proposed reduction partly on continued poor recruitment in the Chesapeake Bay. However, striped bass recruitment is driven by environmental conditions, not fishing mortality or current spawning stock biomass (SSB) levels. Historical data show strong year classes emerging even at lower SSB levels, confirming that no stock-recruitment relationship exists. With 2024 fishing mortality at a 30-year low, further restrictions like season closures will not improve recruitment. Instead, they unnecessarily limit angler access without measurable biological benefit.

[1] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-03-09/pdf/2023-04588.pdf

Economic Impacts Are Real, Conservation Benefits Are Uncertain

The economic value of the recreational striped bass fishery cannot be overstated:

- In 2016, striped bass trip and equipment spending across Atlantic coastal states generated approximately $13 billion in total economic output, supported over 104,000 jobs, and contributed more than $7.7 billion to regional GDP (see Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation).
- On a per-pound basis, the recreational sector generates 17 times more retail sales value, 8 times more economic activity, and nearly quadruple the jobs compared to the commercial sector (see Southwick Associates).

The proposed season closures—whether prohibiting harvest or targeting—will undoubtedly erode these substantial economic benefits and disproportionately impact coastal small businesses, bait and tackle shops, marinas, boat manufacturers, charter operators, and the entire recreational fishing and boating supply chain.

We represent the entire recreational fishing and boating community, including businesses that serve all anglers regardless of economic background or preferred fishing technique. Maintaining consistent seasons is the most equitable solution: it preserves both regional economic stability and angler access across preference lines, without inflicting unnecessary economic hardship.

Conclusion

The current striped bass management plan is effective, with fishing mortality well below target levels and protective measures successfully guiding rebuilding efforts toward the 2029 goal. Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% season reduction, driven by imprecise data and an ineffective approach to managing recreational fisheries, lacks a clear conservation basis and risks unnecessary economic harm. As demonstrated by past management failures in other species, chasing an insignificant 0.01 difference in fishing mortality is an unsuccessful approach. We urge ASMFC to maintain existing seasons to ensure continued progress without imposing undue burdens on anglers.

Thank you for considering our input on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Michael Waine
Atlantic Fisheries Policy Director
American Sportfishing Association

Ted Venker
Vice President and Conservation Director
Coastal Conservation Association

David Kennedy
Government Affairs Manager
Boat Owners Association of the United States

Chad Tokowicz
Government Relations Manager
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas

Jeff Angers
President
Center for Sportfishing Policy

Clay Crabtree
Senior Director, Public Policy
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Appendix for Other Issues in Draft Addendum III

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

We support Option B – Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition
Justification: Option B provides clear, consistent, and enforceable standards for measuring striped bass total length across all states. Standardizing the definition—requiring the fish to be laid flat, mouth closed, measured in a straight line, and tail squeezed—removes ambiguity, ensures fairness among states, and enhances compliance in shared waters. This approach strengthens enforcement, and safeguards the intent of coastwide regulations.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

We support Option B – Commercial Tagging at the Point of Harvest
Justification: Tagging fish at the point of harvest increases accountability and strengthens enforcement by ensuring all fish are marked as soon as they are in possession. This reduces opportunities for high-grading, limits illegal harvest, and creates a consistent standard across states. While implementation may require adjustments for some programs, Option B provides the clearest and most effective approach to improve management of the commercial striped bass fishery.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

We support Option B – New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline
Justification: Option B simplifies Maryland's striped bass regulations, providing clearer rules for anglers and enforcement while keeping removals at 2024 levels. Because it better aligns management with true conservation risk, we do not believe an uncertainty buffer is necessary. Reopening access during the coldwater spring months—when release mortality is low—avoids the economic harm past no-targeting closures caused for charter businesses, tackle shops, and coastal communities. This approach balances fishing opportunity with practical, science-based management and establishes a more workable baseline for future adjustments.

October 3, 2025

Via Email: comments@asmfc.org

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Attn: Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Re: BHA Comments on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Striped Bass FMP

Dear ASMFC Staff and Members of the Management Board:

In this correspondence we are writing on behalf of the Leadership Boards of the New England, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Mid-Atlantic and Pennsylvania Chapters of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (collectively, "BHA") to provide our comments on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass ("Addendum III").

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers is focused on advancing proven approaches to protect and conserve our public lands, waters and wildlife, and on ensuring our outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting. As BHA's footprint has expanded, our Chapters have applied this mission across North America.

Along the Atlantic coast fishing for striped bass is as much a part of our outdoor heritage as any pursuit in the region. Since the adoption of Amendment 7 BHA's Chapters from Maine to North Carolina have provided our input, preferences and concerns to ASMFC's Striped Bass Board (the Board), and we continue to support management actions that **maximize the odds of recovering striped bass female SSB to target by 2029**. Beyond 2029, BHA remains concerned that even if female SSB exceeds the target for a short while that sustained spawning failures will create significant obstacles to long-term abundance, as we have mentioned multiple times in correspondence to the Board (Comments to Annual meeting, October 2024 & Comments to Striped Bass Board, December 2024). Accordingly, our comments on specific issues and priorities under consideration for inclusion in Addendum III are as follows:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

Priority for Inclusion: Option B – Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition

Since Atlantic striped bass were declared overfished in 2019 managers have relied on a slot size limit to control recreational fishing mortality. In both the Ocean and Bay recreational fisheries the slot was further reduced in 2023. Addendum III includes a memorandum prepared by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (Appendix B) analyzing the implications of varying length measurement definitions, which provides data suggesting that the lack of a uniform definition could potentially result in a 1.67" increase in allowable take. Relative to the current 3" ocean recreational slot limit (the approximate size range of the fish analyzed by Mass DMF) this represents a 56% increase.

When ASMFC's Striped Bass Board enacts management measures their effects should be reasonably precise. While the need for a uniform length definition may have been proportionally less critical before the slot limit was reduced to its current level, it is clearly needed at this point.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

Priority for Inclusion: Option B – Commercial Tagging at the Point of Harvest

According to Addendum III only three states currently implement commercial tagging at the point of sale, although North Carolina doesn't currently have a commercial striped bass fishery. The remainder of the states that harvest striped bass commercially require anglers, rather than buyers/dealers, to tag harvested fish.

BHA feels that the commercial anglers who remove striped bass from the fishery should be accountable for tagging them or returning unused tags, rather than the buyers/dealers who later take possession, which could be accomplished by both Option B and Option C. Option B provides better accountability because law enforcement officers checking anglers on the water would be able to easily determine whether commercial anglers are following the tagging regulations or not.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

Priority for Inclusion: Option C – New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer

Given the prominent role that the Chesapeake Bay has historically played in striped bass production, and its failure to yield successful spawns in recent years, the fishing measures allowed in the Bay are of coastwide concern. While BHA agrees that shifting Maryland's recreational season to reduce effort during the warmest time year, as proposed in Options B and C, is likely to reduce release mortality we are concerned that shifting seasons inherently invites uncertainty, and doubt that the 2024 and new baseline would result in similar recreational fishing mortality.

BHA was disappointed that the Board removed the option to consider Maryland's new baseline season with a 25% uncertainty buffer prior to circulating Addendum III for public comment, as we feel that an uncertainty buffer exceeding 10% would have been appropriate to mitigate the

uncertainty that arises from allowing new opportunities to pursue large fish that come into the Bay to spawn in April and early May. While we support Option C as the best option available for inclusion in Addendum III, we urge the Board to consider using its discretion to increase the uncertainty buffer beyond 10%.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

Priority for Inclusion: Option B – Even Sector Reductions: Commercial & Recreational -12%

Preferences for implementation of reductions: Oppose for-hire exemption options, oppose no-targeting seasonal closures

Addendum III states that under status quo management the fishery is projected to have a 30% probability of recovery by 2029, and the odds increase to 50% probability if a 12% reduction is implemented beginning in the 2026 fishing season. Beyond 2029, we are concerned that even if female SSB exceeds target by 2029 that years of significant challenges will face the fishery afterwards due to at least six concurrent years of sub-average spawning. Imposing a 12% reduction beginning in 2026 is not only necessary to uphold the Board's obligation to recover the fishery within 10 years of its overfished declaration, but it also improves the probability that successful spawns will occur in the coming years by protecting breeding-aged fish.

Throughout BHA's involvement in striped bass advocacy our position has been that all segments that enjoy the striped bass fishery during times of abundance should participate proportionally in its recovery. As a result, we urge the Board to impose 12% reductions on both the recreational and commercial segments of the fishery. Following similar rationale, **BHA opposes sub-options O2 and CB2**, which would create different measures for for-hire operators compared to private recreational anglers. **BHA supports the inclusion of sub-option O1 and CB3**, which would achieve the recreational sector's 12% reduction by establishing seasonal closures, although we acknowledge that sub-option CB1 would achieve a similar effect by reducing the slot size for the bay recreational fishery rather than imposing seasonal closures.

Related to how recreational reductions are implemented, **BHA opposes no-target season closures** for the simple reason that they are unenforceable, and thus unlikely to achieve their projected effect. Like our position that all segments of the fishery should contribute to its recovery, we also feel that all geographies should contribute proportionally. Based on the catch-time data (Figures 6,7,9,10) included in Addendum III, BHA prefers a framework that divides the ocean fishery into two regions, rather than imposing a single closure set on the entire coast. BHA further prefers the framework that groups ME-MA and RI-NC as regions, which would impose a similar closure across the entire area around Montauk & Block Island Sound. Finally, within each region we urge the Board to select season closure dates that are likely to affect each jurisdiction within the region proportionally (i.e. closures that are timed during waves where all state within the region experiences similar catch/effort rates).

In conclusion, while we remain concerned about the fishery's age structure and the challenges that it will face beyond 2029, the Leadership Boards of the New England, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Mid-Atlantic and Pennsylvania Chapters of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers urge the Striped Bass Management Board include the options we have prioritized, which will maximize the odds of recovering striped bass female SSB to target by 2029. These are the necessary steps to preserve our traditions of fishing for striped bass for current and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input, and for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Michael Woods

Chair, New England Chapter Board
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

And the undersigned Chapter Leadership Boards:

New England Chapter Board
(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts,
New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)
newengland@backcountryhunters.org

New York Chapter Board
newyork@backcountryhunters.org

New Jersey Chapter Board
newjersey@backcountryhunters.org

North Carolina Chapter Board
northcarolina@backcountryhunters.org

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Board
(Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Washington D.C.)
mid-atlantic@backcountryhunters.org

Pennsylvania Chapter Board
pennsylvania@backcountryhunters.org

Calvert County Watermen's Association
PO Box 507 Lusby, Maryland 20657
Phone: 301-672-5340

Dale "Simon" Dean, *President*
Chris Barnett, *Vice President*
Rachel Dean, *Secretary*
Samantha Barnett, *Treasurer*

comments@asmfc.org

Subject Line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Regarding…

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging The Atlantic Striped Bass FMP's commercial tagging measures have been in place since 2012 and allows states with commercial fisheries to choose whether to tag harvested fish at the point of harvest or the point of sale. One state currently specifies tagging between those points, at the point of landing, due to safety concerns raised by industry about tagging at point of harvest.

We support Option C with the option to tag at the point of landing because of crew and vessel safety concerns.

Regarding…

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

Option B: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12% Commercial quotas would be reduced by 12% (Table 9). Options O1 – O2 for the ocean and Options CB1 – CB3 for Chesapeake Bay in Table 8 specify recreational measures designed to achieve a 12% reduction via changes to size limits and/or season closures.

Because the Draft Addendum specifically states "there is the opportunity to select any measure within the range of options that went out for public comment" we cannot support Option B without changes because the commercial and recreational sector are reduced evenly. The recreational sector continues to be managed without hard accountability measures and uncertainty is high unlike the commercial sector. Therefore, we propose the recreational sector and commercial sector do not take even reductions. The commercial sector's reduction should be minimal.

Rachel Dean
Calvert County Watermen's Association, Secretary
chesapeakefishing@juno.com

From: CapeAtlantic StriperClub
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:34:27 PM

This comment is written on behalf of the Cape Atlantic Striper Club and its members who are based out of New Jersey. In regards to Striped Bass Addendum III, we would like to highlight our stance on a few key points in the addendum. First being that we DO NOT support any NO TARGET closures. If closures must be made, we support them being no harvest. We feel it is in the best interest of local tackle shops, charter fisherman and recreational fisherman that any closures be made in a no harvest format. As long as striped bass can still be targeted less impact to local businesses will be had and the recreational sector can still enjoy chasing the fish that we love. On our second point, we would like to see that the commercial tagging of striped bass be required at the point of harvest.

Sincerely,

Cape Atlantic Striper Club.

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Ms. Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

The Cape Cod Charter Boat Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding proposed measures for Striped Bass Addendum III. Our membership strongly supports Status Quo management for striped bass and opposes proposed at point commercial tagging requirements.

The proposed striped bass no harvest and no targeting closures would have a devastating impact on the for hire businesses as well as tackle shops, tackle manufactures, and many other related businesses. We have already taken many conservation steps such as a small 28-31 inch slot limit, use of circle hooks, eliminating gaffing and educating the public about conservation and safe handling tactics. The recreational harvest of striped bass is 50% down from 2022 and for hire trips are down 16% to the lowest number of directed trips in a decade. With the complete shutdown of cod in Southern New England, early closure this summer of recreational bluefin tuna, no harvest of makos and extremely restrictive seasons and bag limits on many other fish such as black sea bass, mackerel and more, the overall for-hire and private trips are down significantly from previous years. Striped bass closures of 40-80 days in our already short and highly restricted season would be the final nail in the coffin for the for-hire fleet and many other related businesses.

The real problem with striped bass is recruitment and poor spawning due to bad environmental conditions in the Chesapeake Bay. This is where the efforts need to be focused. If we shut down the entire fishery and they still are unable to spawn we have achieved nothing to improve the fishery. Social and economic impacts of these proposed reductions are too great for something that will have no significant impact on recruitment.

If we look at Figure 3 in Addendum 3 which shows the Female spawning stock biomass trajectory based on Technical Committee assumptions about 2025-2029 fishing mortality under Status Quo Management and using the same low recruitment assumption as the stock assessment with 95% confidence intervals we notice a few important things. SSB is trending in an upward trajectory and constantly increasing. After 2026 we will stay above the ssb threshold. The stock increases and hits the SSB target level in 2032 and continues increasing after that. The target level is set very high and set at record striped bass abundance only reached six out of the last 40 years. Possibly a more realistic target level could be investigated but even this high target of SSB is achieved by Status Quo in 2032. Because according to the model the SSB is constantly increasing and will achieve the target in 2032 and beyond using the status quo we would favor this approach.

There will be more and better information to help manage striped bass in 2027. A new stock assessment will come out. There will be a mrip recalibration in 2027 to account for an over estimation of catch 30-40%. The entire case for the reduction is based on a 0.01% difference in fishing mortality. We should remain status quo until this information becomes available.

If a 12-13% reduction were to be implemented we would ask for a for-hire exemption. The for-hire fleet only accounts for 3% of removals so the effects of an exemption would be negligible. For many of our customers this might be their one trip of the year to go fishing for striped bass. Whether it be with their friends or family the for-hire fleet is the means for them to access and enjoy the fishery. If their trips were planned during the times of the closure they would lose total access to the fishery. The impacts to the for-hire fleet of a closure would be catastrophic as we have a short fishing season and would lose a large percentage of our business.

Commercial tagging:

We oppose at point harvest tagging requirements. We have seen how in Massachusetts this method led to many fishermen losing their Tautog permits because they did not have landings during certain years. In Massachusetts there are thousands of fishermen that hold striped bass permits. There are many fishermen who hold permits that did not recently land fish due to many factors but should not lose their permits they have held for many years. Some of these reasons may include: regional availability or they are involved in other fisheries that are more consistent and profitable at the short time striped bass is open. We have lost the long standing tradition of being able to sell fish off charters. If these other fisheries become less profitable fishermen who have the striped bass endorsement should have the ability to fish for striped bass.

We thank the ASMFC for the opportunity to provide input on these proposed management measures for striped bass.

Sincerely,
William Hatch
President, Cape Cod Charter Boat Association

From: Capt. Joe DeVito
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Addendum III- Captree Boatman"s Association
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:29:12 PM

My name is Captain Joe DeVito representing the Captree Boatman's Association. Captree Boatman's Association strongly oppose any proposed reduction and support 3.4 Option A- STATUS QUO. There is absolutely no reduction option presented that would even come close to being fair for everyone on Long Island, let alone the East Coast. If Striped Bass is closed in November the south shore is out of business, if its early spring the west end of Long Island is in trouble, if its summer the east end gets it. That's just Long Island, not to mention these closures presented lump several states together. We're talking about a migrating fish here. Closing a fishery down at the same time in places hundreds of miles apart does not work for a migrating fish.

Special interest groups pushing for this closure want to be able to still target striped bass, "catch and release". They say they want and I quote "Equal Reduction from everyone killing fish." According to the data, 9% of striped bass released are considered dead, so 1 out of 10. If there is a no harvest, why should the catch and release folks feel no sacrifice & be able to continue killing, yes that is correct killing striped bass. The same people that want this so-called reduction, don't want to give anything up themselves. IF ANY CLOSURE HAPPENS, WE WANT NO TARGETING AND SHORTEST CLOSURE POSSIBLE.

Again, Captree Boatmen strongly oppose any further restriction and support STATUS QUO but if it does come to a closure, we strongly oppose any closures that would affect the end of October and the month of November. And the shortest closure possible- NO TARGETING DURING CLOSURE.

Capt. Joe DeVito, *Executive Director*
Captree Boatman's Association
Captreeboatman.com

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Coastal Conservation Association Of New Hampshire

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Re: ***Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III***

September 18th, 2025

Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St.
Durham NH, 03824

Dear Ms. Franke;

CCA New Hampshire is an organization of coastal recreational anglers in our area. Here are our positions on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III:

• 3.1: Measuring Striped Bass - Option B – Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition for consistency and to close loopholes.
• 3.2: Commercial Tagging - Option B – Commercial tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales and is preferred for stricter control.
• 3.3: New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline - Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; we suggest increasing buffer to 15% for precaution.
• 3.4: Ocean -Option B-01 – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable and allows commercial and recreational anglers to fish.

Additionally, we would prefer Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York be included in the Northern Region. Wave 4 closure is optimal for the North and Wave 6 closure is optimal for the South, with no harvest closures only. We oppose for-hire exemptions. They unfairly burden 98% of anglers and for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% of landings from 1.4% of trips).

We hope ASMFC moves quickly to implement changes and that a moratorium will be instituted if inadequate. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Zakary Robinson, President CCA NH

DEDICATED TO CONSERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MARINE RESOURCES

The Coastal Conservation Association of NH ("CCA NH") is an unincorporated state chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association ("CCA"), which has over 96,000 members in seventeen states. CCA is a nonprofit, public charity corporation that is qualified under IRC §501(c)(3).
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CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

October 3, 2025

Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: CBF Comments on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Submitted via email only to: comments@asmfc.org

Dear Ms. Franke:

One behalf of our 200,000 members, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) thanks you and the Striped Bass Management Board for the opportunity to provide public comment on Draft Addendum III. The Chesapeake Bay has historically produced approximately 80 percent of the coastwide striped bass population. Unfortunately, the Bay has experienced significant reproductive failure in recent years, with the past seven consecutive years resulting in juvenile indices well below the long-term average. In addition to poor spawning, the Bay and its juvenile, resident, and coastal migrant striped bass face ever growing threats from development, pollution, invasive species, forage availability, and climate change.

Addendum III seeks to reduce fishing mortality to increase the probability of reaching striped bass target biomass by the rebuilding deadline of 2029. Due to the prior efforts to constrain striped bass fishing mortality, the stock is no longer experiencing overfishing and fishing rates are at a long-time low. While a positive result, it leaves the Board with few additional options beyond season closures to achieve reductions necessary to facilitate rebuilding.

We recognize that season closures can place significant economic stress on fishing communities and associated industries. With seven consecutive years of poor spawning looming, the long-term health and productivity of the striped bass stock necessitates additional conservation action. Without action, the striped bass stock is in jeopardy, risking further economic impacts in the long term.

Therefore, CBF supports the following options in Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.4 - Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

CBF supports **Option B - Even Sector Reductions—Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%**. Striped bass are a critically important species. To manage to anything less than a 50% of achieving management objectives puts the long-term viability of the stock and its associated fisheries at risk. The Striped Bass FMP also requires the Board to manage to the striped bass biomass target and rebuild within ten years; therefore, Option B is the only option in Addendum III that is consistent with FMP requirements. Any other action undermines the FMP and the Board's long history of conservatively managing striped bass.

Further, CBF supports equal reductions across commercial and recreational sectors with no sector separation for the for-hire industry. Given all sectors benefit from a healthy striped bass stock, all must share in its conservation. Without equal reductions, it becomes increasingly difficult to achieve required reductions in the recreational sector alone, which favors a reallocation of access toward the commercial fishery over the recreational fishery. Equally distributing reductions across sectors ensures that everyone has a role to play in protecting the future of this iconic species.

Section 3.3: Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

CBF supports **Option B: New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline**. Maryland's recreational striped bass seasons have become increasingly complicated and not representative of new research on discard mortality. Increased complexity of seasons, closure areas, and size limits can impact angler compliance. By simplifying Maryland's seasons to encompass fewer, longer seasons, it could help improve angler awareness and compliance with no harvest and no targeting closures, a point the Law Enforcement Committee has consistently reiterated.

Should the Board choose not to take a reduction in fishery removals, the new Chesapeake Bay recreational season baseline is even more important. As written, Addendum III dictates that under the status quo option, Chesapeake Bay recreational seasons would revert back to those from the 2022. Since that time, Maryland, through ASMFC and of its own actions, has significantly reduced fishing mortality through the closure of the Maryland trophy fishery and several adjustments to the summer season. To revert back to 2022 would be a significant backslide and would work against the stated purpose of Addendum III.

While we are in support of the Maryland baseline reset, we reiterate the need for closures in the Bay to target times of year when fish are most stressed by environmental conditions. The baseline reset includes a longer closure in August than the current season, but does not capture poor water quality conditions we know exist in July as well. Should the Board

choose to take further reductions through additional seasonal closures, those reductions should address the most stressful time periods in the Bay.

Section 3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

CBF supports **Option B—Mandatory Elements of Total Length Definition**. This option ensures consistent, repeatable measurement protocols is a common-sense way to ensure compliance with narrow slot-limits in the Bay and Ocean.

Section 3.2: **Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging**

CBF supports **Option B—Commercial Tagging at the Point of Harvest**. Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions and much of the coast are already required to tag at point of harvest. Therefore, we support this alternative to achieve coastwide consistency.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments on Draft Addendum III to the striped bass FMP. CBF hopes that these comments are helpful in the deliberations by the Board. We know that all stakeholders are very focused on restoring this iconic species in order to provide the many benefits a healthy population affords the Atlantic Coast.

Sincerely,

Will Poston
Forage Campaign Manager
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

cc: Alison Prost, Senior Vice President for Programs, CBF
Chris Moore, Virginia Executive Director, CBF
Allison Colden, Maryland Executive Director, CBF

October 3, 2025

Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Ms. Franke:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), we write to express support for proposed management revisions in Sections 3.1-3.3 of the Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. However, we are strongly opposed to the unnecessary reduction in fishing opportunities proposed in Section 3.4.

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

We support Option B, which standardizes how striped bass are measured for regulatory compliance across all states, ensuring fairness and enforceability. The current patchwork approach and ambiguity in how striped bass are measured among jurisdictions creates unnecessary challenges for anglers, enforcement officers, and expected outcomes of length-based conservation measures.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

We support Option B, tagging fish at the point of harvest. Fish caught that are to be sold by commercial fishermen should be clearly identified as such when brought onboard the fishing vessel. Doing so will aid enforcement of commercial quotas and increase accountability within the sector.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

We support Option B, which keeps Maryland's striped bass removals at 2024 levels, provides more angling opportunities in the spring, reduces post-release mortality concerns in the summer months, better aligns with Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) waves, and provides better clarity for anglers and enforcement authorities. Adjusting the Maryland baseline as proposed in Option B effectively balances angler access with striped bass conservation needs.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

We strongly support Option A (Status Quo) and oppose any reduction in fishing effort beyond the highly restrictive and effective measures already in place. The striped bass fishery is one of the most important recreational fisheries along the Atlantic coast, both culturally and economically. For decades, anglers have willingly shouldered their conservation responsibility for sustaining healthy striped bass fisheries, and the most recent implementation of narrow slots and reduced creel limits have successfully minimized fishing mortality (F) to a 30-year low, well below both the F target and

threshold. The proposed 12% additional reduction in fishing mortality is likely unmeasurable, unnecessarily punitive, and simply not warranted at this time.

Section 3.4 is a pivotal component of Draft Addendum III that will have significant ramifications for anglers, the fishing industry, and local economies, and we offer the following rationale for maintaining status quo.

Striving to Achieve Precise Estimates Using Highly Imprecise MRIP Data Is Unsound

The proposed 12% reduction stems from a 0.01 difference between the 2024 MRIP-derived fishing mortality estimate and the current estimated fishing mortality rate to achieve rebuild by 2029 ($F_{rebuild} = 0.12$ vs. $F_{2024} = 0.13$). Given the overlap of confidence intervals generated by model estimates, an additional 12% reduction in F will likely be statistically indistinguishable from status quo. Essentially, Section 3.4 of Draft Addendum III seeks to shift the burden of MRIP uncertainty onto anglers, while neither the no-targeting nor the no-harvest closures proposed to achieve the reduction would meaningfully improve striped bass conservation.

Outdated Rebuilding Assumptions

The rebuilding plan continues to assume that environmental conditions and striped bass carrying capacity in the Chesapeake Bay remain the same today as they were in 1995. Recruitment indices alone over the last two decades make that assumption difficult to justify. Habitat, forage availability, water quality, and broader ecosystem dynamics have undoubtably shifted over the last 30 years, directly influencing the Bay's ability to support spawning success and recruitment.

Furthermore, the 10-year rebuilding timeline is arbitrary and likely not appropriate given striped bass life history. As such, it seems unreasonable to propose punitive management actions that seek a very minimal reduction in the estimated F rate that will only slightly increase the theoretical probability that the stock can be rebuilt in a subjective 10-year deadline, especially given that the adult population is already experiencing a positive trajectory under the current regulatory framework. Rebuilding strategies to meet arbitrary goals that do not reflect current environmental realities risk setting managers and anglers alike up for failure.

Higher Spawning Stock Biomass ≠ Higher Recruitment

Poor recruitment in the Chesapeake Bay is largely driven by environmental factors, not fishing effort. History shows that strong year classes have occurred at low spawning stock biomass (SSB) levels, and conversely, low recruitment has often followed years with very high SSB, suggesting that recruitment is not directly tied to fishing activity or the SSB. With fishing mortality already at a 30-year low, additional restrictions will not address the underlying issue of poor recruitment.

Fishing Effort is Self-Regulating

Recreational fishing effort tends to mirror population abundance. When fish abundance is high, more anglers participate and effort increases. Conversely, when fish abundance is low, angler interest and effort generally decline. Striped bass fishing effort is currently at its lowest level in

decades. This fact demonstrates that angler behavior is likely already adjusting in concert with recent poor recruitment, reducing removals without the need for additional blunt regulatory measures.

Conclusion

We fully support the management actions proposed in Sections 3.1 – 3.3, which will provide better clarity, accountability, and enforceability to the management of striped bass. However, we feel strongly that additional restrictions to reduce fishing opportunities presented in Section 3.4 is a solution in search of a problem. The current management framework is working – fishing mortality is at historic lows and the tools already in place are propelling the fishery toward the rebuilding target. Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction is an unnecessary and inequitable measure that will not produce quantifiable biological gains but will result in significant economic and social costs. CSF strongly urges the ASMFC to maintain the current striped bass recreational season structure.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue and for your continued commitment to science-based, pragmatic fisheries management.

Sincerely,

Chris Horton
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

President Capt. Marc Berger, Vice-Pres. Seth Megarle, Treasurer Capt. TJ Karbowski, Secretary Capt. Mike Pirri

Dear ASMFC Striped Bass Board
10/2/2025

The For-Hire fleet plays a critical role in providing equitable access to striped bass for those who do not own a boat, including families and individuals who cannot afford one. Our customers travel from far and wide, spending money in our communities—fueling local businesses, restaurants, bait and tackle shops, and more—before enjoying a memorable day on Connecticut's waters. For many, the opportunity to harvest a striped bass and bring home dinner for their families is a treasured experience.

According to Addendum III, For-Hire accounts for only **3% of all removals**. Yet For-Hire and the families who want to responsibly harvest a striped bass are the only ones who have shouldered reductions for the 2029 rebuild.
Let's remember the track record:
We went from 2 striped bass down to 1.
From 1 fish to a 7-inch slot with J-hook bans.
Then came emergency action and a 3-inch slot.
And yet, here we are again, asked to do more.
Meanwhile, Catch n Release will tell you "the sky is falling," that striped bass are in grave danger. This user group has taken **no reductions** toward the rebuild. They continue to increase release mortality, while lobbying ASMFC to make striped bass a "game fish" so they can have it all to themselves.
We are now **six years into this rebuild.** Catch-and-release anglers could have:
Self-imposed a release limit of 5 striped bass per angler per trip.
Pushed to ban treble hooks and limit lures to two hooks.
Adopted "No Target Tuesdays."
These measures could greatly reduced release mortality and saved Striped Bass from dying needlessly: **but they've done none of it.**
For a management perspective; we'd like to make these points:

- **Harvest Spike Not Materializing**
  The proposed 12% harvest reduction is based on anticipated increases as the 2018 year class enters the slot. However, Wave 3 preliminary data for 2025 show harvest estimates approximately 30% lower than in 2024, and even further below 2023. This suggests that the expected spike is not occurring, making the proposed reduction unjustified.

President Capt. Marc Berger, Vice-Pres. Seth Megarle, Treasurer Capt. TJ Karbowski, Secretary Capt. Mike Pirri

- **Self-Limiting System Due to Poor Recruitment**
  With six consecutive years of poor recruitment since the 2018 class, we are heading for a natural decline in available harvestable fish. Once the 2018s age out of the slot, the 2019 class and beyond will not support meaningful harvest. This reality makes additional closures or restrictions both unnecessary and economically harmful.

- **(3.1)**
  We strongly support maintaining the status quo for measuring total length. Requiring fish to be measured with mouth closed, tail pinched, and on a flat surface increases handling time, especially in rough seas or hot weather. These conditions elevate release mortality risk—undermining conservation goals.

- **Regional Alignment of Regulations**
  Rhode Island should be regioned with Connecticut and New York. Our waters are geographically intertwined. Unaligned seasons or regulations would effectively lock anglers out of striped bass access for the majority of the 6-month season, penalizing coastal economies.

- **Increased Spawning, Not Harvest Reductions**
  The Striped Bass Spawning Stock Biomass is already incredibly strong. Instead of further harvest cuts, management must focus on increasing spawning success. That means ensuring forage by sharply reducing Omega's menhaden harvest, restoring clean spawning grounds by ending pollution and untreated sewage discharges, and controlling invasive predators like blue catfish and snakeheads that prey heavily on young-of-the-year striped bass.

Conclusion:
STATUS QUO!!! The proposed harvest or target reduction leads to a three-month closure, the economic impact on our coastal communities—including marinas, tackle shops, charter businesses, and tourism would be devastating and be irreversible.

We call for a science-driven, equitable approach to striped bass management. The For-Hire sector has done its part and continues to be a steward of the resource. It's time for all user groups especially those responsible for the greatest mortality to contribute equally to the

President Capt. Marc Berger, Vice-Pres. Seth Megarle, Treasurer Capt. TJ Karbowski, Secretary Capt. Mike Pirri

rebuild. We urge the Commission to reject unnecessary reductions and recognize the destruction this reduction would cause.

The Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association is comprised of forty licensed charter vessels operating from ten ports throughout Connecticut, encompassing the Western, Central, and Eastern regions of Long Island Sound. Each of our captains maintains verified professional credentials, adheres to the highest ethical standards, and operates with a commitment to public safety and resource stewardship. Collectively, they are on the water daily, serving not only as operators but also as vigilant stewards of the marine environment and fisheries they depend upon.

Sincerely the Officers of the CCPBA
Capt. Marc Berger
Capt. Seth Megarle
Capt. TJ Karbowski
Capt. Michael Pirri

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 6:55:56 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Capt. Robert Newberry

Email

rnewberry56@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

We had Delmarva Fisheries Association and membership are opposed dramatically against Amendment. 3. Our membership is composed of commercial fishermen, Charter boat captains, and recreational fisherman. Amendment. Amendment 3 goes against everything that the ASMFC in Maryland DNR have put forward to protect the SSB and re-establish the stock by 2029. The proposed closure from July to August will be detrimental financially, not only to the Charter industry and the recreational industry but will also devastate tourism throughout the state of Maryland. The possible 12% reduction in the commercial fishery will now take our total reductions to 58% since 2012. The commercial fishery will be devastated by this move too. There has been no consideration to the financial harm that Amendment 3 will cause. Another issue is bringing in catch and release of the spawning stock in Maryland from January 1st to May 15th. Part of addendum 6. And the most important part is to protect the spawning stock biomass. This Catch and release will not only harm the biomass, but studies have shown that handling and catching these fish in the spawning cycle is detrimental to their egg production and breeding capability. Here in Maryland we have seen good fish all year and still continue to catch fish. Our slot size for these fish is difficult, and the large fish that we are throwing back out number the slot size at least two to one. It would be nice to see the ASMFC in Maryland. DNR a step back and look at the financial and economic crisis they are creating with these fish. The science, to say the least, is haphazard. Our catch records and effort records in the commercial side have also been completely ignored here in Maryland. This appears to be nothing but a political push to punish those in Maryland being moved forward by certain environmental groups that claim to represent mass numbers of fishermen. These environmental groups have deceived not only the ASMFC commission but also Maryland department and natural resources. So, it is our position that we cannot support Amendment 3 and any or shape form or manner and asked that the commission voted down immediately.

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The East Coast Fishing Coalition represents nine For-Hire Charter Boat Associations, light tackle guides, and private anglers from Massachusetts to Maryland.

For decades, our longstanding For-Hire organizations have worked closely with national and state fisheries agencies to ensure the long-term sustainability of saltwater species, expanded access for recreational anglers, and fair regulations for the charter and headboat fleets.

Saltwater fishing culture is deeply rooted in fishing not only for sport and enjoyment, but also to provide food for our families. Because of this, we have adopted the motto **"Fish 4 Dinner"** and established a website—www.fish4dinner.com. The site outlines our mission, offers an online petition, and accepts donations to support new research, advocacy, and outreach to preserve the ability to responsibly harvest fish.

We respectfully ask you to support **0% reduction and no further action** for the following reasons:

1. **Unrealistic Rebuild Target** – The current rebuild goal was set at the historic peak of the stock, not a realistic baseline.
2. **Flawed MRIP Data** – MRIP continues to misguide management with major errors, including a 40% overestimation of angler effort. The 2022 "unexplained" large harvest of striped bass and the questionable emergency action imposing a 3" slot in May 2023 are further examples.
3. **Unequal Burden** – Harvest-focused anglers and the For-Hire sector have borne every reduction, while the Catch-and-Release user group has contributed nothing toward reducing discard mortality.
4. **Misuse of the 2018 Year Class** – Factoring this class as already harvested before a season begins is inappropriate. Without this assumption, projections show a 50–57% chance of rebuilding by 2029.
5. **No Room Left to Cut** – For-Hire operators have reached a breaking point. Our paying customers expect to harvest fish for the table. Generations of tradition and business

models are built on this reality. While catch-and-release may one day become mainstream, today it represents only a small fraction of our customer base.

As For-Hire representatives, we stress that regulations must keep our industry viable by motivating customers to book trips. Our captains pride themselves on providing safe, ethical, and memorable fishing experiences that encourage continued participation in the fishery.

We strongly urge you to support:

- **Status Quo no reduction**
- **Status Quo with length measure**
- **For-Hire Mode Management added to Amendment 8**
- **A treble hook ban on all artificial lures**
- **Significant harvest reductions for the industrial Menhaden fishery**
-

Sincerely,
The Officers of the East Coast Fishing Coalition

From: Marc Sherry
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Draft Addendum III of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 7:41:05 PM

To: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
From: The Officers and Board of Directors, Fish Hawks SaltWater Angler Club
Subject: Comments on Draft Addendum III of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan
September 17, 2025

The Fish Hawks SaltWater Angler Club in Lacey Township has the following Comments on The Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III:

The Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III, includes measures on commercial tagging, as well as standardization of striped bass length measurement. The Fish Hawks focus of this letter is specifically on the proposal for a 12% cut to the recreational harvest. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries are now proposing to use seasonal closures, including no targeting measures, **on top of the already highly restrictive one slot-fish approach, that has already severely curtailed recreational fishing.** The Fish Hawks feel that the Commission is jumping the gun and we should **wait until next year's data** comes out to make any further decisions. We are **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to the Commission taking any further cuts in the Recreational Harvest Limit for striped bass and would recommend on this issue that you **keep the STATUS QUO for the Recreational Harvest Limit.**

The economic impact of seasonal closures will cause severe damage to the for-hire portion of the recreational sector, and to all businesses and facilities that support recreational fishing. It will also further the decline in recreational saltwater fishing generally. The Fish Hawks want to ensure that there are enough stripers to go around in future years, but the Commission have already reduced the Recreational Harvest Limit to a point where further reductions to recreational harvest will have little chance of making an impact on the Spawning Stock Biomass .

The Fish Hawks also support:

1.) Option B under 3.1 method to measure total length of a striped Bass
2.) Option B under 3.2 Commercial Tagging at point of Harvest

Thank you,
Officers and Board of Directors of The Fish Hawks Saltwater Angler Club

10/1/25

The Forked River Tuna Club of Forked River, NJ is composed of approximately 100 members. Though we are in fact a tuna club, many of us are also avid striped bass fishermen. We would like to go on record as supporting the following options regarding Addendum III to Amendment VII for striped bass.

3.1 B – Laying flat with the tail pinched, mouth closed, straight line measurement, All states should be required to measure striped bass the same way.

3.2 B – Fish should be tagged at the point of harvest which will prevent illegal harvest and sales.

3.3 A or C – Status Quo for the Chesapeake Fishery. We are concerned that different seasons could result in more effort and higher mortality.

3.4 A – We support status quo for our ocean fishery. The stocks are rebuilding so there is no need for further restrictions at this time.

Sincerely,

Jerry Fellitti

Commodore, FRTC

F.U.B. Divers of Monmouth County
525 Lakewood Road
Neptune, New Jersey, 07753

September 24, 2025

Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Atlantic Striped bass management draft addendum III.

Dear Ms. Franks,

I represent F.U.B (Fun Under Boats) dive club located in Monmouth County, New Jersey. We are a group of local SCUBA divers that both spearfish and surf fish here is New Jersey. Below I have listed the options we have selected to improve striped bass stocks now and for the future generations to follow. Along with the options, I have included a suggestion for ASMFC consideration.

Section 3.1, we select option B. Definite mandatory elements for total length measurements.

Section 3.2, we select option B. Commercial tagging at the point of harvest.

Section 3.3, we select option C. Establish a new recreational season baseline with 10% buffer

Section 3.4 we select option B. Even sector reduction: commercial and recreation both take a 12% reduction in quota by implementing wave 2, CT-NC no targeting with no sector separation. Wave 2 would allow bass more undisturbed time to spawn.

Additional comment for consideration:

According to the graph on page 3 in the draft, figure 1, striped bass are overfished. One suggestion to improve the SSB is, limit the number of commercial permits available to Massachusetts fishermen. After all, if they purchase a $30 permit, recreational fishermen would then be subjected to a more liberal set of regulations. Catching fish over 35 inches should represent a good day of bass fishing not a monitory windfall. In addition, how do you know if the larger fish are even going to market? Limiting commercial striped bass permits in Massachusetts seems like an easy way to improve future SSB going forward.

Thank you for your consideration and good luck.

Sincerely yours,

FM

Frank Macalik
Frankmacalik@gmail.com
732-754-5345

HI-MAR STRIPER CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 126 • MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748

October 2, 2025

Ms. Emile Franke, FMP Coordinator

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Email: comments@asmfc.org

Reference: Comments on Draft Addendum III to the Atlantic Striped Bass FMP

The Hi-Mar Striper Club, based in Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey is submitting the comments contained herein regarding ASMFC's Draft Addendum III to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan, on behalf of its 70 members.

This letter of comment will address the various proposed changes contained in the draft addendum.

Most importantly, the Hi-Mar Striper Club supports the position of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Commission of Status Quo and is opposed to ASMFC draft addendum measures to impose mandatory seasonal closures for Striped Bass. The information provided in the draft addendum including the various tables and charts and the presentation and discussion at the public meeting on September 16, 2025, do not justify the drastic action proposed by ASMFC at this time. The information used to develop the tables and charts is incomplete, inaccurate and based in many cases on speculation. ASMFC has revised their Striped Bass Stock Biomass target for 2029 upward three times. This target may never be able to be achieved. Striped Bass anglers have been subjected to a reduced "slot size" (28" to 31") Striped Bass should anyone desire to harvest one, by the Emergency Action of 3 years ago. The consequences of this Emergency Action, along with the mandatory use of circle hooks, intended to reduce mortality when fishing with bait, are not known at this time. Further restrictions, especially mandatory seasonal closures, are not warranted based upon ASMFC's own information. These proposed mandatory seasonal closures will produce significant negative economic impacts to the livelihoods of

charter and party boat operators, bait and tackle shops and other related businesses. ASMFC's proposed seasonal closures do not address this.

In regard to the provisions of the draft addendum, Hi-Mar Striper Club selects the following:

Section 3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of Striped Bass – Option B. Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition to establish a coast wide standard for measuring Striped Bass.

Section 3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging – Option B. Commercial Tagging at Point of Harvest to provide better commercial catch recording.

Section 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline – Option C Recreational Season New Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer

Section 3.4 Option A: Status Quo – Ocean recreational fisheries would continue to be managed under Addendum II.

Additionally, Hi-Mar Striper Club supports an equal reduction in the quota of Commercial and Recreational Striped Bass fishing and is opposed to any Mode or Sector Separation for Striped Bass Fishing. All sectors of the fishery should be treated equally.

In addition, although not part of the draft addendum, but certainly impactful upon the health and sustainability and hopefully expansion of the Striped Bass population, the Hi-Mar Striper Club would like to see ASMFC take the following actions:

Protect forage species particularly Atlantic Menhaden, that Striped Bass depend upon by eliminating the Menhaden Reduction Industry that catches every Menhaden in Chesapeake Bay every Spring and then moves out into the Atlantic Ocean to continue this devastating practice.

Make Striped Bass a no-sale or gamefish, as New Jersey did.

Force Massachusetts to change their regulations that currently allow recreational fisherman to purchase a $30 permit to become commercial fisherman and fill their boats with Striped Bass up to 35" during a special season. This catch is purported to be drastically under reported.

Force the states of Virginia and Maryland to work together to improve environmental conditions, reduce pollution and do all they can to reduce the numbers of invasive Blue Catfish in Chesapeake Bay, to improve Striped Bass Spawning in the largest spawning area on the East Coast.

Require the states of Maryland and Virginia to establish realistic size and bag limits to stop the depletion of undersized Striped Bass, which are predominantly male, causing a shortage of male fish and negatively affecting recruitment and spawning.

Look into creating Striped Bass hatcheries, by requiring the allocation of funding for this.

In conclusion, thank you for this opportunity to submit these comments. We truly hope that ASMFC will re-examine its mandatory seasonal closure plan for Striped Bass. The problem is the recruitment of Striped Bass, not the current quantity. Striped Bass management must focus on improving this recruitment and spawning and not try to manage Striped Bass by further restricting the recreational catch.

Respectfully Submitted

Hi-Mar Striper Club

P.O. Box 126

Middletown, New Jersey 07748

Jose Bastos, President

Peter Brindley, Vice-President

Thomas Devine, Treasurer

Nicholas Simeoli, Secretary

Please reply to: Stephen Machalaba

Email: smachalaba@aol.com

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:02:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Arthur Giulietti

Email

ajgiulietti@aol.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Hello,

I am writing to the Commission on the behalf of the behalf of the Housatonic Fly Fishers Association. We are CT based Fishing Club that is primarily focused on fishing the Housatonic River from the MA State Line to Long Island Sound. We fish fresh, salt and brackish waters of the river. This river is a favorite of many to fish for Striped Bass from Stratford/Milford to Derby/Shelton on the Housatonic and up the Naugatuck River from the junction with the Housatonic in Derby to the dam across the Naugatuck River in Seymour.
I am also a member of the Fishers Advisory Council to the CT DEEP, serving as the Club Representative to that body.
The members of my club, some of whom are going to separately comment discussed that issue and came to a consensus of the alternatives presented by the Council as follows:
1. We favor the proposed 12% reduction in the harvest of Striped Bass,
2. We favor closing the harvest of the species to both Commercial and Private/Recreational Fishermen and Women,
3. Our members feel that either a short closure at Peak Season or a longer closure at Non-Peak season would work,
4. Considering the alternatives of No Targeting or No Harvest. Our members felt the No Targeting rule was better, (Note we believe the catch and release still results in mortality to the released fish especially if barbed hooks are used in the catch. Our members used barbless hooks when fishing. However, many of our members have caught Blue Fish while fishing for Striped Bass, so the No Targeting rule may not be easy to enforce.),
5. This entire exercise is going to require increased and aggressive enforcement both in Long Island Sound, in the Housatonic and in the entire fishery from NC to ME. (Failure to enforce the rules that the Commission puts forth will mean that the fishery will in fact collapse),
6. Our members had no opinion on whether RI should be part of the NY or NE Group,
7. There was feeling that simply rules allow for better enforcement by Wardens/ENCON Officers, who are

already straining under limited budgets and constrained manpower allocations,
8. For many persons who enjoy fishing Striped Bass is the largest species that they can fish for from shore, jetties, wading, kayaks, etc., and do not need a boat to catch,
9. Further, this is also a specie that can be caught literally at your feet as many strikes occur as you are taking the lure, fly or baited hook out of the water in preparation for the next cast.
10. We hope that whatever decision the Commission makes that it results in an improved fishery for all those who enjoy fishing for this species,
I conclude my remarks and look forward to reviewing the decision of the Commission

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Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Working for Marine Recreational Anglers

PO Box 1191, Wall Branch Post Office, Wall, NJ 07719

TEL.: 732-506-6565 - FAX: 732-506-6975

10/1/25

To: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)

Subject: Striped Bass Addendum III to Amendment VII

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is an organization composed of many clubs throughout our state that represents thousands of recreational fishermen. At our meeting on 9/30/25, representatives from a clear majority of our member clubs voted in favor of status quo. Increasing the biomass will not increase spawning success as there are more than enough stripers in the system to produce a great spawn. There are too many other environmental factors that have caused poor spawns that need to be addressed to correct this problem. However, the strict regulations we have now have slowly but surely helped to rebuild the biomass.

Further, NOAA is hosting a peer review of the fishing effort survey, that could show that effort is currently far less than originally believed. Additionally, the MRIP numbers for stripers in waves 2 and 3 are significantly below those that were estimated. If that's the case, perhaps there has been enough done already, with the small slot limit, to ensure sustainability of the stocks for the future and for the stocks to have a better than a 50/50 chance to be rebuilt by 2029. Also, the biomass is approaching the level when the stocks were declared restored in 1995. However, the reference points were changed and the current target may be unattainable with the environmental conditions we have today. The stocks biomass is increasing and there is also a new benchmark stock assessment coming up in 2027. **Therefore, we strongly urge the Commission to maintain status quo.**

More specifically, the cuts made in 2018, 2019, and 2023 have been sufficient in reversing the downward trend in the female Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB), and the most recent data shows a steady upward trend in the stock. (See Figure 1 in the Addendum). Likewise, fishing mortality has been reduced below the threshold (Figure 2). Though the stocks are still considered to be overfished, overfishing is not occurring.

In our opinion, contrary to the interpretation by the TC and the Board, the odds highly favor the restoration of the SSB by 2029 (Figure 3). The curve crosses the target line at 2029 well within the 95% CI. Considering the uncertainty of the stock assessment process, and the known errors of the MRIP process for estimating recreational catch, the 30% odds seem highly questionable. Remember, MRIP numbers drove the TC to revise their spring estimate of needing only a 1% reduction to the current estimate of 12%.

Relying on recruitment patterns and trends to set regulations for fishing is problematic. It is known that there is little to no mathematical direct correlation between the female SSB and recruitment patterns for most of the species under management by the Commission and the Council. Furthermore, we would challenge the TC to prove that the current level of recruitment is incapable of supporting the SSB at its current level. Threshold and Target values for Atlantic Striped Bass were set in 1995, when the stock was declared rebuilt, and the conditions in the estuaries supported a higher level of recruitment. Conditions have deteriorated due to climate change and human development of the watersheds, and the SSB has now apparently stabilized to a new range, a "new normal". Trying to restore recruitment and the SSB to 1995 levels may be an exercise in futility, unless there is remediation issues underlying poor recruitment (see below)

Key numbers that went in to the TC's and Board's projection regarding the rebuilding will be changing in 2026 and 2027. It has now been established that the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) portion of the MRIP process is severely flawed, and that a recalibration will almost certainly revise the historical recreational catch numbers, including the ones that triggered the 2019 rebuilding program. In addition, a new stock assessment workshop will be conducted in 2027, which may better clarify the status of the stock. It seems prudent to wait on making more decisions costly and damaging to the recreational and commercial communities before we see just how the new numbers develop

Regarding specific options in the addendum, we prefer the following:

3.1 B – All states should be required to measure the fish in the same manner. A straight-line measurement with the fish placed on a flat surface, with the tail pinched and the mouth closed is the best way to do this.

3.2 B – Fish should be tagged at the point of harvest which will best prevent illegal harvest and sales.

3.3 A – Status Quo for Chesapeake Bay though Option C would also be acceptable with a 10% buffer. We are concerned that seasons being changed would result in more effort which would result in higher mortality.

3.4 A – Status Quo for the Ocean for reasons previously explained

There are, however, some things that are not in the addendum, which we all should be supporting that could significantly improve recruitment and the SSB for the future that do not involve more cuts in the RHL. These include the following:

Coastwide declaration of Atlantic Striped Bass as a gamefish, as has already been done in New Jersey. Legal and illegal commercial killing of stripers is almost certainly occurring at a higher level than the currently estimated 10% levels of total harvest. Underreporting of dead discards, unreliable weight and size estimates, and other misrepresentations are suspected, and if nothing else, should be investigated and remediated.

Establish a stocking program for Atlantic Striped Bass for more coastal estuaries (as has already been implemented to restore the stock in North Carolina) should be further considered. Costly, yes, but it should work, as it has for other stocks. Creeks and rivers where dams have been removed, and where there were once populations of Atlantic Striped Bass, should be at the top of the list for any new efforts.

Support efforts and legislation to control the Blue Catfish population in the Chesapeake and elsewhere that they are becoming established. Their impact on the YOY surveys could be huge.

Get control of the Menhaden commercial fishery. Now.

Say no to sector separation. Special regs for the for-hire fleet would be unfair and lead to infighting amongst ourselves.

Increase Law Enforcement – There are far too many stripers being illegally harvested by both the commercial and recreational sectors.

Encourage Educational Programs – Teach people how to properly handle and release fish. Stress the importance of abiding by the law and cooperating with officials and fisheries managers. Show them how they can become more involved in the process.

Study phenology. It could be possible that striper fry and the microscopic organisms they feed on could be out of sync. Perhaps something could be done about that, if it is a problem.

In conclusion, seasonal closures will do severe damage to the for-hire portion of the recreational sector, and to businesses and facilities that support recreational fishing, including boatyards and bait and tackle stores. And it will further the decline in recreational saltwater fishing generally. We do need to ensure that there are enough stripers to go around, but the Commission and the Board have already reduced the RHL to a point where further reductions to recreational harvest have little chance of making an impact on the SSB. Fix the real issues as best we can, and we might see an improved SSB for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Taylor

President, JCAA

Massachusetts
Striped Bass Association

Since 1950

Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

October 3, 2025

Dear Emilie Franke,

RE: Public Comment on Draft Addendum III to the Atlantic Striped Bass FMP

I submit this letter on behalf of the hundreds of recreational fishing families, for hire operators and commercial harvesters that make up the membership of the Massachusetts Striped Bass Association.

On Monday evening, September 29, MSBA organized a member-only Zoom meeting to review comments regarding ASMFC Draft Addendum 3 to Amendment 7 of the Striped Bass Management Plan. The positions discussed in that meeting were then approved by the MSBA Executive Board. The following comments are the positions of the MSBA.

Section 2.0 – Overview

Although the Spawning Stock Biomass is rebuilding, that growth appears to be driven by weight due to the 2011- & 2015-year classes getting older and larger as opposed to growth from numbers of fish increasing the size of the SSB. MSBA doubts the total focus of management being on spawning stock rebuilding will prevent the predicted significant decline of the fishery as we conclude the science indicates increasingly warm and dry climate is the reason eggs are not surviving at a rate that will sustain the current size of the fishery.

In addition, we speculate that "if" the reason eggs are not surviving is a deficiency of nutrients in the spawning areas due to temperature changes and reduced water flow, then it is possible adding additional eggs to compete for a reduced amount of nutrients could have a negative impact on spawning success.

We conclude that issues in the fishery are mostly environmental and may be impossible to prevent however we feel additional conservation is the only path forward as managers and increased research work to find a long-term sustainable future for the fishery.

MSBA suggests that the striped bass fishery is in an emergency and a significant portion of ASMFC research resources be immediately redirected to explore alternative actions for addressing the fishery's predicted imminent decline.

2.2.2 - Status of Management

MSBA has considered various management strategies available to ASMFC based on current stock status and participant effort. We disagree that pending changes to analysis of MRIP data will result in a different long term fishery outlook. We also disagree with those who suggest effort will plummet due to availability of fish and prevent the impending stock collapse thus we conclude there is no clear pathway to sustainable management other than effort control.

MSBA supports the current ASMFC strategy of effort control as the only viable option at this time.

2.2.5 – Social and Economic Considerations

MSBA members have discussed a concern that certain sectors of the fishery may be disregarding indicators of a significantly reduced fishery as the 2015- & 2011-year classes exit the SSB. ASMFC needs to do more work to educate all businesses & the fishing public that rely on striped bass, without multiple years of above average recruitment, the future of the fishery is bleak, and ASMFC does not currently have a management solution.

MSBA feels the ASMFC is not doing enough to educate all participants, especially businesses that rely on striped bass harvest, of the reality that most year classes are below the long term average and despite recent growth in the SSB, there is mounting evidence the fishery is headed for a significant decline in the coming years.

MSBA agrees that rebuilding SSB is the only strategy that may help at this time,

MSBA suggest ASMFC increase outreach efforts to the entire fishery, especially the business community so that all participants are aware the fishery is most likely headed toward additional reductions after the benchmark stock assessment.

3.0 – Proposed Management Options

3.1 Method to measure total length of a striped bass

MSBA supports Option B which further defines and standardizes how to measure a striped bass.

We support this because we agree there needs to be a coast wide standard.

MSBA is aware of anglers spreading the tail to reduce measurement of an over slot sized fish to appear to be a keeper slot sized fish and that practice needs to stop. We agree and support the comments of the MA Environmental Police on this issue.

3.2 Commercial Tagging

MSBA supports Option 3.2 which requires commercial tagging happen at the point of harvest.

We reject the claim that this is unsafe. Commercial fish must be stored properly and tagging a fish will only add a couple minutes to that process. Tagging is a part of why commercial fishing is a business and not a recreational activity.

We support this proposal because it will prevent the existing practice of individuals buying the ability to harvest larger commercial sized fish for personal use.

We reject the argument that this is too complicated to manage because it is accomplished in many states.

We support this proposal because it can eliminate commercial high grading which adds to commercial release mortality.

We reject the claim that this process will be overly costly. States should consider management expenses when determining the cost of a commercial fishing permit or endorsement.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

MSBA supports Option 3.3 which maintains the status quo recreational seasons for Maryland.

MSBA members are concerned about the constant manipulation of the regulations by the state of Maryland adding additional uncertainty into the statistical analysis used to determine recreational catch in Maryland. We point out that some recent alternative proposals of this type have failed to achieve conservation goals when scrutinized after the fact. We feel no changes of this type should be made at this critical time in the rebuilding plan.

We also feel this proposal violates the spirit of the recent decision to prohibit conservation equivalency proposals during rebuilding. This issue is better suited for the next amendment and only after SSB is rebuilt.

3.4 Reductions in fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

MSBA supports Option 3.4 which requires a 12% reduction of removals to maintain the SSB Rebuilding Plan.

MSBA supports reductions be taken evenly by both the Commercial and Recreational portions of the fishery.

MSBA acknowledges that there was a time the commercial fishery had taken reductions that were caused by the recreational fishery however that imbalance was corrected in prior management actions. This proposed reduction is not the fault of any sub sector of the fishery and rather is a function of environmental changes to the fishery. It is for that reason all participants should as much as possible, share the impacts of the reductions evenly.

MSBA does NOT Support any type of private/for hire mode split.

Anglers on for hire boats should have no right to access a shared natural resource more or less than any other angler. If the ASMFC chooses to go down the road of mode splits, fisheries management 101 dictates this type of management action should begin with historical allocation and consideration of all elements in a fishery management plan before simply changing management measures to benefit one sub sector of anglers over another.

MSBA rejects the claim that the for-hire industry will absorb more impact than other sub sectors of the fishery. All participants in the fishery will be impacted.

The issues faced by the fishery have been known for at least all six years of the current rebuilding plan and businesses that rely on striped bass have had plenty of time to adjust their business model. It is not the responsibility of ASMFC to prop up a business that refused to adjust to long predicted fishery conditions while others have made the changes needed to maintain profitability. This addendum was expected and predicted.

MSBA supports No Harvest Closures.

We acknowledge that choosing no harvest closures prioritizes catch & release striped bass fishing over catch & harvest striped bass fishing. We feel the catch & release portion of the fishery is by far the dominant factor as to why the striped bass fishery is the most popular fishery on the east coast and has the largest socio economic and financial impact of all recreational fisheries on both the state and national economy. We feel no harvest closures lessens the impact of the reductions on the largest number of private citizen participants, for-hire operations, local tackle shops, tackle manufacturers and lessens the financial impact from ex-vessel striped bass fishing driven tourism. It is time to acknowledge and prioritize that striped bass are more valuable to the nation in the water as a predominantly catch and release fishery.

MSBA will NOT comment on regional no time periods.

MSBA has commented on multiple prior occasions that we prefer a state-by-state season with an opening date and a closing date that is based on recent data.

We feel the overly complicated tables and short in season no harvest closures are most likely to fail for many reasons. We feel classic structured seasons, even in mixed target fisheries are easily digested by the public and are proven to be successful and effective management tools. We question why this type of option was not included in this addendum.

We also feel different areas of Massachusetts will be affected in very different ways depending on which in season closure is chosen and we are not able to choose one time period over another based on our statewide membership.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely;

Jack Illingsworth
President
MA Striped Bass Association

Patrick Paquette
Govt Affairs Officer
MA Striped Bass Association

Maine Professional Guides Association

55 Morrison Hill Road
Wilton, ME 04294

www.maineguides.org

Emilie Franke

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

PUBLIC COMMENTS OF THE MAINE PROFESSIONAL GUIDES ASSOCIATION
REGARDING STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM III
September 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank your for this opportunity to submit comments regarding the Striped Bass Draft Addendum III. We submit these comments on behalf of the members of the Maine Professional Guides Association (MPGA), where a great deal of our members rely on the striped bass fishery for the success of their guiding businesses. MPGA represents approximately one thousand licensed Maine guides. Members of our saltwater fisheries subcommittee have reviewed the addendum and have engaged in discussions with the Maine Department of Marine Resources about the details.

The overwhelming perspectives of guides who make their living from this fishery is that, indeed, more must be done to conserve this species and try to grow its population to meet management and conservation objectives. Many also share their perspective that they feel Maine is in a geographically and politically compromised state in terms of being part of the solution in a manner that both effectively conserves the striped bass population but also protects the business interests of many Maine guides. Specifically, we would like to see more consideration around causes of poor recruitment and suggestions for improvement. In other words, look beyond just controlling the one variable associated with harvest.

Our specific comments:

- The Maine Professional Guides Association supports the proposal for a no-harvest season in Waves 3 and 5. We think that as laid out among other wave options, and given our geographical location, this would maximize opportunities for species conservation as well as effective guiding opportunities.
- The Maine Professional Guides Association strongly opposes any no-target proposals. We believe that this proposal lacks enforcement teeth and would also force the closure of many small guiding and charter operations since Maine does not have alternative fishery opportunities like other regions do.
- The Maine Professional Guides Association asks for consideration of a 1-fish-per-boat-per-day harvest for both charter and recreational fishermen. Though not specifically identified in the addendum, we believe this type of option may provide some controlled harvest opportunity.

Maine Professional Guides Association

55 Morrison Hill Road
Wilton, ME 04294

www.maineguides.org

- The Maine Professional Guides Association could manage a no-harvest (full season) if the other option contemplated is a no-target closure. Maine guides are in strong support of striped bass conservation, but cannot support a no-target strategy in any form.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James M. Cote

Executive Director

MARINE TRADES
ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

September 30, 2025

Ms. Emilie Franke
FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Ms. Franke,

On behalf of the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ), I am writing to urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Founded in 1972, MTA/NJ is a non-profit organization representing over 300 marine-related businesses committed to promoting and protecting New Jersey's recreational boating industry and waterways. Recreational boating is a cornerstone of New Jersey's tourism economy, generating $6.6 billion in economic impact, supporting over 28,000 jobs, and sustaining more than 1,000 marine businesses. Fishing is integral to this industry, with over 70% of boating trips involving recreational fishing, making it a vital component of our marine economy. MTANJ opposes the proposed 12% reduction and supports status quo.

Fishing mortality for Atlantic striped bass is at a 30-year low, well below the target and threshold levels, due to effective measures like the slot limit and existing regulations. The proposed additional mortality reductions are not driven by significant conservation needs but by short-term fluctuations in MRIP data, which NOAA acknowledges consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The cited justification—a mere 0.01 increase in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and does not warrant new closures.

We support maintaining the status quo for the following reasons:

- Striped bass are not experiencing overfishing, with fishing mortality at its lowest in 30 years.
- The female spawning stock biomass is showing a strong rebuilding trend.
- Current reference points are set unrealistically high, having been met only once in the past 20 years.
- A comprehensive striped bass Benchmark Stock Assessment is scheduled for 2027.
- New England states seek to impose closures primarily on harvest states while continuing catch-and-release fishing.
- A revised MRIP program, including an updated fishing effort survey, is set to launch in 2026.
- Maintaining the status quo ensures equitable management for all anglers.

- Unjustified economic losses will impact the recreational fishing industry that has complied with striped bass restrictions and should be entitled to responsibly land an adequate number of fish to maintain this vital fishery under the present circumstances.
- Economic losses to all components of the recreational fishing industry are not adequately considered.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community.

The proposed measures threaten the economic and cultural vitality of the recreational fishing community, which includes marinas, boat dealers, bait shops, fuel docks, and other marine services that serve the public. Regulations must ensure fair access to this shared marine resource for all members of the fishing community. Stringent measures, like those under consideration, disproportionately harm those who rely on the marine industry for their livelihoods, as well as anglers fishing for sustenance. We urge the rejection of Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% mortality reduction. Maintaining the status quo is the most equitable, effective, and scientifically supported management approach at this time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Danko
Executive Director

MONTAUK BOATMEN AND CAPTAINS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 2328
Montauk, New York 11954
montaukcaptains@gmail.com
www.montaukcaptains.org

September 30, 2025

Ms. Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Dear Ms. Franke:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Montauk Boatmen and Captain's Association ("MBCA"). The MBCA is comprised of over 90 members, including for-hire captains, commercial fishermen, shore anglers, marinas, bait and tackle shops, and other supporting organizations.

I submit this statement to supplement my comments shared during the September 17 public hearing regarding the reduction in fishery removals to support stock rebuilding as outlined in Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7.

There are a few points raised in the draft addendum that I want to restate here as underlying reasons for our support of the options we favor:

- The most recent stock projections estimate an increase in fishing mortality in 2025 due to the above average 2018 year-class entering the current slot limit. With no change, the Technical Committee believes that increase could be as high as 17%.
- There remains continued concern about the lack of strong year classes behind 2018.
- Adjusting 2026 management measures could increase the probability of rebuilding the stock by 2029.

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- At status quo, projections estimate a 30% probability of being at or above the Spawning Stock Biomass target in 2029. To achieve a 50% probability of being at or above the SSB target in 2029, a 12% reduction in 2026 removals would be needed.

Fishery Removals

Based upon the above conclusions, we do not understand how a status quo approach in 2026 does anything other than set a potential trajectory for more harsh reductions in 2027, including more significant closures that would further devastate the for-hire fleet.

The MBCA is therefore in favor of a modification to the striped bass season next year. And as we continue to feel vehemently that for-hire operations should be separately distinguished from recreational and shore anglers, we are in favor of a 13% reduction with a for-hire exemption allowing charter and party boats a slot of 28" to 33"

This was not a decision we made lightly, and we understand our peers across NY and other Atlantic states will not feel the same. We also recognize the risk of appearing to concede now only to face more stringent regulations next year. However, this decision is based upon a few factors:

- As called out in Draft Addendum III, charter and party boat ocean removals are already being looked at separately, and we make up a mere 3% of those removals. We are a sliver of the pie, yet are being held to the same standards as the majority. If there's any risk of a reduction, we feel strongly that it should be accompanied with a mode management approach that favors for-hire vessels.
- For-hire vessels provide an important benefit to their patrons. We allow individuals to harvest fresh food they may not otherwise have access to. In many cases, our customers bring fish home to feed their families.
- We have already seen the adverse effects of the current striped bass regulations, with reductions in business exceeding 20% this year. In Montauk, some captains are getting out of the business entirely or downsizing in order to manage their financial burdens.

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- A loss of business for us has downstream effects that cannot be ignored. Hotels, restaurants, local shops and other establishments are impacted when our businesses suffer.
- We are playing a long game, as we always have been, and need to ensure there is a future for striped bass fishing. We continue to believe the data being relied upon for these projections is incomplete. Separately, as we've said before, we would like to be part of a solution to address this problem.

Season Closures

We are not in favor of any seasonal closure. However, recognizing this is not an option under the Addendum, we would support a Wave 6 closure to achieve a 13% reduction, under which we believe a meaningful impact could be made at a time when our captains and recreational anglers can also target other species, including sea bass and tautog. This period would accomplish the greatest percentage reduction while utilizing the least number of days thereby decreasing the impact on the for-hire fleet.

No Harvest vs No Targeting

We do not feel strongly on whether a closure mandates "no harvest" or "no targeting" of striped bass, though we would ask for the shortest closure possible and would therefore support a "no targeting" closure period to achieve that.

The MBCA reserves comment at this time on (i) 3.1 – the method to measure total length of a striped bass, and (ii) 3.2 – commercial tagging: point of tagging.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our statement.

Sincerely,

Captain Jill B. Maganza-Ruiz
President, Montauk Boatmen & Captains Association

From: Michael L. Smith
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:01:00 PM

Statement from Virginia Chapter, Native Fish Coalition

The Virginia Chapter of Native Fish Coalition offers the following on Addendum III: while we generally support broad and consistent regulatory measures, equitably applied, to advance striped bass conservation, we wish to emphasize our overriding concern that holistic principles must guide long-term striped bass restoration and stock maintenance.

The ongoing impediments to overall Chesapeake Bay health and resilience must guide the efforts of the ASMFC as it proceeds in its striped bass efforts. It is essential that chronic stressors to striped bass restoration — in particular the ongoing depletion of menhaden resources in the Bay and the current insufficiency of blue catfish population reduction — must be accorded full and direct attention.

Though much of our membership are recreational anglers, we specifically note that we are a fisheries conservation organization and not a fishing club. Thus, we advocate for policies that constitute best practices for the long-term health of diverse native fisheries and the diverse, functional habitats upon which they must rely. We view in this instance the striped bass as a key indicator of Bay health whose decline also represents peril for several native cohort species.

We would emphasize however that should the Commission elect to pursue greater reductions in recreational harvests, whether via seasonal curtailments or gear restrictions, it should be incumbent upon the Commission and its partners to redouble their collective endeavors to thoroughly engage with not only anglers and commercial interests but also the local, regional and national media to delineate the biological necessity for regulatory actions as well as proactive steps individuals can contribute to species restoration efforts. Regardless of its final decisions, the Commission must be forthright, transparent, consistent and persistent in its messaging.

Submitted October 3, 2025
by
Michael L. Smith, chair
Virginia Chapter, Native Fish Coalition
100 Tutelo Lane
Lake Frederick, VA 22630
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.

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF DIVERS AND CLUBS

526 S. Riverside Drive
Neptune, NJ 07753
www.scubanj.org

Comment – Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to Atlantic Striped Bass

Emilie Franke
ASMFC
1050 N Highland St
Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201

9/27/25

Dear Ms. Franke,

The NJ Council of Divers and Clubs (NJCD&C) is a statewide organization of 14 clubs, and a number of individual divers, with a few clubs in nearby states. We are only commenting on the Ocean Striped Bass Recreational Fishery.

Sport Divers have a long history of taking Striped Bass in NJ by spearfishing. Obviously, the current narrow slot requirement for the recreational fishery causes severe problems for spearfishing, and the only way we can still participate in this fishery is if the diver has a NJ Bonus Bass tag combined with the 3-inch slot giving a 7-inch total slot, and that is at least do-able. The NJCD&C believes Striped Bass should be a sport fish only fishery!

The NJCD&C supports 3.1 in Addendum III or a standard definition of length. States should have a common definition of length for Stripers.

The NJCD&C does not support a Split for-Hire Exemption or allowing Party or Charter boats to have a 28 inch through 33 inch. That's like favoring those fishermen that have more money and can afford to hire a charter boat or pay for a party boat. Besides, spearfishing for Stripers has traditionally been done from shore along the jetties and inlets, or from private boats along the jetties or rock piles.

Regarding 3.4, The NJCD&C would support Status Quo or no 12% reduction by closed seasons. If we are to be forced into a closed season at 12 %, the least offensive closure for the NJCD&C would be No Targeting RI – NC Wave 2, or a 37-day closure in March and early April as shown in Table 10. The ocean is extremely cold during Wave Two and few sport divers would be in the water at that time.

Respectfully
Jack Fullmer
Legislative Committee

Jf2983182@msn.com
609 298-3182

NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL
360 N. NEW YORK RD.
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COUNCIL MEMBERS
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ROBERT R. RUSH, JR
JOHN TIEDEMANN
KEVIN WARK

September 29, 2025

Robert Beal, Executive Director
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street
Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mr. Beal:

On behalf of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (MFC), I am writing to express support for the following options under consideration in Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass:

- 3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of Striped Bass – Option B
- 3.2 Commercial Tagging – Option B
- 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline – Option C
- 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding – Option A

The MFC advises the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on conservation and management rules, regulations, and policies regarding marine resources, as well as the commercial and recreational fishing industries that rely on them. As a body, MFC has the authority to veto proposed regulations that they determine do not achieve the state's fishery management goals and objectives. Striped bass is one of New Jersey's most prominent fisheries, providing significant recreational opportunity and contributing immensely to the local economy. It is a priority of the MFC that the fishery remains sustainable while still providing stakeholders sufficient access to the resource.

Members of the MFC's Striped Bass Committee met with recreational advisors to review Draft Addendum III and to evaluate the options being considered in order to inform meaningful comments from our advisors and their respective organizations during the comment period.

Advisors were decidedly in favor of Option B for Section 3.1 to establish consistent mandatory elements for each state's regulatory definition of striped bass total length for compliance with size limits. Advisors strongly favored Option B for Section 3.2 to require commercial tagging at the point of harvest to improve enforcement and hold other state's commercial fisheries to the same standard as NJ's Striped Bass Bonus Program. For Section 3.3, advisors strongly recommend Option C to allow Maryland to implement the new recreational season baseline plus a 10% buffer to account for uncertainty in the calculations. Lastly, advisors were decidedly opposed to the mode-split for-hire exemption options under Section 3.4.

After hearing comments made during New Jersey's public hearing on Draft Addendum III, the MFC expresses support for Option A, status quo, for Section 3.4. Attendees were nearly unanimously opposed to Option B, a 12% reduction. Participants provided some compelling points of justification for this position, including:

- Uncertainty in the MRIP data, assumed fishing mortality rates, and other information used to conduct the projections;
- Insufficient time to evaluate effects of the last round of management changes;
- Concern whether the current 2029 SSB target is realistic and attainable in light of changes occurring in environmental conditions in estuarine and ocean waters of the mid-Atlantic and New England regions;
- The need for a better understanding of the factors driving low recruitment;
- The lack of any meaningful assessment of the socio-economic impacts of the proposed no target and no harvest options, and;
- The proposed seasonal closure options do not distribute harvest reductions equally across states, resulting in a minority of states contributing to the majority of the coastwide reduction.

For these reasons, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council urges the Striped Bass Management Board to maintain status quo and withhold from future management changes to the current regulatory framework until the results of the benchmark stock assessment and peer review are available.

In the event the Board does choose to implement a seasonal closure, MFC strongly encourages the Board to implement those closures across smaller regions than the options outlined in the addendum. Allowing individual states or smaller regions to tailor closures to better match the seasonality of their fishery will result in a more consistent and equitable distribution of harvest reductions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Donnelly, DMD
Chairman

c. Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, NJ DEP
David Golden
Joe Cimino
Adam Nowalsky
Jeff Kaelin
Toni Kerns
Emilie Franke
Katie Drew

From:	Raps
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 12% reduction
Date:	Saturday, September 20, 2025 8:45:40 AM

Hello and Good Day,

My name is Robert Rapisarda, I am the President of the North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen Club located in Mit. Sinai. We are in shore fishermen and the importance of a strong Stipred Bass Fishery can't be stressed enough.

I am in favor of the following options given the fact as they currently presented.

Section 3.1 Option B:

Section 3.2 Option B:

Section 3.3 Option A – Status Quo

Section 3.4 Option B-01 – Status Quo

Section 3.4 Option CB1 – Status Quo

I am opposed to the No Target.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Rapisarda
Presidnet
NBSFC.

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.

North Fork Captains Association

PO Box 1717 Southold, NY 11971

On behalf of the North Fork Captains Association, operating out of the east end of Long Island, New York, I would like to express our concerns with Addendum III for Striped Bass and the proposed reductions therein. With the upcoming benchmark stock assessment scheduled for 2027 we feel the roll out with this addendum in 2026 is premature. The fact that these proposed reductions only translate to a 50% chance of a rebuild proves that the rebuild target is too high and the rebuild timeline too short. This is not a reflection of the biomass but a reflection of an unrealistic goal for a rebuild that's based on data from post moratorium. That was over 30 years ago, the fishery is simply not the same.

Striped Bass stocks are healthy along the east coast as anyone who spends enough time on the water will attest. We are seeing several year classes of fish with more entering the fishery each year. Despite what some might be claiming, the stock is of NO way on the verge of collapse! Although very vocal, these groups' beliefs are agenda driven and do not reflect or take into account the entire recreational angling communities needs.

The For-Hire industry historically accounts for a very small percentage of the overall harvest. Our businesses rely heavily on the availability to target and harvest these fish. Any proposed reductions from the draconian restrictions that are now in place essentially will put many of us out of business.

To support an option from the addendum with our belief that any action is not warranted at this time proves difficult. Instead we would support alternate options: First choice: Option B2 under the ocean fishery which sectors out the for-hire and opens the slot. However, we DO NOT support any closed season that is attached to this option. Opening the slot will significantly reduce discard mortality. That combined with our historic low harvest warrants no season closure for us. Second choice: Status Quo from the 2025 season. For all the reasons previously stated.

In conclusion, we believe this addendum should be tabled until the benchmark stock assessment in 2027 is completed. If after that a reduction is deemed necessary it should be solely absorbed by the private/shore bound anglers as they account for the majority of the Striped Bass harvest and the timeline for a rebuild be extended out to 2032. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Capt. Joe Paradiso
President NFCA

September 16, 2025

Ms. Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St.
Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Emilie,

The NY Coalition for Recreational Fishing (NYCRF) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and encouraging the sport of recreational fishing, preserving and conserving our marine resources, and working to expand fishing access. We have over 2,100 individual and club members located throughout the New York Marine District.

We have reviewed the Draft Addendum in its entirety, and listed below are our public comment recommendations that we believe are in the best long-term interests of the striped bass fishery. Ultimately, a healthy and abundant fishery is in the best interest of *ALL* constituents – the recreational and commercial sectors, as well as businesses that focus and rely on fishing.

Section 3.1 Option B: This option establishes a consistent definition of how striped bass should be measured.

Section 3.2 Option B: Most states already follow this approach to tagging, and this option will bring uniformity throughout the coast.

Section 3.3 Option A – Status Quo: We are deeply concerned about the analysis submitted by Maryland that included no increase in effort as a result of the proposed changes to their fishing season. We believe that these changes could result in a greater harvest of striped bass, and as a result, we are selecting to maintain the status quo. Our fundamental position is that any proposal that could

potentially increase the harvest of striped bass during a rebuilding period should not be considered.

Section 3.4 Option B-01 – Status Quo: This option requires the commercial and recreational sectors to each take a 12% reduction, and maintains a size limit of 28" to 31" that will apply to all modes in the ocean recreational fishery. We oppose all other options that will require the recreational sector to assume a larger percentage of the harvest reduction and additional closure days.

Section 3.4 Option CB1 – Status Quo: This option will require the Chesapeake Bay recreational sector to maintain their 20"to 23" slot size.

Additionally, the **NYCRF is adamantly opposed to the No Target method** for seasonal closures for several reasons:

- This approach is virtually unenforceable, as has been noted by the ASMFC's own Legal Enforcement Committee. A recent DEC publication cited surveys and facts from the Federal government that indicated that within the Saltwater Angler Registry, there is a ~ 70% and 80% non-compliance rate for NY and NJ, respectively. The 80/10/10 rule cited by Emerson Hasbrouck at the most recent ASMFC meeting lacks a factual basis, with no evidence to support the expected high level of compliance he asserts.
- This approach would cripple the bait and tackle shops as well as other businesses that rely on fishing for striped bass.
- This approach would have a negative impact as families that enjoy a day of fishing for striped bass would no longer be permitted to do so.

The only reasonable approach to realizing the required 12% reduction is through **No Harvest** closures.

The striped bass fishery is at a serious tipping point. The fishery has experienced 6 years of historically low recruitment in the Chesapeake Bay, with the Hudson River also experiencing low recruitment over the past couple of years. We have heard that the 2025 Chesapeake Young of Year results may also be poor.

There are just not enough striped bass being spawned to replace the fish that are being killed either through commercial and recreational harvest, release mortality, or natural causes.

We know that with this poor recruitment, we will see its negative impact on the spawning stock biomass after the 2029 rebuilding target as the 2015- and 2018-year classes age out. We call on the Striped Bass Management Board to take decisive action now.

Sincerely.

NYCRF Board of Directors
Joe Pellegrini, President
NY Coalition for Recreational Fishing
www.nycrf.org

New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association
P.O. Box 3210
Patchogue, NY 11772
nyftta@gmail.com

October 1, 2025

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Public Comments for Striped Bass Addendum III

The New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association (NYFTTA) represents retail and wholesale bait and tackle dealers in the New York Marine district. The livelihood of our members, our industry, depends upon healthy stocks of many species of fish. Our mission is not just to promote the sport of fishing, but also to do our part in conserving resources for the future. Conserving resources for the future is not just managing the fishery from a conservation or regulatory approach, but also accounting for the socio-economic impact of such regulations and maintaining fair and equitable access.

Striped Bass is a vital fish to the recreational fishing community. We are writing to share our thoughts and concerns regarding draft Addendum III to Amendment 7. After reviewing its contents and gathering feedback from our trade members, the overall consensus is that the addendum leaves more questions unanswered than answered. There are so many scenarios, that it is difficult to give feedback when we cannot even quantify the socio-economic impact of all the different scenarios presented.

First, there has been “talk” of a commercial exemption, that the commercial sector should not bear any further reduction. It’s essential to clarify if this scenario could be added to the addendum “on the fly” because if the commercial sector is exempt from reduction, the recreational sector needs to reduce by a greater margin. If the belief of managers is that a reduction needs to be made and less fish need to be harvested, the burden should be shared. This addendum states there is the option for the board to give a less than 12% commercial reduction. And while it further states that the combined reduction would be less than 12%, it does not specify what reduction the recreational sector could get. It is difficult to support something not knowing the what the final impact is.

Similarly, the different regional classification is important. If a regional approach was adopted, where Rhode Island is placed makes a big difference on the closures during different waves. Especially for us in New York, where we have already been more conservative than required for many years and have existing closures during certain waves. Will New York receive credit for our conservation efforts? This addendum vaguely addresses how they would handle the proposed closures for New York. We would need to know more specifically how this would be treated to make sure that our more conservative measures are recognized and the impact is not disproportional to us. Closures in both wave 2 and wave 6 will have a huge economic impact! Therefore, we can’t support an option that does not specifically clarify up front what the impact would be to the recreational sector and industry in New York.

The addendum considers a separate sector for the For-Hire fishery. Creating this sector puts a larger burden of reduction on the private angler. Should sector separations really be considered in a fishery deemed overfished? If so, should we not also be looking at different regulations governing surfcasting and boat anglers? These two groups do not catch the same amounts, and their fishing practices vary considerably. It is important to recognize that not all anglers have the same level of success. If we do not consider these factors, we risk

imposing regulations that do not reflect the realities of fishing practices, which can lead to confusion and inequity. To implement fair and effective regulations, there should also be a mechanism in place to assess and analyze the productivity of these anglers, as reductions are having a socio-economic impact to ALL sectors.

This addendum has also not addressed what impact and benefits the use of circle hooks for bait fishing has had on the fishery. This is a change that has been made recently in the scope of the Striped Bass history. It must be having a positive impact on mortality, yet it is not addressed how this could also factor into future downward trends in mortality.

The 2023 emergency measures have already had a huge socio-economic and harvest impact. The 2024 harvest was down 34% from 2023, and 50% from 2022 with the restrictive slot size. Coastwide, trips in 2024 were the lowest they had been in a decade. The addendum states that a further reduction in effort "could have a negative impact on the regional economy". The fact is, the emergency measures in place since 2023 have already had a large negative socio-economic impact on the recreational sector and further reductions will most definitely have an enormous socio-economic impact!

Feedback from the recreational and for-hire industries during public hearings reflected a general resistance to the addendum. Many supported status quo, and some without any supporting any rationale. We suspect that without addressing these core uncertainties and segmenting the options to examine each component separately, consensus will remain out of reach.

While we recognize that there are legitimate concerns regarding poor recruitment, the SSB is on an upward trend that is just below the threshold. And we are looking at a lower mortality in 2024, which is expected to continue once this large year class moves out of the slot limit in 2025.

Managers may feel reluctant to adopt a status quo approach given their requirement to rebuild the stock by 2029. However, we are looking at a target that is 125% above 1995, a historically high level, a level that has only been reached twice in 40 years. Is it even possible to manage one fishery at such a high level? What are the implications of that biomass on other species? Should we still be trying to reach that level by 2029 or was an unrealistic, unattainable goal set to begin with? Emergency measures in place the last two and a half years have certainly had recognizable impacts. These reductions have had positive impacts on the fishery. Yet despite this we are looking to rush additional reductions, before the next benchmark assessment, without a full socio-economic impact study, in order to rebuild the stock to 125% of historic levels by 2029?

And if that is the case, then perhaps this Addendum should be tabled until the benchmark stock assessment in 2027 is completed. Until we can thoroughly examine and answer the key questions embedded in the addendum and that a discussion is had about the possibility of extending the timeline out a few years.

With regards to the 2026 management considerations for Striped Bass, NYFTTA believes that no action should be taken for any reduction of season at this time.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Dearborn *John Mantione*

Melissa Dearborn John Mantione

President, NYFTTA Spokesman, NYFTTA

PLUM ISLAND SURFCASTERS

Established 1957

Emilie Franke

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Emilie,

The Plum Island Surfcasters (PISC) is a 400-member North Shore Massachusetts fishing club committed to developing best practices in good sportsmanship, education, techniques, and conservation for future generations. In the interest of protecting the Striped Bass spawning stock our membership submits the following comment on Addendum III to Amendment 7.

3.1 Method to measure total length of a striped bass.

Our membership supports Option B. Mandatory elements for total length. With the small slot limit it becomes more important to have a consistent measuring method for all states.

3.2 Commercial tagging: Point of tagging:

Our membership supports Option B. Commercial tagging at point of harvest. We believe that many stripers commercially caught in Massachusetts are not accounted for. Accounting for stripers not sold to commercial brokers is dependent on reporting by the holder of the commercial license. The two fish surf commercial license is especially open to under reporting, since for short money an angler can easily abuse this license. Since less than 40% of license holders report any catch, it is a good indication of catch not being counted.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline:

Our membership supports Option A. Status Quo. While we support efforts to reduce recreational release mortality there is just too much uncertainty to support this change currently.

3.4 Reduction in fishery removals to support rebuilding:

Our membership supports Option B, 01 and CB1. Even sector reduction: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%. While this option still only gives a 50% chance of reaching the 2029 goals it is the best option we have to choose from. Since no targeting for all practical purposes would mean no fishing in Maine and New Hampshire we support no harvest options. We also believe it would be nearly impossible to enforce no targeting because stripers are in the same areas as other targeted fish and would still be caught. **All users' groups, including Commercial, should be treated equally and reduce their catch by 12%.**

Sincerely

Michael Toole

toolemf@hotmail.com

Legislation Representative

Plum Island Surfcasters

P.O. Box 1585

Newburyport, MA 01950

From: Kenneth Booth
To: Comments
Cc: Jason E. Mcnamee
Subject: [External] [New] Upcoming ASMFC Striped Bass amendment action
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:39:08 PM

To whom it may concern:
I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Commercial Rod and Reel Association (RICRRA), an organization that represents the interests of commercial rod and reel anglers within the State of Rhode Island. Based on a review of the information available we believe that the most appropriate action to take at this time is to maintain the status quo. With the fishery not experiencing overfishing and with mortality at a long-term low, we believe that any action to cutback harvest should wait until the stock assessment is undertaken in 2027. Maintaining the status quo until the upcoming assessment provides more accurate data is equitable for all fishermen coastwide, while still protecting the species.

Kenneth Booth, President
RICRRA

I represent

Ken

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.

R.I. Party and Charter Boat Association
P.O. Box 171
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President Capt. Rick Bellavance
Vice President Capt. Jasper Coutu
Treasurer Capt. Andrew D'Angelo
Secretary Capt. John Rainone
Director Capt. Nick Butziger

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
comments@asmfc.org

RE: Public Comment on Addendum III to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan

Dear Commissioners,

On Behalf of the 50 members of the RI Party and Charter Boat Association, I am writing to comment on **Addendum III to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Plan** and to urge the Commission to adopt the **status quo** as the only fair and scientifically justified management approach at this time.

Science Does Not Justify New Restrictions

The most current data clearly show that **striped bass are not overfished**, and **fishing mortality is at a 30-year low**. These indicators suggest that recent management actions are working and that the stock is recovering as intended. Additionally, the **female spawning stock biomass is on a positive rebuilding trajectory**, and there is no biological justification for further cuts at this time.

It's also important to recognize that the **current reference points are set unrealistically high** and have only been achieved once in the past 20 years. Basing major regulatory decisions on unattainable targets does not align with sound, adaptive fisheries management.

With a full **Benchmark Stock Assessment planned for 2027**, the Commission will soon have the opportunity to make more informed and data-driven decisions. Until then, holding the line with status quo regulations is the most prudent path forward.

Economic Impacts on the For-Hire Fleet

Beyond the biological considerations, additional restrictions would carry significant **economic consequences—especially for the for-hire recreational fleet**, which plays a vital role in coastal economies up and down the Atlantic coast.

Charter and head boat operators depend on predictable access to target species like striped bass to maintain bookings, support their crews, and keep their businesses viable. Unlike private anglers, the for-hire sector is held to higher levels of accountability and operates under greater scrutiny. These small businesses already operate on tight margins

and seasonal schedules—further reductions or closures would jeopardize their livelihoods, ripple through tackle shops, marinas, and tourism, and severely impact working waterfront communities.

The for-hire sector also provides a controlled and educational fishing experience, often introducing new anglers—especially families and youth—to recreational fishing in a responsible way. Unduly restricting this sector could have long-term consequences for angler recruitment, community engagement, and public support for fisheries conservation.

Equity and Emerging Data

It is also troubling that **some within the recreational fishery are pushing for the burden of additional restrictions to fall once again on the harvest anglers**, while they continue to target fish through catch-and-release. This would create an **unfair and uneven regulatory environment**, punishing anglers with certain motivations, while others maintain access under a different name. True conservation must be shared equitably.

Moreover, the **MRIP Fishing Effort Survey is currently undergoing a critical overhaul**, with a retooled system expected to be in place by 2026. Making sweeping changes now—based on data that will soon be replaced—risks creating confusion and mismanagement based on outdated estimates.

Conclusion

In light of the above, I respectfully urge the Commission to adopt **status quo** management in Addendum III. The fishery is recovering, the science is improving, and the economic stakes are too high to rush into further restrictions without clear justification.

Thank you for considering this public comment and for your continued efforts to manage this important species in a balanced and sustainable way.

Respectfully Submitted,

Capt. Rick Bellavance

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

RHODE ISLAND
SALTWATER
ANGLERS
Association
P.O. Box 1467, Coventry, Rhode Island 02816 401-826-2121 www.RISAA.org

September 26, 2025

Ms. Emile Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
via email: comments@asmfc.org

RE: Striped Bass Management Options – Draft Addendum III

Ms. Franke:

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) is a nonprofit organization representing over 7,500 recreational anglers, and 35 affiliated organizations in the Northeast. In addition to promoting education and the enjoyment of recreational fishing, RISAA supports marine conservation and sound management of fisheries resources – offering a unified voice to preserve and protect the rights, traditions, and the future of recreational fishing in Rhode Island. Our members include hundreds of anglers in RI, CT and MA, many of whom fish for striped bass.

Recreational fishing is an important part of the RI economy, contributing more than $400 million per year just in RI. RISAA members consider striped bass to be the most important species to recreational fishing in our geographic area. We support efforts to reduce harvest in both the commercial and recreational sectors to assure that spawning stock biomass (SSB) of this species rebounds to target levels as soon as possible.

Specifically, regarding the options presented in the public comment document for draft Addendum III we offer the comments below:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass
RISAA agrees that everyone should measure striped bass using the same method. This is important to assure that anglers and enforcement can agree on what fish are within the tight slot limits now allowed for striped bass possession. Based on this we support **Option B – fish flat, mouth closed, tail pinched.**

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging
RISAA supports **Option C – Commercial tagging at first point of landing**

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline
Even though RISAA members generally do not fish for striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay we understand that striped bass migrate along the coast from The Chesapeake area to areas where we do fish. We believe that anglers in the Chesapeake area need to participate in the reductions so we support **Option C - New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer**

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding
Even though we understand that current recreational harvest levels are very low RISAA supports additional efforts to improve the likelihood of stock rebuilding. We therefore support **Option B: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%** We do not support separate regulations for the for-hire fleet, therefore we support **options O1 and CB1.** Since these harvest reduction measures will require seasonal closures we believe that these closures should

occur at times when water temperatures are highest to reduce mortality of released fish. We believe that each state should be allowed to select closed days independently as long as those days achieve the necessary 12% reductions in harvest and if RI must be in a region then RI should be in the region with CT and NY because the main body of striped bass in RI is the same body of fish that stays around Long Island and Long Island Sound.

Finally, we do not understand how "no targeting" closures will help reduce harvest nor do we understand exactly how such regulations can be enforced because of the definition of no targeting which includes catching a striped bass. This is likely why enforcement has rated this option very poorly. We agree that some controls to reduce catch and release fishing during warm water periods would be helpful, but since it would be a violation to accidentally catch a striped bass while fishing for fluke or tautog or other fish it seems that anytime an angler puts a hook in the water they could be in violation of no targeting by accidentally catching a striper. For this reason, we do not support no targeting but would rather support no harvest closures.

There seem to be other areas where striped bass harvest can be reduced such as addressing the dead discards in the commercial fishing sector. As an example, we know of at least 2 instances within the past 2 months where striped bass have been discarded by commercial draggers in RI waters. One of these was very close to Point Judith in June when a dragger dumped dozens, likely over a hundred, striped bass. Some of these fish were not totally dead yet, but attempts by anglers nearby to revive the fish were not successful. The second was a dragger in the East Passage on July 9 when deck hands were observed cutting the striped bass before throwing them overboard, likely to assure that they did not float. We believe that dead discards have been underreported in the commercial sector.

We would be happy to discuss these comments with you at any time. Please contact us via phone or email.

Sincerely,
Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

Scott Travers

Scott Travers, Executive Director
Ph: 401-826-2121

Rich Hittinger

Rich Hittinger, 1st Vice President
Cell: 401-265-7602

Cc: Jason McNamee (jason.mcnamee@dem.ri.gov), David Borden (lizzy.2@charter.net), Eric Reed (ericreidri@gmail.com)

RIVERKEEPER

October 3, 2025

Emilie Franke
FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine
Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street,
Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Comments on Atlantic Striped Bass FMP Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 Management Measure Options

Dear Emilie Franke and ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board,

Riverkeeper, Inc. ("Riverkeeper") respectfully submits these comments to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) on the fishery management action alternatives under consideration for Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Atlantic striped bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This Amendment builds upon the previous amendment to the FMP to address the overfishing of striped bass and initiate a rebuilding plan in response to the overfished finding from the last stock assessment, requiring the striped bass Board to rebuild the stock by 2029. Removals of striped bass are currently unsustainable, preventing the stock from reaching the 2029 spawning stock biomass (SSB) target as mandated by ASMFC Striped Bass Board. According to the ASMFC, SSB projections indicate a low probability of meeting the 2029 stock rebuilding deadline.

Riverkeeper is a nearly 60-year-old non-profit member-supported environmental organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Hudson River from source to sea and safeguards drinking water supplies, through advocacy rooted in community partnerships, science and law. Founded by striped bass anglers, Riverkeeper has long been an advocate for ecosystem based fisheries management strategies that promote the health of the Hudson River estuary. Striped bass is the most popular recreational species in the Hudson River estuary, and a keystone species to the Atlantic coast ecosystem.

In February 2025, the striped bass Board requested a number of changes to the draft Addendum, including options to achieve a 60% probability of rebuilding in addition to options for a 50% probability of rebuilding. Under status quo management measures, 2025 fishing mortality is predicted to increase as the strong 2018 year-class enters the current recreational ocean slot limit. Utilizing the low recruitment assessment and the

estimate of 2024 fishing mortality, coupled with predictions for fishing mortality under status quo management for the 2025 to 2029 fishing years, projections estimate a 30% probability of reaching the SSB target by 2029, and likely wouldn't reach the threshold until 2032 at the earliest. Any management measure alternative with a 70% probability of not achieving the conservation objective should be eliminated. Moreover, under the very low recruitment scenario, which is more likely than the low recruitment scenario given recent poor recruitment years, projections of striped bass SSB would never reach the target through 2035 and actually decline after 2030, as the strong year classes die off and are replaced by weaker year classes. Hence, the status quo alternative to draft Addendum III should be eliminated from further consideration.

Recreational fishing accounts for a majority of the fishing mortality of striped bass, 87% of total removals in the most recent assessment, and the primary point of concern among all fishing sectors is that recreational catch and release mortality is already too high. Thus, it stands to reason that a closure where and when harvest was eliminated but targeting was permitted, catch and release mortality would increase proportionally, defeating any purpose of a non-harvest closure. Further, the 9% release mortality assigned to the recreational catch and release fishery likely underestimates actual release mortality due to increased stress of striped bass from warming water temperatures[1]. For these reasons, we strongly oppose all non-harvest closure options in Addendum III for the striped bass recreational ocean fishery.

The striped bass Board should take action during the October 2025 meeting to reduce removals to a level that will at least meet, if not exceed the 50% probability target of rebuilding the stock by 2029. This would require at least a 12% reduction in 2026 commercial and recreational fishery removals to achieve the level of fishing mortality that would result in a 50% probability of the SSB reaching or surpassing the target in 2029. To achieve the target rebuilding SSB by 2029, Riverkeeper supports the **no-targeting seasonal closure option 3.4B O1 of Addendum III**, a 12% reduction in removals for the commercial and recreational sectors, encompassing a regional approach to the no-targeting seasonal closures of the recreational fishery. The New England region should include the states of Maine through Rhode Island and the Mid-Atlantic region should comprise the states of Connecticut through North Carolina with a Wave 6 non-target closure of the Mid-Atlantic region, assuming fishing trips will still occur but target other species. The assumption should be made, when generating predictive models, that fishing pressure will still occur during a closure, but anglers will be targeting other species, so we appreciate the updated assumption that fishing trips

[1] Bettoli, P. W., & Osborne, R. S. (1998). Hooking Mortality and Behavior of Striped Bass Following Catch and Release Angling. North American Journal of Fisheries Management, 18(3), 609–615. https://doi.org/10.1577/1548-8675(1998)018<0609:HMABOS>2.0.CO;2

that would normally be targeting striped bass will not stop altogether, but would sufficiently protect striped bass.

This closure would narrow the available window of opportunity to fish for striped bass in ocean waters, generating a greater probability that the stock can rebuild by the ASMFC's target year of 2029. It is also important to note that this no-targeting regional closure would have a lesser impact than a Wave 2 seasonal no-targeting closure on New York and is the shortest time-period closure of all the options for the Mid-Atlantic region as recommended here. Further, we make this recommendation with the understanding that, from an enforcement perspective, New York's existing closure already contributes to different season dates within New York and between and between New York and neighboring states. Finally, this management measure would not be permanent and could potentially be subject to liberalization once the Atlantic striped bass stock is rebuilt.

Riverkeeper also supports option **3.1b** of Addendum III, the establishment of mandatory elements for each state's regulatory definition of striped bass total length measurement for compliance with size limits in both the commercial and recreational fisheries. The striped bass FMP has specified size and slot limits in total length since the original FMP's approval in 1981 but does not define a specific method for measuring total length for regulatory compliance, which has resulted in inconsistent state regulations. The four elements that should be included in the definition are: 1) squeezing the tail; 2) a straight-line measurement; 3) the fish is laid flat; and 4) the mouth is closed, wherein total length is defined as the greatest straight line length in inches as measured on a fish while laid flat on its side on top of a measuring device with the mouth closed from the anterior most tip of the snout to the farthest extremity of the tail with the upper and lower fork of the tail squeezed together.

Respectfully Submitted,

David G. Stormer, Ph.D.

Habitat Restoration Director

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Sent via electronic mail to: comments@asmfc.org

Emilie Franke - FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Ms. Franke,

Save The Bay, on behalf of our members and supporters, is writing to submit comments regarding the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Save The Bay - Narragansett Bay is a member-supported environmental advocacy non-profit 501(c)(3) in Rhode Island. Our mission of protecting and improving Narragansett Bay is accomplished through many aspects of our work including advocacy, habitat restoration and adaptation, and on-the-water experiential education. Our work helps to ensure that Narragansett Bay and all Rhode Island waters are clean, fishable, and swimmable for everyone to access in a safe way. One way that many citizens choose to access the waters of Rhode Island is through recreational and commercial fishing, especially for Rhode Island's state fish, the Atlantic striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*). It is with the goals of attaining a better than 50% likelihood of rebuilding the stock by 2029, the long-term maintenance of a thriving striped bass population, and the continued ability for individuals to access this fishery that Save The Bay offers the following comments.

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

As it pertains to proposed management change 3.1 "Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass," Save The Bay recommends to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board the adoption of Option B - Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition.

As stated in the draft addendum, in the absence of clearly defined coastwide regulations defining methods for total length (TL) measurement, states, and often anglers, are left to make the decision as to how to measure a fish. This inconsistency in the regulation of method often leaves discretion to anglers as to whether to forcefully fan the tail to make the fish shorter, or pinch the tail to make it longer, can effectively allow harvest of striped bass that are either under or over the slot size limit, as defined by ASMFC, and adds unnecessary confusion and burden on enforcement.

For this reason, Save The Bay, in agreement with ASMFC's Law Enforcement Committee, recommends the adoption of Option B, establishing mandatory and consistent coastwide elements to each state's regulatory definition of striped bass total length measurement.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

As it pertains to proposed management change 3.2 "Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging," Save The Bay recommends to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board the adoption of Option B - Commercial Tagging At the Point of Harvest (POH).

As stated in Draft Addendum III, currently, only three states utilize a tagging program other than POH tagging (although North Carolina does not currently have a commercial striped bass fishery). Implementation of a coastwide program of POH tagging would therefore result in the fewest coastwide changes to tagging programs. Additionally, Save The Bay affirms that the commercial angler should be responsible for both tagging a removed fish and returning any unused tags at the end of the season/year. As noted in the minutes from the Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) March meeting, the LEC considers POH tagging to be more effective in resource protection also minimizes effort for law enforcement while increasing their ability to improve enforcement of possession from the total time the species is in possession, reduce the ability to high-grade, and increase accountability.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

While Save The Bay represents users of the striped bass fishery in Rhode Island waters, we must acknowledge the migratory nature of the striped bass. For a species and fishery of this nature, which does not abide by state boundaries, and especially given the importance of the Chesapeake Bay to striped bass production, we consider it important to provide a recommendation for this proposed management change, despite it not pertaining directly to how our citizens use the fishery. Therefore, as it pertains to proposed management change 3.3 "Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline," Save The Bay recommends to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board the adoption of Option C - New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer.

Save The Bay supports the Chesapeake fishery's ability to determine and restructure their baseline season, especially in this case which would reduce fishing effort during the warmest time of year with the highest level of catch and release mortality. However, given that all data to this point used to determine the likelihood of rebuilding by 2029 has included data from the Chesapeake's current baseline season, Save The Bay recommends the inclusion of an uncertainty buffer with this new baseline, to provide a window of time to determine if the new baseline is indeed resulting in the desired effect. If the board were in the position to consider an uncertainty buffer of greater than 10%, this would be something Save The Bay would support, to provide strong protections for the fishery during a period of regulatory change.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

As it pertains to proposed management change 3.4 "Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding," Save The Bay recommends to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board the adoption of Option B - Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%.

As included in Draft Addendum III, "With the estimate of 2024 fishing mortality, the above assumptions about 2025-2029 fishing mortality under status quo management, and the same low recruitment assumption as the assessment, the projections estimate a 30% probability of being at or above the SSB target in 2029. This would require a 12% reduction in 2026 removals to achieve the level of fishing mortality that would result in a 50% probability of SSB being at or above the SSB target in 2029." This means that the *bare minimum* considered necessary to reach just a 50% probability of rebuilding by 2029 would be a 12% reduction in

removals. For this reason, Save The Bay supports Option B, would be in opposition to a proposal of any less than 12% reductions, and would be in favor of reductions greater than 12% if the board were in a position to recommend such.
Regarding how the recreational reductions would be achieved, Save the Bay opposes O2 and CB2, which would each create exemptions for the for-hire sector. Save The Bay feels that the burden of reductions should be felt equally across all sectors which would also equally feel the benefits of these reductions should they prove successful. Save The Bay is then in support of O1 for the ocean fishery to attain a 12% reduction, and would defer to the recommendations of others in the fishery regarding the choice between CB1 and CB3 to attain a 12% reduction in the Chesapeake Bay fishery. Finally, Save The Bay would oppose any "No Targeting" closures as a method to meet the 12% reduction, as no targeting closures are difficult to enforce and unlikely to result in the desired reductions.

In conclusion, Save The Bay remains concerned regarding the striped bass fishery and its ability to recover to a greater than 50% likelihood of rebuilding by 2029, and will continue to be concerned beyond such time, given the decreased spawning success over the last seven years. While we believe that the options we have recommended above from those provided by ASMFC provide the greatest likelihood of recovery, we will continue to push for stronger regulations and enforcement of those regulations as it pertains to this fishery to ensure that it is a viable fishery across the coast and to anglers in Rhode Island, and this population is part of a thriving coastwide ecosystem for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Capt. Chris Dodge
Narragansett Baykeeper - Save The Bay
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WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE
MEMBER

cc:
Jason McNamee PhD - ASMFC Striped Bass Board: RI Commissioner
David V.D. Borden - ASMFC Striped Bass Board: RI Commissioner
Senator Susan Sosnowski - ASMFC Striped Bass Board: RI Commissioner
Eric Reid - ASMFC Striped Bass Board: RI Commissioner (Proxy)

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 2:12:46 PM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Solomons Captains

Email

Solomonscapts@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

We are opposed to Maryland's Comment Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III porposals.

Catch-and-release in April goes against the very statements Maryland's DNR (M. Luisi) publicly supported last year. Why the sudden change in thinking? What's changed? The Maryland Y.O.Y survey has not shown successful spawns. A single female can carry millions eggs each year. Catch and release during the Spring migratory season will impact tens of thousands of juvenile fish each season forward. Maryland DNR doesn't address any impact their new proposal may have on failed spawns.
For every one SSB fish that is killed during the Spring catch and release season, millions of eggs are lost!

Solomons Charter Captains Association

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South Jersey Saltwater Anglers

10/1/25

The South Jersey Saltwater is composed of 40 members, many of whom fish for striped bass. First and foremost, we support status quo for both the Chesapeake and Ocean striped bass fisheries. Regarding Addendum III to Amendment VII, we support the following options:

3.1 B – All states should measure striped bass the same way. It would be best to require the tail to be pinched and the mouth closed with the fish laying on a flat surface. (Straight line measurement – not round length)

3.2 B – Fish should be tagged at the point of harvest which will prevent fish being sold illegally

3.3 A – Status Quo for the Chesapeake Fishery.

3.4 A – Status quo for our ocean fishery.

Sincerely,

Mark Gerber,

President, SJSWA

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Plymouth, MA 02360
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President

Capt. Timothy Brady
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Capt. Robert Savino

Capt. John Richardson

October 1, 2025

Ms. Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Dear Ms. Franke:

On behalf of the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association ("SBCBA") whose membership includes the for hire fleet and recreational anglers, recommendations and comments associated with Striped Bass Draft Addendum III are detailed below.

- The SBCBA recommends that the ASMFC maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward. The 2023 to 2024 harvest is down 34% and for-hire trips are down 16% with the lowest directed trips in a decade. Imposing new restrictions under these circumstances risks unnecessary economic harm resulting in division within the recreational community, without offering measurable or scientifically meaningful biological benefit.
- Additional seasonal closures are not needed. Recreational fishery management measures implemented a narrow slot limit that has effectively lowered fishing mortality to a 30-year low (F = 0.13 in 2024) which is well below both the target (F = 0.17) and threshold (F = 0.21) needed for rebuilding. The proposed measures are to address a 0.01 percent difference in the fishing mortality rate that is statistically insignificant. The low 2024 fishing mortality, resulting from the ongoing recreational conservation measures, mainly the narrow recreational slot limit is currently maintaining a fine balance between recreational fishing access and striped bass rebuilding.
- The proposed reductions are based on annual short-term swings in MRIP that is an ongoing problem with other select species such as black sea bass, summer flounder and scup. To address this problem annual data should be averaged over a three-year period

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to address the MRIP fluctuations otherwise continued annual implementation of management measures risks chasing negligible differences in fishing mortality and their respective catch levels.

- NOAA has recognized that the MRIP data may be subject to an overestimation of effort by up to 30 to 40% that is being assessed as part of a Pilot project that will not be completed until 2026 and implemented in 2027. It is illogical to implement a 12% reduction when changes to the catch data in 2026 are likely to exceed this difference providing additional lines of evidence to support no action.
- No targeting and no harvest closures are proposed for 22 to 48 days of our short fishing season May through October. Losing this many days of striped bass fishing will be catastrophic to our businesses and the entire blue economy that relies on such to make a living that are already suffering as a result of the recent Bluefin tuna closure and ongoing reductions to cod and other groundfish we target in our waters. To implement such that is equitable to the public is difficult with striped bass arriving at different times not only at a regional level but a local level for example north or south of Cape Cod.
- The problem is not overfishing the problem is poor recruitment due to environmental conditions impacting the Chesapeake Bay, Hudson River and other major striped bass spawning grounds. Proactive conservation measures are necessary to address the environmental impacts in those waters as well as other rivers or tributaries. Removal of dams in Maine has resulted in the return of river herring, salmon, sturgeon and other species that is an example of what is needed to collectively improve habitat, forage and recruitment in other rivers or tributaries where striped bass recruitment is suspected and not maximized such as the Raritan River, Connecticut River and the Merrimack River to name a few.
- If status quo is not selected the SBCBA recommends different for hire seasons and size limits as a result of the low level of mortality by this user type in order to run a viable business. If both status quo and for hire seasons and size limits are not selected, the SBCBA recommends no target release closures. The option to target and release striped bass will result in continued release mortality that is currently responsible for approximately half of the recreational mortality.
- The SBCBA supports Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable

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path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the SBCBA at the email below.

Very truly yours,

Capt Mike Pierdinock

Capt. Mike Pierdinock
SBCBA, President
sbcbamp@gmail.com

Capt Timothy Brady

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cc: Michael Pentony, GARFO
Travis Ford, GARFO
Russ Dunn, NMFS
Dan McKiernan, ASMFC & MassDMF
Tom O'Shea, MassF&G
Ray Kane, MassFAC & At Large Commissioner, ASMFC
Jennifer Armini, Legislative Commissioner, ASMFC

RE: Striper Surf Comments on Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Emilie Franke, Marty Gary, and Emerson Hasbrouck,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the conversation on Addendum III.

Established in 1951, Striper Surf Club is one of the oldest active surfcasting clubs on the striper coast. We take pride in recording and passing on local surfcasting history and lessons to the next generations of anglers—and we've seen firsthand the effects of six consecutive years of recruitment failure.

We support the following options and will focus our comments on Mr. Hasbrouck's closure concerns.

- **3.1: Option B** — Mandatory uniform total length measurement
- **3.2: Option B** — Tagging at harvest
- **3.4: Option B-01** — Even sector reductions (commercial −12%, recreational −12%); status-quo size limits across all modes; **no-harvest** closures; include NY, CT, and RI in Northern Region

When the boat goes down, we all get wet. Every sector benefits from abundance; every sector is responsible for rebuilding. The socioeconomic consequences of failing to rebuild and maintain Spawning Stock Biomass for favorable spawning conditions will dwarf the short-term pain of 12% reductions.

No-target closures set an irresponsible management precedent. If the striped bass population continues to decline and the Board extends such closures, they will become less enforceable, provide less reliable rebuilding data, and impose more disproportionate impacts on the vast majority of recreational anglers.

Intent is unenforceable. In New York, this is especially true. From bluefish and weakfish to the rare winter flounder or cobia, too many species mix with striped bass and take the same baits and lures. If there's a fish that swims in Long Island's inshore waters, a Striper Surf member has caught it. They may have been targeting striped bass or another species for harvest or release—or simply enjoying time in the surf. It is unreasonable that fear of a summons—based on one officer's assumption about time of day, location, tackle, or bait—could prevent honest anglers from fishing. Meanwhile, dishonest anglers will fish through a no-target closure with impunity, eroding compliance and respect for the Board's management actions.

The socioeconomic impacts of no-target closures are too significant to hinge on uncertainty-buffered models and assumptions about angler behavior and effort. In its October 2024 report, the Striped Bass Board Work Group on Recreational Release Mortality noted: "Overall, because there is limited information on how anglers respond to no-targeting closures, the added savings (in terms of releases) from prohibiting targeting are difficult to calculate and predict." Any extra mortality reductions attributed to no-target closures come at the cost of speculative modeling. The Board certainly does not need more uncertainty in the Technical Committee's rebuilding projections. With reliable direct-harvest data available, no-harvest closures are more accurately quantifiable.

If Board members are concerned about which participants in the recreational fishery contribute to rebuilding, MRIP data show shore anglers inherently contribute the most in an overfished fishery. We embrace the challenge of fishing without a boat's mobility, high-tech electronics, or a captain to put us on fish. Compared to the 2014–2021 average, our live releases fell 70% in 2024. Since the Board initiated its Amendment 7 rebuilding plan, only for-hire participants increased their releases per trip.

Catch (2014–2021 average → 2024):
- Shore: 327,705 → 201,038 (-38.65%)
- Private boat: 2,115,999 → 11,356,008 (-35.92%)
- For-hire: 309,030 → 171,697 (-44.44%)

Catch per trip (2014–2021 average → 2024):
- Shore: .036 → .025 (-29.85)
- Private boat: .273 → .185 (-32.42%)
- For-hire: 1.04→ .777 (-25.45%)

Released (2014–2021 average → 2024):
- Shore: 9,213,448→ 2,740,386 (-70.26%)
- Private boat: 21,416,333 → 16,042,076 (-25.09%)
- For-hire: 609,446 → 465,538 (-23.61%)

Released per trip (2014–2021 average → 2024):
- Shore: 1.01 → 0.34 (-66.21%)
- Private boat: 2.76 → 2.18 (-21.0%)
- For-hire: 2.05 → 2.11 (2.84%)

2024 directed trips & share
- Shore: 8,044,374 (51.52%)
- Private boat: 7,349,204 (47.07%)
- For-hire: 220,859 (1.41%)

Based on club members' experience in the surf this season and cumulative Wave 3 data, 2025 shore catch and releases will likely be the worst on record. Compared to shore anglers' 69% reduction in total catch per trip, for-hire anglers' total catch per trip fell only 6.7% from the 2014–2021 average in 2024. Shore participants experienced a nine-times greater reduction in total catch per trip.

Shore and private boat participants make up 98.6% of striped bass fishing effort. There is nothing fair or equitable about preventing the vast majority of recreational anglers from fishing with unenforceable closures so other anglers on 1.4% of trips can catch AND release more fish.

Most of us don't want to admit how much we spend chasing striped bass. Shore and private-boat effort has proved durable (down only 12.5% and 5.2% from the 2014–2021 average). We are the least efficient—yet we drive almost all (≈99%) of the fishery's socioeconomic value. Since the Board allowed this fishery to be overfished, from Stella Maris in Brooklyn to Paulie's in Montauk, we've lost too many pillars of our striper communities.

Above all, please do what's best for the striped bass and its cultural heritage. No one wants to see another moratorium–or ASMFC's greatest rebuilding success story collapse again.

Sincerely,

President: *John Pfeifer*

Vice President: Mike Perrone

Corresponding Secretary: Brian Hayes

Recording Secretary: Joe Giglietta

Treasurer: Jim Jaget

Sergeant at Arms: Steve Trogele

Shore Atlantic Coast, All Areas Combined

	Directed Trips	Total Catch (A+B1+B2)	Harvest (A+B1)	Released Alive (B2)	Total Catch / Trip	Harvest / Trip	Released / Trip
2014	9,572,365	10,487,410	611,072	9,876,338	1.096	0.064	1.032
2015	9,866,341	7,721,341	625,662	7,095,679	0.783	0.063	0.719
2016	8,760,850	9,251,310	321,055	8,930,255	1.056	0.037	1.019
2017	8,719,237	12,888,978	159,233	12,729,745	1.478	0.018	1.460
2018	9,705,849	8,415,193	286,917	8,128,276	0.867	0.030	0.837
2019	8,629,916	8,653,833	118,384	8,535,449	1.003	0.014	0.989
2020	9,279,542	8,844,230	199,414	8,644,816	0.953	0.021	0.932
2021	9,060,112	10,066,926	299,904	9,767,022	1.111	0.033	1.078
2022	11,579,587	6,931,460	448,603	6,482,857	0.599	0.039	0.560
2023	10,213,642	7,876,374	385,917	7,490,457	0.771	0.038	0.733
2024	8,044,374	2,941,424	201,038	2,740,386	0.366	0.025	0.341
2014-2021 avg	9,199,277	9,541,153	327,705	9,213,448	1.037	0.036	1.002
2024 % change	-12.55%	-69.17%	-38.65%	-70.26%	-64.75%	-29.85%	-65.99%

Private Boat Atlantic Coast, All Areas Combined

	Directed Trips	Total Catch (A+B1+B2)	Harvest (A+B1)	Released Alive (B2)	Total Catch / Trip	Harvest / Trip	Released / Trip
2014	9,705,626	17,225,530	3,041,677	14,183,853	1.77	0.313	1.46
2015	8,489,953	20,326,783	2,155,572	18,171,211	2.39	0.254	2.14
2016	8,808,506	27,833,127	2,958,448	24,874,679	3.16	0.336	2.82
2017	8,299,802	30,561,321	2,459,214	28,102,107	3.68	0.296	3.39
2018	6,669,711	26,608,081	1,927,771	24,680,310	3.99	0.289	3.70
2019	7,016,644	21,989,113	1,805,165	20,183,948	3.13	0.257	2.88
2020	6,612,240	23,838,821	1,324,167	22,514,654	3.61	0.200	3.40
2021	6,403,297	19,875,881	1,255,979	18,619,902	3.10	0.196	2.91
2022	8,660,157	25,752,413	2,751,736	23,000,677	2.97	0.318	2.66
2023	7,364,596	20,247,504	2,004,259	18,243,245	2.75	0.272	2.48
2024	7,349,204	17,398,084	1,356,008	16,042,076	2.37	0.185	2.18
2014-2021 avg	7,750,722	23,532,332	2,115,999	21,416,333	3.04	0.273	2.76
2024 % change	-5.18%	-26.07%	-35.92%	-25.09%	-22.03%	-32.42%	-21.00%

All For Hire Atlantic Coast, All Areas Combined

	Directed Trips	Total Catch (A+B1+B2)	Harvest (A+B1)	Released Alive (B2)	Total Catch / Trip	Harvest / Trip	Released / Trip
2014	361,261	853,007	402,081	450,926	2.36	1.113	1.25
2015	380,950	1,070,070	347,626	722,444	2.81	0.913	1.90
2016	216,959	618,662	241,693	376,969	2.85	1.114	1.74
2017	346,608	1,293,688	392,673	901,015	3.73	1.133	2.60
2018	254,870	703,820	240,576	463,244	2.76	0.944	1.82
2019	276,124	1,139,462	276,445	863,017	4.13	1.001	3.13
2020	214,863	721,015	268,640	452,375	3.36	1.250	2.11
2021	345,767	948,077	302,503	645,574	2.74	0.875	1.87
2022	313,274	858,441	282,480	575,961	2.74	0.902	1.84
2023	261,638	681,685	240,573	441,112	2.61	0.919	1.69
2024	220,859	637,235	171,697	465,538	2.89	0.777	2.11
2014-2021 avg	299,675	918,475	309,030	609,446	3.09	1.04	2.05
2024 % change	-26.30%	-30.62%	-44.44%	-23.61%	-6.70%	-25.45%	2.84%

Emilie Franke
FMP Coordinator

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street
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Arlington, Virginia 22201
M: comments@asmfc.org

October 3, 2025

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

On behalf of Stripers Forever and our members, we submit our comments in support of those options we feel are the best of those made available for finalizing Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. We thank you for the opportunity to do so. We have advised our members as to our position on the options available to the public with the hope that resulting policy will reverse the continued downward trend in the striped bass fishery.

Next year, when these measures take effect, we will be three years from the ASMFC's self-imposed deadline for rebuilding. At the same time there have been six consecutive years of dismal reproduction in the Chesapeake Bay. That is a complete cycle of maturity that is now missing, increasing the odds that future spawns will be sub-optimal since there are not enough young fish in the pipeline to replace the SSB that is now targeted for commercial harvest.

Amendment 6 was a failure and Amendment 7 is on pace to fail. What will it take for the ASMFC to reach the conclusion that an equitable coast-wide harvest moratorium is needed to reverse the downward trend that we have seen since the mid-1990s? We encourage you to put half-measures aside and commit to achieving your own goals.

We recognize that the loudest voices in the room are against such a move, but judging by the comments that the Commission receives every time there is a call for public input, it is clear a majority of the fishing public would cheer an equitable coast-wide harvest moratorium. We also suspect that, in your heart-of-hearts, you know it is the right thing to do.

Instead, facing 6 years of historically low (essentially failed) recruitment in the Chesapeake Bay, the board refuses to take strong preventative steps to rebuild the stock. Instead focusing on measures such as no-targeting closures. Declared unenforceable by the law enforcement committee and unquantifiable by the technical committee, this option should not be on the table. It is merely a distraction; we have never supported it and will never support it.

The options presented in Addendum III will likely fail to rebuild the stock by 2029. Had the board taken proactive steps at an earlier date, the duration of a moratorium potentially could have been shorter. Instead, the board has decided to prolong the inevitable and push the stock closer to total collapse. Even if we rebuild the SSB by 2029, the impact of 6 straight years of failed recruitment offers very little hope for an abundant stock in the future.

Stripers Forever does not envy the position the Commission is in. We recognize it is difficult to make decisions that some claim threaten a traditional way of life. But if difficult decisions are not made, the result will be far more devastating to everyone with a stake in seeing the restoration of a healthy, vibrant wild striped bass fishery.

Based on the available options within Addendum III we support the following and urge you to do the same.

- 3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass
  - **Option B** - Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition.
- 3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging
  - **Option B** - Commercial Tagging At the Point of Harvest.
- 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline
  - **Option C** - New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer.
- 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding
  - **Option B** - Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%
    - Sub-options 01 & CB1.

<u>Additional Comments</u>

- We DO NOT support no-target closures of any kind. No-harvest closures are the only path forward.
- We DO NOT support any for-hire exemptions as this only further divides the angling community. Equitable reductions are necessary; everyone must pitch in to rebuild the stock.
- NY, CT and RI should all be included in the New England region.
- We support wave 4 closures for New England and wave 6 for the Mid-Atlantic regions.
- We urge the board to use all available assets to research and find solutions for the environmental issues which may be contributing to failed recruitment in the Chesapeake Bay. We must get to the root of the problem to return to average or above average spawning.

Taylor Vavra, President
Stripers Forever
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Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

His Vision

~

Our Mission

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October 3, 2025

Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mrs. Franke and members of the Striped Bass Management Board

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, representing anglers, hunters, and conservationists committed to sustaining healthy fish and wildlife populations and preserving public access to our natural resources, **supports maintaining the current recreational fishing seasons (Section 3.4 – Option A)** on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate FMP for Atlantic Striped Bass. We urge the Striped Bass Management Board to maintain current seasons as the most equitable and evidence-based solution, supporting both striped bass recovery and angler access.

The existing management framework has reduced fishing mortality to a 30-year low, well below target and threshold levels. Implementing further fishing restrictions, driven by uncertain recreational catch data and rebuilding projections, risks unwarranted economic disruption, restricts angler access, and provides minimal conservation benefit. In 2024, fishing mortality reached its lowest level in three decades, significantly below the management threshold and target, a target which already accounts for persistent recruitment challenges in Chesapeake Bay. The narrow recreational slot limit has helped to balance conservation with angler access, keeping the spawning stock biomass in an upward rebuilding trajectory while allowing controlled striped bass targeting throughout the season. TRCP supports this science-based approach, which prioritizes stable fishing mortality over reactive adjustments to fluctuating catch data that lack clear conservation and scientific justification.

Draft Addendum III points to poor recruitment in Chesapeake Bay as a reason for tighter restrictions. However, the literature shows that striped bass recruitment is driven by environmental factors, not fishing pressure or spawning stock biomass at current levels. Historical data show robust year classes emerging even at lower SSB levels, indicating no direct link between stock size and recruitment. With fishing mortality at historic lows, additional closures will not improve recruitment and will instead limit angler opportunities without measurable ecological gains.

In addition, the proposed 12% reduction in recreational removals is based on uncertain estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), which NOAA Fisheries acknowledges overestimates fishing effort due to survey design flaws – issues slated for correction in 2026. The reduction in F targets a negligible difference in fishing mortality, which falls within the margin of error due to overlapping confidence intervals, making it statistically equivalent to maintaining status quo measures, a concern that the TC has highlighted as well, when referencing F projections.

Finally, Draft Addendum III forces anglers to choose between two contentious options: no-targeting closures, which halt all fishing and impact both catch-and-release and harvest anglers, or no-harvest closures, which disproportionately burden those who keep fish. These choices risk fracturing the angling community without a clear ecological need.

We urge the Striped Bass Management Board to maintain status quo recreational fishery removals (Section 3.4 – Option A) to ensure consistent, equitable, and effective management. The current striped bass management plan is advancing rebuilding goals, with fishing mortality at historic lows and protective measures guiding the fishery toward recovery by 2029. The proposed 12% reduction, driven by uncertain MRIP data, lacks statistically viable justification and risks significant economic and social harm. Maintaining current recreational fishing seasons will support striped bass rebuilding while preserving angler access.

Sincerely,

Chris Macaluso
Director, Fisheries and Mississippi River Program
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:54:57 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Capt. Mike Smolek
Email
mdsmolek@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
The Upper Bay Charter Captains Association is against Addendum III and does not support the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Baseline Season that has been proposed by Mike Luisi, MD DNR

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.

Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, Inc (VSSA)
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Board of Directors

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John Bello

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Scott Greg

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David Tobey

Pat Valent

Date September 22, 2025

Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street,
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington VA. 22201

Re: Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Dear Ms. Franke,

The Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 for striped bass management.

The striped bass population is overfished and in serious trouble. Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below both the target and threshold levels. VSSA is deeply concerned about the likelihood of rebuilding the biomass to the target level by the 2029 deadline. We are disappointed that the proposed actions in Addendum II are not more restrictive and conservative.

The proposed 12% reduction in removals is insufficient given the multiple stressors affecting the striped bass population, including lack of prey (especially menhaden), several years of low recruitment (juvenile abundance index), pre-spawn commercial netting, and climate change. Recurring below-average year classes will become increasingly evident as fewer juveniles reach maturity. We fear that more drastic action will be necessary in the near term.

VSSA offers the following comments on the proposed management options:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

VSSA supports Option B for uniformity among all states. This option establishes mandatory elements for each state's regulatory definition of total length measurement, eliminating inconsistencies. All states would require the following four elements: 1) squeezing the tail; 2) straight-line measurement; 3) fish laid flat; and 4) mouth closed. This method provides consistent, specific, and easily understood language that is enforceable by law enforcement.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

VSSA supports Option B, which requires commercial tagging at the point of harvest (i.e., immediately upon possession or within specific parameters outlined by the state). This is essentially status quo for Virginia. Option B improves enforcement, reduces high-grading, and increases accountability.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

Virginia eliminated the trophy season several years ago for conservation purposes. VSSA finds it unacceptable that the Striped Bass Board would consider removing the April no-targeting closure and replacing it with catch-and-release from January 1 to April 30, which coincides with prime breeding season. The draft addendum itself acknowledges uncertainty around the impact of catch-and-release on spawning success.

Accordingly, VSSA cannot support either Option B or C.

We can partially support Option A, but recommend extending Maryland's no-targeting timeframes to include March and the entire month of August. March is prime breeding time, and catch-and-release stresses egg-laden females and contributes to dead discards. August's high Bay water temperatures also contribute to dead discards.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

VSSA supports Option A to maintain commercial quotas and size limits. The commercial harvest has been under quota for several years. If changes to the commercial harvest are made, VSSA recommends spreading the allowed harvest more evenly throughout the year, rather than concentrating it in one or two months (i.e. March) as is currently the case in Virginia.

One of the major issues is dead discards by the recreational community, which exceed the entire commercial harvest, as shown in Figure 4 of the draft addendum. It is regrettable this addendum does not adequately address this issue.

VSSA strongly opposes sector separation as discussed in Option B for the Chesapeake Bay. A recreational fisher is recreational regardless of fishing method—whether from a pier, private boat, shoreline, or for-hire charter.

While complete alignment of seasons among the four Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions is challenging, VSSA would support uniform and consistent administration of no-targeting and no-harvest closures for the recreational fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.

4.0 Compliance Schedule

VSSA supports implementation of this addendum on January 1, 2026, and urges the Striped Bass Management Board to take the necessary action to meet that date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Respectfully,

Tom Burkett
Chairman – Government Relations

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October 3, 2025

Via email: comments@asmfc.org

Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Subject: Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7

Dear Ms. Franke:

The Twin Rivers Waterman's Association and the Virginia Waterman's Association (collectively the "Watermen") represent the interests of commercial fishermen of Atlantic Striped Bass in the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. The Watermen submit these comments concerning Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 ("Draft Addendum III") to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission ("ASMFC") Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass ("ASB"). We appreciate the opportunity to submit these written comments to underscore and supplement the comments made on behalf of the Watermen at the public hearing held on September 9, 2025, at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

The principal concern of the Watermen regarding Draft Addendum III is that it provides no option to avoid further reduction of the quota limit on commercial fishermen. Further reduction of the commercial quota is unnecessary and would be unfair. Until the Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum III for public comment at its meeting on August 6, 2025, the draft Addendum included an option for no increase in the reduction required of the commercial fishermen. This option should have been retained.

To the extent that the striped bass population is overfished, that problem is clearly and solely the result of recreational fishing and not commercial fishing. This fact has been clearly demonstrated and is undeniable. In light of the fact that the commercial fishermen of the Chesapeake Bay are not responsible for the problem that Draft Addendum III is intended to address in the first place, it would be unfair and arbitrary to impose limitations on them that are of limited and questionable value to the fishery but that would result in severe adverse consequences to the fishermen.

Commercial and recreational fishermen share a common interest in the size and vitality

of the striped bass population, both in the short term and in the long term. The fact is, however, that increased quotas on commercial fishermen would have a negligible impact on the health of the fishery, but a devastating impact on commercial fishing, specifically on the lives and livelihood of commercial fishermen. The Watermen of the Chesapeake Bay who rely on striped bass to support their families may be commercial fishermen, but they are not industrial fishermen. They are an historic and integral element of the economy and the environment of the Bay. They have learned to survive on the small margins that their boats and their backs offer to them. Further decreases to their already greatly reduced quotas pose an existential threat to their way of life. The recreational fishermen will always be there, but if the small and family-based culture of commercial watermen in the Chesapeake Bay goes away, chances are it will not come back.

The Watermen, and all of the commercial fishermen of the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia, greatly appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Quinan

MJQ

cc: Douglas F. Jenkins, Sr., Twin Rivers Waterman's Association
J.C. Hudgins, Virginia Waterman's Association

October 1, 2025

Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Franke,

On behalf of the Viking Marine Group, a leading boat and marine manufacturer whose products are primarily designed and used for recreational fishing, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III. Striped bass is one of the most important recreational fisheries along the Atlantic Coast, both in terms of cultural significance and economic impact. The actions taken by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) specific to striped bass and other species directly affect not only our customers but also the thousands of workers employed in the marine manufacturing sector and the broader coastal economy.

After reviewing the materials, the status of the stock and looking at the historical context of the striped bass fishery, we urge the ASMFC to maintain status quo regulations through the end of 2027 or the successful peer review of the 2025 benchmark stock assessment.

The justification for our status quo position is outlined below:

Support for Status Quo
Viking strongly urges ASMFC to maintain status quo seasons and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals. The 2023 to 2024 harvest is already down 34% and the slot limit is already extremely narrow. Additionally, we are seeing a decline in efforts coming off historic interest in fishing and boating during and coming out of the pandemic. New restrictions under these conditions would impose significant and unnecessary economic harm on the marine industry and coastal communities without producing a meaningful or measurable biological benefit.

Fishing Mortality is Already at a 30-Year Low
The recreational slot limit has effectively lowered fishing mortality to F = 0.13 in 2024, well below both the target (F = 0.17) and threshold (F = 0.21). Proposed changes are being driven by a 0.01 difference in fishing mortality, an amount that is statistically insignificant. The current conservation framework is working and should be allowed to continue without additional disruptions.

Problems with MRIP Require a More Reliable Approach
The proposed reductions are based on annual short-term swings in Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data a known problem that has also affected black sea bass, summer

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flounder, bluefish and scup management. To improve reliability, ASMFC should average MRIP results over at least a three-year period to prevent unnecessary management volatility.

Pending MRIP Recalibration Undermines the Need for Action Now
NOAA has acknowledged MRIP effort estimates may be overestimated by 30–40% and is conducting a Pilot Project to recalibrate these estimates, with implementation expected in 2027. It is illogical to impose a 12% reduction in the present when data revisions in 2026 are likely to provide different guidance on catch and rebuilding progress for striped bass.

Proposed Closures Will Cause Severe Economic Harm
The proposal includes no-targeting and no-harvest closures lasting up to 22 to 48 days during the May–October fishing season. Striped bass are one of the primary drivers of boating, tackle, and marine service expenditures. Removing up to a month and a half of striped bass access would have catastrophic economic impacts on the fishing economy impacts compounded by other recent fishery closures (e.g., Bluefin tuna). Additionally, striped bass migration timing varies not just by region but locally, meaning blanket closures cannot be implemented fairly across different communities.

No-Target Closures Will Cause Enforcement Challenges
No targeting closures for striped bass will result in significant enforcement challenges particularly in fisheries where timing, gear and techniques may overlap. The fact that many anglers go to a jetty or pier and fish a piece of bait or throw a lure with the hope of catching anything could be viewed as targeting by enforcement. Furthermore, anglers could be questioned by enforcement not fully recognizing the answers could be used to issue a citation. It's possible that the mere presence striped bass may be enough to prompt enforcement action thereby causing anglers to be fearful of fishing for species that are open but comingle with striped bass.

Further Restrictions on Fishing Will Not Address Poor Recruitment
The current challenge facing striped bass is poor recruitment due to environmental conditions in the Chesapeake Bay, and other spawning ground, not excessive harvest or fishing mortality. Further restrictions on anglers come with real social and economic impacts yet, no guarantees that there will be any positive impact on recruitment. That is because stock size, fishing mortality and recruitment are uncoupled. We recognize ASMFC's management authority is limited but in order to secure strong year classes, on habitat restoration, water quality improvements, and creative approaches (hatcheries or transporting fry) from areas where recruitment is habitually impaired to areas where survivorship is higher. One must also question whether the current rebuilding target is realistic or achievable in light of current conditions in the Bay which contributes upwards of 80% of the coastal migratory stock. Between water quality, catfish, and other environmental stressors, its

In closing, striped bass is not only one of the most popular saltwater fisheries for recreational anglers, but also a vital economic engine that sustains marine manufacturing, tackle sales, marina services, and coastal economies. Its clear that further reductions on fishermen will not produce greater recruitment, that is driven near exclusively by environmental conditions. We urge the ASMFC to maintain status quo through the next benchmark stock assessment recognizing the

limitations of current data, the disconnect between stock size and recruitment, and we are struggling to rebuild to a biomass level that may not be achievable under the current conditions.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

John DePersenaire
Director of Government Affairs and Sustainability
Viking Marine Group

September 11, 2025

To: Emilie Franke, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

From: The Board of Directors, The Village Harbour Fishing Club

Subject: Comments on Draft Addendum III (to the Atlantic Striped Bass FMP)

Although the Addendum includes measures on commercial tagging, items specific to the Maryland fishing seasons, and standardization of striped bass length measurement, the focus of these comments is specifically on the proposal for a 12% cut to the recreational harvest. The Commission is now proposing to use seasonal closures, including no targeting measures, on top of the already highly restrictive one slot-fish approach, which has already severely curtailed recreational fishing. We are opposed to the Commission taking any further cuts in the RHL for striped bass and would recommend on this issue that you keep the status quo for the recreational RHL, for the following reasons:

- The cuts made in 2018, 2019, and 2023 have been sufficient in reversing the downward trend in the female Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB), and the most recent data shows a steady upward trend in the stock. (See Figure 1 in the Addendum). Likewise, fishing mortality has been reduced below the threshold (Figure 2). The stock is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring.
- In our opinion, contrary to the interpretation by the TC and the Board, the odds highly favor the restoration of the SSB by 2029 (Figure 3). The curve crosses the target line at 2029 well within the 95% CI. Considering the uncertainty of the stock assessment process, and the known errors of the MRIP process for estimating recreational catch, the 30% odds seem highly questionable. Remember, MRIP numbers drove the TC to revise their spring estimate of needing only a 1% reduction to the current estimate of 12%.
- Relying on recruitment patterns and trends to set regulations for fishing is problematic. It is known that there is little to no mathematical direct correlation between the female

SSB and recruitment patterns for most of the species under management by the Commission and the Council. Furthermore, we would challenge the TC to prove that the current level of recruitment is incapable of supporting the SSB at its current level. Threshold and Target values for Atlantic Striped Bass were set in 1995, when the stock was declared rebuilt, and the conditions in the estuaries supported a higher level of recruitment. Conditions have deteriorated due to climate change and human development of the watersheds, and the SSB has now apparently stabilized to a new range, a "new normal". Trying to restore recruitment and the SSB to 1995 levels may be an exercise in futility, unless there is remediation issues underlying poor recruitment (see below)

- Key numbers that went in to the TC's and Board's projection regarding the rebuilding will be changing in 2026 and 2027. It has now been established that the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) portion of the MRIP process is severely flawed, and that a recalibration will almost certainly revise the historical recreational catch numbers, including the ones that triggered the 2019 rebuilding program. In addition, a new stock assessment workshop will be conducted in 2027, which may better clarify the status of the stock. It seems prudent to wait on making more decisions costly and damaging to the recreational and commercial communities before we see just how the new numbers develop.

There are, however, some things that we all should be supporting that could significantly improve recruitment and the SSB for the future that do not involve more cuts in the RHL. These include the following:

- Coastwide declaration of Atlantic Striped Bass as a gamefish, as has already been done in New Jersey. Legal and illegal commercial killing of stripers is almost certainly occurring at a higher level than the currently estimated 10% levels of total harvest. Underreporting of dead discards, unreliable weight and size estimates, and other misrepresentations are suspected, and if nothing else, should be investigated and remediated.
- Establishment of a stocking program for Atlantic Striped Bass for more coastal estuaries (as has already been implemented to restore the stock in North Carolina) should be further considered. Costly, yes, but it should work, as it has for other stocks. Creeks and rivers where dams have been removed, and where there were once populations of Atlantic Striped Bass, should be at the top of the list for any new efforts.
- Support efforts and legislation to control the Blue Catfish population in the Chesapeake and elsewhere that they are becoming established. Their impact on the YOY surveys could be huge.

- Get control of the Menhaden commercial fishery. Now.

As the saying goes, if all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. Pounding away at the recreational harvest via seasonal closures is not the only tool we have available and is probably not going to do much to solve recruitment problems. Seasonal closures will do severe damage to the for-hire portion of the recreational sector, and to businesses and facilities that support recreational fishing, including boatyards and bait and tackle stores. And it will further the decline in recreational saltwater fishing generally. We do need to ensure that there are enough stripers to go around, but the Commission and the Board have already reduced the RHL to a point where further reductions to recreational harvest have little chance of making an impact on the SSB . Fix the real issues as best we can, and we might see an improved SSB for years to come.

The bottom line. We support:

1. Measuring Total Length: Option B. Makes perfect sense.
2. Commercial Tagging: Option C. B is also acceptable.
3. Maryland Chesapeake Bay Seasons: Option B. C is unnecessary.
4. Reduction in Fishery Removals: Option A, Status Quo. No Reduction. For all the reasons stated above. Commercial reductions could be addressed with greater enforcement to stop illegal fishing and catch misrepresentations. Commercial tagging reform is a start.

Signed, the Board of Directors of the Village Harbour Fishing Club (Manahawkin NJ).

Ed Valitutto	President
John Steubing	1st VP
Phil Simon	2nd VP
Jerry Nichols	Treasurer
Pat Presutto	Weighmaster and Awards
Dave Etelman	Publicity
Jeff Orsoe	Vessel Safety
Chuck Dishian	JCAA Representative

From: Waterman"s Association of Worcester County
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Rockfish-Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:12:28 PM

On behalf of the Waterman‘s Association of Worcester County we support Options A; Status Quo No Quota Reduction. We believe that this is the best option for the commercial rockfish industry, and the community that it feeds and supports.

Earl (Sonny) Gwin, Jr

President

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.

American Sportfishing Association Form Letter from 660 individuals

(Submitted by a total of 929 individuals with 269 of those providing their own additional rationale/comments and so counted as individual comments)

From:
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:50:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

randkerr@optonline.net

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.

South Shore of Long Island Form Letter signed by 485 individuals

Striped Bass Status Quo Management Support Sheet (Addendum III)

We, the undersigned, Support Status Quo Management Because:

- **Status quo management is the most equitable option. It will minimize further economic harm to businesses already impacted significantly by previous reductions.**
- **A reduction in season will cause some areas to suffer severely by losing tbeir productive season, while others see little to no constraints in actual opportunity.**
- **Anglers that prefer to harvest fish should not bear the overwhelming conservation burden when catch-and-release practices contribute to a significant portion of total mortality.**
- **No-Target and No-Harvest options unnecessarily put anglers against each other creating a lose-lose scenario.**

Name	State
[illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	9/14/25
[illegible]	9/20/25
[illegible]	9/20/25
[illegible]	9/20/25
[illegible]	9/20/25
[illegible]	NY
Brian Senar	NY
[illegible]	N.Y.
Gionni Giglio	N.Y.
Gino Gargiulo	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	N.Y.
Keith Thompson	N.Y.
Keith Thompson	N.Y.
Michael Duncan	N.Y.
John [illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	NY
Justin Soliman	NY
Jason Soliman	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	

Name	State
Colum DeVlin	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NJ
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	CT
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY

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- **No-Target and No-Harvest options unnecessarily put anglers against each other creating a lose-lose scenario.**

Name	State
William A. Gerard	N.Y.
Austin Potts	N.Y.
Landon Hoffman	NY
Gabriel [illegible]	NY
Joey Riddle	N.Y
[illegible]	NY
James Pacifico	N.Y
[illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible] BELALBARN	N.Y.
Jonathan Belalcazar	NY
Fernando Muniz Jr	NY
Brandon Reese	NY
Mahbubul Marut	NY
Cameron Bates	NY
[illegible]	NY
Mia Amoscato	NY
Mamey Amoscato	N.Y.
Mia Amoscato	N.Y.
Jack Ratford	N.Y.
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NJ
Baylor Robaugh	NJ
[illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	N.Y
[illegible]	NY

Name	State
Jean Colaizo	NY
[illegible]	NY
David Lovell	NY
[illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	NY
Christine White	NY
ZEPHAN	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	N.Y.
Stephen McGrath	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Colin Grant	NY
Aiden McSherry	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Jonathan Ferraro	NY
Jose Hernandez	NY
Carl Constable	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
	NY

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Name	State
ANIL ROY	NY
Arjun Roy	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Stanley Kan	NY
Kim H. Park	NJ
[illegible]	NY
Michael O'Connor	NY
Craig Gunther	N.Y.
Gopal Sukhraj	N.Y.
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	NY
Brant [illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	N.Y.
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Francesco Moriscalchi	NY

Name	State
Andrew Chin	NY
Jennifer Russell	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY

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Name	State
Anthony L. Zapata	NY
	NY
	NY
Conor Orland	NY
Tyler Penner	NY

Name	State

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Name	State
Samantha Verdon	NY
John Washington	NY
Joe Amato	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Jeff Mccall	NY
[illegible]	NY
Nicole Smith	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Mark Cuyler	NY
Tyler Ng	NY
Matt Schuh	NY
JOSEPH BARRECA	NY
Joseph BARRECA JR.	NY
[illegible]	NY
Margaret [illegible]	NY
JASON GARRITY	NY
Mike Durand	NY
Andrew Cohen	NY
Richard [illegible]	NY
Ric Hansen	NY
Ann Haughney	NY
[illegible]	NY

Name	State
Wayne Kozlak	NY
Angelo Maiorano	CT/NY
O'Keefe	NY
Maydeli Rodriguez	NY
Pablo Rodriguez	NY

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Name	State
James Higgins	NY
Cara Thomas	NY
Nick Thomas	NY
Dawn Thomas	NY
Scott Thomas	NY
Theresa Higgins	NY
John Higgins	NY
Katie Higgins	NY
Declan Thomas	NY
Vanne CANIZIO	NY
KRYSTLE MORAN	NY
James Moran	NY
Patricia Moran	NY
Anna Moran	NY
John MORAN	NY
John Mahoney	NY
Carol Mahoney	NY
Kevin Austin	NY
Richard LaCarrubba	N.Y.
Joe Noto	N.Y.
Joseph Bacchi	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	N.Y.
Cara Walsh	N.Y.

Name	State
Thomas C Ford	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Salvatore Catapano	NY
Laura Campanelli	NY
Darren Campanelli	NY
Nicholas Campanelli	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
MARK ALBARANO	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Nichole Breen	NY
Sophia Albarano	NY
Katelyn Breen	NY
Maddie Cammalleri	NY
Emily Barkley	NY
Brendan Barkley	NY
Siena Gioia	NY
Gavin Kelly	NY
Shawn Kelly	NY

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Name	State
JEFF BLUE	NY
STEVE GIAMMITTA	NY
DEMETRI PIATOS	NY
ERIC BROWN	NY
Andrew Pugs	NJ
Alex Jones	NY
Andrew S. Burman	NY
Julia S. Burman	
TJ Jones	NY
TJ Minutillo	NY
Thomas J Minutillo	NY
Tomasso Minutillo	NY
Salvatore Minutillo	NY
David Law	NY
Steve Arsenault	NY
Mel Coty	NY
Michael DeFilippis	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY

Name	State

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Name	State
Tara O'Hare	NY
Fran Calix	NY
Ann O'Hare	NY
Leanne Butkovic	NY
Dong Seop Lee	NY
Alex Spindelman	NY
Charles Spindelman	NY
Barbara A. Zerbo	NY
Eric Spindelman	NY
Wiesiek Jankowski	NY
Keith Thompson	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Tyler Salvitti	NY
Mike Yunco	NY
Ricky Law	NY
Wing Law	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Buonaro	NY
DiGrado	NY
Abel	NY
Clifford White	NY
Akino Morain	NY
Matt Bajek	NJ

Name	State
T Shannon Griffin	NY
[illegible]	
[illegible]	NY
THOMAS PISERO	NY
THOMAS DUNN	NY
[illegible]	N.Y.
R Pisano	N.Y.
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
R Pisano	NY
Alex Tricolis	NY
C Tricolis	NY
R. JAGIELO	NY
J Brito	NY
M Brito	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
VICTOR C	NY
[illegible]	NY
William Depalisch	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Jason Matt Bajek	NY

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Name	State
	NY
	NY
	NY

Name	state
Carlos Pineda	NJ
Daniel Pineda	NJ
Marbin Juarez	NJ
Rolando Cruz	NJ
Walter Garcia	NJ
Kevin Perez	NJ
Ted Henn	NY
Tim Henn	GA
ED Henn	FLA
Joseph Cutajar	N.Y.
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Aizen [illegible]	NY
Paramjeet [illegible]	NY
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Jeff Winston	NY
James Guzman	NY
Anthony Bjelke	NY
Andrew Shamloo	NY
Frank Funko	NY
Sal LaCerra	NY
Jose S H	NY
MATTHEW ROSS	NY
BEN ROSS	NY
RUDY ROSS	NY

Shaun McDonagh	NY
Lorenzo Giron	NY
Jack Kennedy	NJ
JOHN R. BERTRAM	NY
Christopher Arton	NY
Duncan Arton	NY
Dominick [illegible]	NY
Santiago [illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Walter Cruz	NY
[illegible]	NY
Salehobadi	NY
[illegible]	NY
Rosa Flores	N.Y
Sayla [illegible]	NY
Ulises Siguenza	NY
Jonathan Flores	NY
Christina Schneider	NY

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Name	State
Giovanni Novaes	NY
Captain Bobby Winters	NY
Michael Maniscalco	NY
Joseph Falco	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NC
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Nathan Henderson	NY
Miranda Ruiz	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
Amanda Wilson	NY
Drew Driver	NY
Joan Kjellerup	NY

Name	State

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- **No-Target and No-Harvest options unnecessarily put anglers against each other creating a lose-lose scenario.**

Name	State
Steve Bussa SR.	NY
Fred Caravousanos	N.Y.
George Dlugolonski	N.Y.
Bill Smith	NY
Bryan Sarice	NY

Name	State

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Name	State
Connor Peacock	NY
Jack Castellano	NY
ANTONIO ROBERTS	NY
SEBASTIAN ROBERTS	NY
SCOTT ROBERTS	NY
SALENA ROBERTS	NY
CASSANDRA ROBERTS	NY
Marc Cecchinola	NY
John Nazzo	NY
Jeff Mewam	NY
William P Drinkwater	N.Y.
Blaike Drinkwater	N.Y.
Joseph Santandrea	NY
Josh Stoutenburgh	N.Y.
christian Bellomo	NY
Chris Beckwith	NY
Tyler [illegible]	NY
Anthony Conti	NY
JAMES FLYNN	NY
Ethan Safrany	NY
James McSwigin	N.Y.
Logan Hamm	N.Y.
Myan Nappo	N.Y.
NICOLA ANCARER	N.Y.
DANIEL O'SULLIVAN	NY

Name	State
Joseph Porru	NY
Lewis Ricciuti	NY
Chris Caiazza	NY
William Sheehan	NY
Keith [illegible]	NY
Juan Paredes	NY
[illegible]	N.Y.
Jim Maiorro	NY
Kristofer Esposito	NY
John Jordan	NY
Joe Kurtin	NY
Francisco Delgado	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
[illegible]	NY
LUCA Maldari	NY
Anthony Vitale	NY
Arthur Chiodo	NY
LUKE C. BELFORD	NY
KELSEY ARNOLD	NY
LILLY BELFORD	NY
BIRDIE BELFORD	NY
Patrick Lynam	NY
Steven Bussa	NY

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Form Letter submitted by 239 individuals

From:
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III - BHA
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:24:25 PM

Dear ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board:

As a supporter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Draft Addendum III, and to advise the ASMFC on the general priorities and specific options I would like to see included in Addendum III.

The Atlantic striped bass stock has been overfished since 2019, and in spite of prior conservation efforts undertaken by ASFMC it remains clear that additional reductions in fishing mortality are needed. I believe that all segments of the fishery should participate in its recovery, and urge the striped bass Board to exclude options that facilitate enhanced harvest opportunities for certain segments.

To maximize the chances that fishing mortality is reduced by 12% in 2026 and that the striped bass stock is recovered by 2029, I urge the Board to include the following options in Addendum III:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass - Option B
3.2 Commercial Tagging - Option B
3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline - Option C
3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding - Option B
Oppose all no-target closure options included in O1 and CB3
Oppose options O2/CB2 that split for-hires from the general recreational measures

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Multi-Signatory Letter from 5 individuals

CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Joshua E. Kurtz
Secretary of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Amendment III to Addendum VI of Maryland's Fishery Management Plan – Letter of Opposition

Dear Secretary Kurtz,

On behalf of the citizens and businesses of Calvert County, the Board of County Commissioners strongly opposes Amendment III to Addendum VI of Maryland's Fishery Management Plan. While framed as a 12% reduction in striped bass harvests, the proposal would, in practice, impose a devastating 58% cut on Maryland's commercial fleet. This threatens to dismantle a heritage-based industry that has fueled the state's economy and sustained generations of working families.

Equally concerning is the proposal to reopen catch-and-release fishing from January through May, directly targeting spawning fish in the Chesapeake Bay at their most vulnerable stage. This period has been closed for the past six years to protect the spawning stock, and reversing that protection contradicts the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' own recommendations. In addition, the proposed non-targeting closure for recreational and charter boats from July 15 through Aug. 31 would compound the damage, undermining the charter industry during its peak season and further destabilizing Maryland's fishing economy.

Calvert County is proud to be home to one of the largest fishing fleets on the Chesapeake Bay, a cornerstone of both our heritage and our local economy. Already, our constituents and boat captains are reporting widespread cancellations of charter trips and reductions in bookings. These early losses signal a cascading impact that will reverberate throughout our waterfront businesses and the broader economy. For decades, these industries have demonstrated resilience, adapting to reduced harvests and rigorous regulatory requirements while continuing to contribute to our economy and cultural identity. The restrictions imposed under this proposal, however, represent a tipping point that will inevitably force many long-standing, reputable businesses to close. The closure of these businesses will mean lost jobs, reduced tourism and diminished investment in our community. These outcomes directly undermine Calvert County's broader economic goals and jeopardize the progress we have worked tirelessly to achieve.

Supporting these industries is not merely about protecting tradition. It is about safeguarding a critical economic engine that sustains families, drives tourism and reinforces our shared cultural heritage. With your support, we intend to ensure that these industries remain viable for generations to come. We respectfully and urgently request your assistance in protecting the livelihoods of Maryland's watermen, charter operators and the many small businesses that depend on them.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Earl F. Hance, President

Todd Ireland, Vice President

Mark C. Cox Sr.

Catherine M. Grasso

Mike Hart

CC:
Governor Wes W. Moore
The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Maryland State Senator
The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs, Maryland State Delegate
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz, Maryland State Delegate
The Honorable Jefferson L. Ghrist, Maryland State Delegate
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Multi-Signatory Letter from 5 individuals

COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 SOMERSET AVENUE, ROOM 111
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853
TELEPHONE 410-651-0320, FAX 410-651-0366

COMMISSIONERS
CHARLES LAIRD, PRESIDENT
RANDY LAIRD, VICE-PRESIDENT
CRAIG N. MATHIES, SR.
ELDON WILLING
DARRYL K. WEBSTER

COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR

INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ERNEST J. LEATHERBURY, JR.

COUNTY ATTORNEY
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

August 27, 2025

The Honorable Joshua E. Kurtz, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Amendment III to Addendum VI of Maryland's Fishery Management Plan/Letter of Opposition

Dear Secretary Kurtz:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County submit this letter of opposition regarding the Fishery Management Plan Amendment III to Addendum VI proposing a 12% reduction in the harvest of striped bass as well as a commercial quota reduction of approximately 58%. As proposed, we feel that reductions are unnecessary and will cause financial hardship for the commercial industry, economic tourism in the County as well as loss of income generated by people who fish for a living in Somerset County.

Our strong concern is that for many years our watermen have bore the financial losses while operating within current strict regulatory compliance and reductions. We feel that Amendment III reductions will be the final blow to many of our waterman who will no longer be able to earn their living harvesting striped bass.

We respectfully ask your assistance to support our local watermen, and ask the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reconsider the proposed reductions.

Respectfully,

Charles Laird
President

Cc: Governor Wes Moore
The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza
The Honorable Charles Otto
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Multi-Signatory Letter from 5 individuals

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

September 23, 2025

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
c/o Emilie Franke FMP Coordinator
1050 N. Highland Street
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
comments@asmfc.org

RE: Addendum III to Amendment VII to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass

Dear Board Members and Commissioners,

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **OPPOSE** Amendment III's proposal to reduce 2026 removals of Atlantic striped bass by twelve-percent (12%), in addition to its alterations to the recreational season.

Stakeholders in our County have expressed concern that the proposed reduction in the commercial harvest will cause significant economic distress in the local industry. Local watermen, who are cherished elements of the County's economic and cultural heritage, already face slim profit margins in the midst of significant and increasing economic uncertainty. Constituents have also raised over the proposed alterations to the recreational fishing season. They fear that allowing a catch-and-release fishery in April, during prime spawning season, will prove counterproductive, while simultaneously creating immediate lost earnings by reducing harvest days during prime fishing season.

We add our voices to our constituents' and urge that the status quo be preserved. Doing so will protect our local industry and strike the necessary, reasonable balance between preservation of livelihoods and a heritage economic sector on the one hand, and prudent stewardship of our natural resources on the other. We implore the Board to reconsider these elements of the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/jsh/tr
T:/Consent/2025/092

Cc: Secretary Josh Kurtz, Department of Natural Resources
Senator Jack Bailey

Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator
Buffy Giddens, County Attorney
John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

Multi-Signatory Letter from 3 individuals

The County Commissioners of Kent County
Ronald H. Fithian, President | Albert H. Nickerson, Member | John F. Price, Member
Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator

RECEIVED
SEP 11 2025
By:

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Joshua E. Kurtz
Secretary of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Amendment III to Addendum VI of Maryland's Fishery Management Plan - Letter of Opposition

Dear Secretary Kurtz:

We, the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, submit our opposition to the Fishery Management Plan Amendment III to Addendum VI proposing a 12% reduction in the harvest of striped bass. The proposed legislation will put the commercial industry at a 58% reduction in the ability to harvest striped bass in Maryland. This will decimate the commercial fishery that has been a heritage-based economic driver in Maryland for many years. Also, on the recreational and charter boat side of the issue, it is proposed to open up catch and release from January through May, specifically, targeting spawning fish pre-staged and spawning in the Chesapeake Bay Region. Historically, this time has been closed for the past 6 years specifically to protect the spawning fish, which completely goes against what the Maryland Department of Natural Resources proposed last year, and to protect the spawning stock biomass of striped bass to accomplish their goal for 2029. The recreational and charter boats will have a non-targeting closure next summer from July 15th to August 31st. As proposed, these reductions are unnecessary and will cause significant financial hardships for the industry, economic tourism in the County, and income generated by people who fish in Maryland.

Our constituents are already reporting cancellations and reductions in reserved trips. The economic impact on our County and its waterfront businesses will bear financial losses and erode the economic growth we have worked so hard to develop. For many years, these industries have operated with reductions in harvesting and strict regulatory compliance, yet they have remained in operation. This year's restrictions are the tipping point that will unquestionably force good businesses to close their doors. We respectfully request your assistance in safeguarding the small business community. Kent County is open for business, and we want to keep it that way.

Sincerely,
THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Ronald H. Fithian, President | Albert H. Nickerson, Member | John F. Price, Member

cc: Governor Westley W. Moore
The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey
The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz
The Honorable Jefferson L. Ghrist
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Form Letter 1 of unknown origin submitted by 24 individuals (MD anglers)

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:21:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Email

State

Maryland

Comment

To: the ASMFC Striped Bass Board
Ref: ASMFC ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM III PUBLIC COMMENT

3.3 MARYLAND SEASON RECREATIONAL BASELINE
I support Option. B New Baseline

3.4 REDUCTION IN FISHERY REMOVALS TO SUPPORT STOCK REBUILDING
I support Option. A Status Quo

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Form Letter 2 of Unknown Origin submitted by 23 individuals

From:
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 4:48:31 PM

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the proposed non-target rule. While I support responsible fisheries management, this rule would shift an undue burden onto recreational anglers who are not targeting regulated species but may encounter them incidentally.

Such a policy risks discouraging participation in our coastal fisheries without meaningfully advancing conservation goals. I urge the Commission to pursue strategies that protect stocks while preserving fair access for recreational anglers.

Thank you for your consideration,

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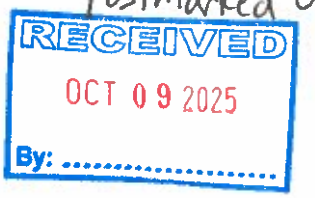
Form Letter 3 of unknown origin submitted by 5 individuals (NJ anglers)

INPUT FOR THE ASMFC ADDENDUM III TO AMENDMENT 7 TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR STRIPED BASS

Postmarked Oct 3, 2025



Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Franke,

I am to submit my public comment on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

Striped bass are at the heart of our coastal fishery, and their continued decline is unacceptable. I support strong action now to ensure the stock is rebuilt by 2029, as required by law. The status quo is no longer an option.

I respectfully urge the Board to adopt the following positions:

- **3.1 Method of Measurement:** Option B — a uniform, enforceable definition of straight-line measurement: fish laid flat, mouth closed, tail squeezed.
- **3.2 Commercial Tagging:** Option B — tagging at point of harvest (immediately upon possession) to reduce fraud and black-market diversion.
- **3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Baseline:** Option C — new baseline with at least a 10% uncertainty buffer; 15–20% would be even stronger given failed spawns.
- **3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals:** Option B — even 12% reductions across all sectors.
  - Ocean: O1 — one fish, 28–31", all modes, no for-hire exemption.
  - Bay: CB1 (20–23") or CB3 (19–24" slot with closures).
- **Seasonal Closures:** For New Jersey, the most effective are Wave 2 (March–April) and Wave 4 (July–August). Wave 2 protects staging fish in Raritan Bay; Wave 4 reduces summer discard mortality. These must be **no-harvest closures only.**

Conclusion

The time for delay has passed; only decisive action, including regional no-harvest closures and equitable sector reductions, will restore the striped bass population.

We appreciate the Board's continued efforts to restore and sustain Atlantic striped bass for future generations.

Form Letter 4 of unknown origin submitted by 5 individuals

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:19:14 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Email

State

Comment

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.
3.2: Commercial Tagging Option B – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.
3.3: Chesapeake Bay Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution (propose at hearings). We have more news on this to be released in the upcoming weeks.
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.

I oppose for-hire exemptions: Unfair burden on 98% of anglers; for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% landings from 1.4% trips).

We need accountability for the ASMFC delays. If rebuilding fails, we need a moratorium.

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Form Letter 5 of unknown origin submitted by 5 individuals

From:
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:11:00 AM

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing in strong opposition to any closure on targeting striped bass. Closing this fishery would devastate the livelihoods of countless small businesses, charter captains, tackle shops, and hardworking people who depend on it for their income and way of life.
From my direct experience on the water, the striped bass population is clearly strong. On almost any given night, it is possible to catch 20-30 bass without difficulty. This is a clear indication that the fishery is thriving and should not be shut down.
Furthermore, it is impossible to physically count every striped bass in the rivers and ocean. No formula or model in the world can capture the true abundance of this species. Relying solely on projections and models rather than real-world conditions risks damaging both the economy and the culture built around striped bass.
I urge you to reject any closure and instead work with fishermen, businesses, and conservationists to create balanced measures that protect the resource without destroying the communities that depend on it.

Best,

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:09:13 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Justin Berry
Email
juatinberry87@yahoo.com
State
Maine
Comment
Simple: The most productive breeding Fish are the larger females, 40” and up. The amount of eggs they produce are exponentially greater than there smaller sized females around 30”. If you protect the larger fish and let them spawn the amount of eggs will Be much greater, more eggs even with a low rate of hatchling survival will result in more striped bass just by the increase in sheer numbers of young fish. I believe there needs to be drastic cuts in both commercial and recreational sectors. I would opt for no harvest in both sectors for a few years and see how the stock responds. Catch and release only recreationally. Maybe let the charter boats for hire keep a very finite number of fish in certain locations would be it. We need to protect the larger(best breeding size) female fish to have any hope. The commercial sector keeps all the large fish and lots of them. If they find a school of 40” fish they will literally deplete the whole school from my experience. Catch them until there are no more.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:43:41 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David Lancaster
Email
davidlancaster471@gmail.com
State
Maine
Comment
As a recreational fisherman in the state of Maine, i've noticed dramatic changes annually over the last decade. Fish we abundant, willing to eat and sizes were all over the chart. Over recent years, skunks have become more and more common with this summer being my worst… change is needed, much sooner than later. We know how this species can bounce back, we just have to give them that wiggle room. Shutting down the recreational fishery and limiting the commercial quotas for the sake of them making a living would be our best route. These fish need change from people to thrive once more. It's now or never.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:39:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Justin Gonsalves

Email

gonsalves.justin@gmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

I live and fish in the coastal waters of Maine, as a private recreational angler.
For measuring the total length of a striped bass, I support mandatory elements for each state's definition of total length for both sectors. All states would require these four elements in their definition: 1) squeezing the tail; 2) a straight-line measurement; 3) the fish is laid flat; and 4) the mouth is closed.
For commercial tagging, I support states would implement commercial tagging at the point of harvest (i.e., immediately upon possession or within specific parameters outlined by the state).
For the Maryland Chesapeake Bay recreational baseline season, I support Maryland implementing the new recreational baseline season as described in Option B plus any additional season closures for any coastwide reduction plus a 10% uncertainty buffer intended to increase the new baseline's probability of success in achieving equivalency (i.e., not increasing removals) as compared to the current season. The buffer would result in longer closures as compared to Option B.
For measures to support stock rebuilding, I support reducing fishery removals by 12% with a 12% commercial quota reduction and a 12% recreational reduction achieved through recreational season closure and/or recreational size limit changes.
To achieve the 12% reduction in Ocean recreational removals, I support Option O1.
To achieve the 12% reduction in Chesapeake Bay recreational removals, I support Option CB1.
For Ocean season closures, I support No-Harvest closures (catch-and-release fishing for striped bass is allowed; harvest of striped bass is prohibited)
For Ocean recreational season closures, I support Chesapeake Bay season No-Harvest.
For Chesapeake Bay recreational season closures, I support strong preventative actions now. Especially as we face 6 straight years of failed spawning in the Chesapeake Bay.
Additional comment, I support an equitable coast-wide harvest moratorium as the best and only way to rebuild the stock.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:12:01 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kyle Engstrom
Email
kyle.engstrom@yahoo.com
State
Maine
Comment
Is regulating slot size and quotas for striped bass currently working? Would it be better to pook at water quality where they spawn? Will anything be done to limit overfishing of menhaden and herring?

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 6:17:24 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Captain Eric Wallace
Email
eric@coastalflyangler.com
State
Maine
Comment
3.1 Option B 3.2 Option B 3.3 Option C 3.4 option B-01 Further I oppose for hire exemptions and support a FULL NO HARVEST time period that support rebuilding stocks, I DO NOT support a no target period for rec anglers..... ASMFC We got here by you guys kicking the can down the road!!!! it's truly time to stop the BS and move forward to give this fishery a fighting chance .....

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:38:33 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Jonathan Dubois

Email

jjoohhnn2009@gmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

Recreational striped bass fishing should be catch and release only with Manditory Circle Hooks. I understand that the morality rate is high with recreational fishing, however, making circle hooks mandatory for all recreational striped bass fishing would substantially reduce that mortality rate. Circle hooks can be used with all artificial lures and bait. Those circle hooks were created to reduce fish mortality rates. Its a simple process to change from a treble hook to a circle hook. No more treble hooks period. They kill fish. It's an easy fix to a complicated issue. Please consider this simple option rather than season closures. Any questions, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Dubois, Proud member of the "Kennabook Striper Club" in Winslow Maine.

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: Capt. Costa Moreshead
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:12:08 AM

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

I am contacting you as a Striped Bass guide in Maine, an avid Striper angler and someone who is passionate about the Striped Bass fishery. I have been chasing Stripers from the time I could hold a fishing rod until today, almost 40 years. I have built my fishing charter business over the past 8 years from nothing, I take over 120 parties a year out targeting Striped Bass for catch and release.

I am not in favor of a "No Target" closure period. It would be devastating to my business as well as my enjoyment in my off time. Anglers in Maine have no other species of big game sport fish to target inshore. If someone accidentally catches a striper they face criminal charges and fines for catching a fish, it is unfair and tyrannical.

The economic impact to me personally could be over $40,000.00 in lost income, charters account for most of my yearly income. I do not know how I will be able to make my boat payments, insurance payments, dock fee, mechanic and storage bills, if I lose that income.

I feel the only fair solution is ending being able to retain Striped Bass recreationally Atlantic coast wide, make it a catch and release only species. As well as cut the commercial quota for striped bass by 50%. Make funding available to law enforcement to make sure poachers are caught.

Thank you.
Capt. Costa Moreshead
Hard to Port Fishing LLC
Kennebunkport, ME
207-205-1257

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: Patrick @ Old Maine Outfitters
To: Comments
Cc: Carl Wilson; Megan Ware; Stephen R. Train; Rep. Allison Hepler; Cameron.reny@maine.legislature.gov
Subject: [External] [New] Addendum III Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:38:15 AM

Dear ASMFC Board,

My name is Patrick Rudman of South Portland Maine. I am the owner of Old Maine Outfitters, a fishing apparel company centering around Striped Bass Conservation. I am writing to submit public comment on Draft Addendum III and urge the Board to adopt the most precautionary, coastwide measures to ensure rebuilding by 2029 with at least a 60% probability of success.

Perspective from Maine

In Maine, an unenforceable "no targeting" closure would essentially shut down recreational fishing during the closure period. That said, Maine is likely the only state where it actually could be enforceable as we have NO other species to fish for inshore as striped bass are the only coastal game fish we have. A no-targeting rule means no charters, no tackle sales, no guides, and no recreational participation. No targeting = seasonal closures for us....and if seasonal closures are necessary, I support them, but they must be applied equitably across all states and sectors, including commercial.

That said, I fully support a harvest moratorium and believe Maine should lead the way. We have no commercial fishery, and most guides already practice catch and release. The science is clear: 7 consecutive years of poor recruitment and the dependence on older, larger fish means a moratorium is likely inevitable. It is time to break the cycle of repeated delays and make meaningful, impactful changes now.

My Official Comments

Section 3.1 – Measuring Striped Bass

- **Recommendation: Option B** – Mandatory uniform straight-line measurement (mouth closed, tail pinched).
  This creates consistency, prevents slot creep, and closes enforcement loopholes.

Section 3.2 – Commercial Tagging

- **Recommendation: Option B** – Tagging at the point of harvest.
  This reduces black-market risks, dead discards at the boat for larger fish and ensures accountability from the moment fish are landed.

Section 3.3 – Chesapeake Bay Recreational Baseline

- **Recommendation: Option C** – New baseline plus 10% uncertainty buffer.
  This is the most precautionary approach. I support increasing the buffer to 15% for added protection given ongoing recruitment failures.

Section 3.4 – Reduction in Fishery Removals

- **Recommendation: Option B-01 (Ocean)** – 12% equal reductions across all sectors.
    - Commercial: Equal 12% quota cuts.
    - Recreational Ocean: One uniform slot (28–31”), one fish, with enforceable no-harvest closures. No for-hire exemptions.
    - Recreational Bay: Comparable size and season restrictions.
    - Region Alignment: Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region alongside Massachusetts, and ideally New York and Connecticut as well, since these states share waters.
    - Timing: Wave 4 is optimal for Northern closures and Wave 6 for Southern closures.

This suite of options is fair, enforceable, and precautionary. It avoids favoritism and ensures both sectors share responsibility for rebuilding.

Striped bass are at a critical juncture. Without bold action, the stock is on track for collapse, and a coastwide moratorium will become inevitable. The science doesn’t lie, and we can’t keep reliving this “groundhog day” scenario of ignoring poor recruitment data until it’s too late.

Please adopt precautionary, equitable measures now so we can restore this fishery for the future rather than preside over its decline.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Patrick Rudman
South Portland, Maine

--

Patrick Rudman
www.oldmaineoutfitters.com
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:	Paul Diggins
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:30:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

ASMFC you have a 5 year plan stick to it
We know MRIP study's are flawed. Over estimated
The one number one game fish in the north east
The jobs, economy, vacation rentals, and all the other businesses that rely on the fishing opportunities
I urge to maintain status quo and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Paul Diggins

39 Winding Brook Ln N

Wells, ME 04090

paul@bostonfishing.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 6:59:59 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Anthony Audet
Email
realmainer57@gmail.com
State
Maine
Comment
I do think given the condition of the fishery that it's important to put the most strict regulations in place to let the fish population recover. I fully support all proposed strict regulations and closures so that we have a strong 2029 fishery.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 3:28:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Eric Anderson
Email
qualiajunkie@gmail.com
State
Maine
Comment
I support measures that will protect and improve the population of stripers. I fully support reducing harvests as needed, and any other measures to protect their long term success. I love the fish and want them to be around for my kids.

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From: alex tragakes
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:43:54 AM

Dear ASMFC Representatives,

I am Alex Tragakes, of Biddeford, Maine and an active recreational fisherman in Maine and Connecticut.

I am writing to provide my public input on Amendment III striped bass management options, as follows:

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – I support a mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.
3.2: Commercial Tagging Option B – I support tagging of commercial striped bass when caught, not at any landing or transportation point later.
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – I Reject any discussion of a status quo! I Support harvest reductions to assure we remain focused on rebuilding the stock by 2029. We must protect the stock that we have, especially given the expected impact of successive years of poor spawning numbers. I support 12% equal reductions; I oppose any sector favoritism. For ocean: I support Sub-option O1 (uniform reductions and no carve-out for the for-hire exemptions)
It is time to call out that there is no transparency on the numbers of for-hire operators who also fish commercially, at least in some major ports along the coast. This reinforces a critical need for (1) tagging as soon as the fish is removed from the water and (2) absolutely no special status in the for-hire sector.
Fishing mortality reductions are essential, perhaps even more than what is offered in Amendment III, however no-harvest closures are greatly preferred over no-target closures that have been confirmed time and again as unenforceable by Law Enforcement Officers and likely will have less impact on mortality reductions.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my and other public comments on this matter and I look forward to all of our work to protect this fishery for years and generations to come.

Sincerely,
Alex Tragakes

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From:	Bruce Hebert
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Striped Bass proposal.
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 7:50:02 AM

To whom it may concern,
My name is Captain Bruce Hebert owner and operator of Libreti Rose Sport Fishing Charters. I operate our charter business out of Kennebunkport Maine.
I can not agree with the proposals made consisting of no retention for over 40 days of our season. If this takes place in the months of July & August it could be devastating to our business. We accommodate many charters that look forward to taking home a couple filets if they are fortunate enough to land a keeper in the 28 to under 31 inch slot. This rule has been working fantastic in my opinion! I firmly believe that, that slot has been a great addition to the future stocks of stripers.
If there really needs to be a further reduction on charter boats, lower the bag limit to 2 fish per vessel rather than 1 per person. Why was that not even an option?
Also, who is to say that would not equal out to the percentage goal that is proposed?
Please don't put me out of business! This is all I have!
Please consider.
Thank you
Captain Bruce Hebert
Libreti Rose Fishing Charters
Libretirose.com
207-432-4349.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for ME Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 1:53:34 PM

ME Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

ME Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/me-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Daniel Riley

Email

dan.riley102@gmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

I have been a lifelong striped bass fisherman, growing up on the Connecticut shore in Niantic, now residing in Maine. In this time, I have experienced the overfishing and collapse of the fishery in the 70's and 80's recovery in the 90s. Regulations must reflect the low requirement levels and reduce harvest, commercially and recreationally. The Commercial fishery has been woefully unaccountable in determining the number of fish being harvested to the point that the situation is dire, and aggressive, bold management is needed.

ASMFC has unfortunately delayed aggressive/bold measures too long, and the fishery is paying the price. Aggressive action now may be painful for the short term for commercial and recreational fishing and the economic impact they generate, but a short-term aggressive approach is better than the drawn-out and ineffective approach of slowly encroaching regulations with differing state-by-state regulations on things that should be uniform in a regional fishery.

For the addendum items I support:

Item 3.1 Method to measure Total Length: Option B: Mandatory straight line measurement with mouth closed and tail pinched. This is a regional fishery; one standard measurement should apply

Item 3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: Option B point of Harvest. Uniformly, all states. This could be relieved to the point of first landing once stocks are recovered. This is a regional fishery, uniforming on this is necessary

Item 3.3 Maryland/Chesapeake Recreational Season Baseline: Option C New Baseline +10% buffer. Past efforts on recovery are failing; we must try something more dramatic until stocks are recovered, or at a minimum, better actual biomass and landing data are available to make informed, accurate

decisions.

Item 3.4 Reduction in Fish Removals: Option B-01 12% reduction for commercial fish landings. There should be no favoritism shown toward commercial harvest unless and until the stock is recovered.

Other items-
No for-hire exemptions, this is an unfair burden on the vast majority of recreational fishermen, benefiting a class of fishermen that already harvests a disproportionate share of the catch.

As a recreational fisherman, I would be in favor of a no-harvest season (eliminate all of the slots) until the stock replenishes. The slots have been effective, but we have still overfished; it makes no sense to continue a failed practice. This can apply to guides and recreational fishermen equally. We have made our own bed on this and must now lie in it. You can have a great fishing day without harvesting a fish.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 1:05:43 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=Amm4LZyFkuv5QgYIN551sn-rqsGwkSum0s0kO8Q2cpo.TzzC5W
Name
Scott Wolven
Email
swolven@outlook.com
State
Maine
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 8:25:18 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=Ik9PD6Pk_PtQ_MTcxOx7o5rutXINolze2dweFzh_z9mljkHegAXRPfHLpO9M_dfA.TzzC5W
Name
Andrew Taylor
Email
andrewhtaylor.me@gmail.com
State
Maine
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 5:04:22 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=B61kQm7p1J0boAK_o-AjnGl4Ljk9KJIMUn_PQnNGmQk.TzzC5W
Name
Abram Pearson
Email
abe.pearaon@gmail.com
State
Maine
Comment
I am a recreational angler and I fish for striped bass more than a hundred days a season. Rebuilding the striped bass stock is very important to me. I support the position of ASGA and the Saltwater Edge on draft addendum III. Specifically 3.1 option B 3.2 option B 3.3 option C 3.4 option B-1 for ocean Thank you for your consideration Abe Pearson

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 10:39:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=PdhK8rQYzCiBovPObEOba2c_Xgs4dz9Hz_o_Ee6WFyY.TzzC5W

Name

Arthur Howe

Email

a3flyfish@aol.com

State

Maine

Comment

Per the options you've laid out, here are my suggestions for striped bass at your upcoming meeting:
3.1 Option B
3.2 Option B
3.3 Option C
3.4 Option B01 for ocean

In reality, I personally believe a total catch and release rule for all recreational and commercial fishing would be the most effective, this rule t.o be in effect for at least one year, preferably 2. My diminishing number of clients would appreciate this.
I hope you'll put a long term, sustainable fishery first and foremost, as my guiding business continues to decline and my income reduced.

Respectfully,

Art Howe
Part-time guide, Martha's Vineyard
860-324-0422

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From: Emilie Franke
To: Comments
Subject: FW: [External] [New] Striped Bass Webnar.
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 8:50:59 PM

From: Sherwin Start <sstart2019@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:10 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Webnar.

I am a Conservationist, therefore I am always on the Side of Conservation of any Species of Wildlife.
IN My Opinion, any effort that is designed to achieve that goal gets my "GOLD STAR"!
And any effort By Any organization that Limits Or Conserves any species Is in line with my philosophy and Meets My Approval!
Sherwin Start, Ph.D.
S[pringvale,Maine.

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for ME Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Sunday, September 21, 2025 3:17:16 PM

ME Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
ME Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/me-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Eddie Gonnella
Email
eddiegonnella10@gmail.com
State
Maine
Comment
My first ever guided fishing trip was in Maine for stripers. I support harvest closures so we can keep having these opportunities to catch and release striper recreational opportunities available for future generations

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 10:55:57 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=SAE6oJqQI2FLHWLDTwpUzhPTFu25c9crYb7wn10qNU8.TzzC5W
Name
Peter Cahill
Email
pjcahill99@yahoo.com
State
Maine
Comment
I fully support the efforts to protect the species in this time of a drastic downturn in fish population and support the following options: 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:20:16 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=ClYHobhEG8cjOjivCgO5-QI1g3_A3wrmcHARn2USt5U.TzzC5W

Name

Brad Greenwood

Email

brad@greenwoodbiz.com

State

Maine

Comment

My name is Brad Greenwood and I fish for striped bass frequently off the coast of ME/NH and all over NE. I fish with friends and my two daughters and have noticed a lack of smaller fish in our waters in recent years.

I support the following
3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

I urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. We would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 12:16:47 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nick Ferreri
Email
ncferreri@gmail.com
State
Maine
Comment
I am for stricter fishing regulations to improve the long term outlook for striper populations. For context, I fish striper for sport on the Maine and NH coasts, mostly from shore. I exclusively catch and release.

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From: Kevin Glennon
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Stripers
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 6:36:15 PM

My name is Kevin glennon from Biddeford Maine ,please don’t ban striper fishing .thanks
Sent from my iPhone
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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:19:20 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Derek Grader
Email
DTGrader@yahoo.com
State
Maine
Comment
Lower the slot for recreational fishing and put a moratorium on commercial fishing. Possibly create a tag system for the season, similar to a deer tag. When you are done you are done.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:55:12 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Patrick Michaud

Email

pinestateguideservices@gmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

Good Morning,

Thank you for allowing public comments, as well as a Webinar for those of us who are unable to travel. My background includes a 40-year career in the Marine industry, spanning roles as a Merchant Marine (retired Tanker Captain) and Fishing Charter Captain.

I thought many valid points were made during the meeting, especially on the topic of "No Targeting". The latter would cause many Maine Charter Companies to fail. However, I would have no problem and would agree to "Catch and Release". 98% of my customers prefer to release because of travel accommodations and conservation. The trick part is releasing the fish unharmed.

Maine is at the end of the gauntlet and only has one short season, unlike the States south of us, which have two. If Atlantic State Marine Fisheries chooses to think of a reduction, I believe Maine should be less than the 12% reduction goal, or the southern States should have higher than 12% reduction goals. I don't believe it's a relative statement as said in the webinar. We can argue that the Southern States close the season and that shows good faith, but what's not being said is that those fish at the time of closure are mostly migrated north and or south.

Striped Bass Commercial Fishing is what keeps me up at night. As a First Class Federal Pilot for all of Delaware Bay and River (territories alike), I've witnessed Commercial Fishermen using gill nets to catch Striped Bass from the Bridge of my ship. There is nothing more indiscriminate than a gill net. As you know, all those fish that are caught in a gill net are dead, and we're worried about catch and release (morality)! I firmly agree that the commercial industry should have much more stringent rules, such as no use of nets. If we're attempting to replenish the stock, maybe it would be best to take the nets out of the picture.

I thank you for your time

Captain Patrick Michaud
Master Mariner
Pine State Guide Service, LLC
pinestateguideservices@gmail.com
207-399-2700 c

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From:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] [New] Striped Bass
Date:	Monday, September 15, 2025 11:23:46 AM

From: Chris Grill <cjgrill68@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 11:49 AM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass

Hi Emilie.

I am a Striped Bass fishing guide located in Bath ME on the Kennebec River. I am very concerned about the state of the fishery. I was unable to find any fish for my customers again yesterday. This has happened on about 15 of my Charters this summer. It is very painful. I travel between 50-60 miles everyday looking for these fish.
We are headed to another big crash which I witnessed in the late Seventies and Eighties. Stripers were gone for 6-7 years. Luckily for us the Bluefish showed up in 1984 and fishing on my river was good again.

I attended the very informative meeting you had in Yarmouth 9/9/25.
I am concerned that the ASMFC is not doing enough to help these fish recover. I am for closure of Striped Bass targeting in May/June. I am also strongly against increasing the Harvest size for Charter Captains 28-35". That is the craziest thing I have ever heard. Those head boats kill way too many fish as it is. It will be the last straw for these few remaining fish. At the moment the 28-31" fish are the most prolific ones we catch. I tend to not keep fish on my Charters as do most six pack Captains.

Thank You for the work you do. I hope we can partner in saving this precious resource!

Capt Chris Grill
Kennebec Angler

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 10:08:57 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Tim Atwater

Email

timatwater@juno.com

State

Maine

Comment

Striped bass stocks are in a perilous state, as almost everyone finally agrees; though recognition has come far too late. All the obvious best answers have been found difficult and left un-tried.

What is obviously needed is a moratorium on all commercial sales of striped bass in all states with no exceptions for states including Maryland; together with catch and release only recreational fishing by means of flyfishing or artifical lures with single barbless hook -- again, all states, no exceptions, until stocks rebuild to target levels.

I've heard some say a case can be made for a time-limited total closure of recreational targeting of striped bass -- which might theoretically make sense if and only if commercial fishing were to also be completely banned. But this could be easily avoided by boat fishermen claiming to be targeting other species -- while striper fishermen and women who practice catch and release would be punished for the sins of those who have created the crash of stocks.

It is time to finally admit to and turn away from all the short-sighted but politically 'doable' policies that have got us to this point. And learn wisdom and common sense. Again or for the first time.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for ME Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 10:06:35 PM

ME Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
ME Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/me-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Marge Coffin
Email
nagofmylife@yahoo.com
State
Maine
Comment
I'm 82yrsears old. I wait all winter to go striper fishing. I think if the commercial fishermen were allowed less of the breeding fish most of their eggs would survive and help increase the population. The game or recreational fishermen are only allowed one fish which you are wrong about us catching more then the nets. Please let us hook and line fishing people keep catching these fish.

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: Emilie Franke
To: Comments
Subject: FW: Webinar
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:52:16 AM

-----Original Message-----
From: Robert A. Swift <rswift@kohnswift.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 7:41 AM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Webinar

Good morning. The webinar was informative of the bigger issue as to how 15 states are focused on the restoration of striped bass stocks. But it did not address my focus, which is to have a good recreational experience fishing near my home on Broad Cove. In the past 2 years, I have not caught a single striped bass on either lures or bait. My experience is not unique and there are very few boats even fishing. Maybe one a day. I think you need to address the dwindling stocks of bait fish. Why can't Maine establish a hatchery for bait fish as is done for salmon? Bob Swift

Sent from my iPad

_____
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Thank you.
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] New public comment for ME Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 7:59:09 PM

ME Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
ME Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/me-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Peter Morse
Email
pfmorse54@gmail.com
State
Maine
Comment
I wonder why the revival of the stripers is set to be done by 2029? It seems that this may take a period of time. Also I enjoy fishing for stripers nearly daily from the beach. We are restricted to using live bait after July 1st and now have a very strict slot limit. Maybe if everyone could not use live bait all along the coast until July 1st.,the breeding fish would have a better chance. The fishermen and women fishing the Kennebec are doing their share. I understand this is a hard issue but I do not think the recreational fishermen should lose their right to fish for these amazing fish. Doing away with a striper season all together seems to be a very extreme decision. It would negatively affect many charter fishing boats, stores selling striper fishing equipment and the many people who enjoy this sport. Please do not go in that direction!

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From:	Paul Diggins
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 3:00:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The closures are unnecessary. And lack scientific studies
The MRIP data is completely over estimated
Leave the status quo

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Paul Diggins

39 Winding Brook Ln N

Wells, ME 04090

paul@bostonfishing.com

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: Tom Johnson
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Maine Striped Bass Hearing Comments
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 11:37:45 AM

Per the zoom meeting on 9/10/25 where I participated, I respond as follows:

Many of the charts were confusing (waves etc) and difficult to fully understand.
In order to increase stocks by decreasing mortality, the following basic steps must be taken:
(1) Striped Bass should be listed as a Game Fish.
These fish have been the only ocean fish that recreational fishermen have relied on and pursued with success over the past few years in Maine.
(2) No Striped Bass should be harvested for the foreseeable future (3 or more years depending on recovery stock statistics). Catch & Release only.
(3) Conservation and Restoration initiatives/laws should be the same for eastern shore states where Striped Bass spawn, live and migrate.
(4) Only single hooks should be mandated to help with quicker fish releases and less fish mortalities.
It has been indicated that 7-10% of catch & release
fish die and much of this result is due to not getting the fish back in the water fast enough for full recovery.

Thank you for your efforts to help Striped Bass recovery and preservation…

Tom Johnson
Maine recreational striped bass fisherman

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for ME Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 7:46:29 PM

ME Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
ME Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/me-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Captain Eric Wallace
Email
eric@coastalflyangler.com
State
Maine
Comment
As a full time fishing guide I support Option B-01 Equal 12% reduction for Both sectors... Ocean Sub-option 01 uniform rules (no carve outs for for-hire) No Harvest closures are Enforceable!!!!! Catch & Release Fishing fully supported No to -No Targeting rules!!!!!!!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 11:32:43 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Stephen Link

Email

searchh2o@yahoo.com

State

Maine

Comment

I believe it is time to take stronger measures to protect the viability of this species. Below is how I would approach this:

Purpose: To restore spawning stock biomass of Atlantic Striped Bass by 2029 through a coastwide, state-specific management framework that integrates ecological science, ethical angling, and enforceable policy.

I. Executive Summary
This plan proposes a comprehensive, multi-state strategy to reverse the decline of Atlantic Striped Bass populations. It includes:
• Rolling 4-week closures during peak thermal stress
• State-specific spawning closures
• Slot limits tailored to local stock dynamics
• A coastwide circle hook mandate with size restrictions to deter trophy targeting
• A 50% reduction in commercial Total Allowable Catch (TAC) based on historic landings
• Enforcement, education, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance and community engagement

II. Management Objectives
• Rebuild spawning stock biomass to sustainable levels by 2029
• Reduce catch-and-release mortality through seasonal closures and gear mandates
• Protect large, mature females critical to recruitment
• Promote ethical angling and stewardship across all sectors
• Ensure equitable access and accountability between recreational and commercial fisheries

III. Regulatory Framework
A. For Recreational Fisheries - Rolling Thermal Stress Closures

Each state will implement a 4-week closure during peak summer stress to reduce catch-and-release mortality:
• State Closure Dates
• Maine Aug 1–Aug 28
• New Hampshire July 15–Aug 11
• Massachusetts July 22–Aug 18
• Rhode Island July 29–Aug 25
• Connecticut Aug 5–Sept 1
• New York Aug 12–Sept 8
• New Jersey July 15–Aug 11
• Delaware July 22–Aug 18
• Maryland Aug 1–Aug 28
• Virginia Aug 5–Sept 1
• North Carolina Aug 12–Sept 8

B. All Fisheries - Spawning Closures
Targeted spring closures in known spawning zones:
• State Spawning Closure Key Areas
• North Carolina Mar 15–May 15 Roanoke & Tar Rivers
• Virginia Apr 1–May 31 James, York, Rappahannock Rivers
• Maryland Apr 1–May 15 Chesapeake Bay, Susquehanna Flats
• Delaware Apr 15–May 31 Delaware River & Bay
• New Jersey Apr 15–May 31 Delaware River, Raritan Bay
• New York Apr 15–Jun 1 Hudson River
• Connecticut May 1–Jun 15 Thames & Housatonic Rivers
• Rhode Island May 1–Jun 15 Upper Narragansett Bay
• Massachusetts May 15–Jun 30 Estuaries & tidal rivers
• New Hampshire May 15–Jun 30 Piscataqua River
• Maine May 15–Jul 1 Kennebec, Androscoggin, Sheepscot Rivers

IV. Recreational Slot Limits
All states would observe a 28-31” slot limit and be limited to 1 fish per angler per day unless otherwise specified. The exception would be in Maryland and Virgina in the Bay waters the slot would be 20-23”.

V. Circle Hook Mandate
All bait fishing for striped bass must use inline circle hooks with the following specifications:
• Size: 2/0 to 4/0
• Gap Width: 0.75" to 1.0"
• Offset: None (inline only)
- Purpose: Prevent targeting of larger or trophy-class fish (>31") and reduce deep hooking that increase mortality during “catch and release” fishing.

Additional Provisions:
• Treble hooks banned for all fishing, including lures.
• Circle hook packaging must be labeled for compliance
• Tackle inspections authorized for enforcement

VI. Commercial Total Allowable Catch (TAC)
Reduce the TAC by 50% using the avg landings over the last 3 years, by state. Eliminate latent permits where a commercial vessel has not actively fished for >3 years.
VII. Enforcement & Monitoring
• Quota Tracking System: Real-time dealer reporting
• Digital Angler Registry: Voluntary catch reporting
• Thermal Stress Alerts: Issued during heatwaves
• Slot Tagging Pilot: Track survival and migration of released fish
• Hook Certification Program: Retailers label compliant gear
• Triple fines and penalties for violations including a tiered program where repeat violators lose the ability

to target Atlantic Striped Bass.

VIII. Outreach & Education
• “Respect the Recovery” Campaign: Signage, workshops, and digital media
• Youth Stewardship Program: Conservation education in schools and camps
• Tribal & Local Collaboration: Co-management with indigenous and coastal communities
• Angler Ethics Certification: Optional training for guides and recreational anglers

IX. Conclusion
Given Atlantic Striped Bass is a shared public resource it needs to be protected similar to species included in the Magnuson Stevens Act. This plan offers a bold, science-based path forward for striped bass recovery. It honors the ecological role of the species, the cultural heritage of coastal communities, and the ethical responsibility of anglers and managers alike. By integrating seasonal closures, gear mandates, slot limits, and commercial accountability, it balances access with stewardship—and gives the striped bass a fighting chance.

Respectfully Submitted:
Stephen E. Link

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 7:25:54 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Grant Barber

Email

sirtiki7@gmail.com

State

Maine

Comment

I strongly urge the Board to adopt strict limitations in Addendum III, with the goal of truly rebuilding the striped bass population to sustainable levels by 2029 and beyond.

Striped bass are a cornerstone species for both the coastal ecosystem and the coastal economy. Healthy, abundant striped bass populations drive enormous recreational fishing value—charter businesses, tackle shops, tourism, lodging, and waterfront communities all depend on anglers traveling to fish for striped bass. The long-term economic benefit of strong populations far outweighs the short-term gain of harvest today. A depleted fishery undermines these businesses and reduces license sales, tourism spending, and local jobs.

To achieve rebuilding, I support the most conservative options under consideration, and I would even support stronger measures if necessary:

Temporary harvest moratoriums on striped bass should be on the table if projections continue to show rebuilding probability below 50%.

A very narrow slot size with no tolerance for oversize fish would protect both the large, highly-productive breeders and the incoming year-classes that are needed to rebuild.

Seasonal closures should be aligned with periods of high release mortality to maximize survival of released fish.

Commercial tagging at point of harvest should be mandatory to close enforcement loopholes.

Consistency in coast-wide length measurement is essential for clear compliance.

These steps may feel strict in the short term, but they are necessary to ensure the stock rebuilds fully. If

we miss the 2029 deadline and the population declines further, the economic losses to coastal communities and small businesses will be far greater than any temporary reductions in harvest today.

I ask the Board to prioritize conservation first and to select the most restrictive measures available in Draft Addendum III. A healthy striped bass fishery means thriving coastal economies, resilient ecosystems, and future generations able to enjoy this iconic species.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Jon Sterritt
15 Whippoorwill Drive
Newton, NH 03858
Jon.Sterritt@gmail.com
603-498-8515

Comments, Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

I'm a seacoast New Hampshire resident who participates both in the recreational and commercial striped bass fishery in Massachusetts waters. Typically, I'm fishing out of Newburyport MA. Additionally, I've been a member of the NEFMC Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) for 15+ years, where we consider the impact of regulations on the private, charter, and party boat modes of the groundfish fishery – a portion of what is being considered here runs parallel to what I've experienced with groundfish stakeholders and regulation. I attended, though I did not comment at, the North shore hearing in Woburn on Sept 25th and I'd like to add I really appreciate that it was held. Thanks in advance for your time reading my comments below.

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

I am not extremely concerned with this topic, though I'm critical of the concept of squeezing the tail of a fish to generate a measurement – particularly under something as narrow as the Massachusetts recreational slot limit. Option A is therefore my preference; status quo - because it leaves room for less subjective measuring methods to be implemented by states if they so choose.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

I support option A – Status Quo. I'm strongly against point of harvest tagging because it will do much more harm than good.

There is not much evidence that point of harvest tagging prevents any significant amount of unreported fish. Striped Bass have become quite valuable in recent years, all but a negligible amount of legally harvested fish are tagged, sold, and counted toward the quota in Massachusetts.

Rare abuses of the current point of sale tagging system that I hear referenced, ie involving "passing fish" off to another boat or selling fish on the incorrect permit, are already blatantly illegal and come at a significant risk of law enforcement attention. It is difficult for most fisherman to consistently harvest a limit of striped bass to begin with. At worst these problems are insignificant, and if not, they are non-existent in Massachusetts.

Conversely, the poaching which does occur is typically carried out in a manner where the poachers are simply planning on avoiding law enforcement all together, ie retaining commercial sized fish on days or in areas that are not legal or retaining fish of all sizes for sale in illegal markets. Point of harvest tagging is a feel-good measure that does nothing to address these actual problems in the fishery.

If there was no harm done through point of harvest tagging, the above arguments might be of no concern. I agree with those who state point of harvest tagging is not of much inconvenience to a fisherman. The issue is the burden placed on states when implementing this program is likely to make it so we are not all allowed to have tags, which is more than an inconvenience for many. In Massachusetts today we have a wonderfully run open access fishery. This year, off Coffin Beach, I witnessed two younger fellows with tiller aluminum boats, out making some $$, memories, and adventure, while doing what they love – it's very likely point of harvest tagging moves this fishery to limited access, ruins it for them, while providing a negligible benefit to the fishery if any benefit at all.

And what I will add as well: if one feels that point of harvest tagging is a solution to increasing compliance with the law and in maintaining a sustainable fishery, they must consider that 4500 previously permitted boats will likely literally be barred from the fishery in the process of implementing distribution of tags in Massachusetts. Some of the boats barred will have made thousands of dollars in previous seasons selling striped bass. We are going to have active participants from this fishery kicked out, contempt for the law will surely occur, and poaching will only exponentially increase. In a sense, implementing point of harvest tagging for the sake of increasing compliance with the law, preventing poaching, and better managing striped bass, is penny wise and pound foolish.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

No comments.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

Rather than state my preference for options, I will comment on two aspects of this.

No Target versus No Harvest closures: My feeling is that the best way to recover a fishery involves No Target type of closures; closed seasons are much more effective at reducing mortality than any other measure. Such might not be "enforceable", but generally anglers and for-hire captains are complaint with regulations. Given public sentiment in this fishery today though, I do not think we are ready for such measures yet, so if anything, a No Harvest closure is all that is practical.

Split regulations based on mode of For-Hire versus Private Vessel/Shore: I very much disagree with this concept. A recreational angler who happens to pay someone to take them out on a boat has no more right to a public resource than one who owns their own boat, or who is fishing on a friend's boat, or one who is fishing from shore – most people would consider this more of a fact than an opinion. The only reason such concepts are not met with an astounding amount of negative public feedback is that the average angler pays much less attention to regulatory action than someone who is in the business of for-hire fishing trips – similarly this is something that is nearly more of a fact than an opinion.

Jon Sterritt
15 Whippoorwill Drive
Newton, NH 03858
Jon.Sterritt@gmail.com
603-498-8515

Comments, Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

There's one thing I meant to mention on this topic (I'm opposed to point of harvest tagging and support Status Quo):

The way the world is moving, including in fisheries – we are using apps on phones to accomplish many things. To specify in law that a particular solution, literal plastic/rubber tags placed on fish, is very specific. The striped bass fishery occurs in state waters, where we nearly always have mobile phone service. There is no reason why essentially the same benefits of physical tags couldn't be achieved with real-time reporting of fish retained via an application accessed from a smart phone (ie one would report they retained a 38" striped bass as they harvest it). This would be a very reasonable requirement and solution within a commercial fishery.

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:47:52 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Reece Masters

Email

reece.masters1@gmail.com

State

New Hampshire

Comment

I am a recreational fisherman from New Hampshire. I fish NH and ME. After reading the latest draft overview my thoughts are that full closure for the rec sector while allowing for a reduced level of commercial fishing is not enough. I fully support a moratorium if everyone was doing their part in rebuilding the stock by not fishing. Alternatively I support a closure on the slot/catch and release single hook for the rec sector while allowing for a major reduction of commercial harvest, while implementing tagging at the point of harvest to ensure transparency and accountability.

There's no slot limit for recreational fishing that currently makes economic sense. It is currently unsustainable given the population of the fish and the amount of pressure from rec anglers. Our best chance at rebuilding the fishery is to leave them alone. If we can't do that together, the only way forward is to close the slot and enforce proper fish handling from recreational fisherman.

In order to do this: Proper Catch and Release needs to be clearly defined and rigorously enforced from beach's to rivers we need more people out there enforcing these regulations: #1 The fish needs to stay wet, swim off on his own will (squeeze the tail is ok). No fishing unless you can safely release the fish. This should be common sense but the fish pays the price in poor handling (being dragged on rocks, dry sand, being hoisted up bridges and held vertically out of the water are all common sights but should be avoided and blatant disregard for proper fish handling should enforced by law. Just like the Atlantic Salmon or an Atlantic Sturgeon. These fish need to be cared for and protected in every aspect that we interact with them.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment,

Reece Masters

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:25:42 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Michael Amaral
Email
tdsmichael@gmail.com
State
New Hampshire
Comment
This was the worse striper season in 30 years. I favor a total moratorium on harvest, both commercial and recreational. I favor No bait, no use of treble hooks, catch and release only fishing until stocks recover.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:24:40 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Edward Camp

Email

tautog636@yahoo.com

State

New Hampshire

Comment

I support the following:
3.1 Option B (mandatory elements for total length).
3.2 Option B (tagging at point of harvest/first possession)
3.3 Option C (CB new baseline season with buffer)
3.4 Option B (12% reductions across rec. and comm., with rec. coming from a season-long harvest closure)

I believe that the 12% reduction on the recreational fishery side should be accomplished, or attempted to be accomplished via a year-long harvest moratorium AND gear restrictions. A harvest moratorium (year long) is most likely to actually decrease landed harvest (counteracting the "compression" or self-sorting of targeting during open harvest seasons--see Southeast and Gulf reef fish for examples of how shorter and shorter seasons are failing to constrain rec fishing harvest, let alone mortality). A season-long harvest closures avoid challenges of spatiotemporal shifts in closures and/or effort. Finally, year-long harvest moratorium may decrease actual targeting as fishers to whom keeping fish is important opt for other inshore or offshore fisheries.
I also recommend recreational gear restrictions of a single-point (no treble), barbless hook should be mandated when fishing near-shore areas that have stripers (thus excluding pelagic, bottom fishing). This will decrease catchability slightly and should decrease the discard mortality rate by making unhooking easier and thus dropping time to return fish to water. I think "as fast as possible" release should be required and interpreted as disallowing photographs.
Combining a harvest moratorium with gear restrictions should decrease harvest, effort, catchability, and discard mortality, while distributing more conservative restrictions across harvest-oriented and catch & release oriented anglers to the greatest extent possible (absent a targeting closure).
I do not support a targeting closure of any length or area. Targeting closures will be extremely asymmetrical in their socioeconomic costs across space, time, between for-hire and private anglers, and among anglers to whom targeting stripers is of greater centrality to lifestyle. The also are very likely to feel "unfair" as those who wish to abide the rules will be discouraged by those flaunting them ("just

fishing for whatever's biting/bluefish/weakfish/etc."). The perceptions of inequity and unfairness/asymmetrical costs has been demonstrated to have a strong negative effect on compliance and trust in governance.

I think it is critical that the ASMFC appropriately communicate the next, more restrictive options should whatever they implement fail to constrain fishing related mortality and/or low recruitment continues such that constrained fishing mortality is insufficient to recover the stock.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:25:48 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
MICHAEL PAZDON
Email
mpazdon@comcast.net
State
New Hampshire
Comment
The current proposed regulations for the taking of Striped Bass on the East Coast of the US is not adequate to stem the decline of the fishery. More restrictions are needed on States that allow commercial fishing as to size and quantity. As well the slot for recreational anglers is counter productive. Commercial fishing should be restricted from taking any fish over 38 inches and the limits should be reduced by 30% of 2025. Recreational anglers slots should be lowered to 24 to 26 inches and the seasons should be limited to prevent mortality from "catch and release." I urge a more stringent regulation that will actually make a difference in the replenishment of the stock. MIke Pazdon

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:	james long
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 6:10:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I would suggest stop using gill nets in Maryland especially where the fish are spawning.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

james long

10 Woodside Rd

Durham, NH 03824

long1817@comcast.net

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:	Jacques Breton
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 7:30:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have taken over 8 chapters to fish for stripe bass. Each trip resulted in numerous bass caught and released, fly fishing only. The number of bass below or in the slot were few. Many were above 31 inches. I would say easily 1 in slot to 10 above.
If any changes that should be made should be made towards bait fishing and possibly treble hooks to help reduce mortality rates.
Changing the rules makes no sense for a number of reason.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jacques Breton

11 Westman St

Somersworth, NH 03878

jbreton1@msn.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 11:33:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kathleen Conley
Email
kkconleyusa@yahoo.com
State
New Hampshire
Comment
I support strong conservation measures for striped bass because I don't want this fishery to disappear. At the same time, I want to keep fishing and be part of the recovery, not pushed out of it. Please make sure the rules are fair, science-based, and shared between commercial and recreational sectors, so that striped bass can rebuild and anglers like me can still enjoy the fishery in the future. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Kathleen Conley

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 1:56:38 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

James Conley

Email

jcnorbut@gmail.com

State

New Hampshire

Comment

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

I am writing as a recreational angler and coastal resident concerned about the future of Atlantic striped bass (Morone saxatilis). I appreciate ASMFC's ongoing work on striped bass science and management. I urge the Commission to adopt a two-pronged approach that (1) addresses the largest sources of removals with clear, enforceable measures, and (2) gives equal weight to habitat and water quality improvements in major spawning and nursery areas—particularly the Chesapeake Bay and major tributaries.

Summary of the problem (brief, evidence-based) • Recent stock assessments show that recreational removals — including harvest and release mortality — account for the majority of total striped bass removals, while commercial harvest is a smaller share of removals coastwide. (ASMFC Stock Assessment Update, 2024; NOAA summaries).
• Independent research and state studies identify poor larval survival and degraded spawning/nursery habitat (hypoxia, warming temperatures, nutrient runoff, loss of habitat) as major contributors to weak recruitment. These environmental factors reduce the effectiveness of fishery management if not addressed.

Recommended actions

1. Target recreational removals with measures that reduce both harvest and release mortality. Options include seasonal closures or reduced bag/size limits during high-mortality periods (e.g., hot summer months in Chesapeake Bay), stronger enforcement of bag limits, and expanded outreach on best catch-and-release practices. Several Chesapeake jurisdictions have already used seasonal closures to reduce heat-related release mortality; the Commission should evaluate similar coastwide or region-specific options.

2. Maintain appropriate commercial controls where they are justified, but base additional restrictions on area-specific data. While commercial landings are a smaller share coastwide, localized commercial pressure can matter in particular fisheries or tributaries. Use targeted state-level measures and monitoring where commercial removals threaten local spawning stocks.

3. Prioritize habitat restoration and water-quality improvements in spawning and nursery areas. Because more than half of coastwide striped bass recruitment depends on a few key nursery areas (notably Chesapeake Bay), invest in nutrient reduction, riparian buffer restoration, wetland protection and restoration, stormwater management, and hypoxia mitigation. These actions will increase larval and juvenile survival and complement harvest controls.

4. Increase funding for monitoring, research, and enforcement. Support improved estimates of release mortality, better recreational catch reporting, fines/enforcement for serious violations, and studies on how warming waters and hypoxia interact with fishing stressors to cause mortality.

5. Engage stakeholders and communities in restoration and compliance. Encourage collaborative programs with commercial fishermen, recreational anglers, states, and NGOs to support shoreline protection, habitat projects, and public education campaigns about release best practices.

Closing Striped bass are a cultural and economic cornerstone of our coast. Effective management must reflect the science: reduce the largest sources of removals where necessary, but equally address the habitat and water-quality drivers of recruitment failure. I ask the Commission to incorporate the recommendations above into the next Striped Bass Management Board agenda and to prioritize coordinated habitat-restoration funding for key spawning areas.

Thank you for your service and for considering these recommendations.

Sincerely, James Conley

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 7:18:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Sam Shultis
Email
sam1464@icloud.com
State
New Hampshire
Comment
It would be nice to be able to keep 3 Stripers a day under 25 inches. Recreational fisherman like to eat the small ones. 3 makes a meal for the family.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NH Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 10:14:07 PM

NH Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NH Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nh-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Pete Kapsimalis

Email

wpkapjr@gmail.com

State

New Hampshire

Comment

I fish for squid at different spots that are popular to most and a couple that aren't even known about by majority of like minded squiders. This year was built up to be one of the best years for both stripers and squid. Yet, it never materialized. I felt mislead, Misguided or lied to. Has to be one of more of them. Yet this,"success story" of rebuilding certain stocks like the stripers and other stressed categories of fish species face the same results when all end of season calculations and results are compiled and once again goals were not attained. There were far less squid this year and I fish mostly docks in Portsmouth N.H. Kittery, Maine or New Castle Bridge. 75%of the boats that came in and talked to me were unsuccessful in even getting a hit or short striper. My personal knowledge came from asking how they did. Or they offered it up to me in case I could help them find any with directions given. There are always a few that are fortunate to have really worked at good spots and always produce fish. That won't change but something has to change based off scientificly proven studies. I don't think many would be upset (I could be wrong). If the season were closed EVENLY. UP AND DOWN THE COAST. EQUALLY. I have seen schoolies, slot fish and over length fish caught, brought in as fast as possible and not taken out of the water, released properly in every way recommended. Yet they, not all, but a majority of them went belly up. 3,4,5, times people have tried to revive those fish. They eventually float or flip their tail, out of the person's hand and float away in the current!! Depressing. I remember the great coho success we once had before gutting that for a Federal Atlantic Salmon waste of funds program that never produced any of not only a few returnes but only a handful ever caught! (Not including the Merrimack tag and stock after milking them). It is time we have a true success stories like the coho salmon in the 70's (in the ocean and on land, like the turkeys' in the early 80's to now. Feeling excited about what N.H. has to offer is way to depressing at this time in the state. i remember when and the feeling I got when I was younger and looked forward excitedly to successes the state managed for all different desires. EXCITE US ABOUT,,,,, SOMETHING!!!
Respectfully,
Pete Kap.

Barrington, Strafford Co. Zone L.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NH Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 5:22:57 PM

NH Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NH Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nh-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
John DUNNING
Email
kb1sxn@yahoo.com
State
New Hampshire
Comment
I agree we need some changes for the striped bass. But I think No Targeting is an over reach. I'm completely on board with no harvesting. I also feel like that should include commercial fishing as well as recreational. I honestly feel like the recreational fisherman are being targeted, Yet most of the breeding stock is being caught and sold by the commercial fisherman.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2025 9:12:38 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
James Newsom
Email
jamesnewsom@comcast.net
State
New Hampshire
Comment
Thank you for hearing my comment and thank you for the work you do managing this important public resource. Based on the decreasing recruitment, it is my opinion that drastic measures must be taken now in order to prevent a total collapse of this fishery. I am strongly in favor of (1) closure of all commercial fishing and (2) no recreational harvest (including from for-hire charters) until the fishery gains stability and the population sees increased recruitment for several years. Even though beyond the scope of this proposed regulatory regime, I would also advise for more studies as to why the recruitment numbers are decreasing - is it over harvest, breeding area oxygen levels, lack of food sources for fry, or other causes. Again, thank you very much.

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.

COMMENT BY DENNIS L AMTOWER, COMMERCIAL/RECREATIONAL STRIPED BASS FISHERMAN MASSACHUSETTS

TO THE ASMFC REGARDING ADDENDUM III

October 1, 2025

SECTION 3.1 METHOD TO MEASURE TOTAL LENGTH OF STRIPED BASS

I support Option B, Mandatory elements for Total Length. This measure is a positive step to educate fishermen and women to a standard practice.

SECTION 3.2 COMMERCIAL TAGGING: POINT OF TAGGING

I support Option A, Status Quo Point of Harvest or Point of Sale

SECTION 3.3 MARYLAND CHESAPEAKE BAY RECREATIONAL SEASON BASELINE

I support Option A, Status Quo (No New Baseline Season)

SECTION 3.4 REDUCTION IN FISHERY STOCK REMOVALS TO SUPPORT STOCK REBUILDING

I support Option A, Status Quo

COMMENT RATIONALE

The ASMFC has been Handcuffed by both Virginia and Maryland Commercial Fishing Regulations based upon History and Tradition alone!

Conservation and stock rebuilding cannot be accomplished on the backs of recreational and charter fishermen and women while commercial gill netting and commercial pound netting are continued with little study or scrutiny regarding netting practices for striped bass mortality!

The ASMFC must stop gill netting and pound netting altogether before over regulating commercial hook and line and recreational fisheries.

The ASMFC should support the hook and line fisheries with positive educational guidance toward striped bass fishing practices to reduce population mortality.

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:42:26 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Broadbent Jr
Email
broadbents72@hotmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Please consider not making the no target rule! Please take this into consideration if you would ? Allow recreational fishing only and with artificial lures only and continue the slot limit and make this happen along the entire migration route but place more emphasis on closing completely commercial fishing entirely subject to fines! And most importantly take charter “fishing for hire “ boats completely comply with recreational fishing regulations. The no target is a unattainable goal. It’s surely not going to work! If you feel the need to contact me about please feel free to do so you now have my email. Thank you very much for your time and efforts

Public Comment on Draft Addendum III – Striped Bass 12% Reduction Proposal
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Attn: Striped Bass Board
comments@asmfc.org

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Michael Carroll, a Boston-based fisherman with more than thirty years of experience as a USCG-licensed charter and commercial captain, as well as an extensive background as a fishery economist. I served over a decade on the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the New England Fishery Management Council and have led nationally recognized economic analyses, including the BP Oil Spill assessment on Gulf of Mexico fisheries. From this experience, I have seen the consequences when management decisions are made without adequate scientific evidence or without accounting for economic impacts on communities.

The proposed 12% reduction for striped bass falls into this category. The Addendum itself acknowledges that reductions under 10% are statistically indistinguishable from no action. A 12% cut barely exceeds that threshold, and managers note that the real driver of rebuilding is recruitment—something these cuts cannot influence. In addition, release mortality is assumed at a fixed 9%, though in reality it varies widely depending on gear, handling, and water temperature. Taken together, there is little certainty that these measures would improve the stock's status.

In contrast, the economic consequences are certain and severe. According to the most recent comprehensive study (Southwick Associates, 2016), the striped bass fishery supports more than 100,000 jobs, $4.7 billion in income, and $7.8 billion in GDP. Adjusted to 2025 dollars, these figures are significantly higher. Analyses suggest that a no-targeting closure could erase over 8,000 jobs, $350 million in income, and up to $1 billion in economic activity from Maine to North Carolina—with Massachusetts bearing the largest share of these losses. These impacts extend far beyond vessel operators to bait shops, marinas, hotels, restaurants, and entire coastal communities. Once this infrastructure disappears, it rarely returns.

Of equal concern are recent comments from managers at a Massachusetts-based public meeting (Sept. 25) indicating that economic impacts do not need to be considered because state-managed fisheries under ASMFC are not directly bound by the Magnuson–Stevens Act (MSA). While that may be the stated position, it is important to recognize that if ASMFC or its member states were subject to legal challenge, a decision of this magnitude—clearly exceeding the $100 million threshold that defines an "economically significant action"—would almost certainly require a full economic impact analysis under federal law. In other words, the only reason such analysis is not being conducted is because ASMFC operates under compact status and is insulated from lawsuits. That immunity provides managers the option of disregarding economic consequences that would otherwise have to be addressed, and this creates a governance gap with real-world consequences. The MSA's National Standard 8 exists precisely to protect fishing communities from disproportionate economic harm, and those principles are widely accepted as the benchmark for responsible fishery management in the United States. Choosing not to apply them

simply because legal immunity allows it undermines accountability, erodes public trust, and risks causing irreparable harm to businesses and communities that depend on the striped bass fishery.

As an economist, my role is to evaluate scope, magnitude, and certainty. Here, the certainty is on the economic side: significant, long-lasting harm is expected. The biological side admits uncertainty and recognizes that cuts may not achieve the intended goals. This raises a critical question: why impose cuts at all if they may not address the real problem? Recruitment failures in nursery areas—driven largely by environmental factors—remain the central challenge, and these reductions cannot change that.

At a minimum, best practice requires a transparent, thorough economic impact analysis before moving forward. Imposing closures or reductions without both scientific certainty and economic analysis is not responsible policy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to reject the proposed 12% cut and maintain the status quo until both the science and the economics are fully evaluated. Anything less places thousands of livelihoods and entire communities at risk.

Respectfully,
Michael Carroll
USCG Licensed Captain & Fishery Economist
Boston, MA

Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

October 3, 2025

Dear Emilie Franke,

I submit these comments in response to the draft Addendum III of Amendment 7 Striped Bass management Plan. I have been an avid Striped Bass angler both commercially and recreationally since 1970 and have seen the worst and the best with the Striped Bass population and the management. The biggest difference between the late 70's and now are the number of interest groups pursuing the Striped Bass. I feel we need to be more proactive in the management of the Striped Bass or else we will surely succumb to another accelerated collapse of the fishery.

The socioeconomic impact is already being felt throughout the fishery and to continue to delay any additional action to rebuild the SSB is a guaranteed and disappointing failure. Manage the Striped Bass for a healthy fishery and the socioeconomic benefits will grow.

- I fully support implementation of a "NO Harvest Closures" that will have the minimal impact on the fishery.
- I support option 3.1, Option B to define how to measure a Striped Bass.
- I support option 3.2, Option B that would require tagging happens at the point of harvest.
- I support option 3.4, Option B 12% reduction across the board.
- I do not support any type of private/for hire mode split. Paying customers are no different than any other recreational angler and should not be afforded additional privilege for pursuing a public natural resource.

Thank You for all you do for the Resource but please stop kicking the can down the pier.

Mike Jones
Carver, Massachusetts.

James F. Higgins, Jr.
11 Watch Hill Way
Chatham, MA 02633
(908) 768-9957
jfhiggsjr@gmail.com

RECEIVED
OCT 02 2025
By: LBC

September 23, 2025

Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street – Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms Frank:

I am writing to express my complete opposition to the potential changes that would restrict striped bass fishing for 2026. New restrictions based on unreliable data where that data are not scientifically distinguishable from the status quo is no way to manage a fishery. Furthermore, closing the fishery even to catch-and-release anglers is ludicrous and derives no benefit.

ASMFC should reject the proposed new closures and maintain status quo management.

Sincerely,

James F. Higgins, Jr.

October 2, 2025

To: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Re: Comment on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass

Dear ASMFC,

I am a for-hire charter captain based in Westport, Massachusetts. I am writing to urge the ASFMC to take immediate meaningful action for the conservation of the Striped Bass population.

I fish a 50-mile stretch of water ranging from Wood's Hole, MA to Newport, RI and north to Fall River, MA. This includes the ocean waters of Buzzard's Bay, Vineyard Sound, Rhode Island Sound, Mount Hope Bay, and Narragansett Bay. It also includes the Westport River system, a 3,000-acre estuary that is the largest estuary in that area. Over the last few years, I have seen a steady decline in the number of Striped Bass I encounter and catch. In particular, I am seeing fewer and fewer small schoolies. It's clear to me that the pipeline of future fish is dwindling. It is past time to act to help the fish stocks recover. Ignoring science, anectodal evidence, and common sense is a road to collapse. It's also deeply irresponsible. Please act now.

For Addendum III to Amendment 7, I support the following:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length
- B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

3.2 Commercial Tagging
- B: At point of harvest.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline
- C: New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort shifts).

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals
- Option B-01 for Ocean

In addition:
- I oppose for-hire exemptions
- I oppose no-targeting regulations
- If rebuilding fails, I support a moratorium

Respectfully,

Capt. Chris Killenberg
Westport Fly
PO Box 265, Adamsville, RI 02801
(919) 360-9792
chriskillenberg@gmail.com

P.O. Box 702 Truro, Cape Cod, Massachusetts 02666
(508) 487 – 3767 www.fishreeldeal.com

October 1, 2025

Ms. Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia

RE: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Dear Ms. Franke:

On behalf of Reel Deal Fishing Charters (RDFC), one of the most well known and longest running center console fishing charter businesses on Cape Cod, we would like to provide recommendations and comments associated with the Striped Bass Draft Addendum III and appreciate this opportunity.

First we believe it is relevant and important to provide some brief details about our family fishing charter business established in 2001, which operates three vessels during the Cape Cod striped bass fishing season from May to October. What started as a young couple's "American dream" has turned into a notably successful business recognized nationwide as one of the Top 5 Fishing Charters in the US & Caribbean for 2025. We have four full-time seasonal employees who rely on the striped bass fishing season as their primary source of income.

Specifically: our vessel, Done Deal is operated by myself (Captain Bobby Rice) with our middle son, Merrick Rice, as the first mate. Our vessel, Reel Deal II, is operated by Captain Ian Wall who has worked with us for over 12 years. Thirdly our vessel, Reel Deal, is operated by our oldest son Captain Brady Rice who is currently a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Captain Brady worked hard to obtain his charter captain license at the age of 19 and is proud to earn the funds needed to be solely responsible for his college tuition.

Please note, if you research the background of other small fishing charter businesses on the East coast you will hear many stories like this. The story about hard-working families and individuals who respect the ocean and respect the species of which they must protect to protect their livelihood. About individuals who respect and follow the fisheries regulations and take the utmost care to increase post-release survival rates of striped bass.

These are the people who will be devastated by an unnecessary striped bass no target closure when there are other options available, which still protect the future of striped bass **and** achieve target goals - while not decimating this amazing grassroots community, which already faces considerable challenges including ever changing marine and ecological conditions as well as volatile economic headwinds.

Please consider this when reviewing our comments and throughout the decision-making process as this is **the reality** of those being impacted by any regulation changes:

- RDFC recommends that the ASMFC maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward. The 2023 to 2024 harvest is down 34% and for-hire trips are down 16% with the lowest directed trips in a decade. Imposing new restrictions under these circumstances risks unnecessary economic harm resulting in division within the recreational community, without offering measurable or scientifically meaningful biological benefit.
- Additional seasonal closures are not needed. Recreational fishery management measures implemented a narrow slot limit that has effectively lowered fishing mortality to a 30-year low (F = 0.13 in 2024) which is well below both the target (F = 0.17) and threshold (F = 0.21) needed for rebuilding. The proposed measures are to address a 0.01 percent difference in the fishing mortality rate that is statistically insignificant. The low 2024 fishing mortality, resulting from the ongoing recreational conservation measures, mainly the narrow recreational slot limit is currently maintaining a fine balance between recreational fishing access and striped bass rebuilding.
- The propositions of no targeting and no harvest closures for 22 to 48 days of our short fishing season of May through October would result in job lay-offs and/or small business closure(s). Losing this many days of striped bass fishing will be catastrophic to our businesses and the entire blue economy that relies on our clients who bring a non-trivial amount of revenue into local accommodations, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, coffee shops and grocery stores to only name a few.
- A no target or no harvest closure **will not be equitable** given striped bass arriving at different times not only at a regional level, but also at a local level for example north or south of Cape Cod.
- If status quo is not selected, RDFC recommends different for hire seasons and limits as a result of the low level of mortality by this user type in order to run a viable business. For example, if the private sector is closed for two weeks, the for-hire sector remains open during these two weeks with reduced bag limits such as 4 fish per vessel instead of 1 fish per angler aboard the vessel.

We thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this immensely important matter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at charters@fishreeldeal.com or call at (508) 487 - 3767.

Best regards,

Capt. Bobby Rice

Capt. Bobby Rice
RDFC, Owner

Capt. Elena Rice

Capt. Elena Rice
RDFC, Customer Experience

Capt. Ian Wall

Capt. Ian Wall
RDFC, Captain

Capt. Brady Rice

Capt. Brady Rice
RDFC, Captain

Merrick Rice

Merrick Rice
RDFC, First Mate

cc: Dan McKiernan, ASMFC & MassDMF

C.J. Victoria
Fishing Charters

October 1, 2025

Public Comment on Striped Bass Management

Submitted by: Robert Savino, Boston, MA

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC):

My name is Robert Savino. I have operated a charter boat in Boston for 26 years and have been actively engaged in fisheries management for the same period. During this time, I have attended numerous seminars and classes on fishery science and management and have closely followed striped bass management in particular.

Key Points

- **Experience & Background**
  - 26 years as a charter captain in Boston.
  - Active involvement in fisheries management for the same duration.
  - Well-versed in striped bass conservation, science, and management.
- **Current Stock Status & Concerns**
  - Conservation measures in recent years have increased spawning stock biomass (SSB).
  - However, *young of year (YOY)* recruitment has **not increased alongside SSB, which indicates environmental factors—not fishing pressure—are limiting recruitment**.
  - Evidence strongly suggests **environmental conditions**, not fishing pressure, are driving recruitment failures.
  - Closures are being considered, yet **closures will not achieve management goals** and may be based on questionable benchmarks.

198 cottage park road winthrop, ma 02152 **T:** 617-283-5801 **EMAIL:** robsavino@cjvictoria.com

- **Economic & Statistical Impact**
    - The recreational striped bass fishery supports a wide network of coastal businesses and communities.
    - A coastwide closure would cause **severe economic harm**.
    - Mortality rate has been **well below the threshold for years**.
    - A closure would be **statistically insignificant** in reducing mortality and should not be considered a viable solution.
    - While economic factors are not mandated under Magnuson-Stevens, they must be acknowledged in decision-making.
- **Management Approach**
    - Support **status quo under Addendum III**.
    - Frequent, year-to-year regulatory changes have proven ineffective—comparable to “day trading for retirement.”
    - Advocate for a **long-term management approach**, with decisions informed by the 2027 stock assessment and MRIP data.
    - Extreme conservation measures **without strong scientific justification** undermine credibility and stability in management.
- **Commercial Measurement & Harvest Recommendations**
    - Support use of **bumper boards and tail pinching** for accurate size measurements in the commercial fishery.
    - Strongly support **commercial tagging at point of harvest**:
        - Tags should be distributed to buyers, not all license holders.
        - Effective in Massachusetts, where the fishery is already quota-based.
        - Provides accountability and deters illegal activity.

- Recommend Massachusetts require **by law** that all commercially harvested striped bass be sold to market.
- Do **not** support limited entry into the commercial fishery.

Conclusion

I do **not support any closures** of the striped bass fishery. I support conservation measures that are:

- Science-based,
- Long-term in scope, and
- Effective without causing unnecessary economic harm.

Striped bass management must balance conservation with fairness, stability, and accountability.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Savino
Charter Captain, Boston, MA

From: Tim
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass rules addendum.
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 11:54:13 AM

Good afternoon. I am a recreational striped bass angler from Massachusetts. And this year I've seen more bass than ever around cape cod. Not as many big fish but lots of 20-42 inch fish what I've caught mainly. And a no target makes absolutely no sense at all. There's plenty of fish around for that not to happen. Commercial guys did well this year and rec guys are doing well. I think it should be left alone. Just my personal opinion. A no target will hurt the economy, tackle shops and charter captains. Catch and release across the board should be a an option too if they're so badly " overfished " then nobody takes them. Just my opinion to the matter.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:20:27 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Michael Carroll

Email

townfishboston@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Public Comment on Draft Addendum III – Striped Bass 12% Reduction Proposal
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Attn: Striped Bass Board
comments@asmfc.org
Dear Commissioners,
My name is Michael Carroll, a Boston-based fisherman with more than thirty years of experience as a USCG-licensed charter and commercial captain, as well as an extensive background as a fishery economist. I served over a decade on the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the New England Fishery Management Council and have led nationally recognized economic analyses, including the BP Oil Spill assessment on Gulf of Mexico fisheries. From this experience, I have seen the consequences when management decisions are made without adequate scientific evidence or without accounting for economic impacts on communities.
The proposed 12% reduction for striped bass falls into this category. The Addendum itself acknowledges that reductions under 10% are statistically indistinguishable from no action. A 12% cut barely exceeds that threshold, and managers note that the real driver of rebuilding is recruitment—something these cuts cannot influence. In addition, release mortality is assumed at a fixed 9%, though in reality it varies widely depending on gear, handling, and water temperature. Taken together, there is little certainty that these measures would improve the stock's status.
In contrast, the economic consequences are certain and severe. According to the most recent comprehensive study (Southwick Associates, 2016), the striped bass fishery supports more than 100,000 jobs, $4.7 billion in income, and $7.8 billion in GDP. Adjusted to 2025 dollars, these figures are significantly higher. Analyses suggest that a no-targeting closure could erase over 8,000 jobs, $350 million in income, and up to $1 billion in economic activity from Maine to North Carolina—with Massachusetts bearing the largest share of these losses. These impacts extend far beyond vessel operators to bait shops, marinas, hotels, restaurants, and entire coastal communities. Once this infrastructure disappears, it rarely returns.
Of equal concern are recent comments from managers at a Massachusetts-based public meeting (Sept.

25) indicating that economic impacts do not need to be considered because state-managed fisheries under ASMFC are not directly bound by the Magnuson–Stevens Act (MSA). While that may be the stated position, it is important to recognize that if ASMFC or its member states were subject to legal challenge, a decision of this magnitude—clearly exceeding the $100 million threshold that defines an “economically significant action”—would almost certainly require a full economic impact analysis under federal law. In other words, the only reason such analysis is not being conducted is because ASMFC operates under compact status and is insulated from lawsuits. That immunity provides managers the option of disregarding economic consequences that would otherwise have to be addressed, and this creates a governance gap with real-world consequences. The MSA’s National Standard 8 exists precisely to protect fishing communities from disproportionate economic harm, and those principles are widely accepted as the benchmark for responsible fishery management in the United States. Choosing not to apply them simply because legal immunity allows it undermines accountability, erodes public trust, and risks causing irreparable harm to businesses and communities that depend on the striped bass fishery.

As an economist, my role is to evaluate scope, magnitude, and certainty. Here, the certainty is on the economic side: significant, long-lasting harm is expected. The biological side admits uncertainty and recognizes that cuts may not achieve the intended goals. This raises a critical question: why impose cuts at all if they may not address the real problem? Recruitment failures in nursery areas—driven largely by environmental factors—remain the central challenge, and these reductions cannot change that.

At a minimum, best practice requires a transparent, thorough economic impact analysis before moving forward. Imposing closures or reductions without both scientific certainty and economic analysis is not responsible policy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to reject the proposed 12% cut and maintain the status quo until both the science and the economics are fully evaluated. Anything less places thousands of livelihoods and entire communities at risk.

Respectfully,

Michael Carroll
USCG Licensed Captain & Fishery Economist
Boston, MA

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:	Matt Jacobus
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Re: Striped Bass Management Comment
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 9:45:02 PM

Striped bass board members,

FIrst, I will quickly give an update from my email from last year (email is below) to provide my 2025 striped bass catch data:

- 2025: 6 fish caught across 12 land-based trips. All 24-28". This is the easiest time of year to catch striped bass and it's really hard to catch striped bass. It's the weekend and I'm opting to go crappie fishing tomorrow AM.

I know there are boat based anglers with extensive captain networks they can tap into for intel, but for most recreational anglers, the striped bass fishing is terrible right now.

Second, on to my preferred addendum III management options:

- 3.1: Measuring Striped Bass **Option B** – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.
- 3.2: Commercial Tagging **Option B** – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.
- 3.3: Chesapeake Bay **Option C** – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution (propose at hearings). We have more news on this to be released in the upcoming weeks.
- **3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean** – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.

Matt Jacobus
Marblehead, MA

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Matt Jacobus** <mhjacobus@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 7:03 PM
Subject: Striped Bass Management Comment
To: <comments@asmfc.org>

Striped Bass Board Members,

As a data engineer working and living out of the North Shore of Massachusetts, ahead of the December 2024 Striped Bass Board Meeting, I write my comment in the best way I can: By summarizing my catch data since I started fishing for Striped Bass in 2020:

- 2020: 236 bass caught (235 between 18-27"; 1 fish 28") - First year targeting stripers out of this area via land and kayak and I had a blast! Multiple 10-25 fish days. I was hooked. However, my quest for the elusive "slot" fish took all season... why?

- 2021: 584 bass caught (566 between 18-27"; 17 fish between 28-32", 1 fish 33") - Holy numbers! I will NEVER forget this season; every day fishing the fall run out of my kayak was like fishing in an episode of national geographic. I had 10 kayak trips in the fall (out of 11 total fall trips!) with 20+ fish landed. Even a 100 fish day! And, some elusive slot fish, finally!

- 2022: 199 bass caught (180 schoolies, 17 fish 28-32", 2 fish 36 and 39.5") - Less fish, but better quality. That's good, right? Some fun times fishing beaches during the fall run, even into mid-November.

- 2023: 124 bass caught (107 schoolies, 16 fish 28-32", 1 fish 37") - This was my first tough season. I had to grind harder than I had in the past. The 37" fish was a boat fish, so it didn't even count :-). And just one solid numbers day in the fall (10+ fish); the beaches didn't produce like they did in 2022.

- 2024: 36 bass caught (27 schoolies, 5 fish 28-32", 4 other fish: 33", 34", 37", 41") - One one hand... caught a 41 incher! I'm not a night fishing guy, so catching one out of the kayak just after sunrise in late-September was a long-awaited experience. That was part of one great trip, and I had one other trip that fall that accounted for all of my other quality fish for the season. Otherwise... I couldn't BUY a fish. Got outright skunked on prisine fall run days when I used to catch numbers. I didn't even fish in June, July, or August. And once the YoY data came out in October... I put my rod down for the season.

If one was to look closely at my data, they just might see some correlation with the Chesapeake YoY data. And, maybe, just maybe, they would also see that, given the abysmal spawns of the past 6 years, and no significant harvest reductions being proposed (significant harvest reductions are needed on BOTH commercial and rec side; catch and release mortality will decrease because people are putting down their rods)... this fishery is in serious trouble.

Matt Jacobus
Marblehead, MA

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:35:44 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Elvin Atkins
Email
elvin@fastmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I support full or partial recreational and commercial closures to rebuild striped bass stocks.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:33:33 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jake Gatof
Email
jgatof@orrick.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
A targeting closure would have a serious and materially adverse impact on the economies of scale that are created by the sport targeting of striped bass. Indirect benefits of such activities are not fully appreciated, including impact on adjacent business and tourism activities. Changes on kill limits are a reasonable way to handle mortality issues along with a focus on commercial activities.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:09:14 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ethan Bourque
Email
ecbourque77@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Under no circumstances do I support a coast wide no targeting closure. Too many guides and other businesses are supported by the fishery to completely shut it down. I would support catch and release or seasonal closures during the striper's spawning season.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:52:46 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dave Beaumont
Email
davidbeaumont@comcast.net
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Was a northeast outdoor writer for 30 years plus. I worked on getting false albacore taken off any kill list for tournaments for many years. Wrote for “On The Water Magazine “ from their first issue. 4 editors in I wasn’t allowed to write anything to get The Vineyard Derby to stop killing fish and throwing them away. When striped bass were put on a moratorium in the early eighties I went 5 years without keeping one including 40 plus pounders from shore. Someone please explain to me why they still have commercial fishing for striped bass. No big ones should ever be allowed to keep. I released many huge ones and that was my favorite part of the quest. Am I the only one that remembers the moratorium of 40 plus years ago?

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:05:44 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Ron Powers

Email

rplastcast@comcast.net

State

Massachusetts

Comment

After covering Massachusetts fisheries and especially striped bass for 25 years as a member of the Outdoor Media, I believe I am in a unique position to provide perspective. The average angler has had an extremely difficult time catching striped bass this season. This trend has been apparent for many years but was especially alarming this year. Once the province of the shore angler and casual angler striped bass from Plymouth to Plum Island have exclusively become the quarry of the commercial fisherman and charter captain many of whom are one and the same. On the non-commercial days, these individuals simply swap hats and take paying customers to the same aggregates of large striped bass and pound them further. There are no secrets where these fish are with recreational anglers quickly finding the fleet and inflicting untold damage on the last of the breeding stock. The oft-mentioned recreational discards can directly be traced to commercial striped bass fishing. That was not the case when striper numbers were far healthier as recreational anglers were perfectly content to chase the once coast-wide ubiquitous blitzes which are few and far between now. Additionally, most use live mackerel which even with circle hooks result overwhelmingly in fatally, deeply hooked stripers and/or snagged (and dropped) pogies which also typically results in a dead striper. That's the problem as I am uniquely qualified to comment on it. As for the solution? Drastically cut if not outright stop the commercial killing of striped bass AND pass a regulation prohibiting the duplicity of commercial fishing and fishing for hire. Those individuals should have to pick their position and not be able to profit both ways on dead striped bass. As someone who is continually on the water and communicates with bait shops, charter captains, recreational anglers and yes even commercial interests I have to tell you it's worse than you realize in Massbay! The future of striped bass is in your hands, I pray that you do the right thing!
Ron Powers
On The Water columnist

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:44:53 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Joe Gugino

Email

captjoegugino@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

To whom it may concern,

As a charter captain in Boston Harbor and an industry professional working with and representing manufacturers who sell products to anglers, I deeply care about the health and the future of this striped bass population. My entire income is reliant on this health, as it that of all the small businesses around me. If abundance dwindles any further, our business will feel the effects.

I want it to be known that I fully support the position of the American Saltwater Guides Association, and am appreciative of their relentless efforts in speaking for the resource and access for all anglers.

3.1 - option B
3.2 - option B
3.3 - option C
3.4 - option B-01

I support a reduction for both sectors
I am AGAINST any no-target closures.
And I am for major commercial fishery reforms and regulatory changes to increase accountability.

Thank you,

- Capt. Joe Gugino
Fish Boston
Winthrop, MA

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From:	John Bardash
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 5:20:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I occasionally fish for recreation and such a proposed reduction may effect me personally. Please keep the status quo. Thank you.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Bardash

147 Kelton St Apt 708

Allston, MA 02134

jbardash@protonmail.com

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From: John Torosian
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass comment
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:11:00 PM

I am in favor of stays quo for the commercial sector I think it is unfair to cut the quota when the science has proven that the recreational sector is largely responsible for removals from the biomass I believe commercial fishermen are being scapegoated and picked on because we are much fewer in numbers than recreational fishermen and therefore are an easy target. I do agree with the fish being tagged at the point of harvest i hope that will change in Massachusetts where I fish

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:	Brian Borgeson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Stripers
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 4:42:12 PM

The thought of a closure of 61 days would devastate my charter business. I have a 1 year old son who would like to not go on food stamps. Figure out how to let us fish. The whole east coast charter fleet depends on these fish coming through at certain times of the season. Closing stripers when everything is closed is just gonna put a massive effort on other fish.
Brian Borgeson charter boat “Absolute”
Nantucket ma
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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:29:14 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Patrick Nee
Email
patricknee@yahoo.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
NO to no-targeting closures. Lower the number of fish for commercial striped bass More commercial accountability

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From: Kevin Blinkoff
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:22:18 PM

Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Ms. Franke and members of the ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III.

I am a Massachusetts resident and a private angler who has fished for striped bass for 25 years. I'm also the editor-in-chief of On The Water Media, where I have worked for 19 years. My tenure there has provided me with a unique perspective on the Northeast striped bass fishery; however, please note that I am not commenting on behalf of my employer or our audience.

On The Water was launched on Cape Cod in 1996 and has grown for the past 29 years to cover all waters where Atlantic striped bass swim. Like so many other fishing- and tourism-related businesses in our region, our existence depends upon the abundance of striped bass. There is no better example than our Striper Cup, which is a catch-and-release tournament that has attracted national sponsors and grown to over 5,000 participants.

I understand that the Striped Bass Management Board has the difficult task of balancing conservation goals with management stability, regulatory consistency, and "equity" in conservation burden. Still, I want to emphasize that when it comes to striped bass, a largely catch-and-release fishery with outsized importance to Atlantic coast recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing economy, meeting conservation goals must take priority.

I also understand that there will be short-term economic consequences to businesses, including some for-hire fishing operations, that depend on the opportunity to harvest striped bass. However, the economic impacts will be far greater if we fail to conserve the remaining striped bass biomass while we wait for improvements in recruitment from Chesapeake Bay spawning grounds.

As a kayak and shore-based angler, I have already witnessed an alarming decrease in the availability of smaller stripers in the waters that I fish. My experiences align with the stock assessment, which indicates that poor recruitment in recent years has resulted in a stock structure dominated by larger fish from above-average year classes. While there is still a fishery for larger striped bass that, at certain times and locations, can be excellent, it does not make up for the fact that we are feeling the effects of a severe decrease in the abundance of "schoolie" stripers.

I am a proponent of access to sustainable fisheries and have built my career around promoting and growing the sport of recreational fishing. However, having a rebuilt striper stock with a healthy size distribution that includes abundant smaller striped bass is a far more meaningful way to recruit and retain new anglers than by delaying conservation goals to minimize short-term impacts.

I understand that the management actions being considered today will not resolve the issue of poor recruitment. I also know that the SSB is currently at a level that can produce above-average year classes. However, I see this as more reason to be conservative with the fish that are currently available, as we will be relying on their abundance to support the fishery in the near term.

I submit the following option choices:

3.1 Option B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.
3.2 Option B: Commercial tagging at the point of harvest.
3.3 Option C: New baseline with 10% buffer
3.4 Option B-01: 12% reduction, both sectors. For ocean season closures, **I support no-harvest closures over no-target closures**. No-target closures would be impossible to enforce and would have disastrous economic effects that would punish for-hire operators who follow the rules.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Kevin Blinkoff
Cataumet, MA

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From: Comcast
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass closure for 2026
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:15:59 PM

Dear sir:
Please keep the striped bass regulations status quo for the 2026 season. Any closure in wave three, four or 5 would have a devastating effect on my charter business. I take over 500 different people fishing during that time period. It's there one chance to catch a striper and take it home to eat. They have as much right to the resource as the rec angler how fishes every week.

Sincerely
Capt Bob DeCosta
Albacore Charters
Nantucket Island
Sent from my iPhone
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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:49:21 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Rabias
Email
jrabias@comcast.net
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Let the stocks rebuild, stop commercial and recreational harvest.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:25:55 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Andrew Schroth
Email
andrewwschroth@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
The commercial striped bass fishery should be completely shut down and the recreational should have C&R only portions of the season before full closures are even considered.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:55:14 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Michael Hogan

Email

Michael@hogylures.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Hi, my name is Mike Hogan, founder and CEO of Hogy Lure Company. Thank you for hearing my comments. I'm commenting today wearing two hats: 1. As a business owner whose income depends heavily on striped bass. I'm also here as a local angler who hopes my grandkids can enjoy Stripers the same way I did after the 1990s rebound.

Part 1: My clear "position" on the matter: My direct answers to the options at hand.
Part 2: My Rationale: My thought process behind them.

Thank you for reading this and taking on this difficult decision.

PART 1: MY POSITIONS:
I support:
• 3.1 Option B: Uniform measurement for consistency and fairness.
• 3.2 Option B: Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales.
• 3.3 Option C: New baseline with a 10% buffer—and I encourage 15% for added precaution.
• 3.4 Option B: Equal 12% reductions across both sectors.
o For the ocean, Sub-option O1 (NO HARVEST) with uniform rules and no for-hire exemptions. At the striper hearing, I falsely understood the parameters of for hire exemption.
******I do not support any no targeting closures*******.
o Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region, ideally New York and Connecticut as well. Wave 4 for the North, Wave 6 for the South.

Equal cuts, uniform measurement, strict tagging, and precautionary buffers give us the best chance to rebuild striped bass.

PART 2: MY RATIONALE:

To guide my position on the issues today, I asked myself:

Are stripers in enough jeopardy to require increased management?

1. For starters, I trust the science showing poor spawning years and concerning stock assessments enough to take the current situation seriously.

2. Secondly, Looking inward at my own business, I believe the answer to the “Stripers in jeopardy” question is yes. Our mailing list is over 30,000 people, mostly in the Northeast.(A meaningful sample across multiple states). We’re seeing troubling signs in our sales data, surveys and focus groups suggesting a drop in targetable stripers:
1. Our striper “peak sales” season is getting noticeably shorter each year.
2. Our customers are spending less time targeting stripers, while groundfish participation is rising as people shift their patterns.
3. In focus groups, we’re repeatedly hearing about fewer and fewer stripers each year. Unfortunately, folks often blaming themselves.

I could go on, but these three patterns when looked at collectively and together are troubling enough for me to be very concerned about the striped bass fishery.

I then asked myself

What’s the greater risk?

1. Staying “status quo” and doing nothing? This would favor mitigating short term business risk at the expense of a more secure long term positive outcome? The risk being we overestimated the issue

-or-

2. Taking precautionary action and facing short term business risk in favor of a more secure long term positive outcome? The risk being that we underestimated the issue. —> To me, the greater risk is clearly doing nothing. Long term ramifications of the negative outcomes are too big to ignore.

MY RESONING: In the event where we could learn if “status quo” happens to be wrong choice, it might be too late to use less draconian measures to protect the stock. At the same time, a full “no targeting” approach goes too far. I don’t think we are there yet. All the choices were difficult.

I personally think the right path is what I call “SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE” — taking reasonable, precautionary steps.

P.S. I am happy to answer any trade related question you have and share any data that might be useful.

Respectfully,
Capt. Mike Hogan
Founder and CEO of Hogy Lures

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:36:45 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=V2Dbvt43cXIy1UeN7dP97XZyubAFqm1-346ok47KUzg.TzzC5W
Name
Scott Henchey
Email
shhenchey@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I support the following options: 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. Thank you Scott Henchey

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From: Jeff L.
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Comments from Public
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:13:01 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jeffrey Lopez. I am a recreational angler from Boston and have pursued Striped Bass for almost 40 years now. I have seen great times and I have seen lean times. I would like to see coast wide , “non removal from water.” This is what Florida continues to do for Tarpon Greater than 40”. Florida’s plan worked on all Tarpon must remain in the water and later moved to greater than 40”. I believe this regulation would ensure a better survivability for Striped Bass.

Also, tournaments with Striped Bass has to be banned. Does not matter if it’s catch and release. We are in rebuilding times not celebrating.

Thank you

Jeffrey Lopez

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From: Robert Hussey
To: Comments
Cc: Home Email
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:54:29 AM

Comments on proposed changes to Striped Bass regulations for 2026

I attended the public hearing at Mass Maritime Academy on Sept. 30, 2025. As a charter boat captain for over 40 years I have a very vested interest in this matter. I have run my business on Cape Cod a very popular tourist destination that has many interests for visitors, one is fishing. I have a strong customer base that has become generational. My customers enjoy a day on the water catching fish, the two main species of fish that we catch are striped bass and bluefish.

I have to say that any changes in the regulations on striped bass fishing would have a adverse effect on my business.Let me state where I stand on the proposed addendums.

Section 3.1 - Option B, in favor , All states should measure the same fish the same way, this makes sense.

Section 3.2 - Option C, in favor. Again all states should be the same so no neighboring state may have a slight edge over the other. While on this subject if the Atlanic States Marine Fisheries Commission sets the rules for all east coast states on the length of striped bass, currently 28-31 inches 1 fish per angler per day. Why do I see charter services from New York, New Jersey and Virginia posting pictures of bass that are well over 31 inches hanging from sign boards, lying on deck or being held by anglers that are all clearly dead.

Section 3.3 - Option A, I don’t see the need for a change

Section 3.4 - Option A, Status Quo. Any change in the ability to take people fishing in an already short season would have devastating impact on the for hire fisheries. This would not only impact this business but would have a very significant domino effect in the tourist community such as mine. This could and most likely would effect motels, camping areas, bait and tackle shops, restaurants and other tourist based business. Any closer days to the striped bass fisheries is not an option. In the hearing it was brought to our attention that if this remained status quo the striped bass should be at its target base line stock by 2027. I say again stay status quo and reevaluate in a couple of years.

Thank You

Robert Hussey
ERIN - H Charters
Wellfleet, MA
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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:12:20 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Bill Prodouz

Email

Bprodouz@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I believe there should be one standard measurement method for all states.

I believe that commercial tagging should becat point of harvest to avoid any and all transit of all untagged bass above the commercial minimum length.

I believe Maryland should NOT change their baseline or methods.

I believe commercial and recreational groups should both be cut by 12% for harvest and mortality

I believe that no harvest periods versus no targetting should be used for commercial.

I believe more emphasis should be placed on fishing mortality of returns since they represent 9% of the recreational catch and up to 40% of the mortality of the species.

Dont just retain status quo measures because they " may" meet restoration targets but 3 plus years late.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:09:58 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Stewart Ellis

Email

ske01776@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

It is extremely disappointing that the ASMFC has failed to take any action for the past 6 years. I find it difficult to understand why you failed protect the striped bass fisheries along the eastern seaboard, especially when you knew the population was in drastic decline for the past 3 years.

In light of this, the only effective way forward to restore the striped bass is to implement an equitable coast-wide harvest moratorium. The historical data supports this approach to be the greatest opportunity to restore the population before we get to the tipping point of no return.

Having said that, I know the Commission will fail to do what is necessary to save our Ocean Region Fishery as you have failed each of the past 6 years.

In light of yet another year's failed attempt to restore the Ocean Region Fishery population, the only logical corrective measures that I would support are the following regulations:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass
Option B. Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging
Option B. Commercial Tagging At the Point of Harvest

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline
Option C. New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding
Option B: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12% Sub-options 01 & CB1

In addition, I do NOT support any for-hire exemptions, or no targeting closures. I only support no-harvest

closures.

Due to the proximity of NY, CT and RI with MA they should all be included in the New England region. Support wave 4 closures for New England and wave 6 for the Mid-Atlantic regions.

It's imperative to require MA commercial license owners to tag at harvest to prevent the unscrupulous commercial license owners from selling their catch directly to retailers bypassing the tagging requirements altogether.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:33:56 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dan Nguyen
Email
nguyendan500@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Eliminate the commercial fishery. Eliminate menhaden harvest. Keep recreational regulations as is.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:11:58 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Aidan Flanders
Email
aidanhflanders@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I support, 3.1) Option B 3.2) Option B 3.3) Option C, but increase uncertainty buffer to 15 percent 3.4) Option B, No Harvest Closure I believe that anglers should still be allowed to catch and release Striped Bass, however, there needs to be an increased effort to enforce regulations currently on the books. From my observations only about half of anglers use circle hooks with their live bait, especially when fishing with Bunker. And many anglers do not know how to safely handle a big fish; there should be a rule that anglers are not allowed to remove fish from the water if they are above a certain size (eg. 40"). Catch and release fishermen serve as critical stewards of the striped bass fishery, and if there were to be a no target closure, it would only succeed in keeping the people off the water that care about the fish, people with poor fishing ethics will continue fishing for stripers and simply claim they are not on the rare occasion they are stopped by wardens. A no target closure would have negative consequences.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:10:09 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ryan Henry
Email
ryanhenry2702@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I support option B On 3.1, and 3.2. Option C on 3.3, and option B-01 on 3.4.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:04:32 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Thomas Palladino
Email
thomas.palladino@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Put a temporary moratorium on keeping any stripers for 3 years. I rather eat sea bass Tog tog or any other fish anyways. Done deal

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 5:07:34 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Kenneth Holt

Email

kholt7@sbcglobal.net

State

Massachusetts

Comment

To those serving on the Commission,

I'd like to start by thanking you for your willingness to serve on the Commission whose mission, by all rights, is a noble one that I think everyone should support. I am a recreational fly fisherman with a home in CT and another in MA, on Cape Cod. My predominant target species is the striped bass.

I am writing in today to express my frustration and disappointment with what seems to be a pattern of willingness to defer and to delay any substantive decision making aimed at restoring a rapidly declining fishery. One year of failed spawn should raise eyebrows. Two consecutive should prompt questions. Three should result in alarm bells and formal inquiries. Four, five, six...with no real action is a travesty. The fact that there are points on the currently proposed addendum to "maintain the status quo" is truly unbelievable to me. I respectfully ask the Commission to take substantive action to protect this failing fishery.

I realize that you are likely receiving a lot of public comment and if you are not, you certainly should be. I also realize that there are numerous stakeholders providing vastly different and often contradictory input. While I can respect perspectives that differ from my own, I have to ask what good it will do if the fishery continues to collapse. If there are no fish to catch, each point of debate becomes moot. This fishery needs to managed towards a goal of abundance. That will mean that ALL stakeholders will need to make sacrifices.

In the interest of keeping this short(ish) I respectfully ask for the following:
3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass - Option B Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition
3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging - Option B Commercial Tagging at Point of Harvest
3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline - Option C New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding - Option B Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%
I do NOT support any form of no target closures as I believe this to be both unenforceable and to be a direct threat to professional guides livelihoods. I further believe that the negative impact on the economy of the States where the fishery is shut down would be significant and has not be given nearly enough attention in studies.

Thank you for your time and for the work I sincerely hope that you will do on behalf of this fishery.

Sincerely,
Ken Holt

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From: William Hoyerman
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 5:03:29 PM

Most commercial guys kill for the fun, they don't need the money they don't record their kill only on instagram. Stop all harvest before it is to late. Your stats are flawed as you have admitted, not just on the recreational side.
Please

Bill Hoyerman 781/799-9506
Sent from my iPhone
Senior Project Manager
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
31 Bellows Road, Raynham, MA 02767
direct 774.409.2711 **office** 774.501.2176 **mobile** 781.799.9506
www.cecinc.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:39:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Joseph Pereira

Email

Deepsee321@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concern and position on this matter.
For nearly forty years I have fished the surf of New England from Shore for Striped Bass. From Connecticut to Maine. Occasional trips to New Jersey as well.
We are at the tipping point again as we were in the 80s. The difficult decision has to be made. We either sacrifice today or there will be no tomorrow.
For the 2026 season from experience I STRONGLY suggest and support " NO HARVEST " catch & release only with possibility based on data from 2026 that 2027 will be a minimum of " NO HARVEST " and or No Target/Closure Waves.
I hope that my position mirrors the many as well as yours.
Thank you for your hard work as well as the efforts in the advocacy for the Striped Bass. Truly Americas Sport Fish in my opinion.

Kind Regards,
Joseph Pereira

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From: Rich Antonino
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:38:09 PM

Nothing scares me more than a closure in the striped bass season. As a charter captain on Cape Cod, more than 50% of my business is based around striped bass. To see a 12% reduction, everyone knows “it’s word salad; the numbers can be tweaked with the flip of a pen”. We have had such a strong showing in our waters with regard to striped bass over the past several years.

Our customers were fine with the creation of a slot size. They were fine with a reduction in that slot size. They have fun catching them. We cast soft plastics with a single hook 95% of the time. Our releases are smooth and uneventful.

Please keep the status quo for our fishery.

Sincerely,

Capt. Rich Antonino
Black Rose Fishing Charters
4 Sleepy Hollow Drive
Plymouth, MA 02360
508-269-1882
www.blackrosefishing.com

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From: Rob Moss
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:31:10 PM

Sent from my iPhone zero reduction across the board. I'm very confused with your graphs and five times you've hit your target date in 42 years. Do you think your bar may be a little high? If you look at the other graphs it's improving every year will reach our target number by 2032. I believe let nature take course and stop trying to make something happening. That is probably gonna hurt a lot of people and having two Conservation groups being able to vote on. This is absolutely obscene no charter Boat group on the East Coast get that say none of this makes sense. I hope you make the right decision Robert Moss Junior Chatham, Massachusetts commercial 45 years.
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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:49:13 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Ian Lumsden

Email

ilumsden74@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Good afternoon,

I may be young and only 22 years old but I have seen this fishery decrease gradually in recent years since I have started striper fishing. Growing up the canal was a 3 minute bike ride from my house and I was able to catch an abundance of striped bass. On good days you would bike the canal seeing 2 dead cow striped bass per person lining the service road almost end to end. Now the canal though it has been good the past week it has not been the same since 2018. Talking to old timers the outer cape as well as race point used to be the Mecca of Massachusetts striper fishing, now? Polluted with seals and finding a bite out there are far and few between. Surf fishing this year for me personally has been great and I have been trying to do my part on releasing bass as quickly and safely as possible. Though there are many bass around currently with failed spawn after spawn, poaching, recreational harvest, commercial harvest, and natural predators the striped bass population will decline quickly if something does not change soon. I would like future generations of fishermen to experience what we have now and what we used to have in the early 2000s to 2020. With that being said I would like to see a NO HARVEST put in place and protect bass to become a game fish such as tarpon. Allowing people to target stripers it will not put tackle shops out of business as well as charter boats. I have rarely seen striped bass served on cape cod which to me is a joke due to how many bass are killed commercially every year in Massachusetts. Cape Cod was named due to it's abundance of cod, after being poorly managed you have to travel dozens of miles on a boat to find a couple cod and they are no where to be seen close to the Cape. I do not want to see the same happen to striped bass. New Hampshire and Maine do not have a commercial season and striped bass up there are thriving. Getting more game wardens to crack down on poaching is another thing that states need to work on. As well as possibly opening a season for seals which are polluting Massachusetts and pose a risk to Cape Coders as well as tourists dragging in record numbers of white sharks. No action is not a option and no harvest in my opinion is necessary to help these bass bounce back. As well as cleaning their major spawning grounds.

Thank you,

Ian

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From:	David Anderson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:30:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Don’t penalize recreational fishermen for the sins of commercial fishing.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

David Anderson

PO Box 163

Wheelwright, MA 01094

Davez28327@yahoo.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:16:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Tom Kelly
Email
bellyboatk@msn.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
The last three years the striper fishing has gone from bad to worse , there are no small fish around . The lack of small fish is what concerns me most of all , six years of bad spawning will do this . I believe the best way to rebuild the stock is to adopt an equitable coast wide harvest moratorium .

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:14:44 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

ALAN CORDTS

Email

dralancordts@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I attended the MA Public Hearing on the Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III proposal, this past Oct. 3rd, at the Mass Maritime Academy. Predictably, the overwhelming sentiment voiced was a plea for "status quo" by the two main user groups heavily represented at this meeting-- the charter boat business interests, and the advocates for a continued commercial striped bass harvest in the State of Massachusetts. Yet, I believe that every single charter or commercial interest individual present at that meeting would be in agreement that their Year 2024 striped bass fishing was materially worse in terms of fish size and fish numbers than even the year before-- and perhaps ever. I also believe that every single charter/commercial individual in that room would also reluctantly predict that their next coming fishing year, 2026, to be an even more painful catch effort than presently.

For the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:
I implore that you cannot accept "status quo" for the appeasement of these striped bass harvest special interest groups. I applaud that the MA Division of the ASMFC has put forth a proposal to adopt more restrictive measures for striped bass. This striped bass fishery is visibly, and now undeniably, declining despite previously enacted restrictions since 2019, which are still in place. Your proposal of some sort of Closed Season for MA striped bass seems like a useful tool which may achieve some sort of catch effort reduction... IF you apply this tool effectively, whereby it produces the MAXIMUM impact, as opposed to the minimum impact. Maximum impact to decrease catch effort pressure (including my personal catch effort), would be a no harvest, and no-targeting closure for the pursuit of striped bass in Massachusetts during the months of May and June. This is what I argue and advocate.

No-Targeting: Despite the negativity about this idea of no-targeting versus a "no harvest" Closed Season, I would request the MA Division ASMFC reconsider this. To my mind, no-targeting would have some positive effect on the theoretical C&R (catch and release) mortality created by charter business and private recreational user groups. Otherwise, a "no harvest" closed season would not decrease my personal catch effort. Second, if you, the MA Div. ASMFC, adopt language in your hopefully impending Season Closure restrictions stating "no-targeting"-- you will convey an element of seriousness of purpose

and seriousness of issue that a significant percentage of the casual public does not seem to appreciate or understand. There is nothing unusual about the concept of "no-targeting" season closures. In Massachusetts, we have a no-targeting seasonal closure in effect presently on Atlantic bluefin tuna. Indeed, "no targeting" may also benefit or simplify policing or enforceability.

I am a recreational striped bass fisherman-- one of literally millions who have an active and deep allegiance (and experience) participating in striped bass sport fishing. My like minded colleagues and I, spend a lot of time and money in our avocational pursuit. For example, I just came off of a Cuttyhunk Island week rendezvous with fifteen other surf casters, who came from as far away as Dallas, TX. I travel: I fish NJ and Rhode Island waters before the viable Massachusetts recreational bass fishing starts in May. In November, I follow the striper migration to Rhode Island and the NJ coast after the MA season ends, in active pursuit.

I have had the privilege to be a 45 year Cape Codder, Falmouth resident. I continue to have my finger on the pulse of the striped bass fishery in general, and on the Massachusetts striped bass fishery in particular. I can state with personal experience, and some credential, that the striped bass fishery has visibly and materially declined year over year for the past 5 years-- with this year being particularly disappointing even compared to last season, 2024. I know, or know of many for hire charter captains, and many of the opportunistic and experienced commercial striped bass fisherman in this State of MA who have had their materially worst season ever. Some of these user groups are reluctant or loathe to admit this. During this past, 2024, Massachusetts commercial season, a couple of my commercial friends have come back to dock--completely skunked-- not one fish for the scale-- despite good conditions, a commercial fish day, side scan sonar, cell phone networking, decades of on the water experience, and trailer boat mobility. AND-- sometimes under similar conditions, return to scales with catches 3 or 5 fish-- far short of the theoretical 15 fish limit allowed.

1. Implement an effective MA striped bass no-targeting closed season for May and June, or June and July.
2. Further decrease the Massachusetts allowable commercial harvest striped bass fishery quota poundage.
3. Place a 40 pound maximum size limit on the possession or sale of any striped bass, any user group, year round, entire Atlantic coast. (This to preserve the the gene pool of a disappearing size of striped bass. Also, the largest females produce the largest number, and supposedly most viable eggs by size per documented studies.)
4. Length measurements striped bass should be snout to FORK of the tail.
5. Tagging of any fish for market or possession should be point of capture for striped bass.

Yours, Oct. 2, 2025 submitted
Alan Cordts, Falmouth, MA

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:57:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Corey GAMMILL

Email

CMGAMMILL@GMAIL.COM

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I am surprised that part of the solution does not involve changing the SLOT Limit. On page 2 of Addendeum III it states: "The most recent stock projections estimate an increase in fishing mortality in 2025 due to the above average 2018 year-class entering the current recreational ocean slot limit, and there is concern about the lack of strong year-classes behind the 2018 year-class."

Yet in section 3.4 on page 33 it states "For ocean recreational fisheries, only season closures are considered. No changes to ocean size limits are considered."

In one document you stated the fundamental problem and 31 pages later you say clearly adjusting the slot limit is. not an option. This makes no sense to me. If we are looking to limit fishing mortality shouldn't we adjust the slot continuously so that we are protecting our best year classes?

It also makes no sense the lack of downward pressure on commercial catches. It is clearly known that the bigger the fish the more eggs a fish produces exponentially, if we are hoping for a good spawn year isn't it paramount that we have as many eggs as possible in play when/if that good spawn year happens. Logically this would tell me that we should limit capture of fish larger than 35 inches if we are trying to support the future of the fishery.

I am a commercial fisherman and am 46 years old. God willing I will happily work for 20 more years, I am more than willing to take a short term sacrifice for a long term gain.

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From:	William Conigliaro
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:50:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been striped bass fishing my whole life. This would be an infringement of our freedom and would hate this to take place.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

William Conigliaro

14 Lafayette Ter

Nahant, MA 01908

billconigliaro@gmail.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:47:57 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Christopher Ballerini

Email

cpballerini@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I am a charter captain and fishing guide focus on light tackle and fly fishing in Plymouth, MA. I promote catch and release for striped bass but I have no problem with clients keeping a fish once in a while. Plymouth has historically been a great place for fly and light tackle, with consistently feeding schoolies under birds all season long. The past two seasons these fish and feeds were not there. Here are my recommendations:

3.1 - B
Mandatory uniform measurement

3.2 - B
tag at point of Harvest

3.3 - option c for new baseline w / 10% buffer, only if majority reduction is being taken by both sectors

3.4 - B-01 - 12% equal reduction
No for hire exemption and no “no targeting” closures. Preference for no harvest closure would be wave 4

Thank you for all of your hard work on this! I attended the public comment session at Mass Maritime and was very impressed with the representatives from MA DMF. You were extremely professional and knowledgeable despite some disrespectful comments.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:35:09 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Paul Gadd
Email
pdgqpr@verizon.net
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I believe status quo is the ideal current solution until the next stock invaluation in 2027. Education is the key to success, promote the use of landing mats like Europe does for catching and protecting the Carp population, this would protect the fish from being dragged on sand and rocks

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:33:48 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Alan Cunningham
Email
ajc325@hotmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I am against the closure or no target of striped bass. This move would be devastating to tourism in Massachusetts, local businesses and the charters whose only income is from striped bass trips.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:15:37 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

gary zorzy

Email

zorzyelectric@yahoo.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I don't see why we can't eliminate night fishing for bass, dawn to dusk. Cows are slaughtered at night with live bait, and maintain some honesty. (I wont mention the use of only artificial bait.) Night fisherman will have to take time off like deer hunters do to protect the deer population. Reduce the numbers of the commercial catch to 9 fish instead of 15 fish, 3 per day for a 3 day fishing week. Keep the quota the same. Keep the slot the same, Catching a slot is like hitting the lottery now. Making a living killing bass is non existent.

My thoughts are if you can't catch stripers during the day on artificial bait you're not fishing, excluding rigged or chunk bait. "The live bait is fishin on a suicide mission."
Thank you
Gary Zorzy

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:05:55 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jon Badot
Email
jbadot11@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I've been fishing the cape cod bay waters of MA for over 20 years. This season was one of the better striped bass years I've seen in a long time and I was on the water less, catching fish from 24"-52" on every trip. Do something about the spawning issues, align the laws for every state, and stop letting draggers go near our inner coastal waters because they kill EVERYTHING. Don't ruin livelihoods and businesses by shutting it down, figure out the real root of the issue and why they are spawning less. Start looking into pollution and larger picture problems instead of thinking the common angler or for hire boats are the issue. That all being said, I think an online catch and release course requirement could go a long way in educating the next generation of anglers or the weekend warriors who put 4 rods out with just dad and his kids on the boat. Bigger picture plays!!

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From: g.georgetthenrich@comcast.net on behalf of president@plumislandsurfcasters.org
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:20:33 PM

Ms. Franke:

Please find my comments below concerning the Striped Bass Draft Addendum III. As the president of the Plum Island Surfcasters, a recreational fishing club based in Newburyport, MA I can tell you many of my members have grave concerns about the status of this fishery and what the future holds. Reports from members indicate fewer fish caught this year with not many smaller fish landed. This concerns us that there won't be any breeders to spawn in years to come. We understand that it is a multipronged problem with no clear solution. This is where the ASMFC can influence states to implement measures to preserve what fish we have and to give the best chance for recovery.

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass
Option B- we must implement a universal method for accurately measuring fish so that everyone is held to the same standard. Although this may be unenforceable, this will give guidelines for better accuracy.

3.2 Commercial Tagging:: Point of Tagging
Option B- this option will offer the best chance of landed fish being accounted for before they are brought to market.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline
Option C- Because of the uncertainty of option B a buffer would help to increase the chance any season closures would bolster stocks.

3.4 Reduction of Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding
Option B- If any measures are implemented, ALL parties need to take part if any success is to be achieved.

We can all agree drastic measures may need to be taken if we don't do something now. We don't have the luxury of time to see what the numbers show. Let's take an aggressive approach to stem the bleeding before we have to shut down the fishery for good. Thank you.

Regards,

Georgette Y. E. Henrich
President, Plum Island Surfcasters[sm], Inc.
Founded 1957

"Plum Island Surfcasters[sm] *will strive to be a highly respected leader in sportfishing, committed to developing best practices in good sportsmanship, education, techniques and conservation for future generations"*

The Plum Island Surfcasters[sm] have been a leader in the sport of surf fishing since 1957.
Check us out: www.plumislandsurfcasters.org

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 6:19:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nathan Medeiros
Email
natemedeiros87@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
How cutting off commercial and recreational harvest hasn't happened yet is my main concern. Catch and release only. Every season gets thinner and thinner, it's not adding up. No target is not a option in my opinion, no harvest immediately stop any killing for profits, charters can still sport fish just throw them back people still want to go fish even if they can't bring one home. They're worth more alive!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 5:38:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Marc Annese
Email
marcannese2@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Don’t shut down ANY recreational or charter stripe bass fishing! If anything CANCEL COMMERCIAL FISHING !!! If necessary instead of a target closure have a season or more with no recreational harvest. If you cancelled commercial and a few seasons of no recreational harvest it will be beneficial. Commercial fishing is the Achilles heel of the problems.

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From:	Brian Coombs
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 5:02:58 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Hello my name is Captain Brian Coombs.
I Strongly Oppose NO targeting closures.
It would be catastrophic for the recreational fishermen, the professional fishermen and hundreds of small businesses Coast wide.

I would love to see a robust stocking program be an option that anglers could vote on.

Captain Brian Coombs
Get Tight Sport Fishing
www.gettightsportfishing.com
7818663367

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Brian Coombs

113 Dudley St

Medford, MA 02155

gettightsf@gmail.com

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From: Emilie Franke
To: Comments
Subject: FW: [External] [New]
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:43:21 PM

From: Justin Barton <jaybarton17@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 2:23 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: Re: [External] [New]

36 inch size limit

> **From:** Justin Barton <jaybarton17@gmail.com>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:38 PM
> **To:** Comments <comments@asmfc.org>
> **Subject:** [External] [New]
>
> Striped Bass Addendum III Good day, Justin Barton recreational fisherman ,and shore permitted commercial fisherman .Have fished for Striped Bass for over fifty years in Massachusettes waters. My comments are as follows #.1 option B, #.2 option A, #.3 option C,3.4 option B. The only time period I have seen an increase in following year fish class is when #^" total length for all Striped Bass harvest. I believe a high total length for any harvest increases stock replenishment. Also reducing total commercial landings is always appropriate when stocks are depleted. The only way to sustain future fisheries is through common sense guidelines. Keep up the good works protecting our wonderful natural resource of Atlantic Striped Bass. I look forward to your Addendum III decision. Respectfully Justin Barton
>
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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] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:59:51 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Michael Hoar

Email

mhoar1@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

As a recreational angler in Massachusetts, I'm concerned by the decrease in juvenile striped bass in our waters. I believe this is a result of poor recruitment in the Cheasapeake, and also overfishing by the commercial industry.

I support Option B for 3.1 Measure to Measure Total length

I support 3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of tagging Option B for stricter control

I support Option C for 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Rec Season Baseline

I support Option B-01 for ocean for 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals. NY, CT and Rhode Island should be included in the Northern Region.

No Targeting is difficult to enforce and would decimate many who rely on recreational fishing dollars. While I do believe limited commercial fishing is OK, the dollar of a dead fish at the dock is worth far less than the value of a fish swimming in the ocean when you factor the economic impact to fishing retailers, bait stores, guides and the like. I'd like to fish for stripers with my son when he is older and if we keep up this rampant over fishing, the stock will continue to suffer.

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From: Salty Fly
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Adendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:19:14 PM

October 1, 2025

To ASMFC,

First, thank you for last night's meeting at Mass Maritime. It was educational.

I've been a fly-fishing "for hire" captain on Barnstable Harbor for the past 20+ years. I have fished Cape Cod waters for most of the 65 years of my life. I have witnessed the cyclical nature of the striped bass fishery. Most recently, I have watched the 2018-year class grow into today's "slot". Lastly, this season I have experienced the toughest season of striped bass fishing of my charter career with many "zero" fish days. Meanwhile, during the two hours that I attended last night's meeting, 3 anglers fishing along the canal caught 40 stripers. All were over the "slot"!

I am glad that ASMFC is viewing the striped bass fishery from a regional perspective. However, if ASMFC votes "no target" regulations, they should be by bodies of water, not by state. As was pointed out in last night's meeting, Cape Cod Bay and Nantucket Sound do not share the conditions and timing for striped bass migration etc., whereas Buzzards Bay and Narragansett Bay do share similar conditions etc.

Like many of the charter captains at the meeting, I share the recognition that any "no target" periods directed at "For Hire" boats would be economically devastating to the charter community which exists on increasingly small profit margins.

One of the statistics presented to the group was that July and August are "peak" season for stripers. I would beg to differ. My experience is that July and August and are some of the slower months for striped bass fishing. It is however the peak season economically for the charter industry.

The statistic that disturbs me most is the 9% mortality in recreational "catch & release". As a fly and light tackle guide, I do not allow treble hooks to be used on my boat. All fishing is performed with single barbless hooks and hefty lines and leaders. I discourage clients from "playing" the fish. Further, aside from one or two pictures a trip, fish are released without leaving the water or being touched by human hands. If a fish is to be measured, it is held by a boga-grip and a hand under the belly in front of a yardstick that is adhered to a bulkhead. **The fish is never put on the deck or other hard surface.**

I was angered and disappointed to purchase and read *On The Water Magazine's* "striper edition". The entire magazine was covered with advertisements for lures with two or three treble hooks on each lure. I want *On The Water* to do better and to encourage lure companies to develop lures that feature single hooks. Further, I would like *On The Water* to emphasize proper "catch & release" techniques that will help lead to a much lower mortality rate. Their efforts thus far have been meager and questionable.

And a story…

Here's a scenario I witnessed of a Striped Bass caught on a recreational boat:

Boat is trolling, fish is caught, boat does not stop forward motion, fish is drowned as it is reeled in, fish is netted, fish lays on the deck of the boat in the net, bump-

bump-bump on the deck, hook is removed (30-40 seconds), fish is held up for a picture, then TOSSED over the side of the boat, total time: 7 minutes and very poor treatment of the fish.

MY THOUGHTS ON PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OPTIONS:

<!--[if !supportLists]--> **1-** <!--[endif]--> **Methods of Measurement of Striped Bass:**

- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **a.** <!--[endif]--> **The measurement specifications may be scientific, but they are not practical for the angler (professional or recreational) and lead to a greater impact on the fish.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **b.** <!--[endif]--> **I think it's more important to minimize the time a fish is handled and out of the water than to get the perfect measurement.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **c.** <!--[endif]--> **Fish should be measured against a yardstick on a bulkhead so that the fish does not lie flapping on the deck or other surface while the angler fumbles around with a measuring device.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **d.** <!--[endif]--> **Fish should not have their tails squeezed and their mouths shut to take this measurement.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **e.** <!--[endif]--> **I don't understand the "not over the belly" measurement. Calculate the "hold against a yardstick measurement" that meets the scientific criteria.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **f.** <!--[endif]--> **Proposed measurement practices may be scientific perhaps, but not practical and they may lead to increased fish mortality.**

<!--[if !supportLists]--> 2- <!--[endif]--> Commercial Tagging:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--> a. <!--[endif]--> I don't fish commercially, and I don't have an opinion on this.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> 3- <!--[endif]--> Maryland & Chesapeake Bay Regulations:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--> a. <!--[endif]--> I don't know enough about this area to render an opinion.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> **4-** <!--[endif]--> **Reduction in Fishery Removals to Promote Stock Rebuilding:**

- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **a.** <!--[endif]--> **I do not support "No Target" or "Catch & Release" periods.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **b.** <!--[endif]--> **I do support working with state agencies, media outlets, tackle shops, non-profits, and charter captains to teach and ensure proper handling of "catch & release" fish.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **c.** <!--[endif]--> **Also, encourage the use of heavier leaders and lines to allow fish to be reeled in quickly, not "played".**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> **d.** <!--[endif]--> **Barbless hooks are easier on the fish, and for that matter, more sporting.**

Thank you again for the work that you are doing to preserve the striped bass fishery.

Sincerely,

Capt. Avery Revere
www.saltyflycapecod.com

508-362-5482

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:45:41 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Capt William Raye

Email

willraye@verizon.net

State

Massachusetts

Comment

After listening to the the comments coming from individuals over the last few hearings/presentations it is alarming at how many are in favor of status quo on regulations. I have been a charter captain since 1998, mainly fishing inshore (ponds, rivers, harbors, creeks, flats, etc). Unfortunately, I believe those individuals who say that, based on what we are seeing in the deeper colder water, the stocks look great and we should stick with the current regulations are just seeing a single cross section of the population. I would challenge them to come fish off their favorite beach or in their home harbor. Go find me a few 20" bass.

Just have a conversation with your everyday angler who is perched on a bucket at the beach or the fly angler traversing the harbor inlet you take your boat out of everyday. You will hear the same story...no fish! And, when you do catch one, it is substantially larger than you expected to see in those waters. I start fishing charter clients in mid May in the waters surrounding Chatham. It should be an enjoyable time to fish, with schoolies being plentiful. The last few years have been anything but. During this last spring it was downright hard work to find fish and when I did, they were in schools that would move in then move on shortly thereafter. It is disappointing, especially after living through the rebound back in the 90's/early 2000's.

I would strongly encourage the board to consider a no harvest season.
-Capt. William Raye

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:29:53 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Anrhony Cappuccio
Email
anthony.cappuccio176@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
My name is Anthony Cappuccio, I already left a comment before. I just want to say Im a charter captain. I own Big Reel Charters out of Cape Cod. This year, what I have done was offer my clients different fish instead of Stripe bass because the fishery is declining. We are not seeing the stripe bass like we use to. I started to offer my clients mahi mahi on the south side of the Vineyard. Believe it or not they were happy. If I can do it so can other charter Captains. There are other fish to catch other than stripe bass. Half the time I was releasing stripers because they are to small or to big. We need to help this fishery can stop thinking about ourselves and focus on restoring this fishery. Myself I have already made the change on fishing different species so can other Captains. On the commerical part should be like commerical bluefin tuna. Instead of 15 fish a day drop it to 8 a day. Its clear that if we don't take the right steps in restoring this fishery, history will repeat itself.

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From: Liam O"Neill
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:38:14 AM
Attachments: Outlook-Logo Desc.png

To whom it may concern,

While the Striped bass fishery is in dire need of restoration. A NO TARGET, action would decimate an economy of anglers that you seek to govern for. I personally believe that this fishery should be a game fish only; however, I understand the needs of others in the Northeast.

I believe this is not a matter of “commercial vs. recreational” interests, but rather an issue of sustainability and ensuring the future health of the fishery for everyone.

Commercial Permits:

In my opinion, we need to limit the number of commercial permits issued. Currently, there are too many “casual” commercial anglers who do not rely on fishing as a primary source of income. This puts additional pressure on the stock, particularly on schools of breeder-class fish passing through Cape Cod and the South Shore. These large fish are critical to the future of the fishery, and reducing excess commercial participation would help alleviate some of this pressure. Take one boat ride out on a commercial day in Scituate, and you will see hundreds of boats from all across the Massachusetts coast. The next day, they are gone. There needs to be a better way to qualify for a commercial bass license, not just someone looking to make a quick buck.

Recreational Harvest:

At the same time, recreational anglers also need to make sacrifices. A no-harvest period for the recreational sector should be considered. Fish in today’s slot size will soon grow into commercial size, and protecting them now will help sustain the stock in the long run. Beyond regulations, we should also encourage better catch-and-release practices to minimize mortality.

A Shared Responsibility:

Ultimately, we need to find a way to exist as one community of anglers—both commercial and recreational—working together toward sustainability. By keeping a healthy stock of striped bass, we can ensure both groups continue to have success without risking the long-term health of the population.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I urge the board to prioritize sustainability and long-term management strategies that protect this important fishery for future generations.

Liam O'Neill
We Are OTW
Content Specialist
On The Water
707 Teaticket Highway, E Falmouth, MA 02536
(314) 604-4102

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From: Jeff Norton
To: Comments
Subject: [External] One more comment
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:16:22 AM

I forgot to comment on the commercial fishery
I find it very hard to believe that a 12% decline in quote of millions of pounds of large fish will make enough of an impact. Can't they close it all together? Or cut it by 25-50%
None of the people who commercial Striper fish are relying on the income. They are doing it for the sport/hobby of it and to pay for gas. Please consider larger cuts to the commercial quota.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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: Paul Diggins
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Comments to Striped Bass Addendum
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:07:58 AM

My name is Paul Diggins, I have been an O/O of Reel Pursuit Charters out of Constitution Marina in Charlestown, MA Since 1995

A couple of years ago you came up with a 5 year plan. Let's stick with the 5 year plan

Last winter was a normal winter let's see what the YOY report says

The MRIP reports are flawed at best and everyone knows that

Closures will not achieve management goals

The recreational striped bass fishery supports many businesses from Maine to Virginia

I do not support any closures of the striped bass fishery
I recommend a vote for the status quo

Thank you
Captain Paul Diggins
Reel Pursuit Charters
Charlestown, MA
02129

Sent from my iPad
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:	Andy Horava
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Atlantic striped bass draft addendumIII
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:00:22 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

My name is Andy Horava (Sagamore Beach) rec angler for 30 plus years, fish for at least 120 days in NE waters RI, MA .
From my own experience the striped bass population has declined dramatically over the last 5 years and especially in 2025 , it has been the weakest year for schoolies showing in our waters , virtually non existing.
The slot fish population is getting beat up by
Year after year , and the over 35" pool is getting eradicated by commercial fishing .
Those large schools of fish showing only in isolated locations are experiencing increased pressure and extinction.
Year after year ,
There is no way that future generation of young anglers will experience any striper fishery if we continue on this path.
I also understand they are environmental problems in the breeding grounds and regulations in the Chesapeake Bay for smaller stripers to be taken. There is absolutely no sense in having no schooly population migrating on a yearly basis with allow taking them in the Chesapeake Bay. My proposal would be to dedicate the Striper Fishery to a sport fish similar to Tarpon's catch and release only with no commercial fishing at least for 5-10 years than to evaluate the situation and see where to go from there.
I also understand , there are many stake holders and any change will be extremely difficult and even more difficult for some .

With the limitations of real choices in the addendum. Here are my reluctant choices .
Sec. 3.1 option B
Sec. 3.2 option B
Sec. 3.3 option C
Sec. 3.4 option , no no feasible options available in my opinion

Sincerely,

Andy Horava

22 Sheppard Rd

Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

mars1985us@yahoo.com

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: Jeff Norton
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass comments
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 10:54:23 AM

Great job with the meeting last night at MMA!
I love the idea of closed days to help rebuild the stock. I am in MA and I'm not sure which wave makes the most sense but I'll let the experts decide. One thing that wasn't discussed (while I was connected through Zoom) was which days of the week the shut downs would occur. Like tuna I would strongly suggest one weekend day is open and one is closed. More lines in the water on weekends means more slot limit fish being taken (assuming it's not a no target scenario).

Finally a question. I know seals are federally protected since 1972 and the seal population has exploded no doubt contributing to the problem. Do you know if there has been any discussion on some sort of measures to manage the seals population like they have done with deer, coyotes, etc. Sharks aren't doing enough!

Thank you and I'll look forward to the final decisions.

Jeff Norton

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 10:45:08 AM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Kyle A
Email
kmandrew14@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
No harvest coast wide, including for hire and commercial.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 10:22:15 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Rick Golden

Email

captrick@1620anglers.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Dear ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

As a Massachusetts charter business owner and operating captain, I am strongly in favor of maintaining the status quo. Although anecdotal, the 2025 season suggests that striped bass are no longer being overfished. On nearly every trip, whether mine or those of fellow captains in my network, including members of the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association, the fishery appears well managed. Much of this success stems from the slot limit and the mandatory use of circle hooks. I recognize there are variables beyond our control, but like an insurance policy, ASMFC is rightly focused on managing the controllable factors.

That said, greater attention should be paid to predator impacts. The explosive striped bass population growth in Canadian waters, along with seal predation (40–80 pounds of fish consumed per seal daily) and white shark activity, may be playing a role in shaping fishery dynamics. While I am not a biologist, dismissing predator impacts simply because these species are protected seems shortsighted. This data should be evaluated to some degree. By contrast, further restrictions such as no-harvest or no-target closures would create significant harm to the coastal blue economy, especially charter businesses and tackle shops, without producing a meaningful net benefit.

For perspective, recreational bluefin tuna trips ended abruptly on August 12th when NOAA closed the harvest of recreational-sized bluefin. That closure caused a wave of cancellations across the fleet, including mine. In such times, striped bass charters are critical for keeping our operations afloat. While some clients will still book purely for catch-and-release, many of my customers value harvesting a legal fish to share with their families. Bringing home fresh-caught striped bass is often the highlight of their experience and contributes directly to crew gratuities for filleting and preparation. Eliminating harvest opportunities, or worse, implementing no-target closures, would drastically reduce charter demand and directly cut revenue from our businesses. It is also unclear how a no-target rule could be effectively enforced, given the overlap with species such as bluefish.

With that in mind, I am firmly in favor of retaining the current measures for the recreational category. If the ASMFC chooses not to maintain status quo, my recommendations mirror those of the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association, with additional supporting opinions:

Split For-Hire Exemption
The for-hire fleet accounts for a small fraction of total catch yet provides essential public access to the fishery for anglers who cannot afford their own boats. Allowing this exemption enables the fleet to remain viable while also positioning captains to serve as educators, teaching non-for-hire, recreational anglers proper handling and release techniques to reduce post-release mortality.

Season Closures Not Recommended
Seasonal closures are unlikely to achieve the proposed 12% reduction fairly or effectively, given differences in regional waters (e.g., north vs. south of Cape Cod) and across states.

No-Target Closures Not Recommended
Anglers targeting other species will inevitably catch and release striped bass, meaning post-release mortality continues regardless. Restricting trips labeled “non-target” is impractical and unfair, as it still results in the same conservation challenge while eliminating a vital source of for-hire revenue.

It is important to note that mortality reductions to meet the 12% goal are statistically insignificant given the wide fluctuations in MRIP data. Further, MRIP pilot adjustments scheduled for 2026/2027 could reduce catch estimates by as much as 30–40%. Layering new restrictions now, on top of annual micromanagement, risks unnecessary harm to the recreational, for-hire, and supporting industries, tackle shops, marinas, and the entire blue economy.

The conservation measures already implemented in recent years are working. The real challenges are environmental, not angler-driven: weak Chesapeake Bay spawning conditions tied to weather, as well as predator and pollution impacts. If the 2027 stock assessment indicates new measures are necessary, they should be implemented at that time, not prematurely.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. I look forward to the ASMFC’s upcoming meeting and its decisions for the 2026 season.

Respectfully,
Captain Rick Golden

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:11:51 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Mark Vatousiou
Email
mvpv88@comcast.net
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Status quo is NOT an option.A moratorium is the ONLY provision that will save these fish from going the way of the Atlantic cod.I have lived through the boom and the busts,shutting the fishery down is the only way to save it for EVERYONE,anything else is just prolonging the agony of watching a once great fishery die.The boat sales, tackle industry, commercial and charter fisherman don't want it, but if our children and grandchildren are to enjoy this in the future, then it's the only answer, anything else is a an approval of letting the fishery die, and doing NOTHING!

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: Douglas Amorello
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:46:42 AM

To whom it may concern;
I am staunchly against any closed non targeting season or wave as you call it. Especially when it's pointless. Striped bass are not salmon going up a river to spawn, they migrate and summer in New England, unlike salmon looking for their birth river to spawn Striped bass set up in an area and stay as long as there is bait. Believing that no fishing in May or June will do something is comical, you will just catch those fish the next month, while providing escapement for salmon aka no fishing does work it will not work for Striped Bass. How about those ASGA folks as well, they charter sure, but they also brag about releasing 150 a tide at a mortality rate of 10 percent they are in essence killing 15 fish at minimum every trip, how about we make them go barbless or no more treble hooks. Let's work on the water quality issue in the spawning areas, all the fishing in the world doesn't matter if the spawning area is void of what the fish need to do their thing.
Finally I believe there should be no reduction in the commercial sector, there is a quota that governs it. There is no quota governing recreational fishing up and down the coast, maybe fly rods should be banned so the fish don't have to fight within a breath of its life everytime. I say status quo but definitely not a closure in May and June.

Douglas Amorello
Sashamy
Plymouth Ma

Sent from my iPhone
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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 6:02:05 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Ross Kessler

Email

rosskess1@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

3.1 - B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

3.2 - B: At point of harvest.

3.3 - C: New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort shifts).

3.4 - B: 12% reduction both sectors.
Commercial: 12% quota cut.
Recreational Ocean: Retain 28-31″ slot/1 fish; add seasons (regions: North/South divided at Hudson or DE Bay; closures e.g., July 1-31 north, Jan 1-31 south; no-harvest).

OTHER COMMENT Under no circumstance should 'no target' be considered outside of the Chesapeake Bay area. If a moratorium for all harvest is considered that is acceptable.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 10:13:34 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Daniel Savage
Email
d3power@aol.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I've been seeing a big change in number of striped bass for 3 full seasons now. This last year was the worst I seen yet. I'm an avid rec fisherman on North shore ma. Not only are all the big fish not in the same spots I seen them in the past 10 years but all the small fish are missing as well. I really only see 26-36 inch fish around but the size of the pods are way smaller than last years. Hoping we can change this for a better future

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:34:30 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Broderick Zisko
Email
brody.zisko@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
After listening to hearing tonight in Onset I would like to update my comment to Status Quo Option. No changes to rec or commercial fishery. Thank you.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:50:51 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=B_veH4Pe3YT_QqogSJZzdy3HvIXWCcczUGmPYpv4rNo.TzzC5W
Name
Dennis Foley
Email
dennis.foley88@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
No harvest coast wide (rec, commercial, for-hire) until the fishery is no longer “over-fished”. Evaluate stocks then and conservative approach to harvest limits.

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:	Jeffrey Swift
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 7:50:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Perhaps commercial and recreational harvesting in North and South Carolina can be limited to reduce by catch fatality and breeding propagation in breeding grounds.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Swift

15 Park Pl

Mattapoisett, MA 02739

shrddr1@aol.com

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:	Jay Gemma
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 6:50:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

There is no need for a commercial season, if a fish can be farmed, as with Atlantic Salmon.
End the commercial season and then reevaluate

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jay Gemma

148 South St

Shrewsbury, MA 01545

jaydgemma@verizon.net

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] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 2:20:50 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Joan Gonsalves
Email
joaniecapecod@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Canal fishing Rather than watch a slightly undersize Striper float belly up by you , wouldn't it be better to allow a regulation of take the first fish? What do you think? Joanie Gonsalves

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:	Adam “ACS3” Sweet
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:12:47 PM

As a 25 year old resident of MA I have fished for striped bass my entire life. Shore fishing during my earlier years was always hugely successful catching all sizes of bass whenever I went. Now success has dropped significantly and I find myself fishing for other species due to my concerns with the health of the striper population. Due to this I support:

3.1: Option B

3.2: Option B

3.3: Option C

3.4: Option B-01

I find it ridiculous that ASMFC has allowed the Striped Bass population to get to the point we are at now after lessons learned throughout history of managing this species. If we can’t rebuild the population through management, I support a total moratorium until the population reach acceptable levels. I’d like my children to be able to experience what I was lucky to experience growing up.

Adam Sweet
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:	Paul Lynch
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:10:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I own a charter company. This season I have caught a ton of striped bass. No shortage of them. I release most fish. The problem is the commercial fishing industry. They are wiping out all the breeders. The big problem with commercial fishing is that there is guys that have two - three boats that have licenses for each vessel under their wife's names, brothers name, etc. these kind of people are taking 90 fish a week. Stopping commercial fishing for these fish will allow them to be able to lay their eggs and produce more striped bass. It's not the charter boats that's causing an issue. It's the commercial fisherman who are taking advantage of the system.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Paul Lynch

28 Anawan Ave

Saugus, MA 01906

paullynch10@hotmail.com

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:	Justin Fein
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:30:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I run a fishing charter business in Cohasset MA. Fishing has improved significantly across the state from cape ann to chatham. There are schools of bass everywhere right now from 28-50inches. We absolutely do not need continued cuts to the fishery. I think we need to watch the significant cuts that have happened over the past 10 years play out. Moving the goal posts further to an altogether closure would hurt my business and income significantly.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Justin Fein

42 Flintlocke Ridge Rd

Cohasset, MA 02025

justincfein@gmail.com

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:	Timothy Lynch
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:00:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The current restrictions on recreational striped bass fishing of 1 fish per day per angler at a slot size of 28” to less than 31” has proven to be very effective in helping to rebuild the stock.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Timothy Lynch

28 Anawan Ave

Saugus, MA 01906

timothylynch@hotmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 9:46:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Timothy Begin

Email

northendfishingco@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Good Evening - First I want to thank the representatives from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and North Carolina for their efforts trying to enact real and lasting policy to rebuild the striped bass stock.

I would of liked to thank the representatives from the other states, like New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware, but I can't.... hey I don't get a thank you for doing my job poorly either.

In terms of management options I support:

Option 3.1 Method to Measure Total Length: I support option B Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

Option 3.2 Commercial Tagging, Point of Tagging: I support option B At point of harvest.

Option 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: I support option C New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort shifts)

Option 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals: I support option B-01 12% reduction both sectors, with no exemptions for, for hire captions.

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: Jonathan Boyd
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 6:46:41 PM

Thank you for considering my comments.
I am a charter boat captain on Martha's Vineyard and have been in business for over 30 years. During that time, we have weathered changing regulations, years of strong stock, years of weaker stock, a variety of limits and requirements, and a constantly changing political environment that rarely seems to reflect what is actually happening out on the water.
The proposed 12% reduction could lead to a 44 day no harvest season for striped bass in our already short and highly restricted season. Losing this many days of striped bass fishing will be catastrophic to our already highly regulated and restricted businesses. The for hire fleet only accounts for 3% of total removals of striped bass. The vast majority of removals of striped bass come from the recreational fishing sector. Enforcing a 12% reduction on that sector would have a much higher impact and value in terms of stock removed from the water.
The for hire fleet have already made many conservation steps such as the 3 inch slot limit, eliminating gaffing, and using circle hooks. Striped bass closures of 22-48 days will have a catastrophic effect on my business. Simply put, customers will not pay to fish without the possibility of catching striped bass. The no target rule will be impossible to enforce, as striped bass swim with bluefish schools and fishing for one often results in the catch of the other. If there must be a change to the current restrictions, I hope for a for-hire exemption as for hire boats result in only 3% of removal of the striped bass population.
Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.
Jonathan Boyd
Menemsha Blues Charters

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 6:36:49 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
John Mitchell
Email
mitching@aol.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I have heard that the hatchery of Striped bass was very low for repopulation this year, record low. If that's true is the future of Striped bass in serious trouble for years to come. It's not the commercial guys fault nor the recreational fishing at fault.

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:	Annette Cingle
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 6:10:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a Charter Captain out of Menemsha. I have been a Charter Captain for 12 years. I target striped bass and bluefish for my Charters primarily. If seasonal closures should prevail I will lose my business. In my opinion, close commercial fishing for a year. Any breeders should be released. I return fish carefully to their natural environment.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Annette Cingle

PO Box 497

Chilmark, MA 02535

annette.cingle@gmail.com

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 4:59:11 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Christian Swenson
Email
ayankeemarine@comcast.net
State
Massachusetts
Comment
There should be a provision to allow one bass 60 inches or over to an angler once. This would allow a trophy of 50 pounds at a potential state or world record fish to be kept and recorded. I may never catch a 50 but if I do, 60 years of trying would be wasted. Thank you Christian

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 3:09:24 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joelyn Durgin
Email
champagnemorgan@hotmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Between all the information I have read and all the recreational fisherman versus commercial fisherman I see a big gap in the accounting of Fish by the commercial fisherman. They need to be accountable on how many fish they take and size no different than lobster men are made to do. For the commercial fisherman to not have to account for how many fish they brought to the dock and only the weight/ones the fish monger buy for the market makes no sense. I believe to get proper numbers the commercial fisherman need to be accountable to Mark/ weigh/ count the fish that they're bringing to market. Also, on this point, the larger fish that are being brought to market by the commercial fisheries are the breeders. I am no way against commercial fisheries making a living, but there needs to be a balance as the recreational fisherman has been trying to do the right thing.

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: Morgan, Bradlie (FWE)
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Fw: public comments for Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 3:05:30 PM

Hello,

I'm forwarding a public comment email that was sent to marine.fish@mass.gov concerning Striped Bass Draft Addendum III.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,
Bradlie

Bradlie Morgan (she/her)
Communications and Policy Administration Specialist
Division of Marine Fisheries
836 S Rodney French Blvd
New Bedford, MA 02744
(857) 270-3526

From: Jim Troupes <jimtroupes@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 8:36 PM
To: Fish, Marine (FWE) <marine.fish@mass.gov>
Subject: public comments for Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

September 25, 2025

As a Massachusetts veteran, native and lifelong resident, I consider your cabal to be the modern day evil Robin Hood. You steal from the poor and give to the rich. Good luck with that.

From the Scusset Beach jetty, I watched an Asian repeatedly catch and keep numerous undersized stripers on the Cape side jetty. Please stop creating more laws that lawbreakers ignore and try enforcing the existing laws on the books.

Please, do not ever, ever, use the word "management" to describe your group's activities. At 77 years old, I have watched and listened to your proposals and

the main achievement has been 77 years of degraded fishing opportunities, "slot" controls and reduced bag limits. It's OK to tell me you don't know what you're doing and ask me to continue hoping (2029 ???).

James P. Troupes
31 Walcott Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748-1252

ps. I would welcome the opportunity to read this letter, over the telephone, into the official public record.

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:	SCOTT MCDOWELL
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 1:40:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been a Charter Captain for 35 years.It is my livelihood. If the Commission takes away striped bass it would be devastating to my business. The slot limit is already putting pressure on it.(And something I don't understand is why commercial bass fishermen are allowed to harvest the large breeders we have to release?) Please keep in mind the lives of the people that rely on striped bass for their living. You take away striped bass you take away my life basically. Thank you, Scott McDowell

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

SCOTT MCDOWELL

12 Old Nursery Ln

Chilmark, MA 02535

scott@bassnblue.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 4:45:25 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=a9bH6IET4TvxNM8cpQbCJPiwsZTKCduuSRsa0r1zIy0.TzzC5W
Name
Nathan Reynolds
Email
nathanr1322@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

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:	James Silvestro
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 28, 2025 6:30:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Striped bass reductions support status quo. The undue economic burden for all parties is not warranted.The science is flawed by their own admission increased efforts to clean the environment in the spawning estuary would help recruitment efforts.

As a charter boat captionan, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers andcthe charter boat industry would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

James Silvestro

121 Percival Rd

Teaticket, MA 02536

captjim6946@gmail.com

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:	douglas brown
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 28, 2025 6:30:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

iam a charter boat captain in cape cod bay, we encourage only keep what the customer needs , to help preserve the species , iam against shutting down days of fishing, think more needs to be done in waters where they hatch , fred of land chemicals , run off and pollution,maybe commercial cut backs on the big bass that are the females ,

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

douglas brown

16 White Pines Dr

Eastham, MA 02642

jenniferannsportfishingcapecod@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 6:46:39 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

David Roberio

Email

jeep3701@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Stop blaming the recreational fisherman. This ain't our fault. There is a lot of of us that maybe takes one fish and lets a lot go to eat and there's a lot of of us that lets all that fish go because they don't eat it. They just like to catch it so your problem is the draggers and your commercial fisherman. They get to keep bigger fish where the recreational only has to keep 28 to 31 inch which is I think is wrong. We don't have a boat with Fishing from sure so it's hotter for us to get a bigger fish than it is on a boat and from what I seen their stripers everywhere and a lot of small ones if you just put the time in you'll find Them so I would think you would stop picking on their recreational guys just like you did to us not taking herring for three years and it's been 23 years if not longer when you left it at 36 inches bash made a hell of a rebound and then you decide to change it to allow us two stripers that was the problem you should've left it at 36 inch fish in the younger fish would've been good to breed and kept going that should've never changed. I've caught a lot of big fish with eggs in them that they never hatched. I get a lot of small fish. They had no eggs so you know where that lead. I would hope you wouldn't change their recreational fishing if so, raise the size limit from that's just my opinion

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: Brendan McManus
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 7:03:18 AM

Hello,
I vote STATUS QUO.
First I would like to thank you for the meeting last night it was very informative and caused me to look at this issue beyond how it might impact just me. Hearing for charter captains and how any change would all but them out of business. Also, the case was made for tourism and the dollars fishing brings the state from visiting anglers. I never thought of that even though I travel to fish I never gave thought to people coming here to fish. The hotel, restaurants, bars, and all the other businesses that would lose money due to a drop in tourism was something I never figured.

Last night we spent a lot time looking a the chart of spawning females and recruitment numbers, all trending in a good direction since the slot limit change. I think it would make sense to let the slot limit work and while we might miss the 2029 number it doesn't sound like even with a shut down we would make it, it would give us a 50% chance of making it. During COVID we were told to "follow the science" so let's do that. The numbers are going the right way so let's see if that continues. We also heard "common sense measures", let's try that too. If we need to move the slot size around year to year to protect a spawning year class of fish no one will complain. Most sportsmen will understand the reason and follow the rules.

Finally, when I apply for HMS permit with a shark endorsement I am forced to take to a test every year for the shark endorsement. This requires me to watch a video and answer questions about the sharks to prove I am responsible and know what I'm doing. I would recommend we include a safe handling video and maybe even a test to get a recreational fishing license, I have had to swim more than one fish that was not mine because it was not released properly. If we teach people how to correctly catch and release fish we may reduce post release mortality which can only help. I am happy to discuss my view further if anyone wants to call.
Thank you,
Brendan McManus
107 Sheila's Way
Lynn, MA 01905
781-801-2813
Sent from my iPhone
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:	Chad Ni
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 8:30:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

How about we address the commercial fishery in MA before attacking rec. like to see the economic impact between rec. and comm. It would show how silly it is to keep comm. Fishery open!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Chad Ni

5 Windward Ln

Scituate, MA 02066

tired@aol.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 7:23:03 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action Title
MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Peyton Horst
Email
peyhorst@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I am a recreational angler living in the Greater Boston area. As such, regarding section 3.4, I would like to suggest the following: I am in favor of option B-01, supporting 12% equal reductions, no-harvest closures, NO commercial favoritism, and I would like to suggest or encourage including NY and CT in the northern region due to the overlap that the state of Massachusetts shares with those striped bass fisheries. I also believe wave 4 is optimal for this region, whereas wave 6 is optimal for southern no harvest closures only. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment during this period

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 6:43:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Charlie Millard
Email
cmillard6894@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I think killing off fishing for striped bass is crazy maybe a limit on how many months you can fish it

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:	William Doyle
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 6:20:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I reject the proposal for new closures and recommend status quo management for recreational striped bass fishing. The commercial fishing harvesting is what needs to change

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

William Doyle

54 Park Ave

Hull, MA 02045

william.bdoyle2@gmail.com

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:	Brian Otoole
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:10:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Put a ban on all commercial and recreational harvesting of striped bass. Game fish status only.

Sincerely,

Brian Otoole

53 Chestnut St

Needham, MA 02492

brianjotoole1@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:52:00 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Casey Tines

Email

casey.tines@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

To the decision-makers at ASMFC and Massachusetts DMF:

I strongly oppose a full closure of the striped bass fishery in 2026 for Massachusetts. Such a sweeping measure would inflict serious economic and social harm on coastal towns, charter businesses, and recreational anglers, all while doing little to address the primary pressure on the stock.

Commercial fishing, even under current restrictions, still contributes a nontrivial removal of large, reproductive fish. Under Addendum II, Massachusetts reduced its commercial quota by 7% and imposes a 35″ minimum size limit. Despite these safeguards, commercial effort remains intense on the days and in the zones when fishing is open, and the cumulative impact of these harvests erodes the spawning potential critical for recovery.

Rather than a blanket closure, I urge consideration of:

-further reductions or tighter restrictions on commercial quotas or seasonal access
-adaptive closures targeted to high-harvest zones
-stronger enforcement and tagging accountability in the commercial sector
-continued refinement of recreational limits and revival strategies

A more balanced approach will better maintain community livelihoods, preserve stakeholder buy-in, and still make meaningful progress toward rebuilding.

Sincerely,
Casey Tines

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] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 1:30:12 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action Title
MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Stephen Derby
Email
sderby@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Stripers are a public menace, they’re practically jumping into the boats in the harbor - we need more targeted fishing, not less. Thin the school.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:48:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Anthony Cappuccio

Email

anthony.cappuccio176@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I agree with the Draft Addendum III. The stripe bass stock is below sustainable levels. Stripe Bass are over fished. I think people forget that the stripe bass population was near collapse in the 1980s. The emergency act was implemented 2023 shows that the Stripe Bass are in trouble. There is no doubt in my mine that the stripe bass will be endanger if we don't come together and do our part to help the stripe bass before its too late. We need to give the fishery a chance to to build up the stock and to become a healthy fishery again.
If that means a season closure or catch and release. If there is another mandate in size limit I feel we are prolonging the inevitable. Something has to be done to protect and help the fishery. Commercial fishermen will argue that the seals are the reason for the fishery and its the recreational fishermen / fisherwomen. Then you get the recreational fishermen and fisherwomen saying its commercial fishermen and the seals. The reality is that we need to Shut Down the fishery or Catch and Release to help the Stripe Bass. If we don't do something we will lose these fish. I want my daughter and her kids to enjoy catching Stripe Bass in the future. We take for granted what the ocean gives us. But when we take too many much and keep taken then we are left with nothing. Shut Down the fishery or Catch and Release only

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:11:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Caroline Johns

Email

cjohns820@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.
3.2: Commercial Tagging Option B – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.
3.3: Chesapeake Bay Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution (propose at hearings). We have more news on this to be released in the upcoming weeks.
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.

I oppose for-hire exemptions: Unfair burden on 98% of anglers; for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% landings from 1.4% trips).

I do not support any form of a no target closure. This is completely unenforceable and unreasonable. Supporting catch and release or a harvest moratorium is a much more efficient process.

We need accountability for the ASMFC delays. If rebuilding fails, we need a moratorium.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 11:57:48 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Daniek Feeney

Email

wapitiwop@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

It is only when the management of our fisheries finally come to realize that the commercial harvest of our fish and especially the harvest of the larger breeders is absolutely not the proper way to sustain the species that we shall be able to properly sustain a species.
The recreational fisherman are very aware that the false narrative of pretending that the commercial harvest is only a small percentage of the overall quota. Your usage of overall numbers is not telling the whole picture.
Each large fish produces millions of eggs if allowed to breed and that calculation is hidden when determining quotas.
Furthermore your allocation of the split in quotas
Between recreational and Commercial harvests always left the recreational fisherman harvest short to the point of ridiculous, insincere , and probably corrupt.
I highly support a complete overhaul of all fisheries management and a deep dive into the link between management and commercial interests. I hope the “Doge” the crap out of upper management, disband the voting boards and reorganize the entire process.
The survival if a species is paramount
The second factor should be the probable harvest that will guarantee number one.
Third should be the division of harvest that
Always guarantees number one and gives the greatest input by the recreational (and the largest number of citizens spending a huge amount more per fish) fishermen FIRST then allocating the balance ,if there is any, to commercial harvest.
There shall be no commercial season without a corresponding and fair recreational season ever.
Commercial fishermen should be forced to follow the same guidelines as recreational, circle hooks, gaffing etc. No more extending the commercial seasons to reach quota- are you too stupid to realize that most often it’s because there are fewer fish?? WTF
I could go on - you see i have a Wildlife Management background- but i would rather
Deal with the next group who after your fall from
Grace will listen.

Sadly i believe your tactics should lead to a minimum of your dismissal.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 9:07:15 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Ryan Kane

Email

ryantkane5@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Public Comment on Striped Bass Addendum III
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum III to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. I strongly support the American Saltwater Guides Association's recommendations and urge the ASMFC to adopt measures that ensure striped bass rebuilding by 2029 with a minimum 50% probability.

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length

Recommendation: Option B – Mandatory straight-line measurement (mouth closed, tail pinched).
A uniform coastwide definition prevents slot "creep" and removes loopholes across jurisdictions. Consistency in measurement is essential for fair enforcement and accurate harvest accounting.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

Recommendation: Option B – Tagging at point of harvest.
This provides the strongest safeguard against illegal and black-market sales by ensuring fish are tagged immediately upon capture. Tagging at harvest enhances accountability and traceability, reducing enforcement burden and closing major compliance gaps.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

Recommendation: Option C – New baseline with a 10% uncertainty buffer (and encourage consideration of 15%).
Maryland's management has historically undermined coastwide rebuilding efforts. A stronger baseline with a precautionary buffer is necessary to account for shifting effort and to protect spawning stock. Increasing the buffer to 15% would further safeguard against uncertainty and risk.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals

Recommendation: Option B – 12% reduction across both sectors, Ocean Sub-option O1 (uniform rules, no for-hire exemption).
• Commercial: A fair 12% reduction should be applied to quotas.
• Recreational: The 28–31″ slot with one fish and regional seasonal closures is acceptable if enforced consistently.

• Oppose for-hire exemptions: These shift the conservation burden unfairly to private anglers. For-hire trips already account for nearly 10% of landings while representing only ~1.5% of trips. Exemptions would undermine conservation gains and public trust.
• Regional consideration: Rhode Island must be included in the Northern region. Ideally, New York and Connecticut should also be aligned with the Northern region given their shared waters with RI and MA. Wave 4 (July 1–31) is the most effective closure for the North; Wave 6 (January) best suits the South.

Additional Concerns
• The ASMFC has repeatedly delayed decisive action on striped bass, contributing to the current overfished status. Accountability measures are essential—if the rebuilding plan fails, a coastwide moratorium should be considered.
• Rebuilding striped bass by 2029 requires not just "checking the box" with minimum reductions, but adopting precautionary measures that address enforcement loopholes, regional fairness, and uncertainty buffers.

Closing

Striped bass are a vital resource for coastal communities, recreational anglers, guides, and the broader marine ecosystem. The decisions made in Addendum III must put conservation first to ensure this iconic fishery is rebuilt and sustained for future generations. I urge the ASMFC to adopt Option B for measurement and tagging, Option C (with a stronger buffer) for Chesapeake Bay, and Option B-O1 for coastwide removals—with no exemptions for the for-hire sector.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Kane
North Andover, MA

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 5:50:32 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=G80D4UKM1TPL3CNLCSR0LVJV48&trk_sid=2919M8ICGILAT56PRQFKGG2RIO&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO

Name

Al Frates

Email

Al.Frates@Gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

It is amazing to me that there is little to no talk about reducing the predators that stripers face here in the Northeast. The only answer is 'reduce recreational quota". In the last few summer I have watched seals consume many stripers in the Cape Cod Canal. Maybe there are too many predators for the amount of fish in the areas along the migration route. It is obvious more of the same will not improve the situation. Improving the habitat, including the food supply as well as the predation are areas that are not managed to be effective in improving the numbers. If the current 'managers" are not providing solutions that actually improve the situation, then why are they there... Reducing recreational quotas has yet to remedy the situation, how about something else. Or maybe someone else to lead the charge...

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 7:40:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Scott Spry
Email
sspry@comcast.net
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Let’s determine the economic impact of commercial fishing and buy out the license holders. The money needed could be raised by an increase in the recreational salt water license fee. Also - there is a lot of talk about release mortality. Change the size limit that requires the retention of any fish caught up to a certain size. Like redfish in Texas use a trophy tag. The recreational revenues generated far exceed Commercial.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:54:44 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Keith Prodgers
Email
kprodg@yahoo.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I fish for striped bass recreationally and rarely harvest fish. I do not use bait only artificial lures. The regulations prohibiting keeping fish over 31 inches I agree with one hundred percent. Why then is there a commercial season that is allowed to harvest these fish. I have witnessed cheating and poaching of striped bass for decades on Cape Cod. And I can say with certainty it is manly the commercial fisherman not abiding by the rules. Every season they eliminate most of the trophy catch and release opportunities for recreational anglers. They double dip with charters and commercial days killing dozens if not more each trip. These are not true Waterman making a living from the ocean. Just mostly tradesman and landscapers trying to supplement their income. Keep the slot limit get rid of the commercial fishery and watch the results.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 11:16:15 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=BwHgaGWTkrsNMQ6DCGqB_fiJYo7HFrdFsi1c-NHHNpo.TzzC5W

Name

Bill Fiora

Email

wfiora1@icloud.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I am in favor of the following:
- 3.1: Option B
- 3.2: Option B
- 3.3: Option C
- 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean

I urges ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. I am a recreational angler and build my season around the striped bass. I spend thousands of dollars each year in the local economy that I would otherwise not spend here without a viable striped bass fishery.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:32:34 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

John Foster

Email

johnefoster73@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.
3.2: Commercial Tagging Option B – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.
3.3: Chesapeake Bay Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution (propose at hearings). We have more news on this to be released in the upcoming weeks.
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.

I oppose for-hire exemptions: Unfair burden on 98% of anglers; for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% landings from 1.4% trips).

We need accountability for the ASMFC delays. If rebuilding fails, we need a moratorium. Not in favor of a no targeting closure but a no harvesting closure I am 100% supportive of until the stock rebuilds. Please! More fish is better for everyone including our children

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:59:07 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Christopher Chan

Email

cchan@chanmockarchitects.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
DRAFT ADDENDUM III TO AMENDMENT 7
TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Recreational and Commercial Management Measures,
Commercial Tagging Programs, Defining Total Length Measurement
Dear ASMFC,

I am an avid fly fisherman based in Westport, Massachusetts. I am writing with a deep concern for Striped Bass. The ASFMC needs to ensure healthy Striped Bass populations.

There are fewer SB and their numbers are declining. We need to take substantive action that has the best possible chance to restore healthy Striped Bass stocks.

For Addendum III to Amendment 7, I support the following:

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes. This will ensure all anglers in all regions are evaluating their catches the same way.
3.2: Commercial Tagging Option B – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales.
3.3: Chesapeake Bay Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% as a precaution if needed.
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; no commercial favoritism. For
ocean: Sub-option O1 Uniform, no for-hire exemption. All segments need to take similar action together. No-Harvest closures with fair, logical, regional groupings of states. Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. NY and CT should
be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.

PLEASE PASS ON NO TARGETING REGULATIONS. No Targeting will not deliver measurably improved results over No Harvesting, and normally law-abiding anglers will end up trying to disguise their trips as pursuing other species. NO TARGETING WILL PLACE AN UNDUE BURDEN ON ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT WILL BE FACED WITH AN UN-ENFORCEABLE SET OF REGULATIONS.

Please take actions needed to rebuild Striped Bass stocks to a level that ensures long term sustainable populations levels. All anglers, present and future depend on your actions.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:02:06 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Steven Abdow
Email
astackle@comcast.net
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Question 5 option B Question 6 option C Question 7 option C Question 8 option B Question 9 option 01 Question 10 option CB1 Question 11 no harvest closures Question 12 no harvest closures only Question 13 no harvest closures Question 14 no harvest closures

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:09:10 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=e99ZKHsMjsC5P8OOb1efoE2ZmM25J_Tg1YxkP0HATdw.TzzC5W

Name

Jimmy Astle

Email

astle.j@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Hello,

My comments are below
3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

Thank you
Jimmy

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 5:15:01 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Herrick
Email
herrickj01930@yahoo.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I fish commercially and recreationally in Massachusetts. I care about science and sustainability and teach this at the high school level in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts commercial fishery is a summer fishery that local businesses including restaurants rely on being open during tourist season the end of June till Labor Day. This has not worked for many reasons lately. There were tons of 40" and above fish inshore and herds more beyond the 3 mile limit (tuna fisherman also). We caught the plentiful supply of fish too fast. I do not see a reduction in quota that is already reduced as the answer. I believe that the science is correct that sea temperature is increasing and fish a moving north in larger quantity. If we need to extend the season and protect the larger striped bass, there should be a smaller per day limit (10-12 instead of 15). Thank you, John Herrick

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 3:13:30 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=Ru4Tw5yGRNk-cpnwZH6-a6_IxGRW3yjEybYOumqwmvpEWsV9bu4wbKaOQDd5TDox.TzzC5W

Name

Ryan Cavanaugh

Email

ryanm.cavanaugh@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Hello,

I support stricter management of the fishery to increase the likelihood of rebuilding the stock, a percent chance near 50% is no sufficient enough to protect our fishery. I do not want to leave this species to a coin flip. Implementing these items will not solve the problem but will bring the Northeast States in alignment on management actions. Additionally, we must do more to protect these fish at the spawning point in the Chesapeake.

I support the following actions in Draft Addendum III
3.1: Option B - Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition
3.2: Option B - Commercial Tagging at the Point of Harvest
3.3: Option C - New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

Thank you and I believe this committee will do the right thing in this hearing.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:51:00 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Kenneth Lee

Email

kclee113@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

While I fully support the proposed actions to reduce removals by 12%, I was disappointed to see a move away from the 18% reduction targets proposed earlier. I have full faith that responsible management of the fishery is possible, but I would like to see more drastic reductions in harvest until there are documented cases of recruitment above the historical mean for multiple years.

As a citizen of Massachusetts I was also disappointed to see no discussion of closure for the Massachusetts commercial season, a fishery which targets the prime breeding stock, and is a fleet comprised of people who fish commercially as a hobby. No one has built they're livelihoods on this fishery, this is not analogous to cod closures. The striped bass commercial fleet is overwhelmingly comprised of individuals seeking to write off their boats on thier tax returns and get some money for what they would otherwise be doing for pleasure.

This is not intended to be a screed against commercial interests and I have no opinion on striped bass commercial fishing in other states, I can only comment on what I witness here. I would also fully support a catch and release only approach to all recreational fishing. I'm just a passionate angler who is witnessing the near collapse of a resource they hold dear.

Thanks for your consideration,
K.C. Lee

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 10:35:15 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=e99ZKHsMjsC5P8OOb1efoE2ZmM25J_Tg1YxkP0HATdw.TzzC5W

Name

Robert Pellegrino

Email

rvpell@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I support the following options:
3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.
I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum.

Thank you,
Robert Pellegrino
Member - Plum Island Surfcasters

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:06:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=SjJcX8EzlaRaK451O01dR7J6RpNVBln3TnWAmlQzkyc.TzzC5W
Name
Ryan Kim
Email
ryankim1@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. As an avid fisherman, business owner and resident of Westport and Newton MA who spends a lot of money annually on tackle and guides and my own boat storage and maintenance, I would urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. The striped bass populations needs a break and future generations of Americans need to be able to enjoy this amazing fishery for the next 100 years. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Any questions please call me at 617-650-6236 or email

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: Parker Mauck
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Adendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 4:48:05 PM

Comment on:

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
DRAFT ADDENDUM III TO AMENDMENT 7
TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Recreational and Commercial Management Measures,
Commercial Tagging Programs, Defining Total Length Measurement

Dear ASMFC,

I am a full time for-hire charter captain based in Westport, Massachusetts. I make 100% of my living on my charter business. I am writing with a deep concern for Striped Bass which is driving my heart-felt plea to the ASFMC to take action for the conservation of Striped Bass populations. It is the DUTY of the ASFMC to ensure healthy Striped Bass populations. Please execute your duty, even if it is difficult and potentially unpopular with some angler segments.

I do not see nearly as many SB in as many places as I used to. Period. There are less fish in our waters, and their numbers are declining. We have two choices: 1) Continue with the status quo, where we have to expect the decline to continue. 2) Take substantive action that has the best possible chance to restore healthy Striped Bass stocks.

For Addendum III to Amendment 7 I support the following:

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes. This will ensure all anglers in all regions are evaluating their catches the same way.
3.2: Commercial Tagging Option B – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales.
3.3: Chesapeake Bay Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% as a precaution if needed.
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; no commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 Uniform, no for-hire exemption. All segments need to take similar action together. No-Harvest closures with fair, logical, regional groupings of states. Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. NY and CT should be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.

PLEASE DISREGARD ANY ACTIONS THAT INCLUDE SEASONAL NO TARGETING REGULATIONS. *No Targeting will not deliver measurably improved results over No Harvesting, and normally law-abiding anglers will end up trying to disguise their trips as pursuing other species.* ***NO TARGETING WILL PLACE AN UNDUE BURDEN ON ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT WILL BE FACED WITH***

AN UN-ENFORCEABLE SET OF REGULATIONS.

Please fulfill your duty to take the actions needed to rebuild Striped Bass stocks to a level that ensures long term sustainable populations levels. ALL anglers, present and future depend on your actions.

Respectfully,
Parker Mauck

Capt. Parker Mauck
Westport Fly
69 Masquesatch Road
Westport Point, MA 02791
(508) 496-8682
pgmauck@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 3:49:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=WyQ8LgoUmyvXfi0k6vq7hHZyubAFqm1-346ok47KUzg.TzzC5W

Name

Norm Davidson

Email

dunelane2@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I witnessed a slaughter of a big school of bass this June in the Essex River estuary. A big school of big stripers came into the Essex and I was flyfishing. Noticed a couple of 35-40” bass caught by other fishermen although there were only 3 boats. Came back the next two evenings and noticed commercial guys fishing. I caught and released a 20lb and two near 40lb stripers. The commercial guys throwing live eels and Mack’s were hooking up every 5 minutes and into the cooler. My son said the commercial season was two days and they could keep an astounding 15 fish per day. I went back three days later and there were 15-20 boats and many seemed like commercial. My son said they didn’t meet the quota and could continue killing fish. Within a couple of days there were 50 boats. It was a disgrace to give the commercial guys guys extra time to kill 15 big fish per day. I wouldn’t be surprised if they didn’t kill 500 big fish all breeders. THIS IS THE PROBLEM! Give the commercial guys two days only in their own area. Word travels fast and the fishery can be decimated in a small area very quickly.
I also believe there is great subterfuge with the catch,sharing overages or selling directly to restaurants. I’ve seen lots of boats fishing overnight and there no telling how many big fish are being killed. I’ve never seen anyone in authority checking catches.
Presently this is a horrible policy for the health of the striped bass fishery.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:50:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=J9LytX4ErX6TFTRt69vBgMht3vKiaE8Y7JuapsD2jFU.TzzC5W
Name
Thomas Doyle
Email
tdoyle1551@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I strongly urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. This valuable fishery is in danger of collapse again. Please support the following specifics. .1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. The Saltwater Edge urges

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:18:04 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=7jlcdNlm2v_P_0688G7ajCzIOXEWxNuLQ4OqHfuv_JhJQB_ux1rXQIfEF2E4n5UT.TzzC5W

Name

Timothy Reichheld

Email

tlreic14@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Dear ASMFC,

Please take seriously and address the need to rebuild our striped bass stock as a coast wide resource. It is your obligation to rebuild by 2029 and this does not seem likely at this point. Please hold true to your obligation to protect this precious resource for future generations. I would urge the ASMFC to consider these amendment options as well as no for-hire exemptions:

3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

Thank you and sincerely,
Tim Reichheld

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:06:24 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=h31oN9UKjm9BpQYdZZbcU9Oqm2eCSRxgrsLfEyYoTA4.TzzC5W

Name

Malcolm Gilbert

Email

malcolm@nancefarm.co.uk

State

Massachusetts

Comment

As one of numerous UK residents who annually visit the east coast (mostly Massachusetts in my case) specifically to target striped bass, I offer the following comments. The single most obvious strategy must be to position the well being of the striped bass resource as the absolute priority. Restrictions will almost certainly hurt fishers and businesses depending on fishing, but if the resource collapses, the degree of pain will be a whole lot more painful and longer lasting.
I also fish for striped bass in Canada (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec) where recreational anglers have to use single barbless hooks, even on lures. There is a debate as to whether this results in more lost fish, but even if this can be scientifically shown to be the case, the ease with which landed fish can be returned, irrefutably results in far higher survival rates. In most cases the fish dont even require to be removed from the water. Since the tonnage of dead fish attributed to C&R mortality is so high in the USA, this measure alone, seems to me to be what we refer to as a "no brainer".
As Doug Kidd (past fisheries Minister New Zealand) said; "Fish First, People Second"

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 12:38:53 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=OM3JQUtofJhDxUB7tTpiPAe667J05K-QpznxDgx9zbM.TzzC5W
Name
Kevin Medeiros
Email
kmam2010@aol.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 12:02:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=a9bH6IET4TvxNM8cpQbCJPiwsZTKCduuSRsa0r1zIy0.TzzC5W
Name
George Reynolds
Email
greynolds162@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
3.1 -B 3.2 -B 3.3 -C 3.4 - B-01

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:16:45 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=pwiuH9aYWe116s8mJuytNOcDAy-z-rZQyXRSUMgzTGU.TzzC5W
Name
Andrew Steketee
Email
andrew@flylab.fish
State
Massachusetts
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. The ASMFC should make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals to insure a more sustainable striped bass fishery for the future.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:29:02 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=0jIpc__PZxLY_6M5INsYgw6or6_OeoRaB3Injn8HmFw.TzzC5W

Name

Yet-Ming Chiang

Email

ychiang@mit.edu

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I remember the 1980s when stripers were so scarce that my first one, all of 14" long and caught from a dock on cut squid, got the reaction "What is it? I think it's a striped bass!" Let's not go that way again. The slot limit was a great step and no one really needs to take home more than the equivalent of 10 flounder or 20 porgies. Consumer demand is modest at best - no one I know looks for striped bass as their top choice at the fish counter. I vote for:
3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:27:51 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=XaaaX_w5EYzVDc-Rl7A3AYLPte2Gdjrk7M3LKZ2wIJc3RFGh08FYn3VPV1vY0Z_S.TzzC5W
Name
Michael Kowaleski
Email
Mike.Kowaleski@tufts.edu
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I support the following: 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. I urge the ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:18:36 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=bIkqyfKOjvjGfcLaycahZbxPE40UurXN7sFbJsZWCbU.TzzC5W
Name
Steven Rogers
Email
stevenrogers574@msn.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I am in favor for the following options in the proposed management contained in the Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III 3.1-option B 3.2-option B 3.3-option C 3.4-option B-01 for ocean Best-Steven

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 12:28:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Patrick Chatfield
Email
patrickchatfield@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
My comment is that a 12% reduction in mortality is a worthy goal but whatever means are used to achieve that should be applied equally across all types of fishing - recreational, commercial, and for hire. The goal should be an equal reduction from all sources.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 11:47:48 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Scott Wain

Email

millcitylowell@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Hello,

Please consider banning all commercial harvest of the great and noble striped bass until the biomass fully recovers. I reside and fish in Northern Massachusetts. Plum Island, Sailsbury, Hampton area. The fishery is in terrible shape compared to 20 years ago. I am a recreational fisherman and boat owner. I speak to many in my area and all have the same opinion. The stock has been going downhill and has been for several years. Look at the Codfish and bluefish. Once plentiful in our area, now codfish are banned from harvesting except for minimal times twice a year. Bluefish once a staple in our area, are rarely seen, and no charter or party boats even offer fishing for them the last decade as their number are scarce..As a father of a young son, I am extremely concerned there won't be a fishery for him to enjoy, as I have growing up. Please make the nessacary decision to ban commercial fishing for the great striped bass until the stock has fully recovered. Thank you.

Best,
Scott M Wain

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:	Scott Wain
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Ban Commercial Harvest
Date:	Friday, September 19, 2025 11:06:22 PM

Hello,

I am a concerned recreational angler from Massachusetts. The striped bass population in the Plum Island area of Massachusetts is in terrible shape. I have lived in fished here my whole life. During the past 10 years, it has consistently dwindled down to almost not being worth the effort and expense to go. Please consider banning commercial fishing for the noble striped bass. All you need to do is look at the Codfish. Years of overfishing decimated the fishery, and today you are barely able to fish for them. As well as the bluefish, which was once plentiful in my area, now which is rarely seen in any numbers remotely resembling the stock of 20 years ago. As a father who teaches my young son to fish, I'm extremely concerned there won't be a striped bass fishery for him to enjoy, due to our poor management, and hesitation to BAN COMMERCIAL Harvest of large breeding females. Please consider this much needed action in your decisions. Thank you..

Best,
Scott M Wain

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 11:26:16 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Johnny McIntyre
Email
johnny.mcintyre@onthewater.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
The Striped Bass is by far the most iconic gamefish on the east coast, and the argument is there that it is the top game fish in the country. There should be almost ZERO commercial harvest of these fish. I've been around the marine industry my whole life, I have not met one single commercial fisherman who makes a majority of his living selling striped bass. Most commercial striper fishermen I know are young kids on dads boat looking for a way to make the gas money back, they are charter guys or other fishermen looking pick up a few extra bucks when they can, or plain simple- guys looking to stroke their ego and get pictures of dozens of dead stripers on their decks. Protect the resource, treat it like the Snook in Florida, a prized game fish.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:48:12 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action Title

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Matt Haeffner

Email

mhaeffner@onthewater.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I am a recreational catch-and-release surfcaster, and I support of a full harvest closure for striped bass for at least 2 years beginning in 2026. I'm sure my comment will echo that of many others when I say this was the worst year of striped bass fishing I've ever experienced in my life… and unfortunately, I've been saying that every year for the past 4 years. Striped bass are in trouble in more ways than one. They are overfished recreationally and in my opinion, commercially. The striped bass fishing community, and especially recreational shore fishermen such as myself, feel that annual recreational harvest numbers are dramatically underestimated. The striped bass' primary forage, Atlantic menhaden, are being wiped out by commercial fishing boats off the coast of NY (my home state), NJ, and in the Chesapeake Bay. It's flat out irresponsible, and as a result, striped bass fishermen are dealing with a perceived "shark problem", because inshore shark species like sandbar sharks have learned to prey upon our catch rather than hang around schools of abundant menhaden—which are nonexistent. Striped bass are struggling to spawn in the Hudson and Chesapeake Bay, both of which are subject to a slew of detrimental environmental factors and human impact. Pollution, the removal of menhaden, interference from invasive species (blue catfish), warming climate conditions (which lead to less than ideal spring spawning conditions)… the list of obstacles goes on. Because of all these things, I have watched areas that were once annually crawling with fish turn into ghost towns over the past 9 years, since I started surf fishing. Since 2021, the decline has been even more rapid and apparent coast wide. It is a shame what has become of this fishery, and I believe the only resonable path forward is to implement No Harvest regulations on striped bass across all sectors, regardless of what this year's YOY surveys reveal; at least until we give these fish a slight chance to spawn, begin to recover, and we can implement stringent regulations that promote the health of the fishery rather than viewing them stictly as a kill-to-profit resource. They are so much more valuable than that, and they deserve so much more respect from us than we give. Without striped bass, coastal communities across the Northeast and Mid Atlantic will experience suffering economies, because these fish are a staple in our culture. Please, I urge you, move forward with a No Harvest closure on striped bass across recreational and commercial sectors in 2026. Otherwise we will not rebuild the fishery by

2029, it will suffer for many years beyond that, and it may never fully rebound. I want generations after me to enjoy this incredible resource as I and so many other anglers have, because it is a very important part of my life and the lives of millions along the Atlantic coast. We depend on these fish being around. Please make the right choice. Thank you for your time and consideration. (Note: my personal views on this matter may or may not reflect the views of my employer.)

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:26:26 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Pete Wells

Email

elonivek@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

1. Ban commercial striped bass fishing.
2. More studies from real striped bass fishermen who don't have money involved. No charters or commercial fishermen should have any say. They are biased because they make money off stripers. How could that be a good thing? They would stop killing, only if there's no money to be made.
3. Life and death of the striped bass is at a critical point.
4. Catch and release: more studies needed. 9% or so die after release? The commercials use that to keep their quota open.
5. Nothing changes if nothing changes.
6. Poaching enforcement upgrades.
7. Maryland: more enforcement of poachers.
8. Baitfish that stripers need. Same thing, money involved. The draggers scoop up whole schools of squid, pogies, mackerel, herring. All necessary for SB survival.
9. Fail at this and it's all over.

Thanks, Pete

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From: Jeffery Campbell
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Management Actions
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:06:59 PM

To whom it May Concern-
As a recreational catch & release Striped Bass angler I support whatever measures you deem necessary to rebuild & sustain the fishery.
My opinion is the commercial fishery is so small now no one can say they make a living doing it. Eliminating that catch of all large fish and the dead discards of undersized fish would help.
Put a moratorium on the rest of us keeping one fish. Catch & release only.
It will be a sad day when there are none left like the Cod.
Thank you, many of us appreciate the work you do.
Jeff Campbell
Chatham, MA

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:41:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Zach Faucher
Email
zach11979@hotmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Hello, I am in favor of any measures that will reduce the mortality rates for striped bass. I feel that reducing the commercial quota and requiring the fish to be tagged at the point of capture will be helpful. The tagging would also help reduce illegal sales and poaching. On the recreational side I feel that no harvest seasonal closures would be a great start. Reducing or modifying the slot limit to save the important year classes of bass would also be beneficial. Thank you,

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:49:42 PM

DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
John Perrone
Email
johnjpperrone@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
All states should imply a no harvest rule for these fish and if caught a hefty penalty should be added worsening after each offense.. I DO NOT agree in a no Target law to be activated for that I feel is greatly over the top and would result in a much larger loss of business revenue for more then just commercial fishermen targeting these species

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:58:37 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Charles Dumas
Email
cdumasfishing@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Make striped bass a game fish with zero fish taken ever by anyone including commercial! Do away with treble hooks !

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:	JEFFREY WOODRING
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 7:00:18 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am an active angler, fishing about 50-75x a year since moving here in 2007.
I would like to see all states have their rules be similar. I like the 'no inland target' rule in NJ and the Hudson. I think CT RI MA should have a similar rule.
The surveys that MA has been doing have a distinct flaw in that few people will send in a report of no catch. This alone causes the data to over-estimate recreational catch rate.
Please consider imposing more limits on menhaden trawlers. Commercial striper limits should probably be lower a bit also.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo for other aspects for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY WOODRING

43 McFadden Dr

Wilton, CT 06897

teamwoodring@gmail.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:29:59 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Chase Freeman

Email

chasefreeman13@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I'll keep this short - I'm not an expert so I won't pretend I know what the best solution is. I am a recreational fisherman from Cape Cod - Boat and Surf. I have watched for the last 6 or so years as reports continue to get worse and worse. I begging you to finally stop the bleeding. Take drastic action. It is your purpose and mission to to guide the "protection and enhancement" of our Atlantic Fisheries.

Are you up for the job? If not you then who?

Make the tough decision and shut it down - severely limit the commercial fishery, no more recreational harvests. MAKE US TARGET OTHER SPECIES or find a new hobby. Yes it will make the small businesses a uncomfortable but it won't cripple the fishing industry.

Be accountable. If anyone else out there were to say that there was a LESS THAN 50% CHANCE of doing their job well over the next 4 years then they would be out of a job.

Please take action. I would like to be able to fish for striped bass with my children and grandchildren one day.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:19:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Alex Feinstein
Email
apfeinstein1982@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
No harvest for 5 years!

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: gary cole
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:09:06 PM

I feel as a 30 plus year recreational fisherman that the fishery is in dire shape and need to act now or I fear a total collapse as I witnessed as a youth. I very much hope to see no harvest measures implemented as opposed to the rumored no targeting closures. It is up to you to act now and increase your efforts to explain to the public how important careful handling and practicing catch and release is. Thank you for your time and I beg you to do what's within your grasp to do.

Gary Cole
Massachusetts resident and new england fisherman.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:39:13 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Farrell
Email
f_john@hotmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
The proposal to ban targeting of striped bass will cause unacceptable harm to my charter fishing business. In my area, north of Boston, we have a short season and limited availability of other species to target during the proposed period banning striped bass targeting. I propose no harvesting striped bass during the period banning targeting as an alternative option. I also recommend that fishermen be required to use artificial lures instead of baited circle hooks which frequently cause mortality of released fish that are gut-hooked. A ban of baited hooks would greatly reduce mortality rates while allowing fishermen to target striped bass and harvesting one fish per angler.

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] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 12:10:00 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action Title

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Colin Mansfield

Email

temleh_krad@proton.me

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum III. I am a dedicated recreational shore fisherman who values striped bass both for the fishery and for the health of the coastal ecosystem. I urge the Board to adopt the strongest possible measures to rebuild the stock by 2029.

1.) Support for Standardized Measurement (section 3.1 option B)

2.) Support for Point of Harvest Commercial Tagging (Section 3.2, Option B)

3.) Support for new Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer (Section 3.3 Option C)

4.) Support for Option B: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12% (Section 3.4 Option B, O1, CB1)

I support 3.1 option B "mandatory elements for total length definition". However, as a shore angler, I want to note that “pinching the tail” on a wet beach or slippery boulder field is impractical when fishing alone.

I strongly support 3.2 Option B (point of harvest tagging). Requiring that all commercially harvested striped bass be tagged at the time and place of landing will improve compliance, reduce illegal harvest, and strengthen enforcement.

I strongly support the strictest reduction in fishing mortality being considered in section 3.3 and 3.4. The stock assessment update shows rebuilding is not on track, and with recruitment uncertainty, a precautionary approach is necessary.

Additional thoughts not covered in Addendum iii:

A.)Opposition to For-Hire Carve-Outs
I strongly oppose any for-hire exemptions or carve-outs. Every angler should follow the same rules, whether they fish from shore, a private boat, or a for-hire vessel.

Striped bass are too important to risk with weak or uneven measures. Please adopt the largest reduction in removals to give us the best shot of rebuilding the stock.

Thank you for your consideration.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:18:40 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Michael Behot
Email
michael.behot@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
Hello, It is my strong belief as a guide that striped bass are in serious trouble. The fishing 20 years ago was light years better than now. I suggest a harvest closure but to continue to allow catch and release

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 4:45:44 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action Title

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Joe Pereira

Email

jpvegasdc@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Thank you for this opportunity to voice not just my concerns of the striped bass fishery, but the overall consensus as well for the general population of sports fishermen and women.
The striped bass population is in trouble and the hard decision has to be made this year.
I am advocating for catch and release only for three consecutive seasons for the shore fishermen as well as the party boat fishing.
It is imperative that we create the opportunity for these prized game fish to adjust and adapt to the ever changing environment, whether it's from the pollution in the Chesapeake and the windmill construction from Delaware to Massachusetts. The constant pressure can not continue at this pace.
For the commercial aspect we should consider farm raising striped bass. It is the most logical way to satisfy and preserve the livelihoods of the commercial fishing industry.
We have become so efficient in the demise of this species. We need to be as efficient as possible in saving them not just for today but for decades and future generations to come.
Lastly, what would be the economic impact if we wiped out the striped bass? Is anyone thinking of this?
Protect What You Love.
Joe Pereira

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Date:	Monday, September 15, 2025 2:05:57 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action Title
MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Richard Boucher
Email
Rboucher293@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
1. Scrap Atlantic striped bass addendum III .Atlantic coast wide. 2. Make Striped bass a game fish. Anglers Only fishing for striped bass .End trauling striped bass. Rid eradicate Chesapeake Bay of blue catfish that eat Stripers fry. Stop forage fish trauling. End blue back herring moratorium for Anglers. End Salt water fee license for Anglers. Make Rule 2 fish 30 inches and over keeper limit. Discourage catch and release striped bass fishing.

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From:	PETER MURPHY
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 13, 2025 7:00:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I was on the water for decades and witnessed commercial draggers and mid water ships fishing Stellwagen Bank and other bass populated areas. The incidental by catch of bass leaving them floating was horrifying . This proposal for a 12 % Rec reduction would be economically costly and unjustified.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

PETER MURPHY

82 Sawyers Ln

Marshfield, MA 02050

L-OCHARTERS@COMCAST.NET

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From: Jesse Schreier
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Feedback - Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 11:29:45 PM

My advice is simple.

One bass per person.

Lower the slot to 21-24 inches.

In this way, more females would be released and more males would be kept.

If the MA slot is 28-31 inches (which it currently is), I would wager 90% of the fish kept are females.

We have to change the slot so that we are letting the females go and keeping the males. I'm not sure what the exact slot should be. I'm just saying, we have to get these big breeders back in the water.

-Jesse Schreier, Needham

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 8:38:25 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action Title
MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Paul Quatrano
Email
paulquatrano@aol.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
I don't care what the so called experts say about the seals not having an effect on the stripper population EVERY time I go to the canal. I see a seal eating a stripper. The seals have been protected since1976 I BELIEVE there are an estimated 70,000 seals now and with the great Whites numbers increasing every year I believe the stripers have no chance you can shut the whole East Coast down from keeping striped bass and by 2029 you may have a fishery again I think we have to reduce the number of seals and great whites in Massachusetts Waters thank you

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: Michael Sardina
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass moratorium
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:27:09 AM

I live in Massachusetts where striped bass fishing is very popular and bass are plentiful from June through October. The 2018 class which is slot sized now is getting crushed here. There also seems to be far fewer schoolies around than the past couple years. Those classes clearly have declined.
My humble opinion, though radical, is that there should be a moratorium on keeping any size of striper for two years - let the current slots outgrow the designated slot size. Those are are future breeders that must be protected in order to rebuild the population. Given the smaller schoolie classes, they too should be protected during that time. As for commercial fishing, I agree on reducing the catch allowed and stronger safeguards against the killing of bycatch.

Mike

Sent from my iPhone
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From:	Terrence Lyons
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:50:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

If you really want to help the situation with striped bass you first should eliminate the commercial harvest and stop bashing the recreational angler and the business that they support. One of these years you are going to have to address the issue of the increasing striped bass shark mortality. The regulators always seem to be 2-4 years behind on what is actually happening on the water. I have also felt that it is always a case of the fox guarding the hen house. Either that or you people are just brain dead.

Sincerely
Terry Lyons
Terry

Sincerely,

Terrence Lyons

312 Central St

Foxboro, MA 02035

terrencelyons@msn.com

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From:	David Anderson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:20:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Stop persecution of recreational anglers, most whom practice catch and release. If you really want to make a difference, stop commercial fishing for 2 years.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

David Anderson

PO Box 163

Wheelwright, MA 01094

Davez28327@yahoo.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:13:11 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Ken Shwartz

Email

shwartzken@gmail.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

TWIC…ASMFC obviously should have years ago enacted more stringent harvesting regulations for all sectors recreational, commercial, charter,etc. Seemingly they now realize their mistake and are proposing regulations to reduce the harvest by 12%…..good, as better late than never. And good they are considering more stringent regulations for all sectors although the “no targeting” concept makes little sense for so many reasons i will not re-state the obvious here.
What also makes no sense whatsoever to me is —-unless i missed it —-there is no consideration whatsoever for trying to reduce the mortality of the recreational “throwbacks” (9% of which do not survive) that i understand account for 40% OF ALL THE REMOVALS. There are SO MANY WAYS recreational fishermen with a little education and awareness (very very few recreational fishermen are aware that collectively their throwbacks account for 40% of all removals; 9%=40% because there ARE SO MANY THROWBACKS) and some help with gear and awareness from stakeholders (lure manufacturers, tackle retailers, charter captains, media,etc) that even a modest decrease in the mortality % —-say just to 7% from current 9%—-would in and by itself achieve the 12% target ASMFC reduction target.

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From: Jeff Norton
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Comments about striped bass
Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025 11:00:33 AM

Just back in from a fishing trip in Plymouth and it is a ghost town. This is not how it should be during the “fall run”. As I’ve mentioned before the bass fishing gets worse and worse every year. Some like to argue but there is no question the species is on a series decline. It’s been several seasons since I’ve seen a schoolie blitz.

Here’s what I think is contributing to it:
1) too many fish being taken including smaller size (I believe) in the Chesapeake area. The states along the eastern seaboard should have a unified set of regulations (size, daily limit etc) if the fishing is going to stay open. Can we control this? Not sure how it works between the fishery and states.
2) the explosion of the seal population is certainly contributing to the demise. One adult seal will eat 60 lbs of fish per day ?? That’s what I’ve heard. And there are in the hundreds of thousands of seals just along the Cape alone. Can we control this? Not at the moment.
3) commercial bass fishing. I’ve said this before. Not one of those guys depends on the Cole from bass fishing during 6-7 weeks per year. The hundreds of thousands of pounds of fish taken ever year including the large breeder has to be decimating the fishery. Can we control this? YES, close commercial bass fishing
4) ban fishing in the canal including the unlimited amounts of fish the tribal people can take. Sure we want to be fair to them but when the fish are completely gone, then what?
5) recreational fishing: while closing the fishing all together impacts the boat and fishing tackle shops, I propose making striped bass a game fish. This will allow the people who fish for sport to keep doing so while hopefully building back the stock. Can we control this? Yes as far as I know.
There are my thoughts. I sent in similar thoughts last year and I know there were meetings on this topic including “emergency management “ meetings yet the regulations stayed exactly the same. Thank you
Jeff Norton
617-314-3270

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 4:03:12 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Brian DeLeo

Email

brian.deleo@yahoo.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

As you can all see Stripers are in trouble and numbers going in the wrong direction again . I have noticed the last ten years and if you remember they almost went extinct in the 70 s and took until the mid 90 s to start and recover . It would be great to make them a gamefish and can't keep any of them but to much greed and money involved . They should put a five year ban or longer to be able to keep them and we might see the benefits 5,10,15 years down the road . Even though they should stop commercial fishing all together on them because every fish Tesla if a big breeding female or make a slot on them too 35 to 42" fish so all the bigger females can breed and lay millions of eggs for the future . If it take a fish 6 to 10 years to mature to lay eggs at 30" and only laying 400,000 eggs and a fish 20 plus years old over 44" lays 4,000,000 eggs do the math it's not that hard to figure out . When you take 20 to 30 million pounds of fish each year between commercial recreational and poachers they can't rebound . Plus taking 1000,000,000 pounds of poggies a year , herring and mackerel you know they are tons more by catch in the nets too . It's sickening something needs to change to protect these fish for our and children's future for the next generation . Like I said to much greed and money involved . Look at the Cod industry still in ruins . Maybe make offshore farms to raise and harvest like other countries .
Not that hard to figure out catch and release for 5 content years and we will see the difference in 10 to 20 years

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 3:27:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

John Mitchell

Email

mitching@aol.com

State

Massachusetts

Comment

I used to fish Grand Cove Bass River Dennis, Ma probably 15 plus years, every day lived on Cove rd which is on Bass River 4 houses from dead end. Every day at dusk averaged 15 catch & release Schoolies
Then the seal showed up Zero catches. Just finished a week long daily fishing w/ friend from Ct. On the Cape Cod Canal Scusett beach & West Dennis this is not a vacation we fished hard. Results I caught 1 dogfish & 1 black fish. Hardly nobody was fishing. Fished the railroad bridge on the Canal normally shoulder to shoulder or at least one other person this is night and day . There was nobody fishing 8/30 - 9/4 this is not good where are the fish? No both of us are seasoned fishermen.

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From: Jeff Clabault
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 2:00:23 PM

Hello- As a tackle shop owner on Cape Cod from 1999-2018 I witnessed the boom to bust cycle the the striped has endured, a bust that has now reached a low point. It has been maddening seeing and dealing with the shortsighted, poorly thought out mismanagement of that fish. We/you knew that the YOY surveys were poor before and after 2018, yet the ASMFC decided to allow 28" fish to be taken, ensuring that those 2018 year class fish would get hammered. Adding to the disaster, those 7 year old fish had just reached sexual maturity so most of them were harvested before they even had a chance to spawn once. What the heck? An argument can be made that you guys are trying to drive the bass into extinction. There is only one reasonable option. The remaining 2018 year class bass must be protected at all costs. A 5 year moratorium must be placed on the taking of striped bass. That is the one way the species will have any chance of recovering. The commercial interests, especially charter boat captains, will, as always, scream from their T-tops but this time they must be ignored. We may only have one more shot at this. Let's not blow it. Thanks. Jeff Clabault
Formerly of Forestdale Bait and Tackle.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 1:33:00 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Stephen Lempitski
Email
Sjlempitski@gmail.com
State
Massachusetts
Comment
For the first time since living on Cape Cod in 1999, I have not caught a striper this year. There are no 10 to 20 inch stripers around due to 5 straight years of poor spawns. I strongly encourage a full moratorium on striped bass fishing, for a catch and release only fishery.

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From:	n n
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] there are NO striped bass or bluefish anymore
Date:	Friday, September 5, 2025 1:01:32 PM

The fishery is dead in the Slocum and Westport river systems in Massachusetts as well as out into the nearby Buzzard's Bay...**it has NEVER been this bad, as now BOTH species are completely absent.**

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Commenter requested to be anonymous

From:
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striper quota 2026
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 5:56:04 PM

To whom It May Concern,

I’m a Rhode Island commercial rod and reel fisherman and I support the 12% reduction in quota for next season.

Thank you

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.

Priority Fishing Charters, LLC
140 Jerry Lane
North Kingstown, RI 02852
401-741-5648
www.priorityfishingcharters.com

Striped Bass Board Members,

October 2nd 2025

On behalf of my business, my crew, and many of the hundreds of recreational fishermen that I bring out fishing for striped bass each year aboard my charter boat based in Point Judith Rhode Island, I would like to offer comments for some of the proposed Add III alternatives for striped bass management.

I strongly support Status Quo for Section 3.1. We fish nearly every day in all sorts of weather, and we try to quickly return fish that are out of the slot back to the water after unhooking and measuring it. I am not aware of anyone that "forcibly" manipulates a fish as described in Mass DMF analysis, certainly not on my boat. A little wiggle room on either side of the slot isn't a big deal. I am concerned that the extra time it will take to precisely measure every fish under every condition will cause more dead discards compared to how we do it now. We keep the frames and it's easy for enforcement to measure them, they can tell if someone is messing around.

I support Status Quo for section 3.2. Again, I think whoever is concerned about this isn't considering time on the water under various conditions. Many times, we experience a quick bite and we fish hard to get our catch in a very short time. Seas can be rough. It's better to catch them, get out of there and tag the fish at the dealer. We have a license to fish for them commercially and we are only allowed a certain number of fish so its easy to enforce. Giving tags to each fishermen creates a whole new set of headaches and room for funny business. Let each state handle the tagging in the way they are best suited. We tag Tautog on the boat and that is a project on some days, and they are smaller than striped bass. I would rather tag them at the dealer, it's easier and safer. I guess I would ask what are you trying to fix.

I support Status Quo for Section 3.4. My charter business is mostly comprised of recreational fishermen who wish to bring a fish home for dinner. They are not madmen and woman, void of conservation awareness. They are not baby killers or meat hunters, or any of the nasty adjectives portrayed by so many catch and release fishermen during public hearings. They simply enjoy catching a fish to eat and they have carried the entire rebuilding efforts on their backs for the entire time we have been rebuilding the stock. Catch and release only anglers contribute absolutely nothing to rebuilding striped bass. Yet they claim to be conservationists. When given a chance to help out through no-target closures, they loudly balk and hide under a lame enforcement argument instead of openly offering to help in the rebuilding. How hypocritical is that. To understand how much the past rebuilding efforts have hurt harvest anglers, one only needs to look at the severe reduction in striped bass trips. Millions of harvest fishermen have left the fishery in search of other opportunities to bring a fish home, turning to other species like Sea Bass and Bluefin Tuna, or worse….left fishing all together because there is barely a chance to bring a fish home for dinner. At the same time catch and release fishermen continue to fish as if nothing changed, because it didn't for them. One catch and release guide brags about having a "century" catch as a goal on his tripos. That's 100 fish on a trip. My God, what's the sense in that with a stock that we are trying to rebuild. It does make it clear why they support no-harvest though. Not for rebuilding, but for their own success. Anyone who thinks differently from them doesn't deserve to be on the water. The hypocrisy is deafening.

We are currently at a 30 year low in fishing mortality and SSB is trending in a good direction. I do not see effort ramping back up if we keep the current slot and seasons. Effort and catch were both projected to go up in 2025, but preliminary data suggests a big drop because it's hard to find a fish to harvest. Closed seasons just don't seem warranted given where we are with such a large biomass of fish in the water. The next benchmark assessment will surely give us more current information to manage too. There is very little risk, when considering the low fishing mortality rate and high SSB, in waiting until after the assessment.

Priority Fishing Charters, LLC
140 Jerry Lane
North Kingstown, RI 02852
401-741-5648
www.priorityfishingcharters.com

Working through all the various options in the document, with different regions, different seasons, where does Rhode Island go, should for hire be treated differently, no harvest closures, and no targeting closures just seems like a path to an even more inequitable management plan. And talk about an enforcement nightmare. There will certainly be many losers and few winners. Pitting states against each other, anglers against each other. Modes against each other…. All to change fishing mortality a little bit….maybe…. if you believe the catch estimates…. recking havoc on a fishery to appease a few loud voices.

I can appreciate the Board's goals of rebuilding the stock as described in the FMP, but it may be time to recognize that we are in a different productivity regime for this stock. The lofty goals going back so many years may not apply right now. The board has done its job well by cutting fishing morality to a point where rebuilding is more likely and the SSB has responded. I hope the board can look at the positive work it has done already, balance that with stability in the fishery for important socio-economic benefits, and let the fish do their thing. You've done your job. Let it ride for now.

Sincerely,

Capt. Rick Bellavance

Capt. Rick Bellavance, President
Priority Charters LLC
Point Judith, Rhode Island

Carl Tiska
24 Van Zandt Ave
Newport RI 02840
carl.tiska@gmail.com

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2025
By: ABC

September 16, 2025

Emilie Franke
FMP Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Members of the Atlantic Striped Bass Board,

I am an avid recreational kayak angler based in Rhode Island. I am a harvester rather than a catch-and-release angler. Over the past few years, despite the summertime abundance of striped bass in the waters in which I fish, I have stopped targeting striped bass due to the overfished status of the stock and have shifted my effort to other species. I am supportive of the Board taking the most conservative measures possible to rebuild the striped bass spawning stock biomass.

My recommendations for the proposed management options in Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass are as follows:

- Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass - Option B. Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition
- Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging - Option B. Commercial Tagging at the Point of Harvest
- Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline - Option C. New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer
- Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding - Option B-01: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%, applicable to all modes

A standard measure of the length of a striped bass applicable to the entire fishery is just plain good policy.

Tagging at point of harvest imposes little burden on the commercial fishermen and makes it more risky and hopefully more difficult to divert stripers to the black market.

Most importantly, for 'Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock', it must be 12% rather than status quo. I'm a bit surprised that 'status quo' is even listed as an option, since action is necessary to even have a 50% chance of rebuilding the striped bass SSB by 2029. Maintaining status quo would be absolutely irresponsible.

The 12% reduction should be shared equally across sectors, commercial and recreational. Within the recreational sector, there should absolutely NOT be a split-mode/for-hire exemption. All of us should contribute equally to rebuilding the striped bass SSB.

While I had previously commented in support of no-target closures, I no longer support no-target closures and believe that the closures should be no-harvest closures. My reasons for my change of opinion are as follows:

- I learned of experience of a noted kayak angler, Alan Battista, when he was cited for violating a no-target closure when he was scrupulously complying with all aspects of the no-target closure but caught a striped bass while he was targeting blue catfish. While the charges were dismissed by a judge, the details of his experience spelled out the difficulties of no-target enforcement in a way that I previously did not understand.
- I believe that the proposal for a no-target closure was made not in the interest of actually reducing release mortality, but rather as a cynical method of having the shortest possible closure period.

I believe that the Board should take two additional actions to reduce release mortality so that the catch-and-release anglers can contribute to rebuilding the striped bass SSB, prohibiting striped bass tournaments while the stock remains overfished, and prohibiting treble hooks when fishing for striped bass.

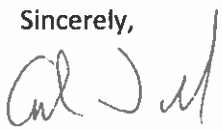
Some organizations, like the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, no longer have a striped bass category in their annual fishing tournament. This is responsible and commendable, but unfortunately it is not universal. For instance, *On the Water* magazine runs a yearlong 'Striper Cup' which encourages anglers to catch the largest possible striped bass throughout the season, including the months when the water temperature is the warmest, which as is known, increases release mortality. I regularly fish in one of the more popular spots for many contestants in the kayak category of the 'Striper Cup' and once the time frame of the 'Striper Cup' ends in mid-September, striped bass fishing effort drops off markedly, even though there are still striped bass in abundance at that location. It is not speculative to state that the 'Striper Cup' increases effort and using the best scientific estimate of 9% release mortality, results in more dead stripers than if the tournament were not held. Prohibiting striped bass tournaments will reduce release mortality.

Unlike the other management efforts being considered, prohibiting striped bass tournaments would be easy to enforce and wouldn't risk significant economic impacts on guides, commercial fishermen or fishing businesses. Catch and release fishermen would still be able to fish, they just wouldn't be incentivized to overfish stripers to win prizes. Taking this measure would be 'low hanging fruit', similar to when the Board prohibited gaffing stripers a few years ago.

While enforcement would be challenging for a treble hook prohibition, it would be no more challenging than the requirement to use a circle hook when fishing live bait for striped bass.

Rebuilding the striped bass stock will be difficult. The Board will have to make difficult decisions, and different sectors will adamantly oppose each of those decisions. Please do not let that deter you from instituting the most conservative measures possible to rebuild the striped bass stock. Thank you for your work in managing striped bass and for the opportunity to provide feedback through your public comment process.

Sincerely,



Carl Tiska

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:31:23 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Sean DeFusco

Email

defuscosean@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Striped bass is an incredibly important sport fish. The economic value for catch and release fishing clearly far outweighs the commercial value of the fishery. Just think about how many anglers devote so much time and money to catching a fish that if not in a 3” slot you can’t keep. The only logical explanation is that they value fishing for stripers more than the table fare.

The entire reason I have a boat, pay for its maintenance, dockage and the other associated costs is to fish primarily for stripers. I oppose any non targeting recommendation but would support closing stripers commercial fishing. I also support catch and release for recreational anglers until such time as the recruitment increases. There are plenty of other fish to eat. The most important thing to me is that this fishery is here for the next generation. I remember the time when stripers were practically nonexistent. The fishery management for stripers has been a tremendous success. Let’s not go backwards now.

Thank you for your consideration.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:05:03 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Matthew Baryshyan

Email

mabaryshyan@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

It would seem like “No Target” closures are an obviously bad decision but it deserves reiteration. Making it illegal to even attempt to catch striped bass would hurt both anglers and businesses. “No Harvest” closures would allow charter boats to continue to fish for striped bass while simultaneously participating in conservation efforts with proper live release practices. During these closures, charter and party boats should be given tags to help retrieve reliable data instead of speculation and projections based on flawed data.

There are many other factors at play, but this one specifically is a non-negotiable. ASMFC’s own Law Enforcement Committee ranked “No Target” last out of 27 options. The heart of New England has black stripes on it. Let’s make the right choice.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:10:45 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Niethe
Email
bneeth311@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
The striped bass population and we need stricter regulations for commercial and recreational fisherman.

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From:	Tina Berger
To:	Comments
Subject:	Fw: [External] Re: REVISED: States Schedule Public Hearings on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III (New Room Location for MD"s September 22 Hearing and New Listen-Only Virtual Link for PA"s September 24 Hearing)
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 5:04:52 PM

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Martha <astrikercharters@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:17 PM
To: Tina Berger <TBerger@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Re: REVISED: States Schedule Public Hearings on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III (New Room Location for MD's September 22 Hearing and New Listen-Only Virtual Link for PA's September 24 Hearing)

Tina, Russell Blank here Captain of the fishing vessel Striker for 30 years now. I am commenting on the proposed regulations for Striped Bass and would like to see the regulations stay status quo as your data doesn't warrant any changes. This decision that you have to make drastically impacts and has impacted my business for the negative. Please decide carefully and keep the regulations the same.
Thank you Captain Russell Blank

Sent from AOL on Android

On Fri, Sep 19, 2025 at 12:30 PM, Tina Berger <TBerger@ASMFC.org> wrote:

> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025
> PRESS CONTACT, TINA BERGER, 703.842.0749
>
> This press release updates the September 4th version with updated location details (room change) for Maryland's September 22 hearing; and the addition of a listen-only webinar link for Pennsylvania's hearing on September 24.
>
> # States Schedule Public Hearings on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
>
> Arlington, VA – The Atlantic coastal states of Maine through Virginia have scheduled hearings to gather public input on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, which considers management measures to support rebuilding the stock by 2029. The Draft Addendum also addresses commercial tagging programs, a coastwide definition of total length for size limit

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:25:57 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Steve Banahan Banahan
Email
sbbanahan@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
I favor size and quota limits on striped bass for both commercial and recreational fishermen. We are seeing far fewer striped bass here in RI. I do not favor non-targeting measures as they are difficult to follow and enforce. Thanks for your efforts.

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:	Capt. John Rainone
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 12:47:06 PM

Please remain status quo....To just vote on no harvest will be ridiculous and a injustice to those that want to harvest a striped bass for dinner....Those people that want to harvest will catch their 1 keeper bass and move on to a different species....Those that believe catch and release does no harm are really a major problem for the mortality of the striped bass stocks....they will stay and fish for as many bass as they can and then proudly say that they never harvested any bass so they are a clean fishery. Problem is that many of those released fish are found floating on top of the ocean or being eaten by sharks...that puts a big dent in the mortality of the species and especially on the breeding stock. If you want to shut down bass fishing to give it a chance to come back then it should be shut down across the board...No commercial bass, no harvesting and no fishing for bass at all.

--
Capt. John Rainone
L'il Toot Charters
35 Ocean View Dr.
Narragansett RI 02882
401-783-0883 401-497-6683 C
www.LilTootCharter.Com
www.facebook.com/pages/Lil-Toot-Charters/268318656187

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From: Cheri Smith
To: Comments
Cc: DEM.MarineFisheries@dem.ri.gov
Subject: [External] [New] Public Comment: Striped Bass Management – Status Quo & For-Hire Distinction
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:40:35 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am Chéri Smith, co-owner of C-Devil Sportfishing, Inc. (Rhode Island, est. 1993). I am submitting this comment for the official **striped bass management comment period** to urge the Commission to adopt **STATUS QUO** and to manage the for-hire sector separately from private recreational anglers.

Why STATUS QUO is prudent

- **On-the-water observations**: Our decades of logs and client results in Rhode Island do not reflect a collapse, and they are inconsistent with the crisis narrative.
- **Scientific uncertainty**: Private recreational estimates carry high uncertainty, while for-hire effort is tightly monitored via eVTR/logbooks with comparatively small, well-documented removals.
- **Conservation outcome**: Among available options, status quo results in **lower discard mortality** than restrictive, narrow-slot alternatives.

Real-world mortality problem

Narrow slots force charter crews to sort through many over-slot fish to find a legal keeper. This repeated handling of large spawners causes stress, occasional deep-hooking, and higher post-release predation from sharks, all of which increase total mortality despite lower nominal harvest.

Why for-hire must be distinct

- **Data quality & accountability**: Mandatory eVTR/logbooks and professional handling on for-hire boats reduce release mortality and provide managers with reliable, verifiable data.
- **Economic impact**: One-size-fits-all cuts disproportionately harm small charter businesses that provide public access and local jobs, despite our modest removals.

Specific for-hire recommendation

Adopt a **simple vessel rule**: allow for-hire boats to retain the **first six striped bass ≥28″ per trip—period.**

- Reduces discard mortality, shark depredation, and stress on released fish.
- Protects spawners by ending bass targeting quickly.

- Simplifies enforcement (easy cross-check with eVTR/logbooks).
- Provides predictability for small businesses while maintaining conservation goals.

Requested actions

1. **Maintain STATUS QUO** (current slot/season/bag).
2. **Implement distinct for-hire management** recognizing our data and accountability.
3. **Adopt the "first six ≥28″" vessel rule** to materially reduce discard mortality.
4. **Incorporate for-hire eVTR data** directly into management decisions rather than penalizing us for uncertainty in private-recreational estimates.

Thank you for considering this practical, conservation-minded approach that aligns management with **real-world conditions and measured data** while sustaining small businesses that depend on a healthy striped bass fishery.

Respectfully,
Chéri Smith
Co-Owner, C-Devil Sportfishing, Inc.
Point Judith, Rhode Island

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From: Captain Kelly Smith
To: Comments
Cc: dem.marinefisheries@dem.ri.gov
Subject: [External] Public Comment — Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Request for Status Quo and Distinct For-HireManagement
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:35:58 PM

Dear Commissioners,

My name is **Captain Kelly Smith**, owner/operator of **F/V C-Devil II** and **C-Devil Sportfishing, Inc.,** which has operated continuously out of Rhode Island since 1993, bringing thousands of tourists to contribute to our State's economy over the last 33 years.

I submit these comments to respectfully request **STATUS QUO** for striped bass and to urge the Commission to **manage the for-hire (charter/headboat) sector distinctly from private recreational anglers**.

Why Status Quo is warranted

- **Reality does not show a fishery in danger.**Decades of daily trips, logbooks, and client catch rates in Rhode Island waters do **not**reflect the sharp declines implied by recent assessments. Availability of slot-size bass has remained consistent in recent seasons.

- **The science does not justify further reductions.** Private-recreational estimates carry significant uncertainty. By contrast, for-hire removals are comparatively small, already constrained by regulation, and **documented via required eVTR/logbooks**. Blanket cuts would be a blunt instrument imposed on a highly accountable, small-impact sector.

- **Status Quo is not ideal - but it is the least harmful option.** Among the current options, **status quo results in less discard mortality**than the alternatives—but it is far from good for the fishery. Without **distinct for-hire regulations**, every proposal forces charter captains to **sort through large numbers of over-slot striped bass** just to find a legal keeper in a very narrow slot. That means repeated capture/handling of mature spawners, longer fight times, warm-water stress, occasional deep-hooking, and growing **post-release predation by increasing numbers of sharks in our waters**—all of which create **avoidable release mortality**. Paradoxically, a narrower slot can **increase** total mortality even when nominal harvest is capped.

Why the For-Hiresector must be managed separately

- **Better data and accountability.** For-hire vessels operate under **mandatory eVTR/logbooks**, licensing, and high compliance; private-recreational harvest is primarily estimated through broad surveys with higher uncertainty. Among many problems with combining the sectors, continuing to do so **masks the for-hire fleet's better data and lower discard rates**under guided practices (circle hooks, de-hooking tools, rapid releases, expert handling).

- **Disproportionate economic impact.**Uniform reductions land hardest on charter

operators—small businesses providing public access, local jobs, and tourism revenue—despite our comparatively modest and well-documented removals.

Recommendation — For-Hire Retention Rule ("First Six ≥28″")

To materially reduce discard mortality while maintaining conservation:

> **Allow for-hire vessels to retain the first six striped bass ≥28″ caught per trip —period.**

Benefits:

- **Cuts sorting time and dead discards,** reducing stress, hook injury, and **shark depredation** on released fish.
- **Protects spawners in practice** by ending striped bass targeting quickly; once the vessel limit is met, trips shift effort to other species.
- **Improves compliance and enforcement** via a clear vessel trip limit—easy to verify against eVTR/logbooks and dockside checks.
- **Provides business predictability** for a tightly regulated sector whose overall removals are modest and transparent, minimizing stock-wide impact while **lowering total mortality**relative to narrow-slot sorting.

Requested actions

1. **Adopt STATUS QUO** for ocean and Rhode Island striped bass regulations—retain the current slot, season, and bag limits.
2. **Establish distinct management for the for-hire sector,**recognizing our reporting, compliance, and guided best-practices that reduce discard mortality.
3. **Adopt the for-hire "First Six ≥28″" retention rule** described above to materially reduce release mortality and shark depredation while simplifying enforcement.
4. **Incorporate for-hire eVTR/logbook data directly** in management decisions rather than penalizing the for-hire fleet for uncertainty driven by private-recreational estimates.

The for-hire fleet consists of professional captains who are committed conservation partners. Our business survives only if the resource thrives. From client education and tagging to strict handling protocols, we invest daily in sustaining this fishery. Please align management with **what accountable, high-quality data and real-world observations actually show**, rather than imposing further broad reductions that are not warranted and would harm a highly regulated, small-impact sector.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Capt. Kelly Smith

Owner/Operator

C-Devil Sportfishing, Inc.

Point Judith, Rhode Island

captainkelly@cdevilsportfishing.com

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From: Nick Bocchino
To: Comments; Jason E. Mcnamee
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Vote
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:33:22 PM

My name is Nick Bocchino. I am a full time rod and reel commercial fisherman out of Point Judith, RI. I am writing to you folks to state that I am in favor of maintaining the status quo (no reductions) until a new full benchmark stock assessment has been completed in 2027. The commercial sector is just coming off of a reduction and a 12% cut on one of the most restricted states in reference to commercial striped bass fishing would be significant in terms of our livelihood. I personally believe that we have to be extremely careful making a rash decision that could financially impact so many in our port before the full stock assessment.

Best,

Nick Bocchino

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From: John Sheriff
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Add III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:27:41 PM

October 3, 2025

Subject: Striped Bass Add III

From : Captain John Sheriff

FV: Fish On II.

Captain Sheriffs Fishing Charters
Www. Fishingchartersri.com

To whom it may concern,

As a Rhode Island charter fishing captain, I would like to add my recommendations to remain status quo regarding the above Striped Bass Addendum as I feel the data and or accuracy of the data does not reflect the need to reduce the harvest at this time.

Thank you,

Captain John Sheriff

Sent from my iPad

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From: Brian Bacon
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:35:27 AM

To whom it may concern,

Please keep the striped bass fishery status quo. The science doesn't warrant any more cuts or restrictions.

Thank you

Captain Brian Bacon
Big Game Sportfishing
401-243-7046
brian@biggamefishingri.com
www.BigGameFishingRI.com

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From: Jason Howell
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striper
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:21:18 AM

To whom it may concern

Im the owner and operator of Pamela May Charters. I do not see the need for further cuts to Striper regulations since we see an abundance of Stripers of all classes in our waters.
I would add that the science needs to shift to other breeding areas for Striped Bass in Northern states as waters warm. I feel as the population has also moved further north. I would like to see more data collection of breeding Stripers in northern locations. I have seen an increasingly larger amount of holdover Stripers and juvenile Stripers in our rivers and estuaries. In the spring we have seen an increase to the amout of less than 12" Stripers in Narrow River in Narragansett which may indicate the Stripers may not be leaving and or breeding further south in your traditional data collection sites. Science needs to catch up before you take further action.

Sincerely Capt Jason Howell

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From: dprockop
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Amendment III Comment
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:59:16 AM

Dear ASMFC folks,

Thanks for all the time and effort you're putting into the important process of seeking and considering input on Amendment III. Fishing is a big part of my life and the lives of many of my friends and family members so I feel deeply invested in rebuilding the striper population for the long term.

I have already submitted some thoughts on your online form and I will not try to double-dip by repeating them here. I just want to add one point in support of sharing restrictions equally between recreational, for-hire, and commercial fishers.

For-hire captains (charter and head boat) are already equipped to target multiple species and routinely shift their focus at different times of the season. It is therefore not difficult for them to simply adjust their targeting to accommodate any new striper regulations. In other words, increased restrictions on for-hire captains should not impact their business much, if at all.

It seems that commercial fishing is not as well studied as other segments. Without more information on release mortality from commercial fishing, it is impossible to tell how big an impact the commercial sector is already having on the striper population. At the very least, commercial operations should share equally in measures to rebuild the population.

A rebuilt striper population will clearly benefit everyone in the long term. Some stake holders are focused more on short-term harvest, which is why your role as far-looking caretakers is so important. Thank you again for all your work on this.

Dave Prockop
Providence, RI

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:13:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Chip Parker

Email

fishnewport@yahoo.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

I don't think or comments seat your decision one way or the other. I think you do what you are going to do and that's that. If you did consider or comments, you would of did something about the draggers and the commercial netting! You have done so many different regulations, and none have worked. Every year, all we hear is the fishery is in trouble, and more and more regulations come in, except, the one thing you have not tried, Shopping the draggers and nett fishing. You won't even try it for one year! Why? Why don't you do it, and prove everyone wrong, of you are so sure that is not the cause? Why is it always the one side of fishery doing all the heavy lifting? I don't see the rod and reel being an issue, because there is no by catch, and the season is so short, I can't see how is any kind of impact compared to the other commercial methods. Also, i don't understand why the regulations vary from state to state. These are migratory fish. They go up and down the coast, yet there are different regulations depending on your state. The regulations should be the same, up and down the entire coast. Please, be fair, and let's see if it's the commercial draggers, and netters. If it makes a big difference, you will have your answer! It just seems like all these big commercial companies have you all on their pockets! That's the general consensus with many.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:01:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dennis Dunn
Email
dennis.dunn2@verizon.net
State
Rhode Island
Comment
People are taking to many stripers. This has been going on for years by commercial fisherman who think they own the bass and recreational. Fishmen have no rights at all. The only way to save the stripers is to put a game fish status on them. I have been catching stripers for over forty years catch and release and release. .

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From: Joe M
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Moratorium
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:50:47 PM

Actually do something. Too many people don't follow the rules

Joseph Mollicone
Broker/Owner
NEW MARKET REALTY
www.newmarketrealtyri.com
New Market Realty
22 Riverside Dr Wakefield RI 02879
Sales - Property and Construction Management
Phone 401-996-0431

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From: Brendan Richards
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:37:01 PM

Hello,

My name is Brendan Richards, and I am a recreational angler from Rhode Island I am writing you to advocate for the following options being considered for Addendum III:

- 3.1) Option B
- 3.2) Option B
- 3.3) Option C
- 3.4) Option B-01. Here I would like to emphasize that no-target closures are unenforcable by any account or measure, and with their lack of enforceabilty, so goes their effectiveness while unleashing needless collateral damage on the economy that catch and release angling would support. Additionally, fares on a for-hire vessel are recreational anglers, and should be subjected to the same regulations as the rest of us.

In closing, I feel as if these are the options that are best for the striped bass at this precarious point in time for them. I also feel that these options favor progressing us towards a state of abundance with this fishery, which is the scenario that benefits all user groups: recreational, commerical, and for-hire alike.

Thank you,

- Brendan Richards

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:13:45 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Capt Jim White
Email
whiteghos1@aol.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
Gentlemen: I'm writing today to voice my opinion on the pending Striped Bass re-building stock options. I strongly edge the ASMFC to consider a total Striped Bass Moratorium closure to ensure that the levels of spawning stock biomass are capable of producing and sustaining the stock into the future. We are already behind six years of reproductive failures anything less would only extend those failures and impact the stock negatively. It took a complete moratorium the last time to restore the stock, that's what it's going to take now! Thank you, Capt Jim White White Ghost Guide Service Rhode Island

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From:	Massimo Chicarella
To:	Comments
Cc:	Jason E. Mcnamee
Subject:	[External] fishery regulations
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:34:53 AM

Hello, I am a Rhode Island multi purpose license holder and rod and reel commercial fisherman.

I am heavily in favor of maintaining the status quo regulations for striped bass until a new full benchmark assessment has been completed in 2027.

I am also heavily in favor of adding ZERO new licenses to an already stressed limited entry fishery. it would be very irresponsible to add more pressure to a fishery that many claim to be in distress.

Regards,
Massimo Chicarella
RI multi purpose license holder
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: Mark Sherer
To: Comments
Cc: Mark Sherer; Jason E. Mcnamee
Subject: [External] [New] Striper Season cutbacks
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 6:34:44 AM

I am in favor of maintaining the status quo (no reductions) until a new full benchmark stock assessment has been completed in 2027.

Captain Mark H. Sherer
F/V Gannet

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 5:10:39 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nicholas Frasier
Email
nick.frasier@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
Opposed to a full shutdown and believe a closure of the commercial season in parallel with a closure on the menhaden and herring fisheries will ultimately be more effective.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 2:10:12 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Thomas Poirier

Email

tpp23201@yahoo.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

I have been fishing Narraganset Bay for over 50 years. I feel that the Striped Bass is in serious jeopardy. In the proposed Amendment III. I would like the following enacted: Option B for measurement of Striped Bass. Option C for commercial tagging at land fall. Option C for baseline 12% reduction for Maryland and Chesapeak area. Option B which would produce a 12 % reduction for both Commercial and Recreational fishing. Option 01 for all modes of fishing with 28-31 " slot. CB1 proposal for all Chesapeak of for hire and private harvest. As for all the other closures I support No Harvest Closures in all modes and areas. I do not support the No Target closures !!!!
We need to do something now and not kick the can down the road like you did in 2025. We are about to lose the Striped Bass. I started fishing just after the total closure in the 1980's . And that worked the Bass rebound. If the next two years do not see an effect of these proposals, I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE A TOTAL CLOSURE FOR 2028 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:06:34 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joe Macari
Email
jmacari1@cox.net
State
Rhode Island
Comment
I am in favor of maintaining the status quo (no reductions) until a new full benchmark stock assessment has been completed in 2027.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 9:27:01 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jake Fagan
Email
jakefagan123@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
The striped bass fishery should remain open in 2026, recreational catch and release only (no recreational harvest) and a reduction in quota for commercial. Please don't resort to no target for recreational fishing!

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: BRUCE KINDSETH
To: Comments
Cc: Bruce Bain
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 6:59:44 PM

Comments:

I want to start with your problem statement. You are saying that striped bass are overfished and that there is concern about the lack of strong year-classes behind the 2018 year-class. In fact, there has been very low recruitment of stripers for the last 6 years. I think that this is very significant.

The metrics that are used are only if the species is overfished and if overfishing is occurring. But there is more than that. Why is there very low recruitment?

I think that the fishermen here will agree that baitfish, such as menhaden and herring are at all-time lows. So what do the fish eat when the baitfish is not available? Basically, anything that moves. Stripers will not go hungry. They probably first switched from menhaden to herring, which caused the Atlantic herring population to drop 88% from 2014-2021. Being opportunistic feeders, they will also feed on the young of any species, including young stripers.

The answer to the low recruitment is on the cover page of the ASMFC document, “Guide to Fisheries Science and Stock Assessment”. Basically, the low recruitment of striped bass is what happens when the population is bumping against the limits of the carrying capacity. But it gets worse. What are the predators that feed on menhaden? Striped Bass, Bluefish, Red Drum, Bluefin Tuna, Weakfish, Mackerel, Flounder and Sharks all feed on menhaden. It is a matter of abundance. When there is a lot of menhaden around, they will eat a lot of menhaden. Now, they must turn to whatever is available. Fishery scientists call this “prey switching”. Recently, a slot-sized striper was caught on the Narragansett Town Beach and was bit in half by a shark. Recently, a friend told me about fishing near Block Island, where a lot of large stripers hang out. He hooked up with what he estimated to be a 50 pounder which was bit in half. There were sharks all over the place, my friend said. I have also seen a striper being hooked and then bit in half by a bluefish. On a fly-fishing website, a fisherman told of hooking a small striper and then having it swallowed headfirst by a larger striper.

I hate to get dramatic, but I think we are beginning to see the beginnings of a death spiral in the Atlantic fishery. The proposals in Amendment III are like re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. Unless you resolve the issue of the low recruitment, you will never solve the issue which you call, “overfishing.”

Narragansett Surfcasters, Bruce Kindseth

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 4:06:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=U5sxQRG5BpjD9kNndSC2Lt3XiFyg78-QGIRwkuAAjAA.TzzC5W

Name

Geoffrey McNally

Email

jeff_ri@cox.net

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Hi,

My name is Geoffrey McNally. I am a shore fisherman from RI. I have read the info on your website about the striped bass draft addendum III. Here are my suggested management options.

3.1 measurement of length: option B
3.2 commercial tagging: option B
3.3 MD/Chesapeake Bay recreational season: option C
3.4 reduction in removals: option B-01 for ocean

Please do not consider any for-hire exemptions to the management options. Also, please do not kick the can down the road and delay any longer.

Thank you.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 1:49:24 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Michael Kronfeld
Email
mkronfeld11@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
I support protecting striped bass stocks. The need to rebuild is urgent. Sharks and seals and boat pressure 24/7 is really taking its toll. They should be made a game fish. The economic and social value of these fish is far greater than their price per pound. Sincerely a deeply concerned scientist.

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:	Thomas Cody
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Comments
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 1:35:46 PM

Dear Commission Members,

Below are my comments on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III. I am a recreational angler fishing primarily in Rhode Island, though I also fish in Connecticut and Massachusetts. I hope that the board takes this opportunity to implement conservation focused policies that will ensure this resource is still here for my children to enjoy. I am concerned about the current state of the striped bass fishery and have seen first hand the consequences of the past few years of poor spawning classes and continued over harvesting. Years of inaction and certain states' refusal to make meaningful change to ensure recovery by 2029 has, sadly, eroded my faith in the board and made me resigned to the likelihood of another crash in the striped bass stock. Please restore and protect this resource.

Below are my preferences for the proposed management options.

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length: **Option B is my preference**
3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: **Option B is my preference**
3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: **Option C is my preference**
3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals: **Option B-01 for Ocean is my preference. Additionally, I believe that Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region.**

To achieve the 12% reduction in Chesapeake Bay recreational removals: **I support CB1 for all modes**

For Ocean season closures: **I support no-harvest closures**

I oppose any for-hire exemptions and vehemently oppose any no-targeting closures. No-targeting closures are unenforceable and a clear attempt to disproportionately impact recreational anglers. If drastic means are necessary, I would support no-harvesting closures.

Best,
Thomas Cody

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:05:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joe Macari
Email
jmacari1@cox.net
State
Rhode Island
Comment
Option A. Status Quo Point of Harvest or Point of Sale -I support Status Quo -Point of Sale I support NO REDUCTION in commercial quota for Rhode Island or Massachusetts

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: Nick Smith
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] CODE RED
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:08:24 AM

To those who have the power to take action-

I'll keep this short and to the point. Something drastic needs to be done and it can't wait another day! I beg you to take action and save the striped bass for our children and grandchildren. I'm honestly disgusted that we have come full circle and have arrived where we once were not too long ago. I hope you, the people with the authority have the courage to make the tough choices that need to be made at this moment.

Thank you for taking the time to read my humble opinion.

Nick Bonczek- Charlestown RI

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:44:23 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Will Walker
Email
flytier23@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
A no target option would be extremely detrimental to many businesses within RI, from tackle shops, charters, big box stores that cater to the novice and all the local artisans building plugs to fish for this species in the traditional way. Many builders have opted for a no hook option on the back of plugs mean only a single treble is used to target striped bass. As a board member of the Narragansett Surfcasters I know first hand how our members and many other recreational anglers handle, land, revive and release striped bass. Stewards of the sport like the Narragansett Surfcasters might not exist if a no target option is reached. No harvest for a few years while monitoring the stock, spawn and northern populations would be wise in my opinion… thanks for considering

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:45:59 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Hope Prockop
Email
hprockop@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
I am a recreational fisher in RI and fishing is a big part of my life. Rebuilding the striper population is clearly needed and incredibly important to people like me. However, any no target closure would be devastating to recreational fishers (and also to the businesses we support, from tackle shops to for-hire guides and headboats). I therefore encourage you to adopt the following Addendum III options: 3.1 Option B 3.2 Option B 3.3 Option C 3.4 Option B-01

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:06:34 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=5SCgbkCS4Wb7YhrEMRq2eHEHNrhoo4uWBjMLWnR9EDQ.TzzC5W
Name
Keith Vellone
Email
kvellone@yahoo.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
I'm tired of Rec guys getting screwed when commercial can keep big fish and sell them. Make the species catch and release only. No commercial value and no fish being kept. The rec guys are tired and will ignore any sanctions opposed on them. It costs us a lot of money just to go have fun, while others are profiting.

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From: Brian Sittlow
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 7:04:58 AM

Hi Emilie,

Please accept my comments o the Striped Bass Draft Addendum III:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length: Uniform definition to prevent slot expansion.

- B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: Reduce black market risks.

- B: At point of harvest.

Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: Simplify seasons, shift closures for better compliance/enforcement.

- C: New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort shifts).

New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals

- B: 12% reduction both sectors.
    - Commercial: 12% quota cut.
    - Recreational Ocean:
        -O1, All modes, 28-31: slot/1fish
    - Recreational Bay:
        -CB1, All modes, 20-23"

Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions. I oppose any commercial favoritism.
For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R).
Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Or make NY, CT and RI in Northern region.
Wave 4 is optimal for the North region for no harvest closures only.
Wave 6 is optimal for the South region for no harvest closures only.

I DO NOT support No Targeting closures. It is simply not enforceable and makes no management sense.

Additional notes:

- Oppose for-hire exemptions: Unfair burden on 98% of anglers; for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% landings from 1.4% trips).

- ASMFC has voted to intentionally delay management action to rebuild the stock. Need to take action now, or a moratorium will result.

- **No Targeting Closures:** The LEC (Law Enforcement Committee) at ASMFC has gone on record multiple times saying that no targeting closures are completely unenforceable. Their report ranked no targeting as 27th out of 27 possible management actions. Unless related to environmental conditions like a summer closure in the Chesapeake (water temp focused), I completely reject any attempts to implement no-target closures at scale. Furthermore, this is an exercise in reducing impact on paper. The 12% reductions needed will never be realized, therefore delaying rebuilding even longer.

- **Commercial Fisheries:** Commercial fishing for striped bass is totally unaccountable when it comes to knowing how many fish are being harvested. For example, the dealers tag the fish in Massachusetts, not the fishermen. The entire striped bass commercial fishery in the Potomac is essentially based on scout's honor. There is no check-in requirement for finfish. Maryland has a long history of underestimating the average weight, and Virginia has no way to track out-of-state dealers who buy striped bass from the dock. If there is no serious reform and accountability, reflected through equal reductions to both sectors, then there should be no commercial fishing for striped bass. The 2.8% bycatch mortality assigned to commercial fishing is patently false.

- **The Shore Fishing Community is Suffering:** Shore-based anglers account for 50% of

annual trips but only account for less than 12% of the catch. When the population declines, shore anglers feel it the hardest. Anyone who says catch and release hasn't taken enough reductions is not looking the pictured reflected in the data. This doesn't just apply to relentless surfcasters adorned in premium gear. It also covers the everyday angler who fishes from a pier, jetty or beach in their free time.

- **NOAA Data Issues:** NOAA estimates recreational catch in large part through the Fisheries Effort Survey (FES). Because the questions in the survey were given in the wrong order, recreational fishing effort could have been overestimated by up to 40%. The data is in the process of being recalibrated. If this is the case, the implications are real. It means there are fewer striped bass in the system, and the commercial sector is a much larger component of harvest than previously assumed. This truth completely reshapes management conversations throughout the last decade! Managers know this and they are intentionally keeping it quiet.

- **Catch and Release Research:** We know that Massachusetts DMF is finalizing a new study that stands as the best science we have seen regarding striped bass release mortality. The data has shown that changing gear selection can reduce release mortality from 9% to under 3%. Why is the Striped Bass Management Board ignoring this if they truly believe that release mortality is a banner issue for the coastwide fishery?

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to management decisions.

All the best,
Brian Sittlow
Westerly, RI
USA

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 1:04:52 PM

RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

RI Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ri-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Douglas Snow

Email

dsnow1455@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

We need to suspend the harvesting of striped bass for several years across charter, recreational, and commercial fishing. The current slot limit is not effective. I regularly see charter captains running two trips per day with 5–6 people on each trip, all keeping a fish, plus the captain and mate taking two fish per trip. That adds up to 10–12 striped bass per day from just one boat.

The slot limit is failing because it allows more anglers the opportunity to harvest younger striped bass on a daily basis. A more sustainable approach would be to designate striped bass as a sport fish, prohibiting harvest altogether.

I grew up during a time when striped bass were virtually gone, and I've witnessed their recovery—only to now see us on the path of depleting them once again. With modern technology, striped bass have little chance to thrive unless stronger conservation measures are put in place.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 8:05:50 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=3XqAihgxMSW4xMeS3iuZrwnDTEYConLVwuI89pXntYg.TzzC5W
Name
Rob Spets
Email
rrspets@hotmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
Please better regulate the commercial side of Striper fishing. The commercial fishing industry needs to be held accountable for breaking the law and regulated in a way that prevents circumnavigating the rules. After all the commercial side benefits directly from harvesting more than they should and underreporting mortality rates. I work in the marine trades and I am very familiar with the waterfront industry. As a recreational fisherman I can tell you most Striper fishermen catch very few stripers a year never mind slot fish. Please take the time to regulate all sectors of fishing to protect this regions valued assets. I support the following, 3.1: Option B, 3.2: Option B, 3.3: Option C, 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:06:45 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=WK-lP5dFGbbx3cuVoXdwWcht3vKiaE8Y7JuapsD2jFU.TzzC5W

Name

Kyle Yates

Email

yatesrandr@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

Do not shut down recreational seasonal fishing. My best friends are surfcasters and we all are responsible and caring with our catch and release. Most of us rarely even harvest a slot striped bass. Everyone says the commercial guys are causing all the problems, but how would I know. Instead of creating new laws to limit access by those who want to obey, why not have more enforcement of existing laws? More funding for DEM enforcement seems to be a logical solution. People who break the rules will continue to do so even if you make new ones, you have to actually enforce the existing laws to see a effect.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 10:41:38 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=fcd2sqkqALvMQnOgYnMTr3ZyubAFqm1-346ok47KUzg.TzzC5W
Name
Chad Loebs
Email
Chad_L@msn.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
Please register my support for the following options: 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. Many thanks, R.C. Loebs

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 3:39:52 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=p8gb3NDc43-ftzc2L53ei9GhY__sAJ36bVZz0KEuQn4.TzzC5W

Name

Edmund Broomhead

Email

Tedmbroomhead@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

I support the following below

3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.
I Ted Broomhead urge, beg , plea the ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Everyone needs to step up. The population is at risk . On the Newmeadows river in mid coast Maine for the past 30 years I would catch avg 5 fish a day 4 days a week I keep none . This summer I caught 1 fish all summer ! I was not an Aberration!! Rebuilding
is a team effort. Please care ! The crash has already hit midcoast Maine !!
Thank you for your time and effort.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:55:31 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=BdXEDuiaCPBaOhtqnjZIPrJ6RpNVBln3TnWAmlQzkyc.TzzC5W

Name

David Prockop

Email

dprockop@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

As an avid recreational fisherman, I believe that my views are typical of those held by my numerous fishing friends and family members who consider fishing to be a big part of their lives. We are deeply concerned about the striped bass population and urge you to take immediate measures in order to support its recovery. We can only hope that taking further action now will allow the population to rebuild without needing, now or in the future, to resort to a full moratorium, which would have deep economic effects. Many recreational fishermen will surely continue to support tackle shops and for-hire boats during a no-harvest time but a no-targeting time would shut all of that down.

Toward that end, I urge you to adopt the following options in Addendum III:
3.1 Option B (This is an obvious no-brainer. Of course we need a standard method to define length!)
3.2 Option B (If that option will lead to the least dodging or regulations then that's clearly the right one.)
3.3 Option C (Increasing compliance should be a top priority. Building in a margin for error is absolutely essential, given the uncertainty of all related predictions.)
3.4 Option B-O1 (With no for-hire exemptions in the bay or ocean. For-hire operations already catch a significant number of stripers so asking them to share in harvest reductions will be a big help to the population. Also, for-hire captains already target numerous species so they are already geared up to continue doing so.)

Also, no matter which measures you adopt, I would strongly encourage you to simplify the calendar by combining time periods that have the same restrictions. Keeping the calendar the slightest bit complex is a sure way to lower compliance. Editing the calendar for the sake of simplicity would not be likely to have much effect on the population over the course of just a few years, when unpredictable changes in weather can effectively open or close fishing on different dates anyway.

Thanks very much for all of the thought and care you are putting into the support of our striped bass population!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:37:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=E34G8scrxozhToVX8l5SnJFtebYZVCNQJJFrByV1aGA.TzzC5W
Name
Robert Teeden
Email
teedsa1@verizon.net
State
Rhode Island
Comment
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. I respectfully urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. We would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort. The thrill can only be felt in body and soul catching one one of the magnificent fish Robert Teeden

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 12:43:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=mZfi4Md-rVMnbF4R_o8f_S9ST5VFdpi7yGwC8jluvZsgvUDJcz2tRAwQHurBUKtJ.TzzC5W

Name

Darryl Forrester

Email

darryllforrester@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length: Uniform definition to prevent
* B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: Reduce black market risks.
* B: At point of harvest.
Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: Simplify seasons, shift closures for better compliance/enforcement.
* C: New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort suggest increasing to 15% for precaution (propose at hearings).

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals

RECOMMENDATION: 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 12:07:48 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=8Syn2qYq-ale9Yn6-_KJTI18q-pOpuvcQwE8quFrbew3RFGh08FYn3VPV1vY0Z_S.TzzC5W

Name

John McCarthy

Email

mccarthyosa@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Hello,

I am an avid catch and release Surfcaster based in Rhode Island. The striped bass fishery is in crisis and I've observed a significant decline in the population especially over the last few years and it needs to be addressed. I would be all for a catch and release only moratorium for all ASMFC states for striped bass but unfortunately that does not appear to be on the table. M

As such I recommend the following options to Addendum III

3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

I urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort.

Sincerely,

John McCarthy

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:18:38 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=8Syn2qYq-ale9Yn6-_KJTI18q-pOpuvcQwE8quFrbew3RFGh08FYn3VPV1vY0Z_S.TzzC5W

Name

Vaughn Hayward

Email

vaughnphayward@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Hello,

I am an avid catch and release Surfcaster based in Rhode Island. The striped bass fishery is in crisis and I've observed a significant decline in the population especially over the last few years and it needs to be addressed. I would be all for a catch and release only moratorium for all ASMFC states for striped bass but unfortunately that does not appear to be on the table. M

As such I recommend the following options to Addendum III

3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

I urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Hayward

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 10:06:25 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=JHExeA6ItMeFO9LrNlBk5HZyubAFqm1-346ok47KUzg.TzzC5W
Name
Scott Jaeckel
Email
jaeckel12@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
Hi. I support the following: 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. I urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. We would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:58:45 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=srWglPc2elopf4qLgpfMt31PjLZ6OfVd4vnd6wQTJkY.TzzC5W
Name
aaron lloyd
Email
barrelsearching@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. The Saltwater Edge urges ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. We would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:25:23 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=JInVjT3sSefmfSvS1yNFM9lJA0cTMvK8uTtg1lnoBzU.TzzC5W
Name
Josh Riazi
Email
jriazi@icloud.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:07:13 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=S0NyalXYshEz0LKs8VNOclrr8Y_OvnG93vIfhQH-khdEWsV9bu4wbKaOQDd5TDox.TzzC5W
Name
Cam Tesorio
Email
tesoriocameron3@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
3.1 B

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 8:28:09 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=CaqugH2ZaUSQri8GY4Tpg9oQumIUOPZ2niE4hZY5VJeHQl8fqJLlUkUydgfg_UjZ.TzzC5W
Name
John Angelini
Email
ange4@verizon.net
State
Rhode Island
Comment
The only way we can restore the fishery is to stop killing them.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:32:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Paul Phillips
Email
phillips.paul.b@gmail.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
I oppose the no targeting option for striped bass. I understand there is somewhat of a mortality rate to catch and release, but I think we should at least be allowed to target C&R striped bass. Economically, no targeting will devastate local fishing industries (charter boats, tackle shops). Early closure this season of blluefin tuna has had a negative impact on many local businesses, I'd think that no striper fishing would be even worse. Personally, I only catch and release if fishing recreationally. An option to consider may be selling of striped bass tags, with a season limit. I recall a tag system was used after the Chesapeake Bay moratorium was lifted in MD. I don't see why we can't implement something similar here in Ri.

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From: Sea-Money Fishing
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Regs - We Cant Afford a NO TARGET
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:00:26 PM

I am a lifelong angler and charter captain in Rhode Island. The fishing industry cannot afford to have "No target" as an option. My career is over if I can't target striped bass with clients during the season, and not just me, but the 10s of thousands of other charter captains, tackle shops, lure makers, and others who rely on the recreational targeting of Striped Bass.

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: halgibson1@verizon.net
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:46:17 AM

I agree with position taken by RISAA regarding the restrictions on striped bass.
Harold Gibson
4 Lamb Rd
East Greenwich, RI 02818

Sent from AOL on Android

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:11:03 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
kurt rivard
Email
kurt142009@yahoo.com
State
Rhode Island
Comment
Status quo, to many unnesscary regs on a very resilient fish. To much revenue lost if more regs are implemented. Survey new areas for year of the young classes. adult fish are being seen and caught further north every year which would indicate a spawning area liekly doing the same. NO change

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From:	Stuart Meltzer
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:05:38 PM

To Whom It may Concern,

I own Fearless Fish Ikejime (Shakedown Street, LLC), a wholesale fish dealer business in the State of Rhode Island. The management structure of this fishery is deeply concerning. As we know, this fishery is under significant pressure. As a result, we should structure the fishery to maximize the value of this fish. Under the current structure, the market is often flooded with fish, which typically crashes the price. This occurred this past season. I would propose to shift to a method that incentivizes slow and steady landings of this catch instead to keep prices high and to not overload dealers and the market more broadly.

I am available to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Stuart J. Meltzer

Stu Meltzer
Owner
721 Hope Street
Providence, RI 02906
www.fearless-fish.com
O: 401-537-7979
C: 401-225-1598

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:34:54 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Steve Gerencser

Email

gerencser@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

Steve Gerencser
121 Laurel Avenue
Providence, RI 02906
September 15, 2025

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Comment on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 — Atlantic Striped Bass

Dear Members of the Striped Bass Management Board,

I'm writing as an angler who cares deeply about striped bass and the coastal communities they hold together. I fish from shore whenever I can grab an hour and go out on charters when I vacation on Martha's Vineyard. Over the last few years I've watched the fishery feel thinner—fewer schoolies in the usual corners, fewer legal slot fish on tides that used to produce. That lived experience is why I'm asking you to choose strong, enforceable measures in Draft Addendum III so we actually rebuild this stock by 2029 and set it up to thrive well beyond that date.

The science matches what I see. Striped bass remain overfished, and we've had six straight years of weak recruitment. The much-discussed 2018 year class is slipping into the slot, but there isn't a bench behind it. If we rebuild to the target by 2029 and then look around to find an empty pipeline, we will have won a battle and set up the next decline. I don't believe a "bare minimum" approach will get us anywhere we want to be.

I also want to be candid about the public process. Many hearings this round are in-person evening

sessions only. For people with family obligations and jobs, that's a barrier. If the goal is robust public input, hybrid access shouldn't be a luxury, it should be standard across jurisdictions. I appreciate the single general hybrid session, but going forward I hope the Commission leans into broader access, not away from it.

On management substance, my priorities are simple: clarity, accountability, and fairness. For clarity, I support a single coastwide way to measure fish—mouth closed, tail pinched—so an inch in Massachusetts means the same thing in New Jersey or Virginia. It's a small fix that closes big loopholes and makes compliance and enforcement straightforward. For accountability, I want commercial fish tagged at the point of harvest. Waiting until the first sale or later invites gray areas and makes real-time tracking nearly impossible. Frankly, I'm concerned about persistent weaknesses in commercial oversight. In Massachusetts, dealers, not fishermen, tag fish. In the Potomac, the fishery has essentially operated on the honor system with no finfish check-in. Maryland has a long history of underestimating average weights, and Virginia has no way to follow out-of-state buyers who pick up fish at the dock. In that context, assigning a 2.8% commercial bycatch mortality doesn't square with what's likely happening. If reductions are supposed to be equal across sectors, the bookkeeping and enforcement have to be just as tight on the commercial side as they are for recreational anglers.

I'm also asking you to be honest about the data that underpins recreational removals. NOAA's work on the Fisheries Effort Survey indicates the current design may have overestimated recreational effort by as much as forty percent. If that holds through recalibration, then recreational removals have been overstated relative to commercial for years. That's uncomfortable, but it matters for how the burden of reductions is shared. Please acknowledge and incorporate that reality as you finalize measures.

At the same time, I take responsibility for the fish I release. New research out of Massachusetts shows that gear choice and handling can push release mortality down dramatically—potentially from around nine percent toward three percent with the right hooks and techniques. If release mortality is truly a coastwide concern, then those findings should be reflected in how we educate anglers, shape regulations where enforceable, and model removals. Conservation-minded choices should count.

With all of that in mind, here's what I'm asking you to adopt in Addendum III. I support the uniform total length method for measurement and tagging at harvest for commercial fish. In the Chesapeake Bay, I support the proposed new season baseline with an uncertainty buffer, and I encourage you to set that buffer at least in the ten-to-fifteen percent range to account for effort shifts, hot-water closures, and the general messiness of real life. Coastwide, I support uniform twelve-percent reductions applied equally to commercial and recreational sectors, without carve-outs for the for-hire fleet. For-hire exemptions shift the burden onto the overwhelming majority of anglers and undermine the sense that we're all rowing the boat together. If you use seasonal no-harvest closures as part of the tool kit, I can live with that— so long as they are clear, enforceable, and allow catch-and-release. Given how intimately Rhode Island's waters are shared with Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, I also ask that the Northern region include Rhode Island – and, where possible, that Connecticut and New York be grouped with the North as well – to align management with how the fish and the fleet actually move.

There are a few measures I cannot support. Large-scale no-targeting closures are a good example. Your own Law Enforcement Committee has said repeatedly that these are practically unenforceable, ranking no-targeting dead last out of twenty-seven options. Unless we're talking about narrow environmental triggers, like heat-driven summer closures in the Chesapeake, no-targeting rules reduce impacts on paper while doing little in reality. We don't have time for cosmetic conservation.

Finally, I want to be clear about the stakes. If recruitment keeps failing or if the plan falls off track for rebuilding, the Commission should be prepared to consider a moratorium rather than watching the stock slide back into the ditch. That's not what I want; it's what becomes necessary when we wait too long to do what we already know needs to be done.

I appreciate the work that goes into the assessments, the addenda, and the hearings. I also know how hard it is to balance livelihoods with stewardship. But the right choices are in front of you. Please choose the options that are tough, enforceable, and fair so the bass I chase at dawn are still there when today's

kids take their own children to the water.

If we fail to act now, the economic fallout could be severe. In 2016, recreational striped bass fishing supported about 104,867 jobs and generated nearly $13 billion in total economic output along the Atlantic coast (Southwick Associates, 2019). As stock declines worsen, fewer trips will be made, fewer people will purchase boats and fewer bait and tackle sales will occur, and coastal businesses – charter operations, lodging, gas stations, boat repairs, restaurants, tackle shops and general tourism – will feel the squeeze. The cost to coastal state GDPs could reach into the billions of dollars annually as the backbone of the recreational economy weakens.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Steve Gerencser

1 Southwick Associates. (2019, April 12). The Economic Contributions of Recreational and Commercial Striped Bass Fishing (report for The McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership). pp. 15–16 (Tables R-3 & R-4). Retrieved from mcgraw.org.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 7:57:39 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Michael Porco

Email

mvp11575@gmail.com

State

Rhode Island

Comment

The council needs to take action. Striped bass will not survive much longer unless we change management approach. Clearly the action previously taken have not worked and the fishery is big trouble. That why I am in support of the below options
In amendment 3:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length: Uniform definition to prevent slot expansion.

A: Status Quo (varying state rules).
B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

I support Option B : Measuring Striped Bass Option B – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: Reduce black market risks.

A: Status Quo (up to point of sale in some states).
B: At point of harvest.
C: By first point of sale

I support Commercial Tagging Option B – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: Simplify seasons, shift closures for better compliance/enforcement.

A: Status Quo.
B: New baseline (open April-May harvest, extend summer closure to August).
C: New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort shifts).

I support 3.3: Chesapeake Bay Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution (propose at hearings). We have more news on this to be released in the upcoming weeks.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals

A: Status Quo (0% rebuilding chance).
B: 12% reduction both sectors.
Commercial: 12% quota cut.
Recreational Ocean: Retain 28-31″ slot/1 fish; add seasons (regions: North/South divided at Hudson or DE Bay; closures e.g., July 1-31 north, Jan 1-31 south; no-harvest).
Sub-options: O1 uniform; O2 for-hire exemption (28-33″ slot, longer closures for others).
Recreational Bay: Options for size/seasons (e.g., 19-22″ slot or closures); sub-options include for-hire exemptions.

I support 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.

Additional Concerns to Raise:

In oppose for-hire exemptions: Unfair burden on 98% of anglers; for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% landings from 1.4% trips).

The ASMFC delays and inaction have ruined the fishery with zero accountability; if rebuilding fails, I push moratorium.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:24:18 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Paul Stamos
Email
paulstamos@hotmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Dear sirs are madam: I'm in favor of the following options: 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. I would hope that ASMFC makes a more aggressive effort toward accomplishing the needed rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Unfortunately, I feel that prior efforts and regulations have always aired on the side of being too conservative in the goal of Reviving and preserving the striped bass stock. Thank you Paul Stamos

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:35:52 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Anthony Picci
Email
anthonypucci93@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
The amount of damage that the Omega boats are doing outweighs everything being proposed. Stop the Omega boats from taking the food source for Stripers and Blues, and also killing Stripers during the migration to spawn. I caught countless Stripers the last 2 years during the spring run with net scars on them. How can you allow this to go on, simply because Omega gives campaign money to the VA government?

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:	Ed Carroll
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 4:50:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

We should focus on commercial fishing vessels “bycatch”. Nets & dragging are obscene. This should also include bunker/ Mehaden for bait shops. This is unnecessary, if population was healthy, people could effortlessly catch their own bait. Cast nets for recreational fishermen/ charters should also be regulated or illegal.

These are much more practical approaches. Make people work for their fish/ bait. Call me crazy, but isn’t that the way it was supposed to be. Be knowledgeable and skilled to target certain specific species.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ed Carroll

1192 Middletown Ave

Northford, CT 06472

eddiecarroll05@gmail.com

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:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] Striped Bass Comments
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 4:05:23 PM

From: Capt. TJ Karbowski <tedkarbowski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:09 AM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Comments

Status Quo.

More stripers than ever where there is available forage.

These surfcaster fly guys that only fish within 10 feet from shore or with kayaks are looking for fish in the wrong places. It's like saying the human population is down if you only look in empty restaurants. THERE IS NO BUNKER! These fish have been eating butterfish and squid!

MENHADEN NEED THE ATTENTION. - NO CLOSED SEASONS. NOT NECESSARY!

Thank you,
Capt. TJ Karbowski
Rock & Roll Charters
Clinton, CT
203.314.3765
https://rockandrollcharters.com/

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:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] Disappointed
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 4:04:57 PM

From: RomanAround5246 <romanaround5246@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 6:57 AM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: RE: [External] Disappointed

Hi Emilie,

Thank You for getting back to me and sending me that information. Thank You for giving us the chance to voice our opinions on these key issues and all the hardwork that has gone into it.
I sent one email and I found some of my other notes that I wanted to add. Everyone should have the same total length, 28 to under 31 inches with no exception going to anyone. CB 1, I agree with and that is 20 to 23 inch minimum. I believe that a No Harvest for the State of Connecticut should be Wave 2 but I believe that there should be a No Target in the months of July and August. We have an issue with Sandbar Sharks so even if you had it designated as a No Harvest, the Striped Bass would not survive because they come up half eaten. Do you know if the Technical Committee has ever put that into the equation for the 9%? Or has the board ever looked at this situation? I personally think that every state needs to be looked at individually on the best way to make effective decisions. Connecticut does not share the best seasons like New Jersey so making Conservative measures the same for both of them doesn't make sense. And one last question, how hard are you supposed to squeeze the tail? Especially on the even tails? And with the tape measures, do you lay it on the fish because when our DEEP measures it on a board, they get different measurements. Thank You again.

Sincerely,

Roman Dudus

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Z Flip3 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

From:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Public Hearings
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 4:04:31 PM

From: RomanAround5246 <romanaround5246@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:11 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Public Hearings

Hi Emilie,

First, Thank You and your staff for all the hardwork that you did. I would also say Thank You for giving us the opportunity to ask questions so that we can better form our opinions but that did not happen. I tried to raise my hand during the question portion and it did not work. I was talking with someone on the help side during this meeting and they could not fix the problem. Instead of relaying my questions, they wasted my time and nothing got accomplished. It makes me wonder about the validity of these meetings like several people brought. I never got to ask one question in all of these hearings!! Maybe it's time to get a better company to have these on?
I noticed that you only had one plan for measuring striped bass, pinching the tail? What happen to measuring it from snout to tail without squeezing the tail? That was mentioned as one of the options early on when these meetings started but was never brought up again. I am for this because I was at a boat launch recently and I noticed the difference in length with the strength of a Enforcement Officer compared to an eight year old girl. Also, Enforcement Officers were placing the fish on a measurement board and come up with one number and then using the tape measure to measure the top with the curvature of the body came up with another. Trying to squeeze the fish and use a tape measure either on top of underneath is a bigger joke!! I noticed that this has never been brought up? This is my choice choice, measure on a board under the fish with no manipulation of the fish for total length and it should be the same for every state, no exception.
Everyone should be taking a 12% reduction!! No letting the Commercial Sector slide. I am tired of certain states claiming that their tags are made and sent out for the first of the year and they don't have the personnel to get this accomplished. Go back and check your notes to see home many times this comment was made, it's like a broken record. It's funny how these states want these final meetings held in October so they can use this excuse and nobody sees it!! The simple fix is to have the Commercial Boats return enough tags to reach the average weight of a slot fish for that 12% cut!! It's that simple. The meetings are held every year so the numbers can be adjusted the following year.

Also, the fish should be tagged at point of harvest. This excuse of safety doesn't wash. If it wasn't safe to tag fish, then it wasn't to safe to be out there. I remember in the past when someone was making a video of a Commercial Boat off North Carolina with a bunch of 30 pound dtripers floating behind them so they could keep the bigger fish that were caught afterwards. I also hear the complaint about it being their livelihood but you know what, if you took striped bass off the table, they would just move on to another species like in my state with the lobster closure and pulling gear out of the water for a month, they are moving on to bluefish.
As for the States, Rhode Island should not be in the same group as Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The catch rate and season in Rhode Island is not even close to that of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. It is closer to that of Connecticut and New York. The No Target time frames would never be in tune with all these states. Connecticut and New York need to be the same because they share the same body of water. Some idiot made some species regulations different and it makes for confusion big time. Just like the states that border the Chesapeake Bay, why do they have different regulations to fish the same body of water? It makes no sense. We need the new baseline with a fifteen percent buffer added to it.
Just wondering if anyone really looked at these waves to state and their issues. We have had a problem with sandbar sharks in July and August. Alot of stripers are killed so I am wondering what is the mortality rate during that time. I believe that if there was a No Target, it should be during this time. That option is not available. The closest would be wave 2 and 5 so that is what I would choose and with a RI thru NC.
This is what I could kind of choose because I was not able to ask any questions. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Roman Dudus

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Z Flip3 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

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From:	Dane Hoeffer
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 4:00:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a charter boat captain any closure would have a major negative impact financially. There are large numbers of striped bass all over. Need to look at Block Island and Montauk to see how well the population is doing!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Dane Hoeffer

610 Ives Row

Cheshire, CT 06410

dane9195@yahoo.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:44:51 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Will Carta

Email

willdcarta@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

I am in favor of NO HARVEST closures that ALLOWS catch and release fishing.

I also do not agree with the committees claim that if there was a no target closure that anglers would simply take the same number of trips but targeting different species. This is simply not true. I work a 2 jobs and long hours often times 7 days a week - many days the only time I have to fish is 5am-8am or 6pm-9pm for example. The sunrise or sunset windows. I fish those hours before or after long days because of how special striped bass fishing is. It is the hunt for the trophy size striped bass, the thrill of the fight. It is an experience you can not get from any other species. I am not going to get up at the crack of dawn or sacrifice sleep while fishing at night for Scup, Black Sea Bass, Tautog, or Bluefish. I'll fish for those on the rare times I have a day off. I estimate my fishing trips would be cut by 75%-90% during a no target Striped Bass closure.

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From: Toby Lapinski
To: Comments
Cc: Emilie Franke
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Comments
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:35:29 PM

I would like to submit the following on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

My name is Toby Lapinski. I am a recreational angler from the State of Connecticut. I have been an active participant in the recreational striped bass fishery for more than 40 years. I hold one of the ASMFC's Advisory Panel seats for the State of Connecticut. I am a member of the American Sportfishing Association where I sit on several committees including Government Affairs, Saltwater East, and Freshwater. I previously held the position of Managing Editor of the New England edition of *The Fisherman Magazine*. I currently hold the position of Editor in Chief at *Fishing Tackle Retailer Magazine* and *The Fishing Wire.* I am co-host of *The Surfcast Podcast*, which primarily discusses topics of fishing for striped bass and receives more than 5,000 downloads per week. I have authored many hundreds of articles on fishing for striped bass, both from shore and by boat, for more than 25 years as a freelance writer for a variety of both regional and national publications. I have been featured as a guest speaker at a variety of club meetings, seminars, events, and regional fishing shows from Massachusetts through New Jersey.

While I commend the ASMFC for offering the Survey Monkey option for submitting comments, and I would like to see this option continue for all future public comment sessions, please add an option to provide comments above and beyond each line item. As the survey was set up, respondents could only make a selection or provide a comment on the listed items, not both as I have done below.

Thank you.

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

Option B. Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition

NOTES: There should be consistency across all States on this matter. If an angler cannot accurately measure a fish to ensure compliance for harvest based on how and where they are fishing, as has been a reason for opposition to the methods for measurement as set forth in Option B, then they should not consider harvesting said fish.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

Option B. Point of Harvest

NOTES: As shown in Table 6 of the Draft Addendum, 3 States require tagging at point of sale, 4 at point of harvest, and 1 at both. This shows that there is no reason a State's commercial fishermen cannot change to a different method despite those opposing change

citing supposed problems in the other method. Theoretically, point of harvest tagging should reduce poaching which is why I chose this method. Unfortunately, it has been proven repeatedly that an angler choosing to circumvent the law will find a way to do so regardless of the law. Despite this, I feel that consistency across all States should be achieved on this matter, and with most States currently tagging at point of harvest, this option makes the most sense.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

Option C. New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer

NOTES: No additional comments.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

Option B01: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%

No position taken as to the CB fishery.

NOTES: Reductions should be spread evenly across all user groups. There should not be a mode split for striped bass with an exception made for the for-hire industry as there is currently no mandatory reporting and catch data being collected for all for-hire vessels. While there is reporting currently being done by Federally permitted vessels, this is not required for striped bass by those captains who do not operate in Federal waters. If the for-hire sector wishes to seek a mode split, I would only be in favor of this action under the condition that there was a strict quota enacted with mandatory reporting and sufficient penalties for failure to comply as is the case in the commercial fishery.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding Ocean Season Closures

I support a no-harvest (catch-and-release-only) closure.

NOTES: While a no-harvest closure comes with a longer closed season than that of a no-target closure, it has been stated by the law enforcement committee of the ASMFC that such closures are generally unenforceable. Further, as was my comment in the Commercial Tagging item, an angler so choosing to circumvent the law will find a way to do so regardless of the law meaning that some anglers will continue to target striped bass but claim their intent was to target a different species such as bluefish, black sea bass, etc. A perfect example of this occurs in the EEZ where targeting striped bass is illegal yet there are countless numbers of boats targeting striped bass with little fear of recourse.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding Closures for 12% Reduction for All Modes Region Splits

No selection for notes below

NOTES: The option to make the ocean fishery regional split demarcation line the State of

Rhode Island is a poor choice in as much as determining equitable burden of reduction. The only grouping options presented are 1) ME – MA/ RI – NC and 2) ME – RI/CT – NC. It was stated at the Connecticut public hearing on September 15 in Old Lyme that these two options were selected because NY needed to have the same season as NJ, and NY had to have the same season as CT, both because of adjoining waters. However, when RI becomes the line of demarcation, it too has common waters with MA, CT, and NY so this rationale quickly becomes nullified as there is no viable way for adjoining States not to share waters with another State that received different closure dates. Further, by grouping States from NJ south with any New England States, with each wave closure option, the burden of reduction falls squarely on one group of States while the others within said grouping experience very little burden. Based on the real-world level of angling pressure, I feel that a far better demarcation line would have been the Hudson River making the northern group of ME – NY and the southern group of NJ – NC. While it is not perfect, and there would remain some level of higher burden on some States as opposed to others, this regional breakdown reflects a far more equitable option.

GENERAL COMMENTS: I have been extremely conflicted with this current round of public hearings and comments for Draft Addendum III, specifically relating to 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding. While I do not oppose taking a cautionary approach to management in response to and based on accurate and reliable science and data, the proposed management options fail to address one of the largest problems facing striped bass at this time, recruitment. While in theory more adult striped bass should produce an equally elevated level of juvenile fish, this has shown not to be the case. Further, in years when the total striped bass population was extremely low, we have seen extremely high levels of recruitment and vice versa. By exclusively addressing harvest and putting all management effort into how many fish are left swimming in the ocean, the ASMFC is focused on the wrong problem. Until energy is put into figuring out why the striped bass is not producing robust year classes, year after year, any effort to protect the remaining adult striped bass will eventually be nullified.

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: George Baldwin
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Addendum III Striped Bass
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:32:54 PM

I am writing in support of tightening our belts and further reducing striped bass fishing mortality by at least another 14%. I would really prefer a 60% chance of rebuilding by 2029, rather than the 50% chance currently supported. I'm a surfcaster and, like most people I know, have seen a pretty steady decline in the fishery since about 2012. I'm aware that many boat fishermen claim that the numbers are great, even better than ever, but this is definitely not the case with most people I hear from. And that's a lot of people. I was president of the Connecticut Surfcasters Association for 5 terms recently, am a moderator on a fishing website with two thousand members, and have regular contact with tens of thousands of New England Fishermen through various Facebook fishing sites and other social media.

Many boat fishermen have the luxury of greater mobility and can frequent the deep (relaitvely) offshore reefs where the optimal feeding habitats lie. When the populations decline, they don't thin out evenly throughout the same size range, but shrink back to those optimal habitats. When numbers increase, they spill over to less optimal habitat, including our shorelines and surf zones. That's where they are accessible to surfcasters, and also to those who don't have the economic means to access those fish in the deeper, far-from-shore waters. I do believe that there are National Standards that must be met when determining fisheries regulations. Standard #7 says " Take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities by utilizing economic and social data". Our urban centers along the coast have high numbers of people who are socio-economically disadvantaged, and fish for striped bass to help feed their families. They would be disproportionately affected by allowing our fishery to further diminish. Surfcasting hotspots such as Cape Cod and Cuttyhunk Island, Martha's Vineyard, Montauk and Long Island, the Jersey Shore and other spots have also been negatively affected.

I also teach at a school on New Haven Harbor, and run an after school fishing club for high school students. Up until about eight years ago, we could take out a boat and find stripers in any of a dozen spots on New Haven Harbor for our kids to cast to, at any time from early September to late November or early December. We'd have literally thousands of fish along the eastern side of the harbor in November for several weeks. That has steadily decreased, and we found less than a half dozen last year. We've taken up bottom fishing for scup, juvenile black sea bass and some infrequent summer flounder the past 6 years.

I run an event called Demo Day for the CT Surfcasters Association. We have 40 tables with vendors who make and sell fishing lures, plug bags, rods and reels and other surfcasting equipment. If the stripers get any scarcer, these people will be losing a lot of income. We've already seen the closure of many tackle shops throughout the region.

In light of the recent 7 years of poor recruitment in the Chesapeake Bay, 2 years in the Hudson, blue catfish invasion and predation in the Bay, loss of spawning habitat, polluted waters and multiple warming-related problems, I urge you to act wisely and move to conserve this great and valuable fishery so that it may survive to benefit future generations of fishermen, including my grandchildren and students.

Thank you,

George R. Baldwin
(203)605-0443
baldwingr@yahoo.com

My Recommendations:
3.1 Method to Measure Total Length:

RECOMMENDATION: 3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: Reduce black market risks.
RECOMMENDATION: Commercial Tagging Option B – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: Simplify seasons, shift closures for better compliance/enforcement.

RECOMMENDATION: Chesapeake Bay Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution (propose at hearings). We have more news on this to be released in the upcoming weeks.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals

Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.

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From:	Eric Jennings
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 9:10:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been a striped bass angler in New England for well over 2 decades now the increased restrictions on striped bass have made it increasingly difficult to keep fish especially from shore lately the reason myself and others have been struggling to even keep fish is because every one is over slot, there is no reason to limit us even further when the true harm to striped bass populations are poachers and commercial fisherman who will continue to take smaller fish while not giving a damn about how it hurts recreational angles.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Eric Jennings

1001 Naugatuck Ave

Milford, CT 06461

ericj9610@yahoo.com

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From:	Duane Lane
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 8:00:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Why always the recreational fisherman? What about the net draggers that catch,kill release? I've seen miles of dead fish including mixed size stripers float dead as the boats pulled the nets. Your only hurting the recreational angler who pays for a fishing license he can't use. If your gonna shut it down don't be selective shut it down for everyone or leave it alone.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Duane Lane

180 Cheshire Rd

Meriden, CT 06451

duanelane73@gmail.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:54:14 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
R Ramos
Email
ramosray007@comcast.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
As a recreational fly angler & In-Shore Fly Fishing Guide I am concerned about the future of our striped bass. To the point that I have reduced and cancelled most of my guiding trips dramaticaly. I am coming close to not fishing for striped bass at all. It would be more responsible for the ASMFC to make more of an honest effort to accomplish rebuilding these goals. I would also like to see No For-Hire Exemptions in the addendum. I support the following: 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean

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From:	Ant Charnetski
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:30:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I myself work in the fishing industry and this fishery allows me to pay for me and my family to live. To shut down targeting all together would have a massive impact on our business and countless other local business's that rely on this fishery to provide for them and their families.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ant Charnetski

36 Woodvale Rd

West Haven, CT 06516

anthony@gameonlures.com

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: Liam Rosati
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:51:41 PM

Dear ASMFC,

Thank you for another opportunity to voice my concerns regarding the waning striped bass fishery.

I'm in favor of the following:

3.1: Option B
3.2 Option B
3.3 Option A
3.4 Option A

In the future, I look forward to more impactful measures being implemented.

Regards,

Liam Rosati

Liam Rosati ><(((((*>

PO Box 872, Old Lyme, CT 06371, USA
Tel 800-628-1447 (US) 860-434-9624
Fax 860-434-8605
Email: Liam@angleradventures.com
Website: www.angleradventures.com

Facebook: http://facebook.com/angleradventures Blog: http://angleradventures.wordpress.com/

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From:	David Gendreau
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:10:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

My son and I have been using a recreational guide in CT for the last 5 years and have not seen any change in the numbers of fish. The only damage you would be doing is hurting the small guides and the families that enjoy fishing.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

David Gendreau

159 Lake Shore Dr

Lebanon, CT 06249

dmgtax@comcast.net

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: myden52585@aol.com
To: Comments; Emilie Franke
Subject: [External] Addendum3 Comments
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:05:50 PM

Ms. Franke:

My name is Marc Berger, owner / Capt. of Lucky Strike Charters, Niantic, CT.

Contrary to the options listed in Addendum 3, I propose an alternative option of an increase in the striped bass slot limit to 28"-33" for the "For Hire" sector with NO closures for the following reasons.

1] By being out on the water every day, I see just how large the striped bass population actually is, not a guestimate and it is robust!

2] There is significant recruitment that your data is not showing that is happening in several rivers in the NE including but not limited to The CT, Housatonic and Thames.

3] AFMSC has said that EMRIP has over estimated harvest by as much as 30-40%.

4] EMRIP's data shows "For Hire" harvesting only 3%, causing minimal impact while Catch & Release dead discard mortality accounts for 9% of the removals.

5] Slot limits provide for self-limiting removal as juveniles age out of the slot and add to the SSB.

6] It would be impossible to time any closures fairly [targeted or harvest] as striped bass arrive at different areas at different times.

Therefore, if this option cannot be implemented the ASMFC needs to vote for Status Quo until the next stock assessment is completed.

Lastly RI needs to be aligned with CT & NY as we are all so closely graphically aligned.

Capt. Marc Berger

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:	Michael Roy
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 3:00:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a full time Captain, I I own Reel Cast Charters and also have four other captains that work for me.Status quo is necessary as another reduction will have no significant impact on this fishery. We have a healthy abundant striped bass population fishery in Connecticut. You need to focus on the real problems and that is why are they not spawning, commercial netting of Menhaden, commercial netting of striped bass in spawning areas, invasive predators such as blue catfish, and shark depredation, which has become a massive problem with the brown shark population exploding in the northeast.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Michael Roy

76-2 River St W

North Westchester, CT 06474

captainmike@reelcastcharters.com

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:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] Amendment and Adendum
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:59:49 AM

From: Phillip Sheffield <bonefishmon@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:24 AM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Amendment and Adendum

Good morning Emile. I'm going to keep this simple. I used to live for catching and releasing striped bass as a livelihood as a shore guide in CT and RI. I gave up guiding last fall as it was too difficult to find striped bass from shore for my clients. I have a policy unlike many other shore guides. If we do not see or catch a striped bass during a trip there is no charge for my services. I refuse to go through the arduous task of choosing options and simply request that ASMFC board declare a no harvest moratorium starting immediately and a no target during the winter.
Sent from the

Sincerely,

Phillip F. Sheffield
12 Nauyaug point Road
Mystic, Ct. 06355all new AOL app for iOS

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:	Steve Danis
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:10:16 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

It's hard enough to catch slot fish as it is. I have been a Charter for years and it's making it more difficult to catch anything these days. Closure to BFT prematurely, fluke, sea bass are full of short fish very hard to sell productive fishing trips.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Steve Danis

354 Mohegan Park Rd

Norwich, CT 06360

scrdanis@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:20:29 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Waz
Email
robwaz@hotmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
In America, laws are supposed to be the same for all people, regardless of wealth. You should not be able to pay a fee to avoid laws. However, that is precisely what happens in fisheries management. Commercial and charter operations pay a fee and get to abide by different regulations. If regulations are needed to save a species and you can avoid these by paying a fee, then the species health is essentially for sale. If improving the health of the species is the true goal and the proposed regulations are necessary to save the species, then everyone must follow the same regulations. Keeping the draggers far from shore and protecting forage fish (menhaden) would unquestionably help the health of the Striped Bass population. Failing to address these dangers to the fishery is just further evidence the health of the fishery is for sale.

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:	Ross Bourdeau
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:50:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Hello, My name is Ross Bourdeau. I am an independent angler for Connecticut. I believe a long with many other anglers from my region that the status quo is the most reasonable choice to make in order to protect the population of striped bass. While I could talk about the money I have spent, time I have put in and sleep I've lost to target these fish, I won't. My case for the status quo is based purely on the love I have for these fish. Striped bass hold a special place in the hearts of many North eastern anglers, giving me as long as many others, something to look forward to year after year. This is a love and passion that has been cultivated only by getting up close to these fish in person. I feel that if we remove the recreational anglers ability to chase these fish then instead of putting only businesses and commercial fishing boats at risk, we are putting the whole ecosystem in which these fish depend on at stake. Activism is cultivated through experience, and in angling this is equally true. The track is simple. If people can't get outside and appreciate these fish, and the environment they inhabit, then they won't feel an urge to protect it. "No target" in my personal opinion would disconnect many avid anglers from the creatures and coasts that drive the movement for environmental activism. With a "no target" closure, we also run the risk of the next generation of anglers not coming to appreciate the fish and the fishery as a whole.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ross Bourdeau

86 Laurel Ln

Simsbury, CT 06070

rossbourdeau7@gmail.com

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:	Rob Nielsen
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:00:18 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been fishing for 20 years for striped bass. There is an abundance of striped bass in the waters of Long Island sound like there never used to be. The local population and health is booming. The migration patterns have changed and fish are further north than ever before. Sampling needs to be done in areas other than the Chesapeake which is dying due to a multitude of reasons including invasive species.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Rob Nielsen

8 Briar Ct

Rocky Point, NY 11778

rnielsen993@gmail.com

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:	William Fox
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 4:46:06 PM

Hello, my name is William Fox Jr, I live in Middletown CT, 06457,
I fish for striped bass about 40 to 60 nights a year.
Here are my comments:
3.1- I support Option B A mandatory why of measuring the fish.

3.2- I support Option C Commercial tagging at point of landing the fish.

3.3- I support Option C with a request to increase the buffer to 15% or more

3.4- I support Option B-01. any closures should only be no harvest closers. No target closers as we know are not able enforce.

Thank You - William Fox
Connecticut Surfcasters Association

Virus-free.www.avast.com

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:	Adam Poetto
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 4:00:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Keep the striper regulations the way they are. 1 fish 28-31 in. No need to change anything. This management option is already working at a positive rate.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Adam Poetto

44 Glastonbury Hunt Ln

South Glastonbury, CT 06073

poettoap@gmail.com

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: Collin Kilroy
To: Comments
Cc: Connor Kilroy; Charles Emel; Theo Dumas
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Draft Addendum III, Opposing No-Targeting Closures
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:35:39 AM

Public Comment on Draft Addendum III, Opposing No-Targeting Closures

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Striped Bass Management Board,

I am writing to formally submit my public comment in opposition to the proposed "no-targeting" closures for striped bass under Draft Addendum III. I am an active recreational angler in Long Island Sound and a concerned member of the coastal fishing community. I believe this measure is ill-conceived and will have a detrimental impact on both the fishery and the thousands of businesses and livelihoods that depend on it.

While I fully support the goal of rebuilding the striped bass stock by 2029 and understand the need for conservation, no-targeting closures are not the appropriate mechanism to achieve this goal for the following reasons:

- **Enforcement is impractical and creates a compliance nightmare.** A no-targeting rule is nearly impossible to enforce effectively. Anglers fishing for other species, such as bluefish or fluke, often catch striped bass as bycatch. This proposal would place an undue burden on law enforcement and force anglers into an impossible position where accidental catches could lead to citations.

- **The measure is not based on sound scientific evidence.** Previous discussions and data have failed to provide clear scientific justification that demonstrates a benefit to the fishery from a complete no-targeting approach. Instead, this measure is likely to cause pain to the fishing community without a guaranteed conservation gain. Other options, such as catch-and-release only seasons or adjusted slot limits, are more targeted and have a clearer conservation benefit. As well as fixing the issues with Commercial quotas

- **The economic impact would be devastating.** A no-targeting closure would negatively affect charter boat operators, fishing guides, tackle shops, and bait suppliers, many of which are small businesses. During closure periods, these businesses would lose a significant portion of their income, threatening their survival. For many, a closure of the striped bass fishery during peak season would be catastrophic.

- **It punishes the recreational sector disproportionately.** Recreational anglers

have already made significant sacrifices for the health of the striped bass stock. A no-targeting closure places an enormous burden on this community while other factors impacting the fishery, such as environmental conditions, are not addressed by this regulation. It has been years since I kept a striped bass for the table.

- **It undermines conservation efforts by alienating anglers.** The recreational fishing community is one of the strongest advocates for striped bass conservation. Implementing an extreme and unenforceable rule could erode angler buy-in and cooperation with fisheries management, ultimately hurting long-term conservation goals. Maintaining reasonable access to the fishery, even if only for catch-and-release, keeps anglers engaged and invested in the health of the stock.

Instead of a no-targeting approach, I urge the Board to explore alternative measures that are more equitable, enforceable, and scientifically sound. Seasonal, no-harvest periods (catch-and-release only), or further modifications to slot limits are more pragmatic alternatives that allow anglers to remain on the water and support the fishery's economic infrastructure while still reducing fishing mortality.
Thank you for considering my comments and for your commitment to the future of the striped bass fishery.
Sincerely,
Collin Kilroy
Fairfield County, CT resident

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:	HENRY VON DER LINDEN
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 3:20:18 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Additional seasonal closures are not needed. Strict recreational fishery management using a narrow slot limit has effectively lowered fishing mortality to a 30-year low which is well below both the target and threshold needed for rebuilding.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

HENRY VON DER LINDEN

120 Florence Ln

Fairfield, CT 06824

avonderlinde@bloomberg.net

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:	Arthur Ravit
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 28, 2025 8:20:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I fish 5-6 days a week and spend thousands of dollars a year on equipment supporting local tackle shops. Shutting down all fishing, eben catch and release, will be detrimental to these businesses. I keep maybe 2-3 fish to eat, and release everything else.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Arthur Ravit

4 Vikings Ct

Bohemia, NY 11716

catcha50@aol.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 9:15:43 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
thomas vaccaro
Email
popsbasement@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
there should be no bait fishing in rivers the treble hook should be illegal and poaching should be severely enforced

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 8:39:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Fred Conti
Email
fred.conti@comcast.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
I have been fishing for striped bass in eastern Long island Siund & Rhode Island For over fifty years. The last few years have been very enjoyable for catch & release fisherman. Continuing our current regulations will maintain the fishery & continue to provide recreational opportunities to a broad cross section of our citizens.

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From:	todd bruno
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Striped Bass
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:49:44 PM

To whom it may concern. Can someone look into the overfishing of menhaden in the east coast. Seems like every year there are less fish around. I remember back in 2020 you could literally walk on water there were so many menhaden in the water. Also leave status quo per the striped bass regulations. Thank you,Todd Bruno Southington Ct

Sent from my iPhone

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From:	George Robinson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 2:50:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Do not further restrict fishing policies currently in place.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals. Recreational anglers have supported conservation of our fisheries, and as such, the fishery has become healthy. If anything removing forage fish such as bunker by Canadian commercial netting, should be dis-allowed.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

George Robinson

760 Harbour Isle Ct

West Palm Beach, FL 33410

grobinson@sjys.com

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:	Steve Culton
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Comments on Atlantic Striped Bass Addendum III
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 1:26:56 PM

To whom it may concern,

My vote for the current issues/options is:

3.1 Measuring Striped Bass. I am in favor of Option B
3.2 Commercial Tagging: I am in favor of Option B
3.3 Chesapeake Bay Seasonal Baseline: I am in favor of Option C
3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals: I am in favor of Option B-01 for Ocean

What's more, I am opposed to for-hire exemptions. We must be all in this together. The needs of the for-hire cohort are not greater than the needs of the recreational angler.

I'm also deeply concerned with what looks like slow-to-act practive by the ASMFC. You're supposed to be accountable for the striper biomass. It's the worst I've experienced in the last 20 years. If the rebuilding of the striper stock fails, we must go to moratorium status.

The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

Thank you,

Steve Culton
255 Haddam Quarter Road
Durham, CT 06422
swculton@yahoo.com
860-918-0228

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:	Albert HAMON Jr, JR
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 11:10:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I would like to see a striper stamp needed to fish for striped bass, like the trout stamp we have in CT. Take these funds and establish a striped bass "nursery" to increase spawning success until stocks are back to healthy status. I live in New England and if all New England states anglers(commercial and recreational) contribute we should be able to establish.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Albert HAMON Jr

11 Fedus Dr

Colchester, CT 06415

alhamon8727@yahoo.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:59:13 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Albert HAMON Jr
Email
alhamon8727@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I support no harvest for striped bass (recreational and commercial). Allow 1 striped bass kept if unable to release unharmed.(ie excessive bleeding where bass floats up on top and is apparent it will not survive- take picture of floating bass to prove if needed to enforcement authorities). Keep closed seasons the same for Chesapeake Bay area

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 4:16:08 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Galen Donovan

Email

22229DANCERGUY@GMAIL.COM

State

Connecticut

Comment

Hi there, my name is Galen Donovan. I'm a surf fisherman, kayak fisherman, and all around recreational striped bass fishing enthusiast.
My choice at this time would be to maintain the current slot limit of 28"-31" and 1 fish per angler per day, OR introduce a common "no harvest closure" into part of the season for all striper coast states, while maintaining the above regulations the rest of the season. My concern in regards to the proposed plans in draft addendum III are mostly due to inconsistency across the recreational and commercial sectors. If one side is limited, the other should be limited more as well. I feel that commercial regulations should be looked at just as seriously as recreational regulations.
I DO NOT support a "No target closure" to striped bass seasons for recreational anglers. I do however strongly support a "no harvest closure" to parts of striped bass seasons for recreational anglers, and continued promotion of safe handling practices and proper catch and release information to ensure healthy revival of fish upon release.
And I feel it is of the utmost importance to have consistency across all striper coast states. Differing regs from state to state seems incredibly problematic and I would like to see consistent regulations across the board.

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: Mark Lentine
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:23:29 PM

Let stop the madness and implement a moratorium on stripers. The science is wrong about how many bass the rec sector takes. Commercial, for hire and party boats KILL more fish then a rec guy does. They've taken some many I've seen one bass since May here in CT and it now September. There boats are full and so is their pockets. It's time to see the righting on the wall if they continue to take they will eventually put them selves out of business and then they'll really cry. Pull the band aide off and tell them to get a new job. C&R is the way to go and rebuild the stock for both bass and blues. Both fish are like unicorns now a days. You folks have to do your jobs and think of the fish not the money be smart have you not learned from previous mistakes you have already made. Stop kissing the ass of these commercial cry babies and do the right thing.

Sent from Gmail Mobile

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:	Mark Lentine
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:20:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

One word. MORATORIUM. Only thing these powers at be want to do is protect the biggest offenders the commercial, for hire and party boat cry babies. It's time to do the right thing. C&R is the way to go.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mark Lentine

7 Sunflower Cir

West Haven, CT 06516

marklentine21@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:08:03 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=ULDRCMJUAF8RQFCC155A6BLRJK&trk_sid=MHSFA1QODDD0JKVHTL53OJMTD0&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO
Name
Mark Lentine
Email
marklentine21@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Let's instill a moratorium for at least 5 years. No harvest of any kind, some shops will close and business will lose money. Commercial, for hire and party boats just take/kill fish period. They can go find a new job doing something else. A rec guy may kill 1 out of every 9/10 fish but at least fish are given a chance to live. The other sector doesn't give a bass that chance. This should also include bluefish yes bluefish. Both fish are killed for money, the commercial sector does nothing to contribute to the well bing of bass and blues. They just take kill and move on. Let wake up and smell the coffee and stop killing these resources. Do the right thing and let's see a moratorium till things get better.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:24:55 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=HT5NRN06HN5HAJ7P6EIPK8S624&trk_sid=AB0MBJVQBIH5DC9A649VI7QIGO&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO
Name
Mike Bailey
Email
baileymike519@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Keep the restrictions as they are. There are many other factors outside of recreational fishing that could be addressed.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:14:06 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=4A42UQ4VQ176R9ECIUTUDR8KN8&trk_sid=AHVFHMSFMH2UMIDE1IVRRHIV48&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO

Name

ERICK H

Email

erick.m.holmes@gmail.com

State

Connecticut

Comment

Let's stop Commercial fishing for Stripe bass and leave it to on recreational with the same limits of 1 perday. As much as I understand Commercial fisherman need to survive and provide for their families, they are hurting the recreational anglers. If you close one species you increase for another species to start winding down. In all honesty I dont know what good solution there is for this. Commercial fisherman blame the recreational anglers the recreational anglers blame the Commercial fisherman. Its a never ending back and forth with no real solution that benefits both Commerical and recreational anglers.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:30:32 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Popp
Email
mpopp70@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
It is imperative that we do not close the season for a striped bass the activity provides positive activity for many people. I'm all for a no kill of the striped bass. Remember, the real value in the striped bass is not the meat it's the fun and the revenue that it brings in for many people and businesses.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 8:24:04 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kenneth Manzari
Email
manzari@att.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
I support support the following: ocean option O1 (28-31" slot; CB3 (same size, 12% reduction in season length). I strongly oppose the following: option O2; option CB2. The fact that this is happening again is inexcusable and disgusting! Both commercial and recreational fisherman must contribute to the rebuilding. Additionally, something must also be done to reduce the tens of millions of menhaden caught each year! Thanks for the opportunity to participate. Ken

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 6:41:30 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Mark Gilroy
Email
markngilroy@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Thank you all for the time and complex level of analysis of the stripped bass population. I am a recreation angler in CT who primarily targets stripped bass from the shore with fly tackle. I exclusively practice catch and release fishing. I am seeing markedly fewer stripped bass in the last several years and feel that we need to make a change. I full support no harvest closures for recreational anglers, coupled with a significant (ie larger than 12%) reduction in commercial fisheries. I do not support a no-target closure both given difficulties relating to enforcement (how can you say Im not targeting blue fish) and the significant impact that would have on local business and communities in my state. Thank you again for your time.

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: B8nTackle
To: Comments
Cc: Emilie Franke
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III (Represent CT)
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 8:45:27 AM

I've attended the Rhode Island and New York hybrid Striped Bass Draft Addendum III public hearings. At the time, Connecticut did not offer a hybrid. Both were informative offering good platforms for discussion and exchange of thoughts. The following are my comments for the record.

1. **Method to measure total length: Option A.**
   Tip of snout to tip of tail. No Squeeze.(Status Quo)
   The less time handling a I've fish in a moving boat, the less risk of injury.
2. **Commercial tagging point of tagging: Option B.**
   Point of harvest.
   More secure and fewer opportunities for manipulation.
3. **Maryland Chesapeake Bay recreational baseline: Option C.**
   Best option due to uncertainty of upcoming weak year classes.
4. **In favor of No-Harvest Closure.**
   Support Law Enforcement's sensible claim of 'best practice' to enforce regulation.
5. **Reduction in fishery removals: Option B.**
   Reduction of 12% reduction for both commercial and recreational sectors.
6. **Size limit: Option 01.**
   Status Quo slot limit of 28" to 31" for all.
7. **Ocean: Coastwise/Regional closure.**
   All states in a region/coastwise should have the same closure dates.
   Both RI and CT should be part of Mid-Atlantic region.
   Chesapeake Bay closures by state (MD, VA) and PRFC and DC choose their closures during the same wave as MD and VA.

Note: Both CT and RI would benefit from being included in the Ocean: Mid-Atlantic Region due to striped bass migration patterns, how the numbers would be less skewed in those states favor and ultimately be more beneficial to overall stock biomass fisheries management.

Comments submitted by:
Jerry Morgan
ASMFC/ACCSP
Recreational Advisor (CT)

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 8:08:26 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dean Heinrich
Email
deanheinrich@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
The proposed regulations on the Stripe Bass industry will do irreputable harm to many of the businesses I frequent. In fact it will financially devastate them. As a recreational fisherman for the last 45 years, I've rarely seen such a strong fishery. You already have very strict regulations which I'm fine with given myself and all my fishing buddies are catch and release anyway. You must reconsider these new proposed regulations. They will hurt too many small businesses. Thank you

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:38:06 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Sam Alsop
Email
sam.twosuns@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I feel that striper populations will be best served by a no harvest moratorium

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:41:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Darrell Bumbala

Email

bumbala357@optonline.net

State

Connecticut

Comment

I understand 100% what we are trying to accomplish but a “No Target” will be harsh on all small local businesses in all states. I would support a no harvest with season closure effective November 15 to April 1st with another closed season during the hotter months of July1 to September 15th. I live along the Housatonic River in Connecticut which has an abundance of hold over Stripe Bass during the winter months and are constantly pressured and poached during this period so a closure during this time would help.
Best Regards,
Darrell Bumbala

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 6:13:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Mark Riser
Email
markriser@yahoo.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option C (only because there is some indication of safety concerns with Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B. all reductions should come from no-harvest closures Ocean slot should be the same for all (B-01) Chesapeake Bay slot should be 20-23" for all (CB1) All reductions should come from no-harvest closures for the number of days required to meet the 12% reduction. If closing all locations for harvest for Wave 3 & Wave 6 gets the reduction, that should be the policy. Rhode Island should be considered part of New England

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:21:14 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Matt Byrnes
Email
mattbyrnes4@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I am in favor for a 12% reduction and reduction should come from a no-harvest closure rather than a no-target closure. The right thing to do.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 4:10:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Lloyd
Email
lloydslures2010@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
I'm am in support of no harvest rather than no target.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 4:07:56 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Alex Krasniewski
Email
zuthhfever@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
This is a terrible idea id rather not be able to harvest. This is going to demolish what little bait shops we have left

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 4:03:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Amanda Nicholas
Email
amandanicholas736@comcast.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
Please change this to no harvest vs no Target!!! I am a catch and release angler!

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:	Jerry Tshontikidis
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:20:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Why is it that the recreational angler is burdened with management when the commercial fisheries are harvesting the majority of the fish? We don't fish every day, and, when we do fish, we keep one between 19" and 24". If we keep one at all!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jerry Tshontikidis

7101 Crabbury Ct

Clarksville, MD 21029

jerrytshon@gmail.com

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: Roman Dudus
To: Comments
Subject: [External] 12% Reduction and C on Maryland with 15% Buffer
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 6:40:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have noticed the decline in the Striped Bass population in Connecticut. I hear everyone stating that the population of fish is good and pictures of themselves holding up large fish. The failure of them and ASMFC Council is that there are a lack of smaller fish and all they want to do is kick the proverbial can down the road. After a few years of doing this, the ASMFC has finally realized that their inability to get anything accomplished has brought us to this point. With a 12% reduction that everyone is complaining about, only brings us to a 50% chance of obtaining the goal set for for 2029. If the ASMFC has done a little at a time, it wouldn't have come to this. And what happens if that 12% doesn't reach that goal this late in the game? That's what everyone needs to consider. All these people complain what about the small businesses or the commercial sector which will lose money but what if the unthinkable happens and we have to shut it down completely? Do you think the tackle shops and commercial boats will go out of busines No, they will just move on to different species. In Connecticut when the lobster fishermen and women have to pull their gear out for the closure on lobsters, do you think they just do nothing? No, they go after bluefish. And look at the lobster stock, nobody wanted to do anything to try and fix the problem in the Long Island Sound and now we have that closure with a longer length to go with the open season. It's time the ASMFC does what's right for the stock and not for greed.

I feel that a closure of Striped Bass should be based around spawning times in each state, predation with the timing of the sandbar sharks. In Connecticut, I would like to see the same regulations as New York since most of us are fishing in or close to New York waters including the closed season of January 1st to April 15th to go along with a wave 6 closure.

Sincerely,

Roman Dudus

44 Stoneheights Dr

Waterford, CT 06385

roman.b.dudus@lmco.com

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:	JOHN WATSON
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:20:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am concerned that further restriction of recreational angling for striped bass in Northeastern U.S. waters will further decrease opportunities for anglers to enjoy the sport and add economic value in the region, while providing negligible protection for the striped bass population. Instead, I urge you to enforce existing regulations. I continue to observe anglers catching and keeping multiple “shorts” in Southeast Connecticut waters, especially from shore.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

JOHN WATSON

215 Elm St

Groton, CT 06340

watsojk@comcast.net

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:	RONALD KUBAS
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:00:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been striped bass fishing for over 20 years on Long Island sound..Blue fish are around this year but stripers are not around. I can't believe further measures are being considered..

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

RONALD KUBAS

4 Patriot Cir Apt Cr

Ellington, CT 06029

rkubas@comcast.net

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: Sean Hughes
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Amendment 7 Comments
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:33:28 PM

Good Afternoon,

I am against target closures.

I AM FOR HARVEST CLOSURES ACROSS THE ENTIRE EAST COAST FOR STRIPED BASS FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

The fishery is on the verge of collapsing. I have caught more fish over 30 lbs this year than ever before. I have also never caught so few small fish, meaning a bleak future for the fishery. If we do not have the courage to close down the fishery for harvest, the great American sport fish will be gone.

Thank you for your time. I know this is not an easy decision, but you gave other proposals a shot and it has not worked.

Sean Hughes
48 Daniels Ave
Waterford, CT

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:	David Kennedy
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:40:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

ASMFC must gain the trust of recreational anglers. We do not trust your data and therefore do not trust you.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

David Kennedy

3101 Ulster Ct

Annapolis, MD 21403

kennedy.david1@att.net

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From: guy mister
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] No target is not an option
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:46:19 PM

Hello,
My name is Zachary Hintz and I own and operate Zah's Bait and Tackle / Zah's Grateful Guide Service here in Connecticut. I just wanted to reach out and make it known that we DO NOT support the no target option being explored for striped bass. It would likely close our businesses along with many other tackle shops and charter fishing services. Please keep us in mind when making your decisions, along with all the other businesses that depend on anglers targeting striped bass, such as plug builders, tackle shops, charter captains, and more! Thank you for your time and have a great afternoon.

Zachary P Hintz
Zah's Bait & Tackle / Zah's Grateful Guide Service
204 Main St, Portland, CT 06480
860-331-3684
Zahsbaitandtackle@gmail.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:13:15 PM

CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
CT Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ct-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Joseph Lederer
Email
joroledererer@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
As a longtime recreational fisherman I'm astounded at the number of comments from charter boat captains familiar with the CT and Rhode Island fisheries that the decline in menhaden is due to the commercial market for menhaden oil. Does your organization concur and if yes does it have the power to influence that fishery and to put limits on the overfishing of this striped bass food source? Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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From: Aram Berberian
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] saving the Striped Bass Fishery
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:21:05 PM

Sept 17, 2025

Commissioners,

I am writing, again, to express my concern over the dwindling striped bass fishery. I am a recreational angler fishing mostly in CT but also in MA on occasion. I have been fishing seriously, two to three times a week year round, for the past 20 years. In my opinion, the fishery is in decline, no doubt about it. The YOY numbers would support this trend. I believe the reasons are multifactorial and the ASMFC must do what it can to support the fishery in the areas where is has some control, harvesting, limits, and season closures are a few possibilities. Pollution, rising water temps, and habitat destruction may be out of your purview, so make real changes where you can.

I know there are a number of options the ASMFC is considering to help rebuild the stocks. Below are my preferences.

3.1 Measurement------Option B
3.2 Tagging---------Option B
3.3 Chesapeake Bay season baseline-----Option C
3.4 Reduction------Option B-01 for ocean

We all benefit from this resource and we should all sacrifice to maintain, preserve and rebuild this resource for future generations. Time for all of us to be responsible.

Thank you and deliberate carefully,

Aram Berberian

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From: Todd Forrest
To: Comments
Cc: Justin Davis; Matthew Gates; Robert Lafrance; Sen. Craig A. Miner; William Hyatt
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 12:30:00 PM

All:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum III of the Striped Bass Management Plan. I am a CT resident and an avid striped bass angler. I fish primarily in the western Long Island Sound, but also travel to Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York to fish for stripers. Since 2020, I have fished an average of nearly 70 days a year for stripers from a boat and from shore. I am entirely a catch and release angler. I have logged all striped bass that I and my fishing companions have caught and released since 2020. We have a observed a significant decline in the number of fish caught over that time. In 2020, we caught striped bass on 73% of our local trips. In 2024, we caught striped bass on 55% of our local trips. This year so far, we have caught striped bass on 36% of our local trips. There are fewer striped bass in the Sound and the fish that are here are experiencing significant pressure. We have squandered one of the most remarkable (and economically important) wild fish recreational fisheries in the world. It is time to act decisively.

To that end, I support the following options in Draft Addendum III:

3.1: Option B
3.2: Option C (only because there is some indication of safety concerns with Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B. all reductions should come from no-harvest closures
Ocean slot should be the same for all (B-01)
Chesapeake Bay slot should be 20-23" for all (CB1)
All reductions should come from no-harvest closures for the number of days required to meet the 12% reduction. If closing all locations for harvest for Wave 3 & Wave 6 gets the reduction, that should be the policy.
Rhode Island should be considered part of New England

thank you,

Todd Forrest

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:39:18 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brian Anisimov
Email
briananisimov@gmail.com
State
Connecticut
Comment
Hello, as someone with an environmental science and natural resource management degree, I am writing to weigh in on the subject of Addendum III to Amendment 7. 3.1 Option B Standardizing measurement of Striped Bass. 3.2 Option B Tagging at harvest. 3.3 Option C: The Chesapeake is key to striped bass recovery. Everything must be done to better manage the bay. 3.4 Option B with Sub-option 01. Every measure should be taken to aid the recovery of striped bass. I am also in support of a full moratorium on the species. Conservation should take priority over recreation or commercial fishing.

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From:	jim hanrahan
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:10:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Years of mismanagement have caused this current crisis. Do not penalize the recreational fisherman they are not responsible for this crisis. The powers to be are the ones to blame for this. Non-action taken in the past and not listening to and taken action on the evidence that was report to them are to blame for are current state. Maintain and status quo and reject the 12% reduction.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.m

Sincerely,

jim hanrahan

1157 Ocean Ave

New London, CT 06320

james-hanrahan@sbcglobal.net

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From:	Mark Maritato
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:30:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been fishing for Striped Bass for over 40 years up and down the Atlantic Seaboard. Your proposals for 2026 are not only Ill-informed. They are INSANE!!!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mark Maritato

68 Briar Ridge Rd

Danbury, CT 06810

markm14@comcast.net

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From:	Joel Coppola
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:00:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Why can't you implement a striper stamp program and use the money to start a stocking program

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Joel Coppola

68 Tyler St

West Haven, CT 06516

Jac0357@comcast.net

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From:	Jay Harrison
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 1:00:29 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Close commercial!! It's ridiculous that commercial is still open, catch and release should ALWAYS be a thing.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jay Harrison

17 Hunt St

Norwalk, CT 06853

jharrison.jbh@gmail.com

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From:	Pete Schwartz
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III - Comments
Date:	Monday, September 8, 2025 3:24:33 PM

Dear ASMFC,

As a recreational angler for striped bass for over 20 years I've seen what "good" striped bass numbers look like. As the data shows, stocks are down. It's extremely noticeable for those of us that spend time on the water. Effort to catch fish is up, we don't see a variety in size like we used to and lack of fish outside "concentration spots" is noticeable.

The fact that stocks have been known to be overfished for going on 6 years and new proposals only seek to get stocks back to 50 or 60% by 2029 is concerning.

In my opinion, it's better to be aggressive now with stock management then wait for the stocks to collapse completely like we saw in the 80s and the resulting closures were, necessarily, extremely drastic.

Actions need to be taken now so we have a viable fishery in the future. Kicking the can down the road needs to be stopped. The economics of a healthy striped bass population is well known, let's make the right moves now for the benefit of the fish, the anglers, the guides and local economies throughout the Northeast.

Sincerely,
Peter Schwartz
Fairfield, CT

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From: Oliver Radwan
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Comments re: Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 9:11:40 AM

Hello –

My name is Oliver Radwan – I'm a technology professional by trade, but grew up deeply connected to the out of doors – fishing with my father in North Carolina. I've continued to fish well into my adult life, and just now am starting to enjoy spending time with my 5 year old son on the water. Just this weekend, he caught his first fish (a sea robin) all by himself – casting the rod, hooking the fish, and fighting/retrieving it totally independently. I also am a member on the board of 'Save the Sound' – an environmental nonprofit focused on the health of the long island sound and surrounding ecosystems. I share this as context for the comments I would like to share with regards to the Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum – specifically with respect to section 3, PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OPTIONS.

The main values and principles driving my positions are focusing on a sustainable fishery for the future – enabling protection of the species, simplifying the enforcement burden, and allowing simplicity of people partaking in the fishery – eg, it should be easy to 'do the right thing' and understand the policies. I am very worried about the state of the fishery and think that these are the sets of actions under consideration which make it most likely that my son will grow up catching striped bass.

- **With respect to item 3.1, I am in FAVOR of option B** – having a common shared definition for 'total length' – I believe a consistent and standardized measure of length across all regions is easy to understand, easy to enforce, and fair.
- **With respect to item 3.2, I am in FAVOR of option B** – understanding that it may have delayed implementation – however the overall option that reduces the overall risk of overharvest, and simplifies enforcement
- **With respect to item 3.3, I am in FAVOR of option C** – prioritizing a simplified regulation set (to ease enforcement as well as allowing people to understand the policies more easily) as well as making it the most likely to err in the direction of protecting the species.
- **With respect to item 3.4, I am in FAVOR of option B01** – I strongly believe more action than the status quo must be taken to protect this species, and then believe that 'no harvest' is the only reasonable option (in terms of enforceability, simplicity, and effectiveness). Therefore I support an increased 'no harvest' (and in fact, would support a much more extreme version than the 12% proposed) and

given my belief above in simplicity and equity – I support option 01 that does not draw any distinction between who is harvesting the fish (which makes no difference to the mortality and likely survival of the species). I am strongly AGAINST any 'no target' regulations because I believe them to be mostly unenforceable and think they will cause far more trouble than worth in terms of quantifiable positive impact.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Oliver Radwan
2 Harding Lane
Westport, CT 06880

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From: bluedragonnick@aol.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 10:10:42 AM

Dear DEEP representatives,

As a consistent CT fisherman, I would want DEEP to perform its duties to best perverse the striped bass stock. If this requires season closures or further size limitations, that's okay. Stripe bass fishing has always been a fun activity for me, and I would rather take a year off or throw more fish back, rather than destroy the population to the point where there is indefinitely no fish. Thank you for trying to keep the fishing in CT viable for myself and the future.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Moskwa

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 10:29:37 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
James Turecek
Email
jturecek@sbcglobal.net
State
Connecticut
Comment
As a lifelong catch and release fly fishermen for stripers I have seen both feast and famine over the last sixty years. I would applaud a complete moratorium on the taking of all striped bass and make it catch and release only. One big problem we have here in CT. is the low lives who take every striper they catch, from 6 inches on up. To add to the problem is the total and complete lack of game wardens in our state. Sure, they have a phone number to report infractions, but they don't show up for days because we have so few wardens to cover the state. There will be a loud outcry by tackle shops who say people will stop fishing. It's better off for the fish because those who would quit are meat fisherman anyway. I completely support a catch and release only fishery till the populations rebound.

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ASMFC,

Thank you for taking public comments on striped bass draft addendum III, we need to take the 12% reduction for all sectors to achieve a 50% chance of rebuilding by 2029. The 2018 year class is firmly in the emergency slot limit and went unprotected with the status quo regulation in 2025 which will result in increased mortality and if we go status quo in 2026 we'll be forced to take draconian measures after the 2027 stock assessment to reach the 2029 target. With what looks like 7 poor years of recruitment, the most conservative option to reduce mortality is required to keep as many fish in the system as possible knowing the SSB will decrease after 2030.

If to achieve the 12% reductions a harvest closure is required, it should be "no harvest" closures and not "no targeting". The economic impact of "no targeting" closures would be devastating to the tackle manufacturers, bait & tackle shops, hotels and restaurants that support the anglers up and down the striper coast. The catch and release option that allows 91% chance of survival will keep anglers engaged in the sport and participating in the tackle economy while still achieving the desired reduction. I would argue that the catch and release fishery is the only reason there is still a harvest fishery in both the recreational and commercial sectors and "no targeting" is very difficult to enforce and will create confusion in the recreational community.

The "no targeting" closure would also have a tremendous impact on the for-hire charter industry during times of abundance forcing them not to sail or to shift pressure onto other species. "No harvest" would allow the for-hire's to still be on the water fishing during the times of high abundance and sharing the resource with clients.

I would like to see:

3.1 Method of Measure: Option B

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Option B

3.3 Maryland & Chesapeake Bay Rec Season: Option C

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals: Option B-01(Equal Sector Reductions)

Thank You,

Craig Cantelmo
Van Staal
255 Broadwaters Road
Cutchogue, NY 11935

Regal Marine Products, Inc.
198 West 9th Street
Huntington Station, N.Y. 11746
www.regalbait.com
631-385-8284 Fax: 631-271-5294

October 1, 2025

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
RE: Public Comments for Striped Bass Addendum III

I am writing to you today on behalf of Regal Marine Products, Inc., regarding the Proposed Striped Bass Addendum III. Regal Marine Products Inc., is a wholesale fishing bait and tackle distributor. We have over 300 accounts and service the NJ, NY, CT and RI region. We talk to our customers on a daily basis about not just business, but also regarding regulations and their impacts on the various regions, stakeholders and our livelihoods.

I support the comments submitted by the New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association (NYFTTA) regarding the Striped Bass Addendum III.

I support Status Quo at this time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Dearborn

Melissa Dearborn
Vice President, Regal Marine Products, Inc.
melissa@regalbait.com

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
NYSDEC Region 3 Headquarters
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561

Re: Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III – September 22, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in response to the upcoming public hearing regarding Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. We strongly oppose any changes to the 2026 Hudson River recreational fishing season that involve a full or partial closure of the season.

While we understand the need to increase the striped bass stock, a closure would be devastating to recreational fishermen as well as the supporting fishing industry along the Hudson River, from the George Washington Bridge up to Troy. The striped bass season in this section of the river is already extremely limited. In the area between Poughkeepsie and Saugerties, striped bass typically arrive mid-April and are gone by around May 20. This short window is further reduced by weather conditions, as recent years have brought more days of heavy rain and wind that limit opportunities to fish, particularly for those fishing by boat.

Closing the season for even one to two weeks during this prime period would essentially eliminate meaningful fishing opportunities for the year. Over the years, recreational anglers have already adapted to many regulatory changes, including reduced slot limits, mandatory circle hooks, and bait restrictions. These measures have been accepted in the interest of conservation. However, additional closures during our already brief season would unfairly penalize Hudson River anglers.

Instead of season closures on the Hudson River, we urge the Commission and NYSDEC to consider alternative measures that would reduce fishery removals without eliminating access altogether. Suggestions include:

- Reducing the current slot size limits.
- Adjusting regulations to allow catch-and-release only rather than a slot limit.
- Catch-and-release only for April and slot size reduction for the remaining season after April.

We also believe that environmental changes, particularly climate-related shifts, are having a significant impact on striped bass migration and spawning in the Hudson. Based on our daily logs and on-the-water experience, water temperatures are rising more quickly and earlier each year, which shortens the spawning window. This factor must be considered alongside regulatory adjustments.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider any proposal to close the recreational striped bass season on the Hudson River in 2026 and instead pursue alternative management strategies that balance conservation goals with fair access for anglers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nick Kulick
nickk@hvc.rr.com
Hurley, New York

Joseph E. Diamond
beckjoe@hvc.rr.com
Hurley, New York

October 3, 2025

Emilie Franke

Fishery Management Plan Coordinator

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N

Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Ms. Franke and members of the ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board:

I am writing you today regarding the Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 for Striped Bass for which I have comments below on the management options the ASMFC Board has made available to the public to review. Before I get into my selections, I believe that **NO HARVEST CLOSURES** and **a minimum of 12% reductions across *all sectors*** are the most effective solutions in this Addendum to achieve rebuilding by 2029. I strongly oppose any exemptions to that for any sector because harvesting more bass does not help rebuilding in any way. Additionally, status quo does not protect anyone's jobs or the fishery itself for the future. Instead, it will do permanent damage requiring more closures for longer periods down the road.

No-target closures seem like they'll be ineffective as they are unenforceable. No-Target closures are also not necessary to rebuild the striped bass stock that first became overfished from years of excessive commercial, for-hire and recreational harvest, not by catch and release fishermen on a beach. Below are my selections:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass:

- Option B. Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging:

- Option B. Commercial Tagging At the Point of Harvest

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline:

- Option C. New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding:

- Option B O1: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%

It feels like the fishery is still falling apart with the last few strong year classes fading away now and continued bad annual spawns in both the Chesapeake and Hudson populations leave little hope for the next decade ahead. We're not really rebuilding the stock in any way just because the older bass are getting bigger, which falsely inflates the SSB without the population size increasing like it needs to be. I fear this fishery will never be safe for the long term future because every strong year class is exploited for short term benefits for the for-hire and commercial fishermen.

Since 2019 when the stock was declared overfished, I have continued to lose faith in the ASMFC Board to ever be able to manage and conserve striped bass. It seems as if the charter boat associations and advocacy groups are the only ones you really care about in this fishery as you have entirely disregarded thousands of comments from recreational anglers, who make up the majority of this fishery. There is no progress, no accountability and no science in the way the Board makes its decisions about how to manage this public resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I truly hope to see the Board take action in 2026 to substantially reduce harvest for all sectors and conserve more striped bass for the long term sustainability and future of this fishery, beyond 2029...

Warm regards,

Eric Malone

Eric Malone

New York

William A. Muller
183 Oakside Drive
Smithtown N.Y. 11787
631-361-3366

To: comments@asmfc.org

I am writing concerning striped bass management decisions that will be shortly forth coming.

I am a retired college professor and marine biologist. I did research at the American Museum of Natural History and the Marine Microbial Ecology Lab for two decades and published over 30 peer-review journal articles. I've also been a dedicated marine angler for about 70 of my 83 years on this planet. I've have witnessed the decline and rise of many marine species over the decades, but the management needs of the 21st Century are clearly different from the years of my youth. Therefore, let me begin with the following two thoughts regarding management in the 21st Century.

1. **The time has come for total ecosystem management rather than a species-by-species approach.**
2. **The ASMFC has repeatedly stated that the goal of restoring the striped bass population by 2029 should be to protect better year classes such as 2015 and 2018. However, the management regulations failed to do so since the selected slots put those year classes in the slots guaranteeing they would be the focus of the harvest. Goals need to match practices.**

In terms of the current proposals, I support the following:

1. **Section 3.4 Option B01: Reduce the recreational and commercial harvest by 12%.**
2. **I support a NO HARVEST. It worked during the moratorium. Also, it is almost impossible not to catch striped bass while fishing for many other species. It is also almost impossible to enforce.**
3. **I support Section 3.1 Option B. Establish a protocol for striped bass measuring.**

My address and phone can be found supra, should you wish to contact me.

Truly;

William A. Muller, PhD

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:16:22 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joseph Oliveri
Email
Jojo169@verizon.net
State
New York
Comment
I understand the need for striped bass regulations to improve the stocks. I do not support a no target requirement but do support a no harvest approach

To: Emilie Franke – ASMFC
Subject: Comments – Striped Bass Addendum III

My name is Scott Rager and I fish for striped bass in the Hudson River above the George Washington Bridge.

As an avid angler, I understand and fully support the need to preserve and protect the striped bass population and support action(s) to reduce the "mortality" through various conservation efforts.

During the Public Hearing on ASMFC Addendum III, to Amendment 7 of the Striped Bass Mgt. program, held and monitored by NYSDEC at the DEC Region 3, New Paltz Office, we were presented an Overview of Addendum Iii particularly Section 3.4

Section 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding" of the Addendum.

* **Option A:** status quo

*** Option B: O1:** Even sector reductions with both commercial and recreational sectors taking a 12% reduction OR

O2: 13% reduction in season and a for-hire exemption allowing them to take 28-33" fish

I support **Option B. O2** – everyone takes the same reduction

We were then provided opportunity to comment on the several CE's (conservation equivalents) specific to the Hudson River as allowed on Pg. 25 of Addendum III,

> "… conservation equivalency (CE) programs will not be approved for non-quota managed recreational fisheries, **with the exception of** the Hudson River…."

Each of which these NYS DEC proposed CE's will meet the required 12% reduction required by ASMFC.

Proposed Reduction Actions for the Hudson River

A. **Slot Reduction** (Note: current slot is 23-28")
   - 23-25"
   - 25-28"
B. **No targeting -** April 1-25
C. **Catch & Release –** April 1-30

My personal preference is keep current slot and C, however, I will support whichever of these is submitted by NYSDEC for ASMFC approval.

Respectfully,

Scott A. Rager

NEIL ROTHKOPF, D.D.S.
GENERAL DENTISTRY

September 30, 2025

RECEIVED
OCT 02 2025
By:

Ms. Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St.
Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Va 22201

Dear Emilie,

My name is Neil Rothkopf, and I am a retired dentist who has fished for Striped Bass for over 35 years. The Striped bass fishery is in poor condition after multiple years of poor recruitment. Not enough young fish are being spawned to replace the fish killed by commercial and recreational harvesting. I believe that No Harvest Closure of the fishery is the only intelligent way to allow the number of spawned fish to grow and repopulate the migrating schools.

I support these parts of the Draft addendum

Section 3.1 option B
Section 3.2 option B Status quo
Section 3.3 option B Status quo
Section 3.4 option B-01 Status quo
Section 3.4 option CB1 – Status quo

The Striped Bass Management Board needs to take immediate and decisive action.

This is like watching a fire start. Either you can deal with it, and put the fire out, or you can step back, do nothing definative, and watch everything get destroyed only to lament afterwards about what should have been done.

Please be decisive and pass No Harvest Closure.

Sincerely,

Neil Rothkopf D.D.S.

25 ADELHAIDE LANE, EAST ISLIP, NY 11730 TELEPHONE (631) 3659704

NOVEMBER RAIN CHARTERS LLC

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info@novemberraincharters.com
www.novemberraincharters.com

September 30, 2025

Ms. Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Dear Ms. Franke:

We write to you on behalf of our business, **NOVEMBER RAIN CHARTERS LLC**, a 43' multi-passenger charter boat operating from Montauk, New York.

As a follow-up to the comments we shared during the September 17 public hearing, please accept this written statement which more thoroughly summarizes our position on the Striped Bass Draft Addendum III.

There are a few points raised in the draft addendum that we want to restate here as underlying reasons for our support of the options we favor:

- The most recent stock projections estimate an increase in fishing mortality in 2025 due to the above average 2018 year-class entering the current slot limit. With no change, the Technical Committee believes that increase could be as high as 17%.
- There remains continued concern about the lack of strong year classes behind 2018.
- Adjusting 2026 management measures could increase the probability of rebuilding the stock by 2029.

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- At status quo, projections estimate a 30% probability of being at or above the Spawning Stock Biomass target in 2029. To achieve a 50% probability of being at or above the SSB target in 2029, a 12% reduction in 2026 removals would be needed.

Fishery Removals

Based upon the above conclusions, we do not understand how a status quo approach in 2026 does anything other than set a potential trajectory for more harsh reductions in 2027, including more significant closures that would further devastate the for-hire fleet.

We are therefore in favor of a modification to the striped bass season next year. And as we continue to feel vehemently that for-hire operations should be separately distinguished from recreational and shore anglers, we are in favor of a 13% reduction with a for-hire exemption allowing charter and party boats a slot of 28" to 33"

We recognize the risk of appearing to concede now only to face more stringent regulations next year. However, our support of these measures is based upon a few factors:

- As called out in Draft Addendum III, charter and party boat ocean removals are already being looked at separately, and we make up a mere 3% of those removals. We are a sliver of the pie, yet are being held to the same standards as the majority. If there's any risk of a reduction, we feel strongly that it should be accompanied with a mode management approach that favors for-hire vessels.
- For-hire vessels provide an important benefit to their patrons. We allow individuals to harvest fresh food they may not otherwise have access to. In many cases, our customers bring fish home to feed their families.
- Throughout Montauk, we have already seen the adverse effects of the current striped bass regulations, with reductions in businesses exceeding 20% this year. Some of our fellow captains are getting out of the business entirely or downsizing in order to manage their financial burdens.
- A loss of business for us has downstream effects that cannot be ignored. Hotels, restaurants, local shops and other establishments are impacted when our businesses suffer.

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- We are playing a long game, as we always have been, and need to ensure there is a future for striped bass fishing. We continue to believe the data being relied upon for these projections is incomplete. Separately, as we've said before, we would like to be part of a solution to address this problem.

Season Closures

We are not in favor of any seasonal closure. However, recognizing this is not an option under the Addendum, we would support a Wave 6 closure to achieve a 13% reduction, under which we believe a meaningful impact could be made at a time when we also target other species, including sea bass and tautog. This period would accomplish the greatest percentage reduction while utilizing the least number of days thereby decreasing the impact on the for-hire fleet.

No Harvest vs No Targeting

We do not feel strongly on whether a closure mandates "no harvest" or "no targeting" of striped bass, though we would ask for the shortest closure possible and would therefore support a "no targeting" closure period to achieve that.

At this time, we will remain silent on (i) 3.1 – the method to measure total length of a striped bass, and (ii) 3.2 – commercial tagging: point of tagging.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our comments.

Sincerely,

Jill Maganza-Ruiz & Stephen Ruiz

Captain Jill Maganza-Ruiz & Captain Stephen Ruiz
Owners / Operators, November Rain Charters LLC

1075 Tooker Avenue
West Babylon, NY 11704
September 17, 2025

Emile Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Franke:

Below find my comments on the *Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass* (the "Draft Addendum"). My comments are made from the perspective of a fishermen who has been an active participant in the recreational striped bass fishery for nearly 60 years, who has fished through the stock collapse of the late 1970s and early 1980s, and who has experienced both the subsequent recovery of the spawning stock biomass and the currently depleted stock, which bears an uncomfortable resemblance to the state of the stock in half a century ago.

Because the primary purpose of the Draft Addendum is to facilitate the timely rebuilding of the striped bass stock, I am going to take the issues slightly out of order, and address the various issues associated with **Section 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding** first.

I
SECTION 3.4 REDUCTION IN FISHERY REMOVALS TO SUPPORT STOCK REBUILDING

A
The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board (the "Board") should adopt Option B: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12% to better ensure timely rebuilding of the striped bass spawning stock.

In order to maximize the probability of successfully and equitably rebuilding the striped bass stock, while gleaning the greatest possible social and economic benefits while doing so, **the Board must adopt Option B**, endorsing equal sector reductions, **Sub-options O1 and either CB1 or CB3**, to ensure that everyone makes a proportionate contribution to rebuilding, and no sector is unfairly burdened or benefitted and, with respect to any seasons adopted, **adopt no-harvest seasons that allow catch-and-release fishing during the closure**, and are both enforceable and generate the greatest social and economic benefits from the available resource, rather than unenforceable no-target closures that, by shutting down all striped bass fishing during the closure, prevent the recreational fishery from generating any social or economic benefits at all during that time.

The arguments supporting such actions are set forth below.

The striped bass stock is unlikely to rebuild by the 2029 deadline unless the level of removals are reduced by no less than 12 percent.

The Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee ("TC") and Stock Assessment Subcommittee ("SAS") have, after viewing the final Marine Recreational Information data for 2024, determined that there is only a 30 percent probability of the striped bass stock rebuilding by 2029 if the level of striped bass removals is not reduced, and that to obtain a 50 percent probability of rebuilding, a 12 percent reduction in removals is needed.[1]

That determination represents the best available scientific information with respect to rebuilding. Although it has been dismissed by one industry organization as a reaction "to short-term swings in recreational catch estimates from MRIP," and "based on a difference of 0.01 in fishing mortality—well within the margin of error and scientifically indistinguishable from the current management approach,"[2] the TC and SAS analysis easily debunks that claim, explaining that

> The projections [of removals for the years 2025-2029] were updated in May 2025 to incorporate final MRIP estimates for 2024 and initial commercial harvest estimates for 2024 provided by the states. This resulted in a 7% increase in 2024 removals driven by a 7% increase in final MRIP estimates...
>
> Even though 7% is a relatively small increase, with the preliminary MRIP estimates falling with the 95% confidence intervals of the final estimate, this resulted in a higher estimate of *F*2024 and F2026-2029 due to the assumptions for those years relative to F2024.[3] [internal references omitted]

Some extrinsic evidence also supports the likelihood that the seven percent increase in the final MRIP estimates reflects the actual level of removals. Much of that increase can be attributed to an increase in the estimated number of directed striped bass trips that took place off New York in Wave 6; the preliminary estimate of such trips was a mere 442,911, which doubled to 845,711 trips in the final MRIP data, and resulted in a 29 percent increase in the Wave 6 estimate of New York recreational harvest, and a 34 percent increase in the estimate of live releases. MRIP estimates of New York's Wave 6 directed striped bass trips in the two previous years, 2022 and 2023, were 1.09 million and 867,384, respectively,[4] estimates that accord with the 845,711 trip estimate in the final 2024 MRIP data, and makes the 442,911 trip estimate in the preliminary MRIP data seem extremely unlikely.

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[1] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Memorandum from Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee to Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board, dated July 22, 2025, p. 2, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/AtlStripedBassBoardMaterials_August2025.pdf

[2] American Sportfishing Association, "Protect Recreational Access to Striped Bass: Oppose Unnecessary Fishing Closures," available at https://asafishing.org/advocacy/action-center/?vvsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f129953%2fRespond%3futm_source%3dAmerican%2bSportfishing%2bAssociation%26utm_campaign%3df2dad65974-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_03_17_03_48_COPY_01%26utm_medium%3demail%26utm_term%3d0_-bb38d5715a-81336318

[3] ASMFC, Memorandum p. 1.

[4] *Ibid*, Appendix A, pp. 1-2.

While the TC and SAS recognize that the inability to predict future angler behavior adds a significant level of uncertainty to the projections of future removals, such uncertainty should not be used as an excuse to maintain current management measures, and not reduce removals by the necessary 12 percent. Uncertainty increases the likelihood of management error, and the greater the level of uncertainty, the greater the need for precaution in setting management measures.

2

All sectors of the striped bass fishery, including the commercial sector, must be required to reduce removals by 12 percent.

At the August 6, 2025 Board meeting, an option that would have reduced recreational removals by 14 percent, but left the commercial quota unchanged, was removed from the Draft Addendum. Such deletion was appropriate; since all sectors of the fishery will benefit from an increase in the spawning stock biomass, and any future relaxation of recreational management measures will almost certainly be accompanied by a proportionate increase in the commercial quota, it is only appropriate that all sectors shoulder an equally proportionate share of the burden of rebuilding the stock.

However, during the discussion over the removal of that option, it was noted by someone, perhaps by Fishery Management Plan Coordinator Emilie Franke, that the Board could still decide to reduce the commercial quota by some amount less than 12 percent, even though no option to do so appears in the Draft Addendum, and it should be noted that the Board did take such action in the case of *Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass* ("Addendum II"), when it reduced the commercial quota by only seven percent, while requiring recreational removals to be reduced by approximately twice that amount.[5]

Such disparate treatment of the commercial and recreational sectors was inequitable and inappropriate in the case of Addendum II, and would be equally inappropriate in the case of Addendum III.

3

The Board has an obligation to make a good-faith effort to rebuild the striped bass spawning stock biomass within 10 years after determining that such biomass fell below the spawning stock biomass threshold.

Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass states, "If the Management Board determines that the biomass has fallen below the threshold in any given year, the Board ***must*** adjust the striped bass management program to rebuild the biomass to the target level within the timeframe established in *Section 2.6.2*.[6] [emphasis added]"

Section 2.6.2 of Amendment 6 directs "If at anytime the Atlantic striped bass population is declared overfished and rebuilding needs to occur, the Management Board will determine the rebuilding

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[5] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass*, January 2023, pp. 11-12.

[6] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass*, October 2003, p. 31. Note that, although *Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass* currently governs the fishery, and contains a similar provision, Amendment 6 is quoted here because the stock assessment that found that the biomass had fallen below the threshold was accepted for management use in 2019, when Amendment 6 was still the controlling management document.

schedule at that time. The only limitation imposed under Amendment 6 is that the rebuilding schedule is not to exceed 10 years.[7] [emphasis added]." The benchmark stock assessment that found the striped bass to be overfished[8] was accepted for management purposes by the Board in 2019, which means that the Board ***must*** rebuild the stock by no later than 2029.

By including those provisions in Amendment 6, the Board has implicitly entered into a covenant with the public, and in particular stakeholders in the striped bass fishery, by which it agrees to take the specified management action should the management trigger be tripped. While successful rebuilding can never be guaranteed, the Board's adoption of the above quoted language obliges it to, at the least, make a good-faith effort to comply with the terms of its own management document.

Failing to make a good-faith effort, which can for these purposes be defined as failing to adopt management measures that have no less than a 50 percent probability of rebuilding the spawning stock biomass by the end of 2029. Efforts that have less than a 50 percent probability of success—which, in the language frequently used by striped bass anglers concerned with the future health of the stock, would amount to little more than "kicking the can down the road,"—do not satisfy the Board's obligation, and will only make stakeholders, many of whom already question the efficacy of the Board's actions, more convinced that the Board is incapable of responsibly managing the striped bass resource.

The Board is already being targeted by special interests asking it to forego the 12 percent reduction in removals, but in doing so, the Board would violate the public trust, and its implied promise to take action when action is called for by the management plan.

4

The 12 percent reduction in removals should take place even if striped bass spawning success improves in 2025.

Striped bass recruitment has been dismal in recent years,[9] particularly in Maryland, the most important spawning area on the entire East Coast. There, the average juvenile abundance index for the past six years is the lowest six-year average since the Maryland Juvenile Abundance Survey was initiated in 1957.[10]

There is some speculation that spawning conditions in the spring of 2025 were more favorable for striped bass spawning than they have been in the past six years, and that the Maryland Juvenile Abundance Index will, as a result, be near or above its long-term average. Should that occur, some stakeholders, and some Board members, will undoubtedly use that single year of improved spawning results to argue that no further reduction in removals is needed.

The Board should not give in to such arguments. One year of improved spawns does not make a trend.

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[7] *Ibid.*, p. 22.

[8] Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 66th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (66th SAW) Assessment Report, United States Department of Commerce, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 2019, p. 462, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/StripedBassBenchmarkStockAssessment_SAW66.pdf

[9] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Review of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass (Morone saxatilis) 2024 Fishing Year*, August 2025, pp. 11-12, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/AtlStripedBassFMPReview_FY2024.pdf

[10] Maryland Department of Natural Resources, "Juvenile Striped Bass Survey," available at https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/striped-bass/juvenile-index.aspx

It could be argued that one of the Board's biggest mistakes, and one that may well have set the stage for the striped bass' current, overfished condition, occurred in November 2011 when, after being informed by a stock assessment update (the "2011 Update") that the stock would become overfished by 2017 if no management actions were taken,[11] the Board decided not to release Draft Addendum III to Amendment 6, which could have required fishing mortality to be reduced by as much as 40 percent, for public comment because, in the words of one the-Board member, "Should we be aware of the probability of a crash and a problem? Yes. Amendment 6 gives you two major triggers. We haven't hit either one of them to meet the action ***yet***.[12] [emphasis added]"

It is likely that the announcement, made prior to the Board meeting, that the Maryland juvenile abundance index for 2011 was the fourth-highest ever recorded,[13] played a strong role in convincing Board members that no immediate action to reduce fishing mortality was needed. However, the 2011 Update's prediction proved to be accurate and, with no preventive management action forthcoming, the stock did, in fact, become overfished by 2017, and has not yet been rebuilt.

The Board should not make the same mistake in 2025 when, with the stock already overfished, the consequences could be significantly greater.

B

In implementing Option B, the Board should adopt Sub-option O1 for the ocean recreational fishery and either Sub-option CB-1 or CB-3 for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery, as such sub-options require all sectors of the recreational fishery to make a proportionate contribution to the striped bass stock's recovery, and do not force shore-based and private boat anglers to endure a greater reduction in landings so that for-hire anglers may not only face no reduction at all, but be allowed to increase their level of removals.

1

The striped bass management measures in the Draft Addendum that are ultimately adopted by the Board will govern *anglers*, and be applied on the *angler* level, and basic principles of equity demand that Sub-option O1, and either Sub-option CB-1 or CB-3, which provide a level playing field for all *anglers*, be adopted.

The management measures that will eventually appear in the final Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass ("Addendum III") are not intended to govern the actions or operations of fishing piers, charter boats, fuel docks, tackle shops, marinas, or any other angler-related business, they are intended to govern the actions of anglers, whether those anglers choose to fish from their own boats, from for-hire vessels, or from the shore or adjacent structures.

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[11] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Striped Bass Stock Assessment Update 2011*, November 8, 2011, p. 4, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2011StripedBassAssmtUpdate.pdf

[12] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Proceedings of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board, November 8, 2011, comments of Pat Augustine, p. 18, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/nov2011SBBoardProceedings.pdf

[13] Maryland Department of Natural Resources, "Chesapeake Bay Finfish Investigations, Summary of 2011 Maryland Striped Bass Stock Assessment Surveys, Natural Resources Article [Section] 4-746," available at https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000113/027700/027704/20250787e.pdf

Basic principles of equity demand that anglers neither be rewarded nor penalized for their choice of angling platform, but instead be governed by the same set of regulations. Having said that, an analysis of MRIP catch, landings, and effort data for 2024 demonstrates that such choice of platform already has a significant impact on anglers' ability to harvest a striped bass, with shore-based anglers, on average, harvesting 0.025 striped bass per trip, private boat anglers harvesting 0.185 striped bass by trip, and anglers on for-hire vessels far exceeding the averages for the other two sectors, harvesting 0.777 striped bass per trip, a harvest rate 4.2 times greater than that of private boat anglers and 31.08 times greater than that of shore-based anglers.[14]

To present for-hire success in a different way, for-hire trips primarily targeting striped bass made up only 1.42 percent of all striped bass trips made, but the anglers on those trips accounted for 9.93 percent of the recreational striped bass harvest.

Thus, for-hire landings are already disproportionately high, particularly when compared to the meager landings of the shore-based angler (although I believe that all anglers should fish under the same set of regulations, and oppose any being granted special privileges, if any group of anglers should benefit from relaxed regulations, it is those fishing from shore, who are handicapped by limited mobility, limited casting range, etc., and not those anglers who are already benefitting from the advice and ability of professional captains operating boats capable of traveling significant distances to access whatever bass are available).

It would be both inappropriate and inequitable to provide anglers fishing from for-hire vessels with relaxed regulations, particularly since, by increasing the landings of for-hire anglers, the great majority of the striped bass fishing community, which accounts for more than 98.5 percent of all striped bass trips, would be forced to take an even greater reduction than they would under options O1, CB1, and/or CB3, seeing their landings reduced by 13 percent rather than 12 so that the for-hire anglers landings could increase.

That is just wrong.

2

Forcing shore-based and private boat anglers to take an additional reduction in landings, in order to increase the landings of anglers on for-hire vessels, wrongly harms angling-related businesses, and reduces the social and economic benefits provided by the recreational striped bass fishery.

As noted earlier, shore-based and private boat anglers, combined, accounted for over 98.5 percent of all 2024 fishing trips primarily targeting striped bass, a figure that increases to more than 99 percent here in New York, where for-hire trips only account for 0.94 percent of total striped bass effort.[15] Yet, information provided in the Draft Addendum clearly shows that if options O2 and/or CB2 were adopted

[14] Figures derived from data provided by NOAA Fisheries, Recreational Fisheries Statistics Queries, U.S. Department of Commerce, retrieved August 31, 2025.
[15] *Ibid*.

in Addendum III, the result would be an extended closed season imposed on all anglers, including those who fish from private boats and from shore.[16]

In the event that the Board opts for a closure that prohibits harvest, but allows catch-and-release, the social and economic impact of those extra days lost to shore-based and private boat anglers would not be too great, as most anglers would probably continue to catch and release bass. However, should "no target" closures be adopted, when even catch-and-release striped bass fishing would be prohibited, then the plethora of businesses that support shore-based and private boat striped bass anglers—the tackle shops, gas docks, marinas, coffee shops, convenience stores, etc.—will certainly feel the economic impact when more than 98.5 percent of striped bass anglers are shut down for longer than would be otherwise necessary if all anglers were governed by the same 12 percent reduction in removals; at the same time, more than 98.5 percent of the recreational striped bass fishery will be denied the social benefits derived from that fishery, so that just 1.42 percent of the fishery might take home a few more fish.

In the motion that initiated the management action that is expected to culminate in Addendum III, the Board directed that "balancing socioeconomic impacts" be a consideration.[17]

Viewed in a socioeconomic context, shutting down the vast majority of the striped bass fishery for longer than necessary, just so a small handful of anglers might harvest a few more fish, makes no sense at all.

3

The premise underlying options O2 and CB2, that the current size limits are causing severe harm to the for-hire fleet, is not supported by the available data.

The argument generally advanced for elevating anglers on for-hire vessels above shore-based and private boat fishermen, and granting them special privileges not enjoyed by the great majority of anglers, is that customers will not patronize for-hire vessels unless they have a reasonable assurance of taking a striped bass home.

Such argument is not supported by the available data.

a

In the ocean fishery, the patterns of for-hire fishing trips, including both those targeting striped bass and those targeting other species, in the years 2021-2023 do not generally support the argument that stricter striped bass regulations harm the for-hire fishing industry

In the ocean fishery, the years 2021-2023 provide an opportunity to test the veracity of the for-hire operators who claim that the 28- to 31-inch slot size limit is harming their charter and party boat businesses. 2021 was a mediocre year for striped bass fishermen. Bass were reasonably abundant, and although fish from the big 2011 year class were growing out of the slot, other fish from the larger (at

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[16] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass for Public Comment, August 2025, pp. 39-41, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/AtlStripedBassDraftAddIII_PublicComment_Aug2025.pdf

[17] *Ibid.*, p. 1

Year 1) 2015 year class were beginning to reach 28 inches in length.[18] 2022 saw the abundant 2015 year class enter the slot in large numbers causing recreational catch to increase by 38 percent, landings to increase by 88 percent, and releases increase by three percent.[19] In 2023 the Board, trying to conserve the striped bass resource and prevent a recurrence of 2022's excessive harvest, took emergency action to narrow the slot size limit to 28 to 31 inches, hoping to protect most of the 2015 year class; as a result, recreational landings fell by 24 percent and live releases fell by 12 percent.[20]

If the argument that anglers won't book fishing trips if they don't expect to bring fish home was true, the events of 2021-2023 would lead one to expect that trips would increase sharply from 2021 to 2022, when legal-sized striped bass were more available, then fall significantly once the emergency action made legal striped bass harder to catch.

But, for the most part, that's not what happened.

If one looks at the pattern of for-hire fishing trips taken during the years 2021-2023, both for striped bass and over-all, in the four states having the largest for-hire striped bass ocean fisheries—Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey—one finds that the number of for-hire trips taken is largely independent of the availability of legal striped bass to the for-hire anglers.

Massachusetts is a notable exception to that general rule, as for-hire trips there followed the pattern that one would expect if the arguments made by the for-hire fleet are accurate: The number of directed striped bass trips increased by nearly 66 percent, from an estimated 45,964 in 2021 to 76,237 in 2022, when legal bass were more available, then fell back to 58,560 in 2023, when the narrower slot was ushered in by the Board's emergency action. For-hire trips targeting all species during those years followed a similar, but far from identical, pattern, with trips made for other species somewhat dampening the impact of changes in directed striped bass trips.[21]

In other states, that was not the case.

In Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey, striped bass trips declined markedly between 2021 and 2022, by 13 percent, 31 percent, and 20 percent, respectively, despite the increase in the availability of legal-sized striped bass in the latter year, and anglers' increased ability to take a legal fish home. Rhode Island and New York saw the decline continue in 2023, when the emergency action occurred, although New York's continuing decline of 33 percent was far greater than the eight percent experienced in

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[18] *See* Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Review of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass (Morone saxatilis) 2021 Fishing Year*, August 2, 2022, pp. 9-10, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/StripedBassFMPReview_FY2021_BoardApproved.pdf

[19] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Review of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass (Morone saxatilis) 2022 Fishing Year*, August 2023, pp. 10-11, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/StripedBassFMPReview_FY2022_RevJul2024_CommData.pdf

[20] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Review of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass (Morone saxatilis) 2023 Fishing Year*, August 2024, pp. 8, 10-11, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AtlStripedBassFMPReview_FY2023.pdf

[21] NOAA Fisheries, Recreational Fisheries Statistics Queries, U.S. Department of Commerce, retrieved December 15, 2024.

Rhode Island; in New Jersey, 2023 saw no significant change in the number of directed striped bass trips compared to 2022.[22]

The fact that all three states experienced a significant decline in directed for-hire trips in 2022, when legal-sized bass were most abundant, and only New York saw another significant decline in 2023, when the emergency action was taken, casts significant doubt on the argument that striped bass regulations caused appreciable harm to the for-hire fleet.

But the full truth is only revealed by an examination of the overall number of for-hire trips taken, regardless of the species targeted, in the three states.

In Rhode Island, although directed for-hire striped bass trips decreased in both 2022 and 2023, overall for-hire trips increased in both years, clearly demonstrating that the emergency action—and, by inference, the current 28- to 31-inch ocean slot size limit—did not cause a decline in revenues for Rhode Island's for-hire fleet. In New York, the decline in for-hire striped bass trips in 2022 almost directly paralleled the decline in overall for-hire trips, 69 percent and 68 percent respectively, while in New Jersey, the 2022 decline in striped bass trips occurred at a time when overall for-hire effort dropped even more. In both states, overall for-hire effort in 2023 showed little change overall.[23]

Such facts strongly suggest that the decline in the New York and New Jersey for hire fisheries, along with the increase in Rhode Island overall for-hire trips, can be attributed to factors largely independent of striped bass, and that striped bass regulations in the ocean fishery cannot be the primary cause of either increases or decreases in for-hire effort, nor of changes in revenue in the for-hire fishery.

b

Available data suggests that the management measures adopted in Addendum II did not cause serious harm to the for-hire fishery in the Chesapeake Bay; whatever impacts such measures may have had do not justify the adoption of Sub-option CB2.

Ever since the adoption of Addendum II, the Board has been told that Addendum II's one-fish bag limit has caused grievous harm to the for-hire industry in the Chesapeake Bay, with some for-hire operators claiming that the industry has experienced a devastating loss of business after Addendum il went into effect. For example, Mike Smolek of the Upper Bay Charter Captains Association alleged that "The six-pack boats have been hit the hardest because their business is down 80 percent, and last count we know of at least 52 of these boat that are up for sale, and their businesses have closed."[24]

It's a compelling narrative, that can only elicit sympathy from anyone who hears it.

The only problem is that it doesn't seem to be true or, at least, to the extent that Addendum II has hampered the Chesapeake Bay for-hire fishery, the damage is nowhere near as severe as that narrative suggests.

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[22] *Ibid.*

[23] *Ibid.*

[24] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Proceedings of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board, October 2025*, p. 2, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/AtlStripedBassBoardProceedings_Oct2024.pdf

Information provided by the TC and SAS provides an opportunity to see how the Maryland for-hire fleet was impacted by Addendum II, as it compares 2024 for-hire effort during Waves 3, 4, and 5 with effort in the previous five years.

In Wave 3, it appears that directed for-hire striped Bass trips were somewhat lower than they were in recent years, as only 48,645 such trips were taken in 2024, compared to a range of 50,887 to 72,948 trips during the years 2019-2023. However, Wave 3 was the only wave in which that was the case.

In Wave 4, Maryland for-hire anglers took 56,560 directed striped bass trips in 2024, a figure that us just below the middle of the 2019-2023 range of 47,356 to 69,316 trips. And in Wave 5 2024, for hire anglers took 31,564 such trips, a figure that again fits neatly near the middle of the 2019-2023 range of 20,900 to 50,845 directed striped bass trips.[25]

Thus, while the number of Chesapeake Bay striped bass trips taken by Maryland's for-hire anglers in 2024 may have fallen below the peak numbers of the preceding five years, they are generally within the range of trips taken during the period 2019-2023, when for-hire vessels in the Chesapeake Bay seemed able to successfully maintain their businesses, and claims of sharp declines in business and/or stories of failed businesses and boats up for sale were seldom if ever heard.

The fact that the level of for-hire striped bass trips taken in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay during at least two waves of 2024 approximates the number of trips taken in the previous five years suggests that any business failures, which may well be occurring, shoujld be attributed to causes other than the Amendment II's management measures.

Given that Maryland's for-hire fishery in the Chesapeake Bay primarily targets younger striped bass, it is not at all unlikely that the striped bass spawning failure that Maryland has endured since 2019[26] is leading to a dearth of striped bass in the Bay, and that such lack of fish will provide anglers with little incentive to book for-hire trips.

Thus, if the Board wants to assist the Chesapeake's for-hire industry, it should concentrate not on relaxing regulations impacting for-hire anglers, but rather on rebuilding the striped bass population to the point where angling is more productive, and so more attractive to for-hire anglers.

C

Any seasons adopted by the Board must be easily enforceable no-harvest closures, which permit catch-and-release fishing during the closed season, and so generate the greatest social and economic benefits from the available striped bass resource.

1

From a biological perspective, it does not matter if a striped bass is removed from the population through harvest or as a result of release mortality; both have precisely the same impact on the population

Recreational fishing kills striped bass. Some bass are killed by anglers intentionally harvesting fish for personal use; others die after being released by recreational fishermen. In both cases, the fish are

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[25] ASMFC, Memorandum, Appendix A, p. 2

[26] *See* Maryland Department of Natural Resources, "Juvenile Striped Bass Survey"

removed from the population and so from the spawning stock biomass. Neither form of removal has a greater impact on the striped bass population than does the other.

Yet there are Board members who, in the course of discussions, seem to suggest that release mortality is a less valid source of removals than is harvest. We have seen the Board create a special work group, which met several times, specifically to reduce release mortality, as if release mortality was, somehow, a greater problem than harvest mortality.[27]

However, the Board should not view recreational harvest mortality and recreational release mortality separately. Rather, it should look at them as part of the whole issue of "recreational fishing mortality," and craft a solution most likely to achieve the needed reduction in that recreational mortality, without concerning itself with whether such solution has a greater impact on harvest or on dead releases.

2

Separating the recreational striped bass fishery into separate harvest and release components creates a false dichotomy that does not exist in the real world; it is thus wrong to seek a solution that is "equitable" or "fair" to both the harvest and release fisheries.

The ASMFC has acknowledged that the recreational striped bass fishery is primarily a release fishery, stating that "The vast majority of recreational striped bass catch (over 90%) is released alive either due to angler preference or regulation (i.e., closed season, undersized, oversized, or already caught the bag limit)."[28] Thus, any attempt to divide the fishery into separate "harvest" and "release" components is based on a false premise; the fishery is dominated by catch-and-release, and whether or not an anglers wishes to release a striped bass, given the existing regulations, all striped bass anglers will eventually do so.

Even the most harvest-oriented angler will release striped bass, and probably large numbers of striped bass, while trying to catch one that will fall within the prevailing slot size limit. For example, the New York party boat fleet certainly emphasizes striped bass harvest, and not the release fishery, yet the November 11, 2024 fishing report for one party boat fleet operating out of Captree State Park announced, "Today's 9 AM trip caught 460 (Four Hundred Sixty) Striped Bass, KEEPING A FULL BOAT LIMIT."[29] Since that fleet also notes that "we limit the trips depending on the type of fishing to between 18 to 65 fishermen," it is clear that approximately 400 of those striped bass contributed to the recreational releases, and to recreational release mortality.[30]

That single example demonstrates why it is impossible to neatly separate the harvest and release components of the fishery, and why efforts to do so, in the name of "fairness"—the invalid argument that reductions in harvest should be mirrored by reductions in release mortality—are a fool's errand.

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[27] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Proceedings of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board, May 1, 2024, pp. 11-17, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/AtlStripedBassBoardProceedings_May2024.pdf

[28] ASMFC, Review of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan, 2024 Fishing Year, p. 10

[29] Webpage of Laura Lee Fleet, "Fishing Reports," https://www.captree.com/reports/2024__fishing_reports.htm

[30] Ibid., "About Us," available at https://captree.com/pages/about.html

No-harvest seasons are enforceable, large-scale no-target seasons are not, and are thus likely to be ineffective.

There is little question that large-scale no-target closures are not enforceable, particularly when seasons for other fish often caught in the striped bass fishery are open. The enforceability problem is so severe that when the ASMFC's Law Enforcement Committee ranked various management measures as to their enforceability, no-target closures came in dead last—no management measure was more difficult to enforce.[31]

Regulations prohibiting any striped bass fishing, including catch-and-release, have been in place in the federal striped bass fishery since at least the mid-1990s, yet at the October 2024 Board meeting, Lt. Jeff Mercer, a law enforcement officer from Rhode Island and a representative of the Law Enforcement Committee, noted that "NOAA [Office of Law Enforcement] has not been able to identify a single case over the last 30 years where it successfully prosecuted a targeting case. A few hours ago I polled [the Law Enforcement Committee] and no member of that committee is aware of any cases in their states that have been successfully prosecuted without possession, so targeting only."[32]

Some Board members have naively suggested that most anglers would honor a no-targeting closure even though it was unenforceable,[33] but when multiple species are available at the same time and caught by the same methods, rendering enforcement completely impossible, such suggestions are little more than wishful thinking, the futility of which can be easily illustrated by the number of vessels which routinely violate the no target rule in federal waters.

In my home waters off New York's Fire Island Inlet, when striped bass follow sand eels in the fall, should the bait concentrate in federal waters instead of closer to shore, it is not unusual to see a large fleet of private and for-hire vessels follow the bait and the bass into the EEZ, despite the federal ban on targeting striped bass. The limited law enforcement resources can't come close to reining in the illegal activity. And even if a boat is boarded by law enforcement officials, so long as they have no striped bass on board, the occupants only need to say that they're fishing for bluefish to avoid any legal problems.

Thus, if the ASMFC adopted no-target closures in Addendum III, we would undoubtedly see the following scenarios repeatedly take place:

> SCENARIO ONE: The striped bass season is closed, with a prohibition on targeting in effect. A surfcaster stands by the shore, tossing a lure—maybe a tin squid, maybe a popper, maybe something else—into the white water foaming around an offshore bar. As he works his lure through the water, he repeatedly hooks, beaches, and releases bluefish. A law enforcement officer, seeing the action from afar, stops by and asks, "Any luck?" The angler responds, "No, it's been pretty bad. I'm trying to catch a striped bass,

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[31] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, "Striped Bass Work Group on Recreational Release Mortality Meeting Summary," June 24, 2024, p. 7, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AtlStripedBassBoardSupplemental_August2024.pdf

[32] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Proceedings of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board, October 23, 2024*, p. 44, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/AtlStripedBassBoardProceedings_Oct2024.pdf

[33] Ibid., See, e.g., comments of James J. Gilmore, pp. 11-12

but all I can hook are some bluefish." Having heard an explicit admission that the angler is breaking the law, the officer hands him a summons.

SCENARIO TWO: The striped bass season is closed, with a prohibition on targeting in effect. A surfcaster stands by the shore, tossing a lure—maybe a tin squid, maybe a popper, maybe something else—into the with water foaming around an offshore bar. As he works his lure through the water, he repeatedly hooks, beaches, and releases striped bass. A law enforcement officer, seeing the action from afar, stops by and asks, "Any luck?" The angler responds, "No, it's been pretty bad. I'm trying to catch a bluefish, but all I can hook are striped bass." The officer, understanding that no provable violation has been committed, says "Have a good day," and walks on.

Sadly, some members of the Board are arguing to create just that ludicrous situation when, in reality, all they will create is a growing disrespect for the regulatory process.

4

A no harvest closure, which permits catch-and-release during the closed season, will allow the recreational striped bass fishery to provide the greatest overall benefits to the greatest number of stakeholders.

No one can fish for striped bass during a no-target closure. Thus, for the duration of any such closure, the angling public, as well as the array of businesses that serve striped bass anglers, are denied the social and economic benefits that might otherwise have accrued from the recreational striped bass fishery. Such benefits are irretrievably lost, as anglers and businesses cannot make up confiscated fishing days, and fishing and business opportunities, once the season reopens.

In the best case, a no-target closure would shut down the recreational striped bass fishery for 39 days in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, or 40 days if Rhode Island is included, although to keep the closure that short, the closure would have to occur sometime in Wave 4, the most productive time of the year. Yet to avoid the lost social and economic benefits that would accompany such a no-target closures, the northern states could instead adopt a no-harvest closure that allowed catch-and-release fishing, enjoy the social and economic benefits that would result, and still only extend the closed season by two or four days, depending on whether Rhode Island was included in the closure.

Given that, it's clear that adopting a no-target closure in the northern segment of the fishery would be a very irresponsible action.

On the southern segment of the fishery, any closure would be significantly more painful. Still, in a region that stretches from Rhode Island to North Carolina, managers could choose between a 26-day no-target closure occurring sometime during Wave 6, and a slightly longer 36-day closure during the same period, which occurs when most private boats are already out of the water and the anglers who remain can still generate social and economic benefits from the catch-and-release fishery. Should the southern region be governed by states between Connecticut and North Carolina, managers could choose between a 25-day no-target closure and a 34-day no-harvest closure, again trading a longer no-

harvest closure, which generates continued benefits, for a somewhat shorter no-target closure that significantly diminishes the overall social and economic value of the fishery.[34]

In all cases, the somewhat shorter closure provided by the no-target season does not justify the corresponding loss of social and economic benefits that can be avoided by adopting no-harvest closures in all recreational ocean fisheries.

5

No-harvest seasons that permit catch-and-release during the closed season are a time-tested and effective management tool, in the striped bass fishery and elsewhere.

No-harvest seasons that permit catch-and-release have a long history of success in fisheries management. Perhaps the most notable, and the most relevant in this context, was the fact that during the 1980s, many states (although not all) states imposed moratoriums on their commercial and recreational striped bass fisheries, which prohibited all harvest yet allowed catch-and-release. I remember fishing under those moratorium conditions at that time, attempting to catch and release striped bass. The fact that the striped bass stock was fully rebuilt by 1995 is a matter of public record.

In my native New York, regulations provide that "During the closed recreational season for striped bass, catch and release fishing by angling only is permitted. *Catch and release* fishing is defined as a fishery where fish are returned to the water. During the closed season all striped bass taken shall be released to the water immediately without unnecessary injury."[35] In the decades since that rule was adopted, I don't recall any complaints that it was "unfair" or "inequitable."

In other New York waters fisheries, we find a no-harvest, catch-and-release artificial lures-only season for stream trout that runs from October 16 - March 31, and a no-harvest, catch-and-release season for largemouth and smallmouth bass that runs from December 1 – June 14.[36] In adjacent federal waters, the harvest ban on shortfin mako sharks is not intended to be a ban on recreational catch-and-release angling, with the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS") commenting that

> NMFS disagrees that targeted catch-and-release recreational fishing for shortfin mako sharks should not be permitted when the default retention limit of zero is in place...studies have shown that post-release mortality among recreationally caught shortfin mako sharks is low [Author's note: "low," but higher than the 9% mortality rate for released striped bass]...***prohibiting catch-and-release fishing for shortfin mako sharks would double the estimated loss to supporting businesses and industries in recreational trip expenditures, increasing adverse impacts [of the harvest ban]***. [emphasis added][37]

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[34] ASMFC, Draft Addendum III, pp. 38-39.

[35] 6 NYCRR 40.1(g)(3)

[36] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, "Statewide Freshwater Fishing Seasons, Sizes, and Catch Limits," available at https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/freshwater-fishing/regulations/statewide-season-sizes-catch-limits

[37] 87 FR 39373, 39377-39378, 2022

Similarly, when NMFS closed the 2025 Angling Category Atlantic bluefin tuna season on August 12, it expressly provided that "During a closure, recreational fishermen may continue to catch-and-release, or tag-and-release, bluefin tuna of all sizes."[38]

Although NMFS did not provide a reason for allowing catch-and-release angling during the closed bluefin season, it is likely that it did so for the same reason that it allows catch-and-release for shortfin makos: Because it provides substantial social and economic benefits without causing significant harm to the fish stock.

The same is true in the case of striped bass.

II
OTHER ISSUES

The Draft Addendum includes three other proposed management actions that, while not insignificant, are far less important than those included in Section 3.4. They are addressed below

A
Section 3.1: The Board should adopt Option B. Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition

As noted in the Draft Addendum, there is no standard approach to measure striped bass, that is consistent in all states. In order to create a uniform approach to measuring striped bass, which better avoids the possibility of anglers retaining striped bass that fall slightly above or below the 28- to 31-inch slot size limit, Option B should be adopted.

B
Section 3.2: The Board should adopt Option B. Commercial Tagging at the Point of Harvest or, if a majority of the Board does not support that option, Option C, Commercial Tagging By the First Point of Landing

There is no data that demonstrates that tagging fish before the point of first sale significantly reduces the illegal sale of striped bass. However, given that a majority of the ASMFC's Law Enforcement Committee supports tagging at point of harvest or, at least, prior to first landing, and given that all states except for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and North Carolina have such a requirement, it makes sense to require that bass be tagged at some point before they are landed, in order to minimize the likelihood of illegal sale.

Since requiring tagging at the point of harvest also makes it more difficult to transfer fish between boats prior to tagging, Option B is the preferred action, although Option C is still an improvement over the status quo.

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[38] National Marine Fisheries Service, "Closure: Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Angling Category Fishery (Recreational) – All Sizes, All Areas," August 8, 2025, available at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/closure-atlantic-bluefin-tuna-angling-category-fishery-recreational-all-sizes-all-areas

C

Section 3.3: The Board should adopt Option C. New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer, with the qualifications that the Board should also consider increasing the uncertainty buffer to 15 or 20 percent, and that, if Option C is not found to be acceptable, the Board adopt Option A, status quo.

When *Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan: 18% Reduction in Removals and & Circle Hook Measures* was adopted by the Board on October 30, 2019, it required, among other things, that both the commercial quota and recreational removals be reduced by 18 percent, and that *all* anglers in the Chesapeake Bay be limited to one striped bass per day, measuring no less than 18 inches in length.[39]

However, the State of Maryland chose to seek supposedly conservation equivalent measures that would provide special consideration to the commercial and for-hire sectors, and place a disproportionate share of the conservation burden on shore-based and private boat anglers. Thus, Maryland opted to increase its recreational size limit to 19 inches, and close its recreational striped bass fishery in the Chesapeake Bay, outlawing even catch-and-release angling, throughout the month of April and again from August 16 through August 31 in order to provide a two-fish bag limit (only one of which might exceed 28 inches) for its for-hire fleet and a mere 1.8 percent reduction in its commercial quota.[40]

Maryland has since realized that the current recreational striped bass seasons are not appropriate, and wish to "reset" its seasons as described in the Draft Addendum, before adopting thit e provisions of Addendum III.

While such reset may be appropriate, it is surrounded by enough uncertainty that it is impossible to know whether it will truly be mortality-neutral, as Maryland claims, or whether it might lead to increased striped bass removals.[41]

That being the case, Maryland should only be permitted to reset its recreational striped bass seasons pursuant to Option C, which will create a 10 percent buffer to allow for such uncertainty. However, 10 percent might well not be enough to account for any additional removals that result, and the Board is asked to consider increasing such buffer to 15 or 20 percent to prevent such increased removals from occurring.

In asking this, I acknowledge that such greater buffer is not included as an option in the Draft Addendum. However, in Section IIA2 of these comments, I noted that some member of the ASMFC staff, perhaps Emile Franke, noted that the Board could adopt a commercial quota decrease of less than 12 percent if it chose to do so, even though an option to do so is not contained in the Draft Addendum. If it

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[39] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan: 18% Reduction in Removals and Circle Hook Measures, October 30, 2019, p. 9, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/StripedBassAddendumVI_Am6_RevisedMay2021-1.pdf

[40] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Memorandum from Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator, to Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board, "Next Steps for Management," dated April 28, 2020, pp. 4-5, available at https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/AtlanticStripedBassBoardSupplemental-4.pdf

[41] ASMFC, Draft Addendum III, pp. 28-29

is permissible to adopt such a measure, which would have the effect of reducing the likelihood that rebuilding will be achieved by 2029, it should be equally permissible to increase the uncertainty buffer associated with the Maryland recreational regulation reset, in order to increase the probability that rebuilding can be achieved.

But if the Board chooses not to adopt Option C and any sort of uncertainty buffer, the next preferable action would be to choose Option A, status quo, to avoid the possibility that Maryland's recreational removals will increase.

III
SUMMARY

In summary, I ask that, in the case of Section 3.4, the Board

- Select Option B, which would reduce commercial and recreational removals by 12 percent;
- Select Sub-option O1 and either of Sub-options CB-1 or CB-3, ensuring that all anglers share equally in the burdens of rebuilding; and
- Maximize the social and economic benefits of the recreational striped bass fishery by adopting a no-harvest fishing closure.

With respect to the other issues raised in the Draft Addendum, I ask that the Board

- In the case of Section 3.1, select Option B to establish a standard striped bass measurement process;
- In the case of Section 3.2, select Option B to require commercial fishermen to tag their catch at the point of harvest or, as a non-preferred alternative, Option C, to require tagging prior to landing.
- In the case of Section 3.3, adopt Option C, allowing Maryland to "reset" its recreational fishing seasons, but only if an uncertainty buffer of no less than 10 percent, and preferably 15 or 20 percent, is required and, should no uncertainty buffer be acceptable to the Board, that it adopt Option A, status quo, to best prevent an increase in recreational removals.

Thank you for considering my views on these matters.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Witek, III

From:	Michael Obrycki
To:	Comments; Emilie Franke; Marty Gary; Matthew Gates; Jason E. Mcnamee; Doug Grout; Megan Ware
Subject:	[External] Striped Bass Meeting
Date:	Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:11:22 AM

Dear ASMFC,

I am a New York surfcaster. How much inaction can you allow before the striped bass stock goes into an unrecoverable state? The fishing for striped bass is the worst it has been in decades from the shore and, even from the boat, in many areas, it's tough fishing.

It is abundantly clear that the fishery is in poor shape and something must be done. You cannot kick the can down the road. You cannot allow the party boat captains and commercials dictate policy and decimate the fishery any longer. You have to do something. Have you forgotten your role in preserving our fisheries? When will it be enough? When striped bass go the way of the winter flounder?

There are a lot of options on the table. Doing nothing is not an option and enacting "no-target" policies are a diversion by the parties interested in killing every last bass to shift the conversation into nonsensical territories. We know the no-target closures are totally unenforceable and just a waste of time even thinking about, let alone the economic impact being severe.

I support a full moratorium: no harvest for ALL fishermen (comms and recs), catch and release only. No-target closures are a non-starter.

Thank you and I seriously hope you consider giving these fish a fighting chance.

Best,
Michael

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:48:50 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Dave Flanagan

Email

Dave@NorthIslandFly.com

State

New York

Comment

I am a for hire fly and light tackle fishing guide on Long Island. I average 125-150 trips from May 1 to December 1. This is my livelihood and what pays my bills and feeds my family including my two young children ages 5 and 2. Striped Bass are my number one target species and without proper management, my family will need to seek other ways to survive.

After review, the management options that I am in favor of are as follows.

3.1 Measuring Striped Bass, Option B

3.2 Commercial Tagging, Option B

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline, Option C

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals, Option B - Suboption O1

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:48:38 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Bill Herlihy
Email
beachfire@optonline.net
State
New York
Comment
At this time with the information available I do not believe a closure is warranted. I feel enforcement needs to be increased and penalty's increased. The current limits should be looked at and possibly take additional steps at that time.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 6:39:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

nicholas manzione

Email

burny1075@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I oppose the proposed 12% reduction for Atlantic striped bass. The measure is not justified because it does not address the primary drivers of waste and mortality—notably recreational release (discard) mortality, unmanaged bycatch, environmental stressors, and predation—despite longstanding statutory and programmatic direction to do so.

1) The ASMFC Compact requires preventing “waste,” not just shifting catch
The ASMFC Compact’s purpose is “the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause,” and to coordinate state actions to protect fisheries against overfishing, waste, depletion, or any abuse whatsoever. Cutting 12% without directly reducing known waste streams (e.g., high release mortality) conflicts with that mandate. Virginia Law+2Virginia Law+2

2) Congress directed comprehensive studies—including predator–prey & environment
The Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (ASBCA) directs the Secretaries to conduct continuing, comprehensive studies of striped bass populations, including water quality, habitat, and interspecies interactions with bluefish, menhaden, mackerel, and other forage/competitors, and to report findings publicly. Those requirements were strengthened in the 1997 amendments. Policy changes should be grounded in these analyses, not blanket percentage cuts that ignore the root causes. GovInfo

3) Stocking/enhancement was a major management tool—acknowledge it and the record
Recovery efforts in the 1980s and 1990s included hatchery enhancement and stocking, documented by ASMFC’s own special reports (e.g., Special Report No. 50: Recommendations concerning the stocking of striped bass in Atlantic coastal waters; Special Report No. 53: Evaluation of anadromous striped bass enhancement efforts with emphasis on Chesapeake Bay). The multi-state hatchery/tagging program and state reports to ASMFC on coastal stockings (1985–1992) are part of the historical record that should be referenced when considering today’s measures. If the current action does not reflect these lessons

learned, that is a process failure. ResearchGate+2Calendar Media+2

Note: Congress set up the Emergency Striped Bass Study in 1979, and the 1981 Interstate FMP followed—these are the frameworks under which stocking/enhancement work was pursued. The 1997 ASBCA amendments reorganized and continued the federal study program and required a socio-economic report to Congress. The Board should explicitly state how that body of work informs today's decision. GovInfo+2GovInfo+2

4) Target the biggest waste driver: recreational release mortality
Since 1990, roughly 90% of total annual striped bass catch is released, and around 9% of those releases are estimated to die—making release mortality a large fraction of removals in recent years. The 2024 stock assessment update shows recreational release mortality alone comprised about 40% of total removals in 2022–2023. Any reduction strategy that sidesteps this is misdirected. Practical tools—tight seasonal no-targeting windows, gear/tackle rules, on-water handling standards—belong in the package before broad percentage cuts. ASMFC+1

5) Bycatch & environmental factors must be addressed explicitly
The statute and FMP history emphasize environmental drivers (water quality, habitat, disease) and predator–prey dynamics (e.g., menhaden and other forage). Your decision record should show how the action reduces total mortality arising from these factors—not simply re-allocates allowable landings. GovInfo

6) Consistency with national seafood policy
Federal policy—most notably Executive Order 13921 (May 7, 2020), "Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth"—directs agencies to support domestic seafood production, reduce unnecessary burdens, and ensure predictable management. Cuts that do not reduce waste but do reduce lawful harvest undercut that policy goal without delivering conservation benefits. Federal Register+1

Requested Board Actions
Drop the blunt 12% cut and replace it with a package that directly reduces waste (focus on release mortality, documented handling/gear measures, targeted no-targeting closures where they demonstrably reduce releases). ASMFC

Publish how you incorporated the stocking/enhancement record (ASMFC Special Reports 50 & 53; state/ASMFC stocking summaries) and explain any deviations from those findings. ResearchGate+1

Demonstrate compliance with ASBCA §5155 by showing how predator–prey, water quality, and other environmental analyses informed the decision, and by making the required study outputs readily available to the public. GovInfo

Align with national seafood policy (EO 13921) by adopting measures that reduce discard mortality and bycatch first, preserving sustainable, accountable harvest rather than cutting it. Federal Register

Thank you for considering these comments. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss practical discard-reduction tools and documentation needs before final action.

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: Cary Albright
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:50:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I lived through the last moratorium. I am 68 years old and over the years have always said that the Striped Bass needs to classified as a game fish. That's just the way it needs to be.and commercial fishing for them needs to stop.
I sit a Montauk Point and watch guys string nets from their commercial boats 50 yards from shore out during October migration.
I've seen hundreds of 50lb fish floating in the water discarded by the boats.
It is as if these men haven't seen the last time the decimated the population. We must protect these fish and completely ban commercial fishing for them.
This industry seems to not be able to control its own greed and would just take fish until they were totally gone.

Sincerely,

Cary Albright

529 Wood Duck Dr

Manheim, PA 17545

tikealbright@gmail.com

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: Richard Grein
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:24:35 PM

Att: Striped Bass Management Board

I'm Richard Grein, I'm a surf-fisherman from Long Island New York. Would like to keep this as short as posable.

I would favor no harvest closures.

And on the Draft Addendum
Section 3.1 Option B
Section 3.2 Option B
Section 3.3 Option A
Section 3.4 Option B-01
Section 3.4 Option CB1

Thank You
Rich Grein

Sent from my iPhone
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: Jim C.
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum 3
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:05:45 PM

Attn: Striped Bass Management Board

Please be advised that I am in full support of a no harvest option for helping restore the Striped Bass stock to a level where it needs to be.

Thank you for taking my comment into consideration.

Regards,

--
James Callahan
Floral Park , NY

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: Joseph Mogavero
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:40:32 AM

To the ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board:
I'm a recreational fisherman who has spent his entire adult life fishing from the Long Island shores and surrounding waters. Over the last 15 years, I've experienced a decline in the number of striped bass landed each season. Even though the 2024 Stock Assessment Update indicates the resource is no longer experiencing overfishing, it does remain overfished. It is for these reasons that I support the following options:

Section 3.1 **Option B**
Section 3.2 **Option B**
Section 3.3 **Option A**
Section 3.4 **Option B-01**
Option CB1

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Best regards,
Joe Mogavero
Smithtown, NY

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: Ryan Seagraves
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:45:49 AM

To the Striped Bass Management board:

Here are the option I believe are best for Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.1 Option B

Section 3.2 Option B

Section 3.3 Option A

Section 3.4 Option B-01

Section 3.4 Option CB1

I strongly support the **No Harvest** method for in-season closures.

Sincerely,

High Hill Striper Club President and recreational surf angler Ryan Seagraves

Long Island, New York

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: Louis Falsetta
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:20:10 AM

To whom it may concern,

The following represents my preferred options in the Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.1 : Option B

Section 3.2 : Option B

Section 3.3 : Option A

Section 3.4 : Option B-01

In addition, I support the NO HARVEST method for in-season closures.

Best regards,

Lou Falsetta

North Babylon, New York

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:18:07 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=CjqkB1PWoIr9GsbByOvr-qZAvlsk-6vecZ0-mVdh_zI.TzzC5W

Name

Leif Gobel

Email

leif.gobel@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

The following represents my preferred options in Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.1 Option B
Section 3.2 Option B
Section 3.3 Option A
Section 3.4 Option B-01
Section 3.4 Option CB1

Additionally, I support the No Harvest method for in-season closures.

Sincerely,
Leif Gobel
1100 N. Sea Dr
Orient NY 11957

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:	John Priani
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:20:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This is absolutely crazy. If you are going to target a closure target the head boats, they let these people keep these fish out of the water for endless pictures until the fish dies. It is absolutely insane. There are dragger boats well within the 3 mile line that constantly catch and kill breeding striped bass in their nets. Fix the real issue.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Priani

17 Angela Ln

Bay Shore, NY 11706

johnrpriani@gmail.com

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:	Thomas Katechis
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:40:43 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Me along with the other anglers I communicate with catch striped bass every time we leave the dock. Last 5 years have been some of the best fishing I've experienced growing up on the Long Island sound. Any further reductions would be unnecessary and unfair for those who abide by the rules and invest so much into their hobby.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Thomas Katechis

774 Pelhamdale Ave

New Rochelle, NY 10801

tommykatechis@gmail.com

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: Paul Lamonte
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum lll
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:54:51 PM

Sent from my iPad. The following coments represent my opinions for the Draft Addendum lll. Sec. 3.1. I choose Opt B. I believe we all should be consistent in how we start the process Sec. 3.2. I choose. Opt B. The Fish should be tagged when first caught so we can all be consistent with the process. Sec. 3.3. I choose. Opt A. Maryland would maintain there season. The slot size was in place for previous conservation. Sec. 3.4. Opt. B-01. And. Opt. CB 1. The same as above. My personal comment would be that The conservation keeps reducing stock to help the Species and the enjoyment of the sport is more difficult. Respectfully. Paul. LaMonte. Massapequa. NY.

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:	Tricia Pearson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:50:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have never seen such an abundance of striped bass in my area.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Tricia Pearson

213 Lincoln Pl

Eastchester, NY 10709

clancy.tricia@gmail.com

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:	Jon Pearson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:50:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have never seen better striped ass fishing in my entire life. My family owned a party boat for 100 years and this is literally the best fishing I have ever seen.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jon Pearson

213 Lincoln Pl

Eastchester, NY 10709

pete322angler@yahoo.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 3:26:33 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ralph Albino
Email
rja1326@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
In the last 15 years there has been at least 3 case of flawed or inaccurate data, the last from MRI, admitting to up to 40% margin of error. We have been asked to sacrifice for the future, which never seems to come. We were told, in 2023, that we had to protect the 2015 year of class fish, thus 31 inch, haven't these fish grown to at least 35 inches by now? It is hard to grasp this whole process.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 3:16:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Al Cheng
Email
Al43234@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
I support an equitable coast-wide harvest moratorium as the best and only way to rebuild the striped bass stock.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:34:00 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Ronald Lajda

Email

captronlajda@aol.com

State

New York

Comment

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my concerns with Addendum III for Striped Bass and proposed reductions therein. Striped Bass stocks are healthy along the East Coast as I'm sure anyone who has spent any amount of time on the water fishing can confirm.
We are seeing several year classes of Striped Bass. The fishery is by no means on the verge of collapse. With the upcoming benchmark stock assessment in 2027, I believe is is too soon to roll out this Addendum in 2026. The fact the reductions will only to a 50% chance of rebuild, proves the target is too high and timeline too short.
As a Charter fishing business we rely heavily on the availability to target Striped Bass. Any further restrictions, reductions, and closures will be detrimentally to our industry.
I am in favor of option B2 as a first choice under the Ocean fishery which sectors out the for hire and opens the slot. I however do not support any closed season that is attached to this option.
Opening the slot will significantly reduce discard mortality. Second choice would be status quo from the 2025 season.
I believe this addendum should be tabled until at least 2027 and rebuild time line extended until 2032.

Sincerely,
Capt. Ron Lajda
Coyote Sportfishing Charters
Orient Point, New York

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:	Francis Santangelo
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:10:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The most bass i have seen over the last few years. Trying to limit further is ridiculous. Has to be some sort of corruption going on.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Francis Santangelo

12 Island Dr

Rye, NY 10580

ciscybiscy@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:08:29 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
GARRETT MOORE
Email
garrymoore01@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
The following represents my preferred options in Draft Addendum III: Section 3.1 Option B Section 3.2 Option B Section 3.3 Option A Section 3.4 Option B-01 Section 3.4 Option CB1 I support the No Harvest method for in-season closures.

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:	Christopher Luzzi
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:00:18 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Don’t take away an outlet from stress! Don’t take away our ability to spend time with our kids!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Christopher Luzzi

510 Baldwin Pl

Mamaroneck, NY 10543

hockey0913@aol.com

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:	Robert Manfredi
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:20:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

We are reliant on the harvest for a sustainable fishery

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Manfredi

197 Fairway Dr

Carmel, NY 10512

ultrabob@comcast.net

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: Adam Jannetti
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Public Comment, Atlantic Striped Bass, Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:19:46 PM

Hello ASMFC,

I am a recreational angler from New York. Here are my picks for the proposed addendum measures

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass **Option B** – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.

3.2: Commercial Tagging **Option B** – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.

3.3: Chesapeake Bay **Option C** – New baseline with 10% buffer

3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism

I believe these options give the best chance of success for rebuilding by 2029.

Thanks!
Adam Jannetti

Sent from my iPhone

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:	Christina Sacchitello
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:00:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Local fisherman report this has been best season in several years of stripped bass. Friends that are commercial fishermen reported that there are more bass in the waters than there has been in many years.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Christina Sacchitello

14 Hamilton Rd

Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

christinafb3@aol.com

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: Anthony Lombardo
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:20:21 PM

Dear Striped Bass Management Board,

These are my preferred options in the Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.1: Option B
Section 3.2: Option B
Section 3.3: Option A
Section 3.4: Option B-01
Section 3.4: Option CB1

I strongly support the No Harvest method for all in-season closures and therefore support any date chosen in any region for in-season closure.

Thank you for your time,
Anthony Lombardo
Seaford, NY

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:54:00 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=CjqkB1PWoIr9GsbByOvr-qZAvlsk-6vecZ0-mVdh_zI.TzzC5W

Name

John Tomici

Email

jtomici@optonline.net

State

New York

Comment

As a surf fisherman from Long Island, I support the strongest measures to ensure the quickest rebuilding of the Striped Bass stock including the " No Harvest" option for seasonal moratoriums. I do NOT support the No Targeting option. In summary, I support the following:

3.1: Option B
3.2: Option B
3.3: Option C
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean

I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:19:00 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nadav Hendel
Email
nadav.hendel@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I support the most extreme measures possible to improve the health and population size of Striped Bass including moratorium and/or seasonal closure. We need to do more as a community to be better stewards to the fish and the planet. All fisherman should care about climate change and direct human impact on plants and animals, including the overfishing of stripers. All things from the earth are a gift. As we enjoy these gifts through recreation and fishing, it becomes our responsibility to give back, preserve, and improve the world around us. Thank you.

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:	Sonny Guarino
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:10:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE NEED A NO HARVEST FISHERY! CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY!! THE NUMBERS WILL ONLY INCREASE!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Sonny Guarino

540 N Clove Rd

Verbank, NY 12585

sonnyguarino@yahoo.com

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 Ginex
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Save Our Striped Bass
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:36:24 AM

ASMFC,

Urgent action is neded to save the striped bass along the east coast due to your ineffective protection efforts over the past decade. You have failed miserably and have added to the unnecessary pressure on the fishery by refusing to establish sufficient guidelines to protect it. We, the recreational fishermen of the coastal states have for years repeatedly called for a moratorium on the recreational and commercial harvesting of striped bass and we have been ignored. Now the time has come to decide whether to save striped bass from extinction or let it whither away. The commercial interests in the species is well understood by most of us, but there comes a time when hard choices must be made and immediate action taken. This is that time. A MORATORIUM ON THE TAKING OF STRIPED BASS IS URGENTLY NEEDED!

Sincerely,

Michael Ginex - Member, LIBBA

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From: jesse huot
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III.
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:09:52 AM

To the Striped Bass Management Board:

The following represents my preferred options in Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.1 Option B

Section 3.2 Option B

Section 3.3 Option A

Section 3.4 Option B-01

Section 3.4 Option CB1

Additionally, I support the No Harvest method for in-season closures.

Sincerely,

Jesse Huot
New Berlin, New York

—

jessehuot@me.com

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: wandermann@nyc.rr.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] upcoming meeting on 10/3/25
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:46:07 AM

I have been fishing for over fifty years. In the past three years, I have experienced a major decline in the number of striped bass caught. When I fish, I have low expectations. If I catch a bass or two, I feel lucky. The stock in chesapeake and the hudson river is depleted. If conservation measures are not taken, there will be no bass for future anglers. A total moratorium on the harvesting of striped bass is needed now. At the very least, the open season should be pushed back in states (including New York) to protect bass during the spawning season.

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: Christopher Pizaro
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:40:18 PM

Good Evening,

I'm writing as a concerned recreational surfcaster based out of Long Island, NY. I am heavily involved in the fishing community both as a member of the 74 year old Striper Surf Club as well as the current Vice President of the Montauk Surfcasters Association.

The Striped Bass are in trouble, we can't deny this. This is a fish that has grown so close to many hearts, myself included. I've made lifelong friends as a result of this fish. I live, breath and nearly die at times for these fish - that's how important they are to me. I can understand the different sides of the many arguments currently being had with regard to management - ie state of the fishery views, not wanting certain outcomes due to protecting livelihood etc., however continuing on the way we are simply cannot and will not sustain the striped bass fishery.

I'd like to voice my positions on the following actions:

3.1) Option B,
3.2) Option B,
3.3) Option C, with a request to increase the buffer to 15% or more, and
3.4) Option B-O1. I am also writing to encourage any closures in the season to be harvest-closures only- I do not support "no target" closures! No target closures in my opinion just does not seem enforceable given the already thin presence of officials at any given time. Not to mention, this would have an adverse impact on the hundreds of tackle shops that rely on us to patronize them for our striped bass gear. We as recreational surf anglers have limited access with few choices of fish to target. With regard to any objection from captains from for hire fleets and the like, there are endless other species that can be targeted and harvested with the convenience of a vessel.

On a separate note - I'd like to also mention, there is seemingly very little chance of a sustainable release of an under/over slot striped bass from many of these for hire boats. The rails are just too high, and by simply chucking a fish over and back into the water without a proper revival is almost guaranteeing a floating fish not long after its "release". I've witnessed this with my own eyes, so I am confident in that statement.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this, and I thank you for helping us with this fight!

We're counting on you to take the appropriate course of action and save these fish.

Regards,
Chris Pizaro

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From:	Sue Bertoline
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III comment
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:49:50 PM

Good evening,

I would like to contribute my comments on the SB draft addendum III.

I fish mostly the back bays of Long Island and have not seen a striped bass in the last year.
They are far and few between.

I went fishing last week in Maine for striped bass and only saw a few during our 4 hours trip.
The guide told us they have been getting a some larger fish but haven't seen more then 3 under 28" all year.

Please do something to save this fishery so it doesn't totally collapse.

My choices are:
3.1 - Option B
3.2 - Option B
3.3 - Option C
3.4 - Option B-01 for Ocean and C-B1 for Bay

Thank you for your time,
Sue Bertoline

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:	Robert Miele
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 5:20:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I do not agree with the proposed additional seasonal closures and “no targeting” provisions for striped bass.

These closures are extreme — even prohibiting catch-and-release — and are unnecessary given the current success of existing management. The strict slot limit for recreational fishing has already reduced fishing mortality to a 30-year low, well below both the target and threshold needed for stock rebuilding.

So why push new restrictions now?

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is reacting to short-term fluctuations in MRIP catch estimates — a survey NOAA has already acknowledged significantly overestimates recreational effort due to flawed design. The entire case for a proposed 12% reduction is based on a 0.01 difference in estimated fishing mortality — a figure well within the margin of error and statistically indistinguishable from current conditions.

Basing sweeping regulatory changes on uncertain, overestimated data is not sound fisheries management. It undermines angler confidence and penalizes a recreational community that has already made meaningful sacrifices to protect this fishery.

I strongly oppose any additional restrictions, including “no targeting” closures, and urge the ASMFC to maintain the current management framework, which is already proving effective.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Miele

10 Rugby Rd

Yonkers, NY 10710

mielewoodworking@gmail.com

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From:	robert haimelin
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 4:50:08 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Place limit on commercial fishing. Don't Place more limits on personal anglers.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

robert haimelin

17 Snider Ave

Walden, NY 12586

babo5@msn.com

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: Justin Friedman
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Public Comment, Atlantic Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:10:06 PM

Hello ASMFC,

I am a recreational angler from New York. Here are my picks for the proposed addendum measures

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass **Option B** – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.

3.2: Commercial Tagging **Option B** – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.

3.3: Chesapeake Bay **Option C** – New baseline with 10% buffer

3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism

I believe these options give the best chance of success for rebuilding by 2029.

Thanks!

--
Justin Friedman
Director, Artist Relations & Marketing

www.dangelicoguitars.com | @dangelicony
www.suprousa.com | @suprousa
www.pigtronix.com | @pigtronix

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 2:46:09 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Dunlop
Email
wrd5050@aol.com
State
New York
Comment
I support the following proposed management options: Option B in Section 3.1; Option B in Section 3.2; Option A in Section 3.3; Option B-01 in Section 3.4 and Option CB1 in Section 3.4. I also support "No Harvest" for in-season closures. I am a member of the NY Coalition for Recreational Fishing and a striped bass fisherman on Long Island NY for over 50 years.

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:	Joe Pellegrini
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:02:23 PM

To the Striped Bass Management Board:

The following represents my preferred options regarding Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.1 Option B

Section 3.2 Option B

Section 3.3 Option A

Section 3.4 Option B-01

Section 3.4 Option CB1

In addition, I strongly support the No Harvest method for in-season closures.

Sincerely,

Joe Pellegrini

Long Island, NY

--

Joe Pellegrini
Director of Courtesy Patrol
Long Island Beach Buggy Association
516-729-8582

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: joe pelle
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:59:03 PM

Esteemed Striped Bass Management Board:

The state of this great fishery is in your hands, please consider all input and make the correct decision.

These are my preferences for Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.1 Option B

Section 3.2 Option B

Section 3.3 Option A

Section 3.4 Option B-01

Section 3.4 Option CB1

I also support the No Harvest method for in-season closures.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Pelle
Wantagh, NY

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From:	Justin Cockx
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Comments – Striped Bass Addendum III
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:20:50 PM

Emilie Franke – ASMFC

My name is Justin Cockx, and I fish for striped bass in the Hudson River above the George Washington Bridge.
As an avid angler, I understand and fully support the need to preserve and protect the striped bass population and support action(s) to reduce the "mortality" through various conservation efforts.
During the Public Hearing on ASMFC Addendum III, to Amendment 7 of the Striped Bass Mgt. program, held and monitored by NYSDEC at the DEC Region 3, New Paltz Office, we were presented an Overview of Addendum Iii particularly Section 3.4
Section 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding" of the Addendum.
* Option A: status quo
* Option B: O1: Even sector reductions with both commercial and recreational sectors taking a 12% reduction OR
O2: 13% reduction in season and a for-hire exemption allowing them to take 28-33" fish

I support Option B. O2 – everyone takes the same reduction
We were then provided opportunity to comment on the several CE's (conservation equivalents) specific to the Hudson River as allowed on Pg. 25 of Addendum III,
"… conservation equivalency (CE) programs will not be approved for non-quota managed recreational fisheries, with the exception of the Hudson River…."
Each of which these NYS DEC proposed CE's will meet the required 12% reduction required by ASMFC.
Proposed Reduction Actions for the Hudson River
A. Slot Reduction (Note: current slot is 23-28")
i 23-25"
ii 25-28"
B. No targeting - April 1-25
C. Catch & Release – April 1-30

My personal preference is "C" , however, I will support whichever of these is submitted by NYSDEC for ASMFC approval.
Respectfully,

Justin Cockx - Owner
J C Flooring
Troy, NY 12182
Phone: 518-720-2376
Fax: 877-395-4464
E-mail: JustinCockx@gmail.com or jcflooring@hotmail.com.
For all your flooring needs. Sales, installations, repairs and more. Call us to schedule a free measurement and estimation.

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: L.p.
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] All Island surfcasters
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:03:50 PM

Hi I am Larry pacifico president of all Island surfcasters. Here are my comments for stripes bass. 3 1 option b option 3.2 option 3.3 option a 3.4 option b 01 and 3.4 option cb1 thank you

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:54:09 AM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Paul Dixon
Email
captainpauldixon@mac.com
State
New York
Comment
The striped bass fishery is in severe trouble and needs to be rebuilt to insure the sustainability of this Iconic fish. So I support… 3.1 measuring Striped Bass ..Option B Commercial Tagging…Option B 3.3Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline….Option C 3.4 Reduction In Fishery Removals …Option B-01 for ocean…and CB-1 for the bay. Please try and err on the side of caution and rebuild the Striper to its former glory..

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:15:55 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joe GaNun
Email
JPGANUN@AOL.COM
State
New York
Comment
At the very worst, status quo should be observed. As a significant improvement to protect the resource, a one size fits all rule should be observed regardless of location or season, along with a "take closure for the spawning period, catch and release only. One other random comment. The slot may be too narrow, requiring fishermen to overly stress the fish while they check their boatside ruler or their tape measures. 1@ 36 was not so difficult.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:39:53 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Steven Foceri
Email
steven.foceri@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
No commercial season. Recreation should be catch and release only. Try that for 1 year and see how much better things get.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:57:08 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Adam Bollaci

Email

captainadambollaci@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

For the past 12 years I have seen a major rebound of the striped bass fishery in both the Western Long Island Sound and western South Shore of Long Island. This past spring in the wester sound was nothing short of our best spring season on fish from 18" all the way to the mid 40's. 99% of the fish caught are released and done so within 60 seconds of landing. No nets are used and very rarely do I see any blood. Typically, once we catch a keeper or two, we pack it in and stop fishing. With this 3" slot we sometimes have to catch 12-15 fish just to find a slot, and it seems foolish that every year we are governed to only harvest a particular size year class.

Let's get on to opening day, New Jersy April 1st, New York April 15th. So on their way up to spawn the NJ fleet is wiping out a year class as they stage in Raritan Bay to go up the Hudson. It should be a coastwise start date of May 1st back to a 28" and up size so that the fish being harvested are a mix of all year classes.

Also on the South Shore migration patterns have changed and most of the time in the spring and fall the fish are traveling in deeper water well past the 3-mile line. So of course landings will be down as those fish cannot be targeted.

Bait is the biggest factor, stop all the bunker boats from wiping out the forage fish and we will have an endless stock of striped bass. As we have seen a major decline this year in adult bunker due to the netting that took place in the NY bight.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 10:34:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Christopher Torre
Email
chrisdickinsonfight@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
No more harvesting bass! Fishery has been beyond hammered. Somebody needs to put a damn lid on these party boats.

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:	DAVID BLINKEN
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III”
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:31:50 PM

Dear ASMFC Representative,
My name is Captain David Blinken,
I have been a catch and release saltwater flyfishing guide since 1996.
I work on the East End of Longisland, NY
When I first started guiding bass were plentiful.
Catching 20-30 bass a day was the norm.
After the rules went to two bass at 28” per person I noticed a decline in numbers within a couple of years.
Now when I take clients out shallow water fishing catching 2-3 fish a day is a great outing.
We need meaningful regulations or I’ll be out of business along with many others in my field.

I am writing to provide my public input on Amendment III striped bass management options, as follows:

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – I support a mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.
3.2: Commercial Tagging Option B – I support tagging of commercial striped bass when caught, not at any landing or transportation point later.
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – I Reject any discussion of a status quo! I Support harvest reductions to assure we remain focused on rebuilding the stock by 2029. We must protect the stock that we have, especially given the expected impact of successive years of poor spawning numbers. I support 12% equal reductions; I oppose any sector favoritism. For ocean: I support Sub-option O1 (uniform reductions and no carve-out for the for-hire exemptions)
It is time to call out that there is no transparency on the numbers of for-hire operators who also fish commercially, at least in some major ports along the coast. This reinforces a critical need for (1) tagging as soon as the fish is removed from the water and (2) absolutely no special status in the for-hire sector.
Fishing mortality reductions are essential, perhaps even more than what is offered in Amendment III, however no-harvest closures are preferred over no-target closures.

Thank you,

David Blinken
917-975-0912
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:	william phelps
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 6:10:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

if you want to reduce fishing mortality the slot size is a DREAM to find a bass in that size we have to catch and release about 10 to 20 fish if we could catch fish 25" to 35" and keep one fish it would protect more bass

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

william phelps

193 Roosevelt Blvd

Hauppauge, NY 11788

sweetwaterent2000@yahoo.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:51:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dan Ciccotto
Email
dciccotto@hotmail.com
State
New York
Comment
As an avid angler and conservationist I understand the need for practical management of the striped bass fishery. Regarding Addendum III, I hereby express my support for 3.4 Option B-01 (Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12%, Recreational -12%, Status quo size limits for all models. No- harvest closures). Striped Bass have a significant economic and cultural significance throughout the east coast and I am confident that this option will best serve the species and fishery stakeholders. I will also note that I am opposed to any "no target" options. The No target option creates unnecessary ambiguity, are impossible to objectively enforce, and may adversely affect anglers legally targeting other species (such as bluefish, weakfish, etc.), should they unintentionally encounter a striped bass as bycatch. I thank you for your time and attention.

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From:	Nicholas Palmer
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:20:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I as a young fisherman of about 15 years, I am currently 25 years old and I have never seen so many striped bass in my life. The populations are clearly flourishing just fine.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Palmer

73 Gladstone Ave

West Islip, NY 11795

getawayfromme2413@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 2:40:00 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
steven mermey
Email
smermey@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I do not know exactly how you obtain your data, or since it cannot be 100% complete, how you interpret the sample(es). If I did, I could comment based on my knowledge of statistics and fishing experience. So please let me know where I can find the approach to your study and the raw results. I can say that there are plenty of stripers in season, though of course not every time out. The very narrow slot limits should be working, and you should at this point be able to determine the effect. Recreational limits must be accompanied by commercial limits as well in order to have any effect.

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:	Rick Drew
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:14:09 PM

Dear ASMFC Board Members and Managers,

Thank you for presenting the DRAFT ADDENDUM III TO AMENDMENT 7 for public comment.

It has been a long journey to get us to this point in the review process. During this time certain participants to the process continue to push back against responsible science-based recommendations to rebuild the Striped Bass stock. No special interests or one specific user group should get special treatment regarding access to our coastwide Striped Bass resource. We all must work together to rebuild the fishery. Everyone must contribute to reducing take over the next few years.

The lack of Striped Bass abundance throughout the 3 States that I regularly fish in (i.e. Ct. Ri. Ny.) is very troubling. Furthermore, the poor recruitment in both the Chesapeake Bay and the Hudson River estuaries is equally as troubling. It is time to implement new management measures and stay committed to the charter of rebuilding the Striped Bass stocks.

Recommendations like standardizing measurement methodology and having all participants to the fishery (i.e. commercial and recreational) reduce take, and tagging fish upon harvest, rather than sale are HUGE steps forward to rebuilding the stock. We must look ahead to a future of Striped Bass abundance, NOT ONE WHEREBY we wring the last few fish out of our waters and play the blame game amongst the participants.

Striped bass abundance is good for all participants and our regional coastal communities. Please contact me at any time to review further.

The following represents my preferred options in Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.1 Option B

Section 3.2 Option B

Section 3.3 Option A

Section 3.4 Option B-01

Section 3.4 Option CB1

Additionally, I adamantly support the No Harvest method for in-season closures.

Sincerely,

Rick Drew
East Hampton, New York
631-903-0751 (cell)

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From:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] Additional Comment on Draft Addendum III to Amendment to Addendum 7
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:19:51 AM

From: Michael Potts <michaelpottsiv@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:50 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>; bluefinivfish <bluefinivfish@gmail.com>
Subject: [External] Additional Comment on Draft Addendum III to Amendment to Addendum 7

To Emilie:

I have an important addition to my input on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 that escaped me in my notes:

There has been data and discussion that fish from the stronger 2015 and 2018 year classes are among those getting caught in the 28 to 31 inch slot size.
Why not adjust the slot size up or down, or have a smaller and larger slot with a closed slot size in the middle which protects these and subsequent year classes ?

PS. Emilie, I'm sorry that I called you Sir.

Thank you,
Capt Michael Potts
631.680.4800 Call or text
www.BLUEFINIV.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:08:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Winslow Tuttle
Email
wintut1204@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I am writing to provide my public input on Amendment III of the striped bass management options. I have been a catch and release salt water fly fisherman since a young man in Florida and now live on Long Island NY and fish the salt water species from Orient point to Montauk Point and along the south shore. We need meaningful and enforceable regulations. 3.1 Measuring Striped bass I support Option B 3.2 Commercial Tagging I support Option B -stripers must be tagged when caught not at landing or at any other transportation point 3.4 I reject any discussion of a status quo. Harvest reductions must be implements to assure any chance of rebuilding the stock in the future. I support 12% equal reductions and oppose any sector favoritism. Ocean I support option 01 uniform reductions with no carve outs what so ever.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:01:04 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ryan McNaughton
Email
rboy3467@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Catch and release

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 7:30:53 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Vincent Catalano
Email
fishin4777@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
3.1 - option B 3.2 - option B 3.3 - option C 3.4 option B-01 for ocean and CB1 for the bay Let’s do what’s right before it’s to late, it’s really disheartening to see the state of our fishery like this…

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 2:58:10 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Michael Sjoholm

Email

mikes@hbcarch.com

State

New York

Comment

Below are my opinions / comments ….

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length: Uniform definition to prevent slot expansion.
- B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: Reduce black market risks.
- B: At point of harvest.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: Simplify seasons, shift closures for better compliance/enforcement.
- C: New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort shifts).

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals
- B: 12% reduction both sectors.
- Sub-options: O1 uniform

Lastly, I personally would love to see closures during the breeding / spawn season in areas where the bass are known to breed / spawn (i.e. – Chesapeake, Hudson, etc.).

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of submitting these comments!

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From: Rsquire
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:40:26 PM

Greetings,

I am a long-time surfcaster deeply concerned about the current state of the striped bass fishery. Issues related to the overharvesting of striped bass have been going on for close to a decade. It is imperative that the Striped Bass Management Board takes decisive action to meet the 2029 rebuilding deadline and address the recruitment failure that we are experiencing in the Chesapeake Bay and more recently the Hudson River.

Having reviewed Addendum III please accept the following option recommendations:

<!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Section 3.1 Option B

<!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Section 3.2 Option B

<!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Section 3.3 Option A

<!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Section 3.4 Option B-01

<!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Section 3.4 Option CB1

It is also important that the Board only consider the **No Harvest** method for in-season closures. No Target closures are unenforceable and as a result, compliance will be suspect.

Sincerely.

Ross Squire
Centerport, NY

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From:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] Feedback to Striped Bass Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 12:12:45 PM

From: Michael Potts <michaelpottsiv@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 11:05 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>; bluefinivfish <bluefinivfish@gmail.com>
Subject: [External] Feedback to Striped Bass Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7

Mr. Frank,

Re: **Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7**

I am Capt. Michael Potts, born in 1955, and am a lifelong Montauk professional boat owner fisherman. As you can imagine, I've worked through many ups and downs in fishery stocks, State and Federal seasonal and total closures of several species, and continuous cutbacks in quotas and per person catch limits.

I am a member of the MBCA and support the organization's position.
With hopes of perpetuation the Striped Bass fishery and a carve-out for the for-hire business, I support Option B, 02.
The for-hire sector is only responsible for 3% of Striped Bass ocean removals while giving those with no other means to catch and bring home fish and needs its own quota and regulations.
I am in favor of a Wave 6 closure to help in effect the reduction of Striped Bass removals.

Capt. Michael Potts
www.BLUEFINIV.com
631.680.4800

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 8:22:18 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Daniel Bodkin
Email
danbodkin@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I would love an artificial lure barbless hook fishery only. Reduces mortality, no gut hooked fish. Close fishing in spawning grounds all together as well.

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:	Nick LaCascia
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 28, 2025 6:40:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have had days when I catch 5 fish in the 40inch range and work all day for a slot fish . I think your #s and management system is highly skewed.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Nick LaCascia

1525 Denver Ave

Bay Shore, NY 11706

batch807@gmail.com

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:	Karen Yee-Decosta
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 27, 2025 8:50:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

We have sacrificed enough
Years of mismanagement has led to this

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Karen Yee-Decosta

40 Chestnut St

Ardsley, NY 10502

yeek12@yahoo.com

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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 1:21:08 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Matt Bacchi

Email

asmfc.yapping780@simplelogin.com

State

New York

Comment

As stated in your overview, "Atlantic striped bass were declared overfished in 2019 and are subject to a rebuilding plan that requires the stock to be rebuilt to its spawning stock biomass target by 2029."

Yet your managers constantly find new ways to take more bass than allowed to rebuild the stock. You must reduce fishing pressure on the striped bass now.

I recommend these draft addendum proposed management options:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass: Option B. Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: Option B. Commercial Tagging At the Point of Harvest

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: Option A. Status Quo (No New Baseline Season)

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding: Option B: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%

Please do what your constituents are asking you to do, and don't forget your recreational constituents far outnumber your commercial constituents. Managing for commercial interests is not what you are here to do. We'll make sure this is the case.

Matt Bacchi
Amagansett NY

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:	Don Kim
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 27, 2025 9:00:16 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The life and pleasure of commond citizens will be taken away like Communist China, North Korea, Cuba, Russia and Venezuela.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Don Kim

123 S Broadway Apt 6A

Irvington, NY 10533

dondkimhs@aol.com

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:	Ray Kelly
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 26, 2025 9:10:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Let's get kids hooked on Fishing…NOT drugs!!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ray Kelly

25 Huck Finn Ln

Shoreham, NY 11786

RayKelly735@gmail.com

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:	William Wahlers, Jr
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 26, 2025 4:00:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The data is not being analyzed correctly and the samples are only coming from the Chesapeake. Since the reductions 3 years ago there have been more large bass than ever each year. Let's keep this going for another 5 years and let these fish continue to spawn and get bigger and bigger. Stop trying to change the law every yeR

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

William Wahlers

20 W 11th Rd Apt W

Broad Channel, NY 11693

bwjwj@hotmail.com

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:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: Atlantic Striped Bass AddendumIII comment/question
Date:	Friday, September 26, 2025 10:04:09 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

From: John Mcauliffe <jomcauli@montefiore.org>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 11:03 AM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Atlantic Striped Bass AddendumIII comment/question

What percentage of striped bass biomass is affected by commercial, and recreational anglers?
What percentage of striped bass biomass is affected by bunker (bait) biomass?

The addendum talks a lot about regulating fishing of the striped bass as a means to recovery but the addendum have no narrative about supporting its ecosystem or food chain.

I am greatly concerned about striped bass stocks for the American taxpayer. I am less concerned about the massive international companies harvesting bait for oil and cosmetics.
Fish are an incredibly healthy and practical meat to harvest for Americans. Not just the striped bass but the many other species are affected by industries that obliterate schools of bait.

Please let me know if answers are available for my questions.

Thanks for considering.

John C. McAuliffe, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S., F.S.S.O.

Attending Surgeon | Surgical Oncology
Associate Professor in Surgery and Pathology | Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Surgeon Scientist | Tumor Microenvironment and Metastasis Program
Team Leader | Pancreatic Cancer | Integrated Imaging Program for Cancer Research
Golding Building #603
1300 Morris Park Ave, Bronx, NY 10461
Administrative Assistant: Jovanie Rosa (718)862-8840 ext. 5045;
jovrosa@montefiore.org

Email | jomcauli@montefiore.org
Website | https://einsteinmed.edu/faculty/15304/john-mcauliffe/
Mobile | (713) 826-2504

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: John Papciak
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Re: Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 6:09:49 PM

To: comments@asmfc.org.

Re: Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

September 24, 2025

Dear ASMFC Representative,

I am an outdoors writer and photographer, and I'm also a USCG licensed captain, running a boat out of Montauk, NY. I have fished these waters continuously since the early 1990s.

I'm watching the numbers of striped bass continue to decline, knowing that the prospects for chartering over the next 5 years are in serious jeopardy. Myself and my guests release nearly 100% of the striped bass we catch. In the type of fishing that I do, it is the abundance, not the ability to take a fish home, that drives an angler's desire to drive all the way to Montauk for a day of fishing.

The greatest socioeconomic impact has already been felt by the surfcasting and other land based fishing sectors. Montauk was once referred to as the "Surfcasting Capitol of the World," but the number of people who travel to the East End for this type of fishing has decreased significantly over the last ten years.

When we think about "socioeconomic considerations," managers must consider their delays in taking action back when we first learned the stock was trending toward overfished status. Now we are bracing for the ongoing impact of multiple years of spawning failure.

I am writing today to provide input on the Amendment III striped bass management options, as follows:

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – I support a mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.
3.2: Commercial Tagging Option B – I support tagging of commercial striped bass when caught, not at any dock or transportation point thereafter.
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – I Reject any discussion of a status quo! I Support harvest reductions to assure we remain focused on rebuilding the stock by 2029. We must protect the stock that we have, especially given the expected impact of successive years of poor spawning numbers. I support 12% equal reductions; I oppose any sector favoritism. For ocean: I support Sub-option O1 (uniform reductions and no carve-out for the for-hire exemptions)
It is time to recognize the lack of transparency on the numbers of for-hire operators who also fish commercially, at least in some major ports along the coast. When we hear people speak for the recreational sector, are we really hearing from true recreational fishermen? This reinforces a critical need for (1) tagging as soon as the fish is removed from the water, and (2) absolutely no special status in the for-hire sector.

Fishing mortality reductions are essential, perhaps even more than what is offered in Amendment III, however no-harvest closures are preferred over no-target closures.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Captain John W. Papciak
Montauk, NY

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:	Patrick Hughes
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:50:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

In my opinion you should be using resources to stop the poachers and add limits to the commercial fisherman. Its also my opinion that the under/over sized fish they catch are not released properly causing more unnecessary deaths. Recreational fisherman are not the problem here..

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hughes

102 Oakdale Ave

Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

hpatrick85@aol.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:12:51 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dave Whitney
Email
wft12345@aol.com
State
New York
Comment
As an avid striped bass surf fisherman I have been fishing for them for over 3 decades. I average over 120 trips per season. I practice C&R only. The last several years I have witnessed a dramatic decline in the amount of bass to catch. About 60% less than 7 years ago. Of note is also the lack of small fish as a result of the bad spawns. I am strongly in favor of a no kill amendment as we need the slot fish for recruitment of lost bio mass. Seasonal closeures will be hard to enforce and no kill will be the best answer to bring back the striped bass.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 7:00:29 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Anthony Castaldi
Email
tunatony@optonline.net
State
New York
Comment
My vote is for status quo

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From: Tony Castaldi
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass draft addendum lll
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 6:55:30 AM

Anthony Castaldi 228 w. Lake drive lindenhurst NY 11757. My vote is for status quo
Sent from my iPhone
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:	David Hidukavich
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:50:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The 28” - 31” slot limit has reduced the catch of striped bass. It allows larger bass to spawn and increase the stocks.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

David Hidukavich

241 Secatogue Ln

West Islip, NY 11795

djhra@aol.com

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: Noah
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Please Take Action!
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:56:45 PM

Dear ASMFC,

My name is Noah Mansoor, I am 28 years old and a 4th year dental student with a heavy science background. But who I really am is a long island surf caster at heart. I spend most of my free time fishing the South Shore of Long Island, but I've fished all up and down the entire north East Coast Since I was four years old. The current state of the striped bass fishery is extremely concerning to me.

The corresponding data is very problematic from a scientific perspective and warrants action alone. My anecdotal experience aligns perfectly with this data. This fish means more than you can possibly imagine to me, to my friends, and to many others that I have shared a tide with.

Here are my public comments on the striped bass fishery:

3.1) Option B
3.2) option C
3.3) Option C but suggest a 15% buffer
3.4) Option B-01, no harvest

Thank you,
Noah Mansoor

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:25:42 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=UULV9DRG3T9R1L6AKF0PN8ES0S&trk_sid=IO1Q1SULSTKJDJ5RJR87JAEPDO&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO
Name
Andrew Picco
Email
andrewpicco@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Start using correct data, cutting recreational fisherman limits is not good, you've already did that with every specie!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:04:15 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=FFSKJK1K913O2JO4QRKMGVLNC4&trk_sid=C9241EIDURC56LO8KFSN7K7I40&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO

Name

Mark Barylski

Email

ecryz250f@yahoo.com

State

New York

Comment

I would like to see more restriction on Commercial fishing for Striped Bass as this seems to be the main problem in Long Island fisheries. The proportion of Commercial vs Recreational harvest of striped bass is astounding. Recreational anglers are the ones keeping tackle shops in business, while commercial fisherman rarely visit them. 1-2 season of recreational no-targeting alone could put local tackle shops out of business in this unstable economy. I spend a ton of money (way too much) on fishing equipment and understand the bass population is under strain, so I only keep 1-2 striped bass per season. Recreational fishing for striped bass is about enjoying time on the water and chasing down that trophy fish of a lifetime. I would find it devestating to see that come to an end because of commercial fisherman over-harvesting to make a quick buck.

If there were an order of restriction, i'd recommend the following:
(1) More restrictive Commercial Harvest Rates, (2) Party Boat Harvest No-Harvest, (3) Rec. Boat No-Harvest, (4) Shore No-Harvest

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:58:15 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Steven Foceri
Email
steven.foceri@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
Just do a catch and release for a few years. Open a season on sharks to balance out the commercial industry. Problem solved. Get a real job you jerks.

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From: Sanford, Nora
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:55:32 AM

To: Emilie Franke – ASMFC
Subject: Comments – Striped Bass Addendum III
My name is Nora Sanford and I fish for striped bass in the Hudson River above the George Washington Bridge.
As an avid angler, I understand and fully support the need to preserve and protect the striped bass population and support action(s) to reduce the "mortality" through various conservation efforts.
During the Public Hearing on ASMFC Addendum III, to Amendment 7 of the Striped Bass Mgt. program, held and monitored by NYSDEC at the DEC Region 3, New Paltz Office, we were presented an Overview of Addendum Iii particularly Section 3.4
Section 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding" of the Addendum.
* **Option A:** status quo
*** Option B: O1:** Even sector reductions with both commercial and recreational sectors taking a 12% reduction OR
O2: 13% reduction in season and a for-hire exemption allowing them to take 28-33" fish

I support **Option B. O2** – everyone takes the same reduction
We were then provided opportunity to comment on the several CE's (conservation equivalents) specific to the Hudson River as allowed on Pg. 25 of Addendum III,
"… conservation equivalency (CE) programs will not be approved for non-quota managed recreational fisheries, **with the exception of** the Hudson River…."
Each of which these NYS DEC proposed CE's will meet the required 12% reduction required by ASMFC.
Proposed Reduction Actions for the Hudson River

A. **Slot Reduction** (Note: current slot is 23-28")
   - 23-25"
   - 25-28"
B. **No targeting -** April 1-25
C. **Catch & Release –** April 1-30

My personal preference is A or C or a combo of A and C, however, I will support whichever of these is submitted by NYSDEC for ASMFC approval.

Respectfully,
Nora Sanford
518 210 7889 m

Private

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:15:19 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Tyler Comerford

Email

tylercomerford82@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I am writing in support of a no harvest provision for Atlantic Striped Bass. The current state of the striped bass population makes it clear that conservation must take priority over short-term harvest opportunities.

Striped bass are not only a vital recreational and commercial species, but also a keystone predator that plays a critical role in the health of our coastal ecosystems. For decades, overfishing, habitat loss, and changing environmental conditions have placed immense stress on this fishery. We now face a pivotal moment: either we take decisive conservation measures, or we risk long-term collapse.

A no harvest measure provides the striped bass population the best chance for meaningful recovery. Anglers, coastal businesses, and future generations all benefit when we manage this resource responsibly with sustainability as the top priority. Protecting the stock today ensures that striped bass can rebound to healthy levels, preserving both the ecological balance of our waters and the cultural and economic value of this iconic species.

I strongly urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt the no harvest option in Draft Addendum III. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your commitment to restoring striped bass for the future.

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From:	Steve Bradley
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Response to Proposals For Hudson River Striped Bass Regulations
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:12:03 PM

To: Emilie Franke – ASMFC

Subject: Comments – Striped Bass Addendum III

My name is Stephen D. Bradley and I fish for striped bass in the Hudson River above the George Washington Bridge.

As an avid angler, I understand and fully support the need to preserve and protect the striped bass population and support action(s) to reduce the "mortality" through various conservation efforts.

Proposed Reduction Actions for the Hudson River

A. **Slot Reduction** (Note: current slot is 23-28")

- 23-25"
- 25-28"

B. **No targeting -** April 1-25
C. **Catch & Release –** April 1-30

My personal preference is A & C, however, I will support whichever of these is submitted by NYSDEC for ASMFC approval.

Respectfully,

Stephen D. Bradley

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:52:12 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=QDVMOD27FRBERUIMTH3SKA2BFC&trk_sid=VM3EMF63HMPJ5TGAS5LKNRGU2K&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO
Name
Jason Ivino
Email
jasonivino@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
The commercial side of the fishing needs to be more regulated a catch limits lowered it's all about money we know this. That's why when things need to be changed you go after the recreational side. Not sure what few fish we catch by rod a reel has for an impact compared to the trollers an out country fishing fleets. It's time for the commercial side to get checked an enforced

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:30:44 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Stripers Forever
Email
wsb-ny@hotmail.com
State
New York
Comment
3.1) Option B, 3.2) Option B, 3.3) Option C, with a request to increase the buffer to 15% or more, and 3.4) Option B-O1. encouraging any closures in the season to be harvest-closures only- I do not support "no target" closures! Or Handle it like Bluefin. If quota has been met, shut it down!

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From:	John Sefcik
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:00:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Hello, my name is John Sefcik. I am 63 years old and have been fishing since I was 5. Over the years I have seen species flourish while others have been decimated. It's a vicious cycle mitigated by various factors from mother nature and man. I remember the days when you were lucky to even catch one striper! In the last several years with the introduction of circle hooks and educating fishermen in the proper way of using them is saving numerous fish. I also see more and more fishermen are practicing C&R especially the younger anglers. I've been on the water my whole life and owned two boats and worked on numerous party and charter boats and fishing for striped bass is fun for the entire family and on top of that it's delicious table fare! Putting stricter rules into effect would not only hurt the party boat and charter business but the local tackle shops and online sites, bait suppliers, fishing stations that rent boats, hotels and motels, restaurants and anyone else who makes a living from fishing. I hope and pray that you consider all these factors in deciding what course of action in deciding the outcome.
Thank you,
John Sefcik

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Sefcik

21408 46th Rd

Bayside, NY 11361

sefmonster@yahoo.com

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From: Jason DeLand
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Comments - Striped Bass Decline - ACTION NEEDED PLEASE
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:26:48 PM

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I have been an avid striped bass angler for 20 years. Over the past several years, I've witnessed a troubling decline along the Atlantic coast. This iconic fishery is integral to our ecosystem and coastal culture—and it is in deep trouble.

Recent recruitment and stock status metrics are alarming. Maryland's 2023 young-of-year (YOY) index was 1.0, far below the ~11 long-term average and part of a multi-year pattern of poor recruitment. In the Hudson River, 2023 produced the lowest YOY value since 1985, and 2024 registered 7.85, again below the long-term average and the second consecutive year below the 25th percentile.

At the same time, the ASMFC's 2024 Stock Assessment Update (through 2023) found the stock overfished, with F = 0.18—above the current F target (0.17) but below the F threshold (0.21)—i.e., overfishing is not occurring even as the stock remains depleted. This reality underscores that low recruitment is now a central driver of risk and that status-quo measures are inadequate to rebuild by the Commission's timeline.

There is precedent for decisive action. **State moratoria and severe restrictions led by Maryland (1985–1989)** helped reverse a previous collapse; today's conditions—compounded by climate and habitat stressors—warrant at least as bold a response.

I urge the ASMFC to implement a moratorium on striped bass fishing coastwide to allow the stock to recover fully under persistently weak recruitment. Please include my comments in the supplemental materials for your upcoming meeting and act decisively to secure the long-term future of this fishery.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

Jason DeLand

Montauk, NY

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From: Melissa Baumann
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:25:54 PM

Good afternoon.

I would really like to understand where you get your data from. If you spend any time on the hudson River in spring, you will see that the entire river is completely loaded with spawning bass. You could walk across the river up by Kingston and Troy with how many there are. I also personally caught more bass this year than any other year including breaking my personal best twice with fish over 40". All revived and swam away strongly.

That being said,

3.1 option b
3.2 option b
3.3 option c
3.4 harvest only closures.

With all due respect, being on the water 2-4 days after week during striper season, your studies are wrong.

Going after poachers and adjusting the commercial limits will make more of a difference.

Also, you are going to put thousands of passionate conservationists and fishermen out of business and destroy lives if you put a no target on fish that are clearly not struggling.

What about the commercial bunker boats that are allowed to completely decimate the population of the striped bass main food? I've never seen such an obvious decline in population of fish. There used to be bunker everywhere. Now you can't even find a school to throw a cast net at.

Fishing for striped bass is a way of life for many. It's not just a hobby. It has saved lives from addiction and depression. Please consider speaking to us. Who spend our days on the water. Not just some study done by people who have never spent a day on the water. We are out there. We see what's happening. And the striped bass are not in a decline the bunker are.

Thank you,

Melissa
Passionate angler

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:25:32 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Michael Ozkaya
Email
lifliesmike@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
For 3.1 I support option b For 3.2 I support option b For 3.3 I support option c, with a request to increase the buffer to 15% or more For 3.4 I support option b-01

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 6:00:25 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Lawrence Nefsey
Email
L.w.nefsey@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Stop the commercial fishing for MENHADEN! The primary source of food for most predatory fish. I would also support a no Harvest of Striped Bass fishing. This is an amazing fishery that would benefit from the no harvest.

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:	Robert Verity
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 22, 2025 7:40:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

If there is going to be a closure period and/ or a no targeting for Striped Bass, all commercial fishing for striped bass should be stopped. Seine netting for menhaden by Omega One should be halted completely in United States territorial waters so the striped bass and other marine life can have the forage food they need to survive and grow strong.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Verity

102 Liberty Ave

North Bellmore, NY 11710

veritys102@optonline.net

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:	John French
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 22, 2025 1:30:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As someone who fishes on Long Island NY, I can attest that for the past 2 years during the fall run, myself and countless others have witnessed ACRES of striped bass rolling on the surface during our many trips into the ocean. Does anyone from ASMFC actually go out to get a true picture or do they just sit in a cubicle and sift data from who knows where. I understand that conservation is an issue , but what about the livelihoods and families that depend on the recreational fishing industry for their existence? Sorry, but i don't side with the fish on this one, especially when the data is showing the opposite.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John French

63 Davison Ln E

West Islip, NY 11795

jsf354@msn.com

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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:15:51 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Maximillian Chronister
Email
max_chronister@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
The striped bass fishery desperately needs tighter regulation, whether fishing is limited to catch and release only or a full on moratorium. We are currently seeing a repeat of mistakes made in the past, if action is not taken soon we may not be so fortunate to recover what we have lost.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 10:55:26 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Philip Romano
Email
Plizardman@aol.com
State
New York
Comment
I'm not positive, but I believe when I started fishing, measurements were taken to the fork of the tail. This seems clear, consistent, and with less stress on the fish. That should be the standard regardless of the technique chosen to do the measuring. Thank you.

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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 7:38:42 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Matthew Wylong
Email
mwylong@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
First comment, Your 25 years too late. We saw a decline in early 2000s I've been a C&R angler my entire life. I implemented circle hooks on my own 20 years ago. I switched to strictly artificial lures in 2005. I live close to the Hudson River SHUT IT DOWN, there shouldn't be a harvest in any spawning waters during the spawn period. Commercial harvest, not the public's problem should be criminal to allow financial gain on any public resource. You already know the answer to the question you don't have the balls to Implement it. Common practice in every state for every species to preserve stocks is to implement Catch and Release Only with artificial lures. You could even require barbless like many salmon fisheries.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 11:16:13 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brian McDonald
Email
brian.l.mcdo@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Status quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 7:38:58 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
john frevola
Email
justfish25@aol.com
State
New York
Comment
YOU SHUT DOWN THE BLUE FIN TUNA NOW THE STRIPED BASS WHAT NEXT??? THIS IS NOT GOOD

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] New public comment for NY Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 11:11:18 AM

NY Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Allan Craddock
Email
allan.craddock@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
Given all the pressure the striped bass is under from low recruitment to harvest quotas and considering economic impacts. My opinion would be to make the striped bass a game fish allowing for targeting but not allowed for commercial or recreational harvest. It would be best to adopt this plan for at least a few years and reassess if the recruitment improves.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 10:53:51 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Nick Cancelliere

Email

nickcancell@outlook.com

State

New York

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum III. As a passionate striped bass angler, I care deeply about the future of this fishery and want to see it rebuilt to healthy levels by 2029. Strong, consistent, and fair regulations are essential for this goal.

I want to be clear that I do not support “no-targeting” closures. They are unenforceable, punish responsible anglers, and will unnecessarily harm coastal economies that depend on fishing-related tourism and recreation.

Method to Measure Total Length

My Recommendation: Option B – Mandatory Uniform Total Length
We need one clear, coastwide measurement standard — mouth closed, tail pinched, straight-line measurement. This is simple, consistent, and fair across all states. It also prevents slot expansion and makes enforcement much easier.

Commercial Tagging – Point of Tagging

My Recommendation: Option B – Tagging at Harvest
Tagging fish at the point of harvest is the most direct way to eliminate loopholes and curb illegal sales. It provides immediate traceability and gives enforcement agencies a fighting chance to stop black-market activity.

Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

My Recommendation: Option C – New Baseline + 10% Uncertainty Buffer
I support Option C to simplify seasons and improve compliance. I encourage increasing the buffer further to 15% to add an extra margin of precaution — this is critical to keeping removals within rebuilding targets.

Reduction in Fishery Removals

My Recommendation: Option B-01 – Equal 12% Reduction, Ocean Sub-Option O1 (Uniform)

Both commercial and recreational sectors must share the responsibility equally — no commercial favoritism.

Ocean Fishery: Keep the 28–31″ slot, implement enforceable no-harvest closures (catch-and-release allowed), and use Sub-option O1 (no for-hire exemptions).

Regional Boundaries: Rhode Island belongs in the Northern region, along with Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut for consistency and fairness.

Seasonal Timing: Wave 4 works best for northern closures and Wave 6 for southern closures.

Additional Concerns

For-Hire Exemptions: I strongly oppose them. These exemptions shift the burden to 98% of recreational anglers while allowing a small number of for-hire operations (only 1.4% of trips) to take nearly 10% of the harvest. That is neither fair nor equitable.

Accountability: The ASMFC must act decisively to meet rebuilding goals. If rebuilding fails, stronger measures — including a moratorium — must be on the table.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 9:44:59 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Karim Elayouby

Email

karimelayouby@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I strongly urge the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board to implement a full moratorium on all commercial striped bass fishing.

Commercial operations remove the largest volume of fish, operate under wider size limits than recreational anglers, and have far greater economic incentive to maximize harvest. By any reasonable measure, they are the primary driver of depletion in this resource. It is immoral and short-sighted to prioritize short-term economic gain and lobbying pressure over the survival of this iconic American fish. We cannot allow striped bass to slide further toward endangered status.

Beyond direct striped bass harvest, the menhaden commercial fishery must also be addressed with severe restrictions. Menhaden are inextricably tied to striped bass health and range. Industrial menhaden harvest poses a massive ecological threat not only to striped bass but to the broader marine food web. Its impacts are as injurious as commercial striped bass fishing itself.

This is a critical moment. The science is clear: the stock is overfished, and projections show less than a 50% chance of rebuilding by 2029 under current measures. History has already shown that moratoria can be effective in rebuilding depleted stocks. To ignore this precedent is to willfully risk collapse.

I recognize that such actions may feel drastic, and that commercial fishermen will argue for their livelihoods. But no industry has the right to destroy a shared public resource. Our ecosystems are already under immense stress from climate change, pollution, and habitat loss. Striped bass cannot withstand additional pressure from commercial exploitation.

If it takes a temporary moratorium on both commercial and recreational striped bass harvests to rebuild the population, then so be it. But commercial harvest should be the first and most urgent target for restriction or elimination.

Please do not yield to short-term commercial interests. Do not let this fishery collapse under your watch. This is a moment to stand as a bulwark against ecological decline, and to act in line with science, history, and ethical responsibility.

Shut down commercial striped bass and menhaden fishing until the stocks recover. The long-term health of our fisheries, ecosystems, and future generations depends on it.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 7:35:34 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jack Martin
Email
jack.martin11@icloud.com
State
New York
Comment
No harvest

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:	Ryan Hunter
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:10:17 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The population has been consistent and healthy with no requirement to make any changes to the current regulations.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ryan Hunter

235 Dug Rd

Chester, NY 10918

gunner.rah@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:28:25 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Tom Vee
Email
eyegorr@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
Tighten the slot size to limit the take especially if there is to be an expected increase in the number of slot size fish coming up. Enforcement and fines for over/under fish needs to be tougher to be a real deterrent. I see it all the time on the beaches and I report it when I do.

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:	Robert Fitzgerald
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:30:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This is ridiculous, all your doing is tightening down on the angles, who compared to the amount of fish it minuscule. Stop harvesting the bait fish, that will allow this species to to strive like it always did. Please!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Fitzgerald

59 Linden Ave

Ossining, NY 10562

bdigital13@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:05:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Greg Keefer
Email
g_d_keefer@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
We need to keep the fishery open and allow some form of harvesting. Maybe adjust slots year to year or intro year. Also the bunker need to be protected, this is the food source for the striped bass but so much more. Also the last several years has been pretty good fishing, circle hooks seem to be helping with mortality rates.

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: Brett
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass proposal
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:27:29 PM

I support maintaining the status quo. Additional restrictions, such as the proposed 12% reduction, will not address the core problem of weak recruitment. Instead, they will impose further economic harm on businesses that have already absorbed the impacts of previous reductions. The most equitable course of action is to continue with the current measures, ensuring that the conservation burden is shared fairly. Harvesters should not be expected to bear the full responsibility, particularly when release mortality accounts for nearly half of the total fishing mortality.

Brett Clifford
12 Deerfield Drive
Wading River NY 11792

631-220-0899
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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:11:19 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Daniel Ryan
Email
dmryan223@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
My name is Daniel Ryan I am a recreational fisherman based out of the north shore of Long Island. I highly oppose the proposed reduction. I am in favor of no reduction, status quo.

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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 4:48:43 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Kevin Cullen
Email
kevinpc1966@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
It's so expensive just to take two young children to enjoy the outdoors and learn to fish. The restrictions are limiting

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:28:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brian O'Keefe
Email
bokeefe@greyandgrey.com
State
New York
Comment
I do not support status quo. The measures in place now are the status quo and they have not met the management goals for striped bass. I fish for stripers from the beach and from boats on Long Island. I remember the days of the moratorium and I do not ever want to see that again. If the fisheries biologists recommend a reduction in harvest, then we should reduce harvest. Those who want the status quo are penny wise and pound foolish.

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:	Chris Oliver
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 2:00:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Hello, I own and operate a full time charter company on the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie NY. In addition, I own a bait and tackle shop in Poughkeepsie ny as well. I have fished for striped bass in the Hudson River, the Long Island sound, montauk, and block island for over 20 years. The population in these areas are stronger now than they ever have been. There are schools migrating up the Hudson River that never used to 10-15 years ago. They are 10+ miles long and as wide as my sonar will go out (500' each side). The biomass of the striped bass is shifting north and is thriving in the bait filled cooler waters of the north east.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Chris Oliver

67 Peach Rd

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

keepinitreelfish@gmail.com

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] New public comment for NY Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:58:47 PM

NY Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NY Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Michael Lindsay

Email

mjlindsay77@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

First and foremost, I do NOT agree with a no target closure. As technology infiltrates the next generations daily life the last thing we need is to restrict getting more young people outside. This will directly cause less people to care about the fish and the outside world. When less people care about the fish the conservation will stop, and the fish will be lost forever. My home waters are around NYC and off Sandy Hook NJ where the striper fishing has been nothing short of excellent the past several years. I have also pursued striped bass from both the boat and mostly surf in Montauk, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts over the past several years. I have seen firsthand that the fish populations are struggling. When going to areas with suitable habitat and forage to find no fish that once held many it is concerning. I do support a closure to the killing of any striped bass commercially and recreationally. It's simple let's try to build the breeding stock by killing less fish and keep people outside in pursuit of bass by allowing them to catch and release at the same time. One last thing, I've never once encountered an officer who was enforcing striped bass limits and I typically fish 50 days a year. Without enforcement, the only people that suffer from a no target ban are people like me. Outdoorsman who love nature and respect the animal. The poachers, immoral commercial fisherman, and others who are over killing and contribute to this decline in the fishery WILL NOT CARE about your laws and that should be an important factor in your decision if you truly care about the fish. Come up with a plan that targets THEM, not the people who respect the fish and want their children to grow up experiencing our beloved habitat as it once was.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:55:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Hayden O
Email
hayden_oconnor@icloud.com
State
New York
Comment
A lot of the fight caught are slot size. It should be 26-28 or 31-33 so that less fish are kept

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:53:48 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Walter Czekaj

Email

waltetc69@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

My name is Capt. Walter Czekaj Jr. I am the owner of the for Hire party boat FISHFINDER II. I've been in the for hire business since 1988 full time , as a deckhand, hired Capt. (On both north and south shores) and on east end. Since 2002 i have operated my vessel in Captree St. Park N.Y. and I am in full support of STATUS QUO for the 2026 StripedBass Season. During my 40 -plus years working in the industry I've seen drastic changes in StripedBass regulations over the years and as always the "For Hire " group seems to always take the hardest hit year after year , after being told " you need to give alittle to get alittle, and in the end we will be rewarded ". I'm sorry but there's nothing left to give , Since we are basically a Catch and release Fishery now. If and this is a BIG "IF" you had to have a closure you should consider WAVE 4 . The main reason to close WAVE 4 are when the water Temps. are at the hottest of the season. If you are so concerned with the 9- 10% mortality rate , Fish ALL FISH including StripedBass are under tremendous stress when hooked, fought, netted, then photos taken in warm/hot water Temps. I would as like to note that, your method of sampling "Young of the year" needs to be updated . Going to the same areas since 1980's is really not accurate by any means. Fish swim !!! Fish are smart, Fish have a way of adapting to their environment. What may have been a spawning area 20-30 years ago may not be today. Maybe just maybe those young are 2 or 3 creeks north or south in both Hudson or Chesepeske??. Last but not least, why are we letting these fish die of "old age" Capt. Jim S. made a valid point, these big/ old females do absolutely nothing to help with new stock of StripedBass, like anything on this planet Humans, mammals, birds and fish after a certain age they just don't reproduce. LET US FISH. LET US TAKE THE PUBLIC STRIPEDBASS FISHING for the chance of having a fresh fish dinner. Thank you. Capt. Walter....

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:45:33 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Christian Morehouse
Email
christianmorehouse@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I support a full no-harvest closure for both commercial and recreational stakeholders for the entire 2026 year and until the SSB is above the target. Even though assessments indicate that the species is not experiencing overfishing, this does not indicate that the status quo will produce the same analysis with the incoming 2018 year class. I do not support oceanic no-target closures, which are unenforceable. These measures should only be taken after extended periods of no-harvest closures are deemed ineffective.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:36:59 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Joshua Tan
Email
jbtanz@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Hi, The striped bass fishery continues to decline and all sectors need to adapt equally. All modes should decrease with no separate treatment of for hires. I support at minimum at 12% reduction. No targeting closure do not seem realistic, considering the difficulty of enforcement. No harvest is a more enforceable system. Thanks Josh

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:20:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Chris Slattery
Email
cslats98@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
No reason to change already strict limitations, in my opinion the slot works well. Allowing smaller fish to grow, and larger fish to breed will continue to produce bountiful numbers of stripe bass while allowing the angler to target trophy, species, as well as fish for harvest thank you.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:45:42 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Hopkins
Email
mail4jh@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I believe that we should shut down the striped bass in New York. I've seen many boats release striped bass that don't survive. A lot of anglers go on boats catch the fish and then they pose for photos. Sometimes this may take longer than expected and ends up harming the fish not allowing it to survive after releasing it. I have firsthand witnessed many floating, dead, striped bass released from boats. I've also witnessed many boats over harvesting Bunker, which is used as striped bass bait; after the day is done. Many bunker are seen floating around many of the boats that have netted Bunker at the end of the day. The fisherman, party boats, charter boats, and privately own boats has been witnessed doing this. If we continue on the path that we are, there will be no future striped bass fishery.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:32:39 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Miele
Email
mielewoodworking@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Putting even more mandates or regulations against striped ass fishing is absurd they're already plenty of regulations and every little research done to justify any other action. Most recreational anglers follow the guidelines that are in place. As an as an recreational angler, it would be a disgrace to limit striped bass fishing in the Long Island sound. More research should be done to see the impact that recreational anglers have on the striped bass. The Long Island sound has been overwhelmed with commercial fisherman and private charter boats that over catch every day of the season. If you need to implement any changes, make changes on the chart about business.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:25:01 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Daniel Scocca
Email
djs681996@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
My name is Daniel Scocca I am a recreational fisherman based out of the north shore of Long Island. I highly oppose the proposed reduction. I am in favor of no reduction, status quo.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:12:04 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Larry Fehrenbaker
Email
lars1nyc@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
as an avid catch and release fisherman in both the eastern and western LI Sound; the stocks in our area are plentiful, full of vibrant bass of all sizes. what is missing is the stock of bunker due to over harvesting! And more education is needed on catch & release methods where many believe the high morbidity rates come from. Just as we moved to inline hooks, more work on this needs to be implemented

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: kholmes9290@gmail.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:10:07 PM

To whom it may concern:

I feel the need to add an additional comment after attending the evening webinar.

The disdain and disrespect by the surfcasting sportfish community towards the other user groups (Commercial & For Hire) is evident. There may be other ways for the for hire industry to meet the reduction required that do less harm to fishing families and they are not willing to consider it. They specifically comment that there should be no 28-33" slot allowance for the for hire fleet even though the numbers show it to have hardly any effect. They want the closure but all stand together in specially stating that it must only be a harvest closure, never a target closure. Even when the data shows a target closure to be more effective and shorter for all user groups, causing less pain and loss of income.

This group of anglers is generally affluent, and in my opinion very selfish. What they want is gamefish status ultimately which means all the fish for them to target and release and none for us or commercial. If we go with a harvest only closure not only do we set precedent for a gamefish status fishery but we selfishly allow one user group to accumulate 9% discard mortality according to the data while all other users remain shut out of the fishery.

Why in any way would this be acceptable? Either it's closed for all or open for all. By their own argument they say for hire permit holders must have the same 28-31" slot as the rest. They advocate for closure, but only if they can still fish for sport as they always do so no change for them at all! Completely ignoring the fact that their selfish fish grab results in more discard mortality and a longer closer. Which of course is what they want.

My plea to the board is to please consider ALL user groups needs equally when managing this public resource. Also keeping in mind you have our data and it's required by law. The sport/surf crowd is a complete unknown when it comes to catches, release mortality. Common sense indicates mortality would be much higher in that group. Light tackle, exhausted fish, sand and silt in the gills, dropped back from bridges and piers.

On another note, final comment. Us fishermen who are on the water daily see a major shift in the striped bass population. Bass are wintering over in many Connecticut and Rhode Island rivers and estuaries in numbers never seen before. There is a thriving fishery of large striped bass in Maine. A fishery in Canada. Much like the explosion of white sharks in Nova Scotia. We can't continue to only sample the Chesapeake and Hudson while ignoring these waters. We have seen very good striped bass fishing for years now since the mid 2010s. I don't believe we know how many there are. We are already at only 1 fish with a very small slot. Overfishing is not occurring and the for hire fleet's harvest is minuscule relative to recreational.

Maybe this drastic measure should be tabled until we have more information. Maybe this 2029 deadline to return to peak biomass is unattainable due to many other environmental factors. Maybe cutting fishing effort to almost zero wouldn't even help much (See the winter flounder fishery). It wasn't fishing effort. It was pollution, loss of habitat, natural predation mostly. Could that be the case here as well? We need more information.

Sincerely,
Ken Holmes
Manorville, NY

Sent from my iPhone
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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:01:52 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Eric Radoman
Email
Eric.radoman@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Striped bass populations are recovering nicely in Western LI Sound. I dont see any reason to close for any part of the season. I would recommend protecting their food source better. Bunker schools have been pretty small and hard to find.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:34:16 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Frank Leone
Email
biuvula@optonline.net
State
New York
Comment
Some simple fixes- Mandate In water releases, people taking pictures are decimating the species. Require those fishing for Stripers to get a stamp or special license, I'd pay $100/year for the privledge. Campaign using all media to warn of strong enforcement and HUGE fines for poachers and the non-licensed stealing this resource. Thank you Frank

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:05:30 AM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Vasilios Tzanides

Email

vtzanides@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Thank you for hosting an event that allowed our voices to be heard last night. I suggested that perhaps a system akin to how New Jersey and other states issue trout stamps to private recreational fishermen could potentially reduce removals of striped bass without needing season closures. I would like to propose that option for consideration here again. I would also like to note that it would not bother me one bit if the commission instituted a full no harvest closure of striped bass, meaning harvesting a striped bass would be illegal 365 days a year. So long as a no target closure does not take place.

Furthermore, I would like to propose that any regulations imposed fully separate true recreational anglers from for-hire charters or businesses. The fully private surfcaster or boat fisherman that spends a portion of their livelihood on fishing for striped bass as a hobby or a sport, is not in privity of interest with a charter boat captain that depends on fishing, without a plan B, to put money in the bank and feed their family. As the regulations are imposed now, and has been evinced by the division amongst those that attended last night's meeting, an unintended consequence has occurred that has split the "recreational" fishing community in two. This has resulted in infighting amongst the community of anglers and shifted the focus from what really matters, the health of the striped bass population. I propose classifying "for hire" anglers as their own category, separate from recreational anglers and commercial fishermen. Perhaps that would result in a uniform push by the community to agree on a path forward.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:22:39 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Pedro Decosta
Email
bluefin188@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
Public Comment on Proposed Striped Bass Regulations As a charter operator in the western Long Island Sound, I have experienced some of the best fishing of my life in recent seasons. The current striped bass regulations are working, and I strongly support maintaining the status quo. There is no need for changes at this time. If any changes are implemented, my second choice—and only if absolutely necessary—would be to allow charter boats to retain a slot fish between 28 and 33 inches. Let me be absolutely clear: I do not support any changes to the current regulations at this time.

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From:	john pungello
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:10:09 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The new proposal makes no sense and will create an economic burden for many businesses. Please vote against these new proposals.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

john pungello

8 John F Kennedy Dr

Blauvelt, NY 10913

pung35@verizon.net

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From: Emilie Franke
To: Comments
Subject: FW: [External] [New] Re: Public comment for the latest Striped Bass management referendum
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:28:52 AM

From: daniel giunta <doubledmtk@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:24 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Re: Public comment for the latest Striped Bass management referendum

I forgot to add that I'd prefer a closure in wave 6. This will accomplish the necessary 12% reduction while utilizing the least number of calendar days.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 9:18 PM, daniel giunta <doubledmtk@yahoo.com> wrote:

> My name is Daniel Giunta, I own an inspected party/charter boat out of Montauk NY. I would be in favor of a 12% reduction with the carve out for a larger slot of 28-33" for the party/charter fleet.
> I have no comment for the other points of discussion. Thank you
>
> Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:02:34 AM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Matthew Catoir
Email
mattcatoir@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
My name is Matthew Catoir, deckhand on boats on the south shore of long island and recreational angler. A closure would make it much more difficult to make a living in an already tough business. That being said I strongly stand for status quo

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:35:39 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nuno Decosta
Email
nunodecost@aol.com
State
New York
Comment
100% in support of the harvest. With no additional changes. We have suffered enough and have been tortured with constant changes

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:49:39 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Charles ONeill

Email

oneill.charles86@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Dear Board Members,
I'm writing to ask that you please keep the NY striped bass season dates status quo for 2025, and I'm in favor of splitting the for hire (28-33") and private anglers(28-31"). I make my living working full time on a very busy NY charter boat. We're able to book every single day of the season (May-November) because of striped bass. Any closure at all to the season would greatly hurt everyone in the recreational fishing industry (party and charter boats, tackle shops, delis, hotels), and put many out of business.
The much longer proposed "no harvest" closure would hurt just about everyone in the industry way worse than the full "no targeting" closure. Nobody except a few fly fishing guides will be able to book any trips trying to sell catch and release only.
The current slot size is very restrictive, but it allows all of us to keep making a living and booking trips. I believe management measures the past 10 years have been working. There's an incredible amount of striped bass around now (despite what some people believe).
I thought it was great when the bag limit was reduced from 2 to 1 eleven years ago. The move to the 28-35" slot was an important measure too. I believe we should have been protecting the big breeders all along. And while I don't agree with the current slot, I understand why it was implemented.
I think we're on the right path, we just need some better environmental conditions for spawning, which are out of the Board's control. I would like to see more funding going to figure out all these poor recruitment years. I'd also like to see funding going to educate fisherman how to handle striped bass. From working on boats and being an avid surf fisherman, I've seen a large percentage of fisherman killing fish while trying to take hooks out, or take pictures. Many fisherman somehow don't know to not grab the fish by the gills, and I see many times fish dragged up the sand and a long time pass to get the phone out and take a picture just to throw the fish back, to almost surely die.
I'm also in favor of the motion to have clear language on how to measure a striped bass coast wide. It's crazy that it's gone this long without any clarification.

If there does have to be a closure, i would be in favor of wave 2 or 4. Wave 2 doesn't affect NY much, and wave 4 being the summer would be doable to book without striped bass, because seabass, fluke, and porgies can all be targeted, and that season is easier to book anyway.

In summary, I ask the board to please keep in mind the sweeping ill effects any kind of closure would have on the entire recreational fishing industry. This is our livelihood.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Charles O'Neill
Black Rock Charters

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:22:46 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Gregory Travers
Email
grgtravers@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
This fishery is so important to millions of Americans for work and for recreation. It is the lifeblood of thousands of tackle shops, plug builders, and charter captains. We need responsible reasonable management now. We need a no harvest policy now. The fishery needs to rebuild without wiping out the thousands that depend on it for work, as a no target closure would. Please take the reasonable approach and treat this fishery with the respect it deserves. The gill netters destroying our bunker population and striper population need to be dealt with, but we need direct action on all harvest first.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:41:54 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Matthew Malone
Email
mattmalone@optonline.net
State
New York
Comment
I think it's crazy how we decide to close recreational fisheries… people who care about the fish the most, over commercial fisheries. How many times has there been fish that have been killed and short from commercial guys? Way more than us.

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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:35:54 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
John Weinbuch
Email
jdweinbuch@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Commercial harvest is down, recreational harvest is down, and catch and release morality is down as a result of a declining stock. Recruitment continues to suffer and we are not projected to reach our 2029 Rebuilding Deadline. What is the purpose of a comment period? The data speaks for itself. Enough coddling commercial fisherman. Enough suggesting flawed, easily exploitable solutions, such as no target. The answer is no harvest. It is the only option.

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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 7:06:00 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Jay Sunrise
Email
prblmsslvd@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
There is no reason for 1 fish per day quota. Consider adding a trophy fish tag purchase (which would generate money for fishery management) 1 per 30 days or pay per tag with each purchase doubling in cost type of program to discourage a 1 fish per day take, any reason to need 70+ pounds of fish at month? and that is on the low side of what is being allowed as of now. Don't shut the fishery down, revise the quota significantly. Severely limit the amount of fish that can be kept, across the board. Florida and Alaska have has plans in place we can learn from.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:08:03 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Joseph Rauch

Email

jrauchmr@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I am in support of a full harvest closure.
The rebuilding of the striped bass population is obviously going to require a multifaceted approach and the cooperation of neighboring states moving in lock-step if it is to be successful. But regardless of the changes effected at the end of this, No other measure would be as important as working to protect the food that supports this species. You cannot have a meaningful conversation about protecting striped bass without considering Menhaden conservation as well. We need to get these processing ships like omega protein off of the striper coast if we are to have any hopes of a population rebound regardless of any arbitrary catch or size limit changes effected here. I think the best course of action at the moment would be a no harvest put in place for 2 years while we continue to debate and study the ideal size and possession to implement. We obviously need more time to figure this out, but the bleeding must be stopped immediately. Status quo is clearly not sustainable. Two year no harvest to bide us some time as we figure this out. THAT INCLUDES COMMERCIAL!

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From: Ilya Kasprowicz
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass meeting
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:58:00 PM

Sent from my iPhone

I support maintaining the status quo. Additional restrictions, such as the proposed 12% reduction, will not address the core problem of weak recruitment. Instead, they will impose further economic harm on businesses that have already absorbed the impacts of previous reductions. The most equitable course of action is to continue with the current measures, ensuring that the conservation burden is shared fairly. Harvesters should not be expected to bear the full responsibility, particularly when release mortality accounts for nearly half of the total fishing mortality.

Ilya Kasprowicz
6314059239
19 Huyler court setauket New York 11733

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From:	Daniel Rosa
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III Survery // public comment
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:05:07 PM
Attachments:	cmn_b3532cd1-5508-4db6-950a-b55451277b9c.png QR82d452be-0f94-00b7-46ac-a849a78e48a2.png linkedin_32x32_4c36f42b-72fd-4456-8395-effd4f522326.png

Good Afternoon

I do not support the “No Target” Closure being floated . It is extremely troubling that this would even be considered . A “No Target” would not be enforceable.

I do think that single treble hooks need to become the standard practice . There is zero reason to have a rear treble hook. Safer for the fisherman and safer for the fish . I also think that the Instagram culture has led to poor catch and release techniques . To many people keep fish out of the water way to long , and for what ? Likes ?

As a group – we have taken gods gift for granted .

“ Then God said, “Now let’s make humans[f] who will be like us. They will rule over all the fish in the sea and the birds in the air. They will rule over all the large animals and all the little things that crawl on the earth.”
Gensis 1 – 26

Do not take away our passion because of dumb people !

Thank you for your time and consideration
Daniel Rosa / Long Island NY Surfcaster

Daniel Rosa
Air Import

CARGO MODULES

Office: +1-516-362-3663
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E-mail: daniel.rosa@cargomodules.com

10 E Merrick Road | Suite 209 | Valley Stream | 11580 NY | USA

www.cargomodules.com

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From: Ken & Barbara
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:52:38 PM

To whom it may concern,

Why do we have to achieve an SSB target that has only been achieved in a few out of the last 40 years? More importantly why does that have to be achieved by 2029? It would seem we are very close to being in the top 1/3 of all 40 years according to the chart above. The only possible explanation is the goal is designed to be unachievable. This then leads to emergency measures, then small closures, then eventually full closure, gamefish status, etc. Seems to me the real goal is to choose which type of users will have access to this critical public resource and which users will be eliminated from participating in the fishery.

Ironically this end game eliminates those who fish to put food on the table for all Americans, as well as their own table, and also eliminates the user group that takes Americans who cannot afford their own boat out fishing for the day and also feeds them as well. It rewards relatively wealthy boat owners who fish for solely for sport.

Again, just like last year, we in the for hire industry will be forced to choose from some terrible options that are provided as our businesses are being regulated out of business. This, as once again, the data shows we are not overfishing, and our harvests are minuscule compared to the rest.

So, I reluctantly choose:

Option B02 under the ocean fishery with no closed season.

Increasing the slot size slightly helps us in the for hire industry and should drastically reduce discard mortality. Forcing us to release striped bass in order to catch slightly different striped bass only increases effort and discard mortality. Let us get our measly one fish per person and get off the fish. Better for us, better for the fish.

Second choice:

Status Quo for the for hire industry

The for hire industry cannot handle another reduction nor do we deserve it. The data shows we are not the problem.

Sincerely,

Capt. Ken Holmes
Vessel “Brooklyn Girl,”
Orient Pt, NY

Sent from my iPad

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:42:29 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Angelo Giurlanda
Email
angelogiurlanda@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I believe the striped bass should stay status quo and not change. Keep 28 to 31 inch harvest.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:34:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Peter Leary

Email

pleary29@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I am a passionate shore based surf angler out of Brooklyn, the NYC bite is a shadow of what it once was. Same for Rhode Island. We need to do everything we can to efficiently rebuild the Striped Bass stock.

3.1-B
3.2-B
3.3-C
3.4-B-O1

The ASMFC board needs to act now, if we can't rebuild very soon we need a harvest moratorium. For hire, recreational should play by the same rules.

Thank you for considering my comment.
Pete Leary

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:59:49 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Juan Gonzalez
Email
iswann1993@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Do the right thing , these commercial guys are destroying our beloved fish

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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:46:21 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Jeff Hammel
Email
jhammel763@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I fish 60-80 days a year and, I know this is anecdotal and not statistical, but I cannot be denied that the striped bass population is robust in western Long Island Sound and the east end of Long Island. While size and bag limits are sensible, the notion of a “no target” closure, which I understand is being contemplated, is completely unwarranted. It would also inflict needless and severe economic damage on tackle shops, charter boats, and the entire fishing industry. Please do not take this unnecessary step.

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From: Osprey Fishing Fleet
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Comments stripped bass addendum
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:04:33 PM

Jamielee Spinelli
+1 (631) 786-5312

I support maintaining the status quo. A 12% reduction will not fix the underlying issue of poor recruitment and would only add unnecessary economic strain to businesses already impacted by previous cuts. Management should focus on equitable solutions, especially given that release practices contribute to nearly half of total mortality.

Osprey Fishing Fleet
631-331-4153
ospreyfishingfleet@gmail.com
www.ospreyfishing.com

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: Captain Amanda Peterson
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Comment on addendum 3 - stripped bass management plan
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:02:54 PM

Amanda Peterson
Osprey fishing fleet
631-331-4153

I support maintaining the status quo. Additional restrictions, such as the proposed 12% reduction, will not address the core problem of weak recruitment. Instead, they will impose further economic harm on businesses that have already absorbed the impacts of previous reductions. The most equitable course of action is to continue with the current measures, ensuring that the conservation burden is shared fairly. Harvesters should not be expected to bear the full responsibility, particularly when release mortality accounts for nearly half of the total fishing mortality.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:41:33 AM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Evan Westrenen

Email

evanwestrenen1@gmail.con

State

New York

Comment

I don’t see why we are worried about recreational fishing regulations when there are actually things we can change if we really want a good stock back. First of all if we are going to close striped bass I feel we should do a coast wide moratorium. Why do they recreational guys get screwed over when there are commercial guys killing bass everyday and netting them outside of spawning areas… second of all why do we worry so much about them getting a good spawn in the Chesapeake then have guys killing 18 inch fish all summer which are the fish of the result of the spawn which are super important to our stock. Also on top of this we have stripers getting sharked all summer now and blue cats eating all the babies in the spring which then on top of all these other issues makes it even harder for these fish to thrive. This is not something we can change but instead just another reason to have a full closure to give the numbers more of a chance to come back without guys killing them. My last point here is the tackle shops and charter boats complaining about having a closed season. Would they rather have a couple good years of fishing (sales) then have nothing or have a closure for a couple of years then have a full rebound and have another 10-20 years of good bass fishing. Just closing recreational fishing will not make the difference we need we need a bigger change, I really hope this is read and considered.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:06:18 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Richard Bertoli
Email
rbertolijr@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B – Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes. 3.2: Commercial Tagging Option B – Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control. 3.3: Chesapeake Bay Option C – New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution. 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions; NO commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. I also oppose for-hire exemptions: Unfair burden on 98% of anglers; for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% landings from 1.4% trips). If rebuilding fails, there must be a moratorium!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:35:47 AM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Steven Schlesinger
Email
twofeetguide@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I would support a closing of all striped bass fishing if it helps rebuild stocks. It seems unfair or even counterproductive to ban recreational catch and release but allow a commercial harvest of any kind. If the stocks are so low, then preventing mortality of any kind should be the goal, not giving the last of the dwindling stock to one interest or another.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:13:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Steven Derleth
Email
s.derleth95@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I have been striped bass fishing for the last 10 years using only lures. I've spent hours and hours on the beaches of nyc and New Jersey and have treated every striped bass I have ever caught with the most respect and always ensured a safe release. The overwhelming majority of the surfcasting striped bass fishing community does the same as I just described. I have released 100s of slot size keeper striped bass because I greatly care about this fishery and I fish for fun and enjoyment as fishing has been apart of my life since I was 5 years old. I would just like to express that the overwhelming majority of fisherman that I have met over the years also feel the same way as I just described. It is not the recreational fisherman causing any decline of the striped bass population.

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From: Aaron Diener
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass draft addendum lll
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:26:39 AM

As a Rockaway Beach resident and an avid striped bass surf fisherman, I strongly support implementing a no-harvest policy for striped bass during the spring months. Protecting these fish during their critical spawning period is essential for sustaining healthy populations and ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy this iconic species along our coast Spring is the prime spawning period for striped bass, and reducing fishing pressure during this critical time allows more fish to reproduce successfully. Protecting the fish while they are spawning increases the chances for eggs to hatch and juvenile fish to survive, which supports the long-term health and sustainability of the striped bass population.

PARTY BOATS INCLUDED!!!

Aaron Diener

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From: John Durkin
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:23:04 AM

I am an avid surf caster from Long Island NY and am extremely concerned about the current and future Striped Bass stock. The following are my preferred options for ASMFC's Addendum III.

Section 3.1 Option B: This option will establish a consistent definition of how striped bass should be measured.

Section 3.2 Option B: This option will require the commercial sector to implement their tags at the point of harvest. Most states already follow this approach to tagging and this option will bring uniformity throughout the coast.

Section 3.3 Option A – Status Quo: Maryland is proposing a change to their season that would open up their fishery to catch and release from January 1st through April 30th and would also permit the harvesting of striped bass from May 1st through July 31st. I believe these changes will result in a greater harvest of larger females and as a result we are selecting to maintain the status quo. Any proposal that could potentially increase the harvest of striped bass during a rebuilding period should not be considered.

Section 3.4 Option B-01 – Status Quo: This option will require that the commercial and recreational sectors are both required to take a 12% reduction and that a size limit of 28" to 31"

will apply to all modes in the ocean recreational fishery.

Section 3.4 Option CB1 – Status Quo: This option will require the Chesapeake Bay recreational sector to maintain their 20"-23" slot size.

I am adamantly opposed to the No Target method for several reasons:

This approach is virtually unenforceable as has been noted by the ASMFC's own Legal Enforcement Committee.

This approach would cripple the bait and tackle shops and for-hire and party boat operators.

This approach would have a negative impact as families that enjoy a day fishing for striped bass would no longer be permitted to do so.

The only reasonable approach to realizing the required

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 8:09:52 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Thomas Wenskus

Email

twenskus@gmail.com

State

New York

Comment

I strongly believe that proposed Striped Bass Addendum III does not address the primary issues faced with the striped bass population and will also have significant negatives impacts and difficulties which include the following:

* Impacts to local economies (Charter and tackle sales) (Primary Concern)
* Non Compliance and difficulties in enforcement and monitoring
* Regulatory loopholes
* Loss in trust with ASMFC future conservation efforts due to impacts to livelihoods and the fishing communities.

Alignment and alternatives to Addendum III
* Separate Striped Bass permit for purchase.
** This should only be set in place if spending of the funds are fully disclosed to the public and allocated only to the conservation of the striped bass population. Ex. Striped bass hatcheries.
* Tighter enforcement of the existing striped bass restrictions
* Mandatory circle hook restrictions in an any areas where this may not exist
* Mandatory reporting of harvest for recreational anglers
* Changing Commercial Tagging to point of capture instead of sale.
* Coastal regulations rather than state.
* Unified measurement practices

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 3:29:21 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Charles Conti

Email

kokopelli17@hotmail.com

State

New York

Comment

- As a recreational Striped Bass angler who fishes 2-3 days a week, I believe that the commercial fisheries account for exponentially more harvest than recreational anglers. I do not believe the harvest/mortality numbers are even close to accurate. Relying on honor system input is extremely flawed. I see what goes on out there every week. There is practically no enforcement in both categories, however the lack of enforcement should not favor the commercial group. Every time there are new guidelines set, the recreational fisherman is unfairly punished to the benefit of commercial catch. Why are commercial fisherman allowed to keep much smaller sized fish than a recreational angler when they are also allowed to keep substantially more fish? This indicates that all of those shorter fish will never grow to size that meets the recreational size limit. How is this fair? They are killing off our future slot fish before we can even make at attempt at them!
- A second point of concern is the locations that the commercial fleets are allowed to fish. I can't belive it when I see commercial boats dragging the bottom of a limited body of water such as Long Island Sound, There is absolutely nothing left for the recreational angler.
I also routinely see commercial boats fishing within a mile of the long Island coast. This is the area where many recreational fisherman are limited to, especially in less than ideal sea conditions.
My concerns not only apply to Striped Bass, but all species of fish that are subject to enforcement.
- A thought on fish population/spawn studies.....I am not involved with the data collections, or informed about the assays, but would like to know if the Chesapeake numbers are low do to climate change, leading to migration and spawning location changes. The water temps have been much higher recently leading to tropical species being present further north than ever before. Could some of the bass be beginning to moving further north as well?
- A final thought that I hope you take into consideration. In line with the circle hook law for bait, I propose that treble hooks be banned from all fishing lines, lures, techniques, and for all species both fresh and salt water. About three years ago, I switched out all of my treble hooks for single hooks. Since that time I have never spent more than 30 seconds to 1 minute to unhook a striped bass from a lure. Treble hook cause MUCH more damage to the fish. Sure, 1 fish out of 5 may escape landing because of the single hooks, but it certainly is worth it for the reduction in mortality. This is a very easy change that can have a

very big effect on mortality.
Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.
Charles Conti
Long Island, New York

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 3:22:31 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

John Gans

Email

johngans@me.com

State

New York

Comment

I live in Bridgehampton New York and for the last ten years I have averaged 100 trips a year fishing for Striped Bass. I book guides, buy tackle, host friends who stay in local hotels and buy meals. Given the decline in the striped bass population, I rarely fish now, and my hosted guests are no longer coming to fish either. My local tackle shop is struggling with the decline in stripers. I have not bought any tackle, or booked any trips nor do I intend to until the striped bass stock recovers. Fishing is just not fun when there are no fish to catch. Please do not delay rebuilding the stock. Please take action now. The coastal marine economies are depending on you.

My recommendations for reducing removals by 12% coastwise are as follows:

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length: Option B

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging. : Option B

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: Option C

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals: Option B

I strongly oppose any sector exemptions

Sincerely,
John Gans

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:	Francis Santangelo
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 14, 2025 10:40:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The population is as healthy as ever in my life

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Francis Santangelo

12 Island Dr

Rye, NY 10580

ciscybiscy@gmail.com

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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2025 7:02:00 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Vasilios Tzanides
Email
vtzanides@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
Save the bass! Stop all harvests of striper until the population recovers!

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:	Anthony Ferrandino
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 14, 2025 6:20:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As an avid surf and boat angler along with working on commercial boats time to time - business owner in the industry as well I have seen no shortage in striped bass and quite a significant increase in earlier and later portion of the “run”. Bass are not migrating as far as they once were due to healthier rivers in New York and Connecticut as they have significantly regenerated and cleaned up over time. Bunker population is clearly mismanaged and early harvest numbers are very high taking more than the safe number of harvest. When the bunker is plentiful the bass are plentiful when the bunker are depleted the bass are not feeding the same or migrating the same. Replenishment projects- Certain inshore structures have been covered in sand and new formations still need to happen old structure have been covered by ocean currents moving sand from replenishment projects covering inshore structures that would hold fish keeping them off in deeper waters. Replenishment of shark species on shorelines has kept the fish off the sand line. Many factors have changed over the course of the past few years including less anglers putting in the overnight hours to find these fish, but the fish have grown significantly in size and quantity and have even pushed further north due to the moving Gulf Stream. There are also many of the river systems in Connecticut that are regrowing bass populations. Keeping Long Island sound healthier with life then ever. Winters are shorter waters warmer new species have migrated and the bass keep showing up in larger numbers every spring and fall.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Anthony Ferrandino

8 Coultes Ln

East Hampton, NY 11937

anthony@godeepmtk.com

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: Kris Magnotti
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2025 8:50:49 AM

Hello to the board members I'd like to make my voice heard for the fish I love the most. I am a 25 year long recreational Surfcaster on the shores of Long Island with a 10 year old son who would like to catch these fish in his adult life as well. So please to reach the 12% reduction let's make the right decisions. Here are my recommendations for the addendum

Section 3.1 Option B

Section 3.2 Option B

Section 3.3 Option A

Section 3.4 Option B-01

Section 3.4 Option CB1

Please understand a "no target" is just a way of putting small businesses straight out of business… NO HARVEST makes the most sense to rebuild and grow the sport and those same businesses for years to come
Thanks
Kristopher Magnotti

Sent from my iPhone

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2025 1:03:56 AM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Joseph Dabovich

Email

joedabovichjr@hotmail.com

State

New York

Comment

Who says the stripped bass are in decline.
Where are you getting this information?
Who is collecting this false information?
I've been a recreational fisherman for the past 30 years.
In the past 5 years I've never seen so many. huge and healthy striped bass.
I think your data is false or perhaps you're not collecting data in the place where the bass are.
If you're collecting data in bass spawning areas from 20 years ago, perhaps the bass have moved to cooler waters due to the increase in recent temperatures.
I'd love to see your reports and where you're collecting data.
Bass migrate and change feeding patterns to follow their food migration.
For instance, 10 years ago seeing a humpback whale was very rare on the south shore of long island.
Now dilute to the return of bunker, seeing a humpback whale is very common.
Seriously, there are tons of strippers these days.
Maybe you scientists should go fishing

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 3:21:17 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Sean Regan
Email
reganmeister@yahoo.com
State
New York
Comment
I surfcast and striped bass fish off my own boat. Rarely do I see a dead striped bass floating in the surf, where a large portion of recreational fisherman go. I have seen on multiple occasions slicks of dead striped bass from draggers and trawlers. Hundreds of dead striped bass floating in the water. How this is justified and deemed acceptable practice is something I cannot understand. Try banning the draggers and trawlers for a few years and see what the outcome is. I also believe that there should be no commercial menhaden fishing inside of the 12 mile zone. They are the lifeline of the ocean and taking away a primary food source from the striped bass has a negative impact on them as well. Why are there large ships with spotter planes scooping up and processing this resource that so much ocean life depends on and has a negative impact on fish and fishermen.

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:	Robert Berg
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 13, 2025 9:50:18 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a recreational fisherman in New York. I have fished for striped bass for over 50 years. I catch and release hundreds of striped bass each year, and nearly all swim away in apparently survivable condition. I keep my boat in Mamaroneck for the Spring run, in Montauk for the summer season, and return to Mamaroneck in October for the remainder of the season in early December. I have experienced the ups and downs of the striper fishery, and I fish probably 100 days each year.

I am therefore extremely knowledgeable about the state of the striper fishery, and have been for decades.

The ASMFC's management of this key species has been abysmal in my opinion. ASMFC fails to act in the best interest of the species and, at the same time, caves in to political pressure from state-specific commercial interests.

ASMFC purports to act on the basis of the best available scientific data, but "garbage in equals garbage out." Common sense and anecdotal evidence is actually a lot more accurate that the faux "scientific" metrics ASMFC utilizes in creating absurd proposals, such as no target closures.

Overlooking the serious regulatory errors of the past, the current regulations in place are actually quite strict and are allowing for the rebuilding of the biomass at a rapid pace. The one fish in a narrow slot of 28-31 inches protects the critical breeding population which was being wiped out a few years ago, especially at SW Ledge off of Block Island during the summertime slaughter. With mandatory release of the breeders, we now need some decent Spring spawning seasons which we haven't had the past few years. ASMFC needs to stop Omega Protein from raping the menhaden stocks in Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay to preserve the important forage, but that's another story.

ASMFC should make the Raritan Bay pre-spawn Spring run fishery catch and release only. Those fish should be allowed to run up the Hudson and spawn before they are kept.

Otherwise, the current strict regulations should be allowed to work for a few seasons and then be reassessed. The recreational striped bass fishery is too important to be devastated by unnecessary no target closures which are, in any event, completely unenforceable, but which will destroy the party boat and charter boat fisheries which have become so dependent on the late season epic South Shore LI runs.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable

from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Berg

19 Carriage House Ln

Mamaroneck, NY 10543

robertbergesq@aol.com

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From:	DONALD DICOSTANZO
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped bass fishery
Date:	Friday, September 12, 2025 4:39:23 PM

Donald Dicostanzo I am a long time recreational surf fisherman residing on Long Island.
Ideally I would like to see a moratorium put on striped bass fishing.
However I don't think I'll ever see that happen again. God forbid you do
something that works.

3.3 option A
Status quo I don't support it because I believe it works. It's actually the one that sucks the least of all. Lesser of the evils.

Don…..

Sent from my iPhone
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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 2:12:10 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
James Sabatelli
Email
jps0886@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
I was an avid surf caster. The fishing has been horrible and has only gotten worse. Please adopt Option 3.1 Option B so maybe the bass will rebound in my lifetime and I can start fishing for them again.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 2:00:13 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
brian marks
Email
bkm072@gmail.com
State
New York
Comment
you have destroyed the recreational fishery in nys. less bait and tackle stores less marine fuel and way less boats out in the sound. six packs going out of business in Montauk and elsewhere dead large stripers floating. WHY ARE NY REGS SO BAD COMPARED TO NJ AND CT. WHY. KEEP UP THE BAD WORK. TAKE CARE OF THE FISH NOT THE HUMAN BEINGS. TIME FOR OUR ELECTED OFFICALS TO GET INVOLVED

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From:	Anthony Criscuola
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Date:	Friday, September 12, 2025 12:29:02 PM

I am an avid and concerned striped bass fisherman based on Long Island, NY. The following are my preferred options:

Section 3.1 Option B
Section 3.2 Option B
Section 3.3 Option C
Section 3.4 Option B-O1

The only reasonable approach to realizing the required 12% reduction is through “No Harvest” closures.

_____

Anthony Criscuola
42 Neal Path, South Setauket, NY

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Garrett Passarelli
To: Comments
Cc: Raps
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 9:03:34 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Garrett Passarelli, an avid and concerned striped bass fisherman from Long Island, New York. The following are my preferred options:

3.1 - Option B
3.2 - Option B
3.3 - Option C
3.4 - Option B-01

Thank you.

Garrett Passarelli

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 5:43:21 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Bill Wrubel
Email
bmt725@comcast.net
State
New York
Comment
I fully support the need to take action and protect the fishery. Any new regulations must be applied equally to commercial, charter and recreational fishing. I do support a moratorium on keeping any fish of any size to help restore the population. The longer we take to act the more serious will be the impact on the fishery and the harder it will be to bring it back

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:	Robert Verity
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 8:10:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals. You put all the restrictions on the recreational angler while making no changes in the commercial fisheries to reduce their by-catch. I do not believe the numbers they tell me about the commercial by-catch being as low as they say. They kill everything that get in the nets, big, small, they are all dead.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Verity

102 Liberty Ave

North Bellmore, NY 11710

veritys102@optonline.net

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] New public comment for NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 5:53:05 PM

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NY Hybrid Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Brad Rues

Email

captbrad@optonline.net

State

New York

Comment

I have owned and operated a charter fishing boat for the last 25 years on the east end of Long Island. I can say that these drastic cuts to the Striped Bass fishery has hurt my business with loss of revenue. My trip count is way down because of this ridiculous slot regulation to try and save a single year class of fish…
The For Hire Industry is taking a beating and nobody seems to care about the economic impact the regulations are having. How is it ok for paying customers on a charter or party boat to throw back fish that are too big to keep (over 31”) but they can walk into a seafood market and buy as big as 38” because it’s ok for commercial to keep 26” to 38” striped bass. What about the mortality rate…. We are catching the same amount but are forced to throw back several that are over slot, when the regulation of 28” or bigger was in place the mortality rate was 9% it should be 30% now as we are catching the same if not more but releasing more due to this ridiculous slot 28” to 31” , we the angler are doing more harm than good according to the math of the true mortality rate. I have been fishing all my life, basically 50 years and I’ve never heard of a fishery being depleted by rod and reel anglers. I’m all for regulations but this isn’t fair to the for hire industry and must be changed. I’m all for a sustainable fishery and for years 1 per angler 28” and above was perfect. It wasn’t broken and didn’t need to be changed. We are seeing more and more striped bass in our waters year after year. These fish have changed their migration patterns and that needs to be looked at more closely, there’s NO WAY these fish continue to spawn in the most polluted body of water on the east coast. Please look to change the current regulations for the For Hire industry…. You are putting hard working individuals out of business, thank you

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From: GLEN ARNOLD
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Against Striped bass proposed regulations
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 2:30:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Regretfully too much regulations are not helping. Sportsman and women are not the problem. Commercial fishing that doesn't discriminate with there catches. Wake up. Fishing is a billion dollar industry encompassing food, fuel, boats, hotels, tackle, etc. Everything is taxed and creates revenue for the state.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

GLEN ARNOLD

27 Rose St

Florida, NY 10921

water27@optonline.net

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:	John West
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 1:30:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

When is A.S.M.F. going to wake up and smell the bureaucratic coffee. As long as there is a price per pound attached to Striped Bass, theres always going to be someone poaching for profit or simply greed. Real Studies & Real Science along with making the Striped Bass a Game Fish along with all the protections that come from Game Fish Status should and need to be applied, if you truly want to save the Striped Bass. WAKE UP Y'ALL...!!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John West

30 Soons Cir

New Hampton, NY 10958

nboibjw@yahoo.com

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:	Russell Masciotti
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 1:00:39 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been Striped Bass fishing for 30 years in the Long Island Sound. The last 10 years we have seen excellent fishing. Every year is a bit different but there is not such thing as striped bass shortage or over harvest. There is nothing wrong with one fisherman keeping one fish to feed his family.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Russell Masciotti

37 Chester Pl

New Rochelle, NY 10801

rpmasciotti@gmail.com

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:	Jonathan Chin
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:40:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I started fishing in New Jersey by the time
I could walk in 1970. At that time, I can still remember my grandfather's striper pictures in the Asbury Park Press that he caught off of Bradley beach. I have not stopped fishing saltwater since then. It is a shame that my family is unlikely to make these types of memories. Unless I go to some other state that knows how to run their recreational fishery.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Chin

9 Sayer Rd

Blooming Grove, NY 10914

jonathanlchin@gmail.com

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.

Robert Campbell
28 Stratford Ln
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the IFMP for Atlantic Striped Bass

To the ASMFC Commission Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to once again comment on decisions you now face. You have read several of my letters in the past, thank you, and I'm writing to you now to ask you to please take the strong steps essential to bring back our striped bass from the cliff edge at which they now sit.

I fished through very similar overkilling in the 1980's as is happening now. But it's even more ominous today because of the Chesapeake's degradation and resulting multi-year striper reproduction failures. The mindset shift, and regulatory shift, to lower harvesting now and lower mortality now, in return for some level of future striper population health, needs to be significant. This is what's required now, and it may or may not bring stripers back from the cliff.

But respectfully, this moment calls for you, as stewards of this great fish, to decisively cut all striper mortality across the board -- private beach/boat fishers, for-hire boats of all sizes, commercial enterprises -- despite the pressures everyone knows are exerted upon you by those with understandably short-range income interests which overshadow concern for long-term sustainable stock health.

- So I urge the Commission to please adopt Option B, Section 3.4., the across-the-board 12% mortality reduction for both recreational and commercial fishing. And, to make this a fair allocation of sacrifice in order to save our stripers, I urge you to please adopt Ocean Option O1.

- In contrast, and to be blunt if I may, Ocean Option O2 looks, with the slot increase and season dates, to give the for-hire interests a way to avoid the hard-and-fast 12% reduction that everyone else would shoulder. How is that fair? Similarly, Chesapeake Bay Option CB2 looks like the same attempt to give for-hires a way to get around 12%.

And may I offer a final note, from fifty years of angling for these great fish. Three additional measures beyond the right decisions you'll make for Draft Addendum III will, I believe, dramatically aid the long-term health of our striper fishery:

First, ban multiple treble hooks on all lures across the board, to reduce the needless damage they currently do in all recreational and commercial fishing scenarios. And, requiring all hooks -- single, circle, whatever -- to be barbless would boost the impact of such a step. As I'm certain you know, barbed hook removal so often seriously hurts fish while insignificantly improving hook-ups.

Second, work with each ASMFC member state and their shore municipalities to strengthen steps to fight the obviously continual poaching that's going on. This is a huge problem.

And third, be the strongest possible voice and force to fight the intense level of commercial menhaden harvesting that continues to shrink a prime forage food for striped bass.

Having lived, fished, and spent a lot of recreational dollars in six ASMFC states, I understand that divergent perspectives exist with regard to striper stock restoration and protection. Please incorporate them but rise above them, at this eleventh hour, to bring striped bass back from the cliff.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Bob Campbell
Holmdel, New Jersey

From: Louis deFonteny <ldefonteny@optonline.net>
Subject: striped bass
Date: September 17, 2025 at 3:23:25 PM EDT
To: comments@asmfc.org

Im a 79 year old NJ resident and Berkeley Striper club member (200+ membership) .

I've fished for striped bass over 60 years. I think we can agree that the striped bass stock is in serious trouble due to poor recruitment in the Chesapeake bay the past 6 or so years.
It use to be March and April would be the time to fish for smaller bass when they migrated north, now few exist.
The small bass also extended the season into winter, now when the bigger bass migrate thru the season almost comes to a halt.

I would like to see a moratorium in the spring in staging and spawning areas, at least a no harvest, but as we know that would still mean 9 % mortality.
I would also like to see a no harvest period during the fall migration.

Until we can solve the spawning problems in the Chesapeake bay we must provide more spawning fish if we are to bolster the biomass.

Sincerely,
Lou deFonteny

9/25/25

ASMFC,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Addendum III to Amendment VII regarding striped bass. I been fishing for striped bass for over 55 years and used to fish on the jetties of NJ about 75 nights a year. I yearn for the days when I was allowed to keep a trophy striper, as that is what drove me to fish all hours of the night. I still fish for stripers even though I have resigned myself to the fact that I will never be able to keep a large striper again. Still, I believe that you have to do a better job of protecting our smaller stripers. My chief concern is that eventually the larger stripers we have now are going to die for various reasons. With six consecutive years of bad spawns in the Chesapeake, there may be few fish coming up the pipe to take the place of the larger ones we are going to lose.

Increasing the biomass will not increase spawning success as there are more than enough stripers in the system to produce a great spawn. However, preserving the biomass may be helpful to ensure good fishing in the future while we try to correct all the factors that are causing spawning success and recruitment to fail. For those reasons I was inclined to favor a 12% reduction. However, now I understand that NOAA is hosting a peer review of the fishing effort survey, that could show that effort is currently significantly less than originally believed. If that's the case, perhaps there has been enough done already with the small slot limit to ensure sustainability of the stocks for the future. Further, the biomass is approaching the level when the stocks were declared restored in 1995. However, the reference points were changed and the current target may be unattainable with the environmental conditions we have today. There is also a new benchmark stock assessment coming up in 2027. Therefore, though I support further restrictions if needed, I urge the Commission to delay doing so until the new data comes out. Afterall, the stocks are trending in the right direction and there is no urgency to take action at this time.

However, if the Commission does take action, I support a 12% cut with no harvest with a closure during Wave 2. When our fisheries stocks are in trouble, everyone should be required to make sacrifices to rebuild them. That includes commercial and recreational fishermen alike, and specifically includes all sectors of recreational fishermen. It would be very wrong to give special privileges to the for-hire fleet at a time when the rest of us have to cut back. It also includes catch release anglers who account for 40-50% of the removals each year. They yell the loudest for conservation until if affects them. They should not be given a free pass.

Closing the fishery to targeting could hurt some of the tackle stores who cater to C&R anglers. However, closing it to no harvest would have a negative effect on many businesses as well. There are many people who want to keep a striped bass, who will drive long distances to

fish for them on charter and party boats. Those for-hire boats would be negatively impacted as well as near-by tackle stores that cater to those who want to keep a fish. Having a no targeting regulation would require a much shorter closure and be fair to everyone.

Then you have those who claim that no targeting would not be enforceable. Though there would be difficulties with enforcing such a closure, it is done in the back bays of NJ during January and February. It is also enforced by the Coast Guard in the EEZ, where it is illegal to target or possess striped bass. However, the biggest savings would come from people who obey the law.

My preferences for the various options in the addendum are listed below.

3.1 B – Pinch the tail, mouth closed, straight line measurement. It makes sense to require all states to measure the fish the same way.

3.2 B – Fish should be tagged at the point of harvest which will best prevent illegal harvest and sales.

3.3 A or C – Status Quo or Option C with a 10% buffer if the board opts for further restrictions. My concern is that different seasons could result in more effort, which would in turn result in higher mortality.

3.4 A – I support status quo at least until MRIP is peer reviewed and the benchmark stock assessment is completed in 2017.

3.4 B – If the board chooses to cut back, I prefer O1 with no special privileges for the for-hire fleet

Regarding table 10, if the board opts for further restrictions, I prefer the regions of ME to RI and CT- NC.

I also prefer no targeting as it is fair to everyone and support a closure during wave 2 as it would protect our pre-spawn and spawning stripers.

If the board opts for no-harvest I prefer an option that would impact each state as equally as possible. For instance, for the region from CT-NC a wave 4 closure would have more of an impact on the northern states whereas a wave 6 closure would have more of an impact on the states further to the south. Therefore, having a closure in each of these two waves might fairly balance it out.

Additionally, I would like to see the board do the following:

Do a better job of protecting our forage species, particularly menhaden. The reduction industry needs to be eliminated.

Make striped bass a no-sale or gamefish. I believe that illegal sales result in the commercial sector being responsible for far more than the 10% of the removals that is claimed. Look at what is going on in MA, any resident can purchase a commercial permit for striped bass for just $20. That entitles them to harvest two stripers per day from shore or fifteen per boat over 35", the same breeders the rest of us are forced to protect. Many of those fish are not unreported.

Support the bill that would put a bounty on the invasive blue catfish that are taking over Chesapeake Bay.

Look into establishing hatcheries. With all the problems negatively impacting spawning success in the Chesapeake Bay, we might not have much of a choice.

Study phenology. It could be possible that striper fry and the microscopic organisms they feed on could be out of sync. Perhaps something could be done about that if it is a problem.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Haertel

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:52:33 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Enrico Hatz
Email
enricojhatz@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I vote status quo

text TXT

Subject-Proposed striper laws

My name is Captain Jerry Lynch owner of Diamondjig Charters. I oppose the new proposed striper fishing regulations. My charters run out of the Great Egg Harbor River from March 1st thru April. I also run in November and December catching plenty of stripers. Cutting seasons will not only be detrimental to my business but also tackle shops, fuel suppliers and a trickle down effect to other everyday merchants. I donâ€™t think you are taking into consideration the amount of stripers we have in the Mullica River, Egg Harbor River, Delaware River and outside the three mile line in South Jersey. I think that the state of New Jersey should be able to cut days in waves as needed but not as suggested. North Jersey and South Jersey have different fisheries. It is not fair to lump us all together. I think we need to do more in depth studies with up to date knowledge in Southern New Jersey. I personally think you should go status quo and gain more knowledge before making decisions that will hurt the charter boat industry and tackle shop businesses.

Thank you, Jerry Lynch

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:00:57 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Glenn Oneidas
Email
goneidas@me.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
STATUS QUO!!

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:56:34 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Alan Castellano
Email
acastellano1234@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I believe that a no catch and release policy should NOT be implemented yet we look at the commercial guys harvesting 40-50in cows as much and as often as they could. Us Rec guys cant even keep a fish that big why penalize us it makes no sense. Also alot of us fish for them in filthy polluted rivers where they are deemed inedible for fun. I dont see how you can take away C&R when we dont even keep a fish all season.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:53:17 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

chris kotsen

Email

ckotsen@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a recreational fisherman - surf and kayak mainly I strongly suggest you keep the status quo. No changes. The core issue if to rebuild the stock is to eliminate the omega boats from taking menhaden. In NJ this should be changed to 10 miles from shore instead of three and it needs to be enforced. Other states need this also. Second issue is the blue catfish in chessepeak bay. Perhaps you could incentivize ways to get them out of water as they prey on the young. Third issue would be to eliminate commercial Striper fishing in other states which is a much bigger issue then recreational

lastly if no targeting still has to happen you have to do this in a smart way to not harm the economy. Suggest no targeting December 15 to March 15 or March 30th.

Thanks in advance

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:16:52 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nick Perry
Email
nperr321@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Keep the status quo, no closures on targeting stripers

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:45:10 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Michael DeMarco

Email

demarcos141@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum III. As a recreational fisherman on the New Jersey shore, I care deeply about the long term health of the striped bass fishery and the ability to continue fishing for this iconic species.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed no targeting closure options. While I fully support conservation and am willing to comply with reduced harvest or catch and release regulations, these closures would prevent recreational anglers from targeting striped bass entirely. Catch and release fishing is a vital way to enjoy the fishery responsibly without adding significant pressure to the stock. Banning recreational anglers from fishing would unnecessarily restrict responsible users and severely impact the local communities that rely on striped bass fishing. The economic contributions of charter captains, tackle shops, bait suppliers, marinas, and tourism along the Jersey Shore depend heavily on this fishery. Restricting access through no targeting closures would have a direct and lasting negative effect on the shore economy.

I am also concerned about allowing striped bass to be retained as incidental harvest in other fisheries. Allowing non targeted harvest while recreational anglers cannot fish would undermine conservation efforts, weaken rebuilding progress, and create enforcement challenges. It is essential that management decisions are based on accurate, up to date data that truly reflect stock status and the impacts of different fisheries. Regulations must ensure the science supports both conservation goals and the continued recreational opportunities that the economy and communities rely on.

In summary, I urge the Commission to allow recreational anglers to continue targeting striped bass at minimum under catch and release regulations, to avoid provisions that permit incidental or non target harvest that could undermine rebuilding efforts, and to make management decisions grounded in accurate data. Protecting striped bass while maintaining access for responsible recreational anglers is critical to both the long term health of the stock and the economic vitality of the New Jersey shore.

Thank you for your consideration.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:03:13 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

John Oswald

Email

joswaldwrite@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The resurgence of striped bass fishing in New Jersey has breathed new life into sportfishing in the state, generating millions of dollars in revenue for party and charter boats, tackle shops, hotels and myriad other businesses in the state. It has become a world-class fishery.

The success of striped bass has brought more participants into the recreational fishing for many other species as well.

To close the fishery altogether and further limit the size of fish that can be harvested would only undo the gains made by fishery management.

I urge the commission to maintain the status quo for striped bass in New Jersey.

Sincerely,

John Oswald

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 6:46:58 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Alec Fernandez
Email
fernandezalec87@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Personally I feel like recreational fisherman shouldn't be punished for a problem that has to do with people dragging nets and commercial fishing for bass. The bigger problem is people not checking for people keeping oversized or too many fish. I've been on hundreds of striper trips and never once been asked about what we are keeping. I'm never the type of person to break laws when it comes to fishing because of situations like this, but not everyone thinks this way. It's a privilege to be able to fish, but way too many people take advantage of that. I can understand a no harvest, but stopping people like me and my friends from fishing for bass as a whole just doesn't seem right for people that follow the rules. A lot of businesses also rely on bass fishing to stay in business and to take away something they can't control isn't right.

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:	Robert Miskiewicz
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 6:20:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

There are more stripers than I have ever seen in my 60 years of fishing....you guys trying to starve us or something?

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Miskiewicz

48 Centerville Rd

Holmdel, NJ 07733

robertmiskiewicz@comcast.net

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:24:45 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

JIM BAKER

Email

jasbake2@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my perspective on the Stiped Bass Fishery on the Atlantic Coast.

Every single Striped Bass that I've landed over the past 9 years has been put back in the water, (>100 per year).

I support and fully encourage an equitable coast-wide HARVEST moratorium to help responsibly relieve some of the pressure on the fishery that we humans are contributing. The sharks, seals and other predators in the open Ocean & Bay environments don't have this choice to make, nor conscious awareness of the Striper decline as they forage for food...but we do.

I support and fully encourage the strongest conservation options presented in Draft Addendum III which will give the Saxatilis stock the highest chance of success at rebuilding.

Thank you again.

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:	Craig Evans
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 2:30:18 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This will effect my business pls do not do this

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Craig Evans

65 Miller St

Highlands, NJ 07732

evanscraig531@gmail.com

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 Daniels
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 2:02:11 PM

I am a recreational striped bass angler from South Jersey, something I have enjoyed for going on 20 years now, but only with any level of real success over the last five to six years. I fish primarily in the ocean and the coastal bays up and down New Jersey but have traveled as far as Maine to fish for stripers.

I will be as brief as I can to ensure that my comments are read and, hopefully, sincerely noted so they can have some impact on the decision the commissioners make.

I understand the need to rebuild the striper population as my own anecdotal experience of catching fewer juvenile stripers these last few spring seasons coincides with the data that show 2018 as the last decent year for a decent crop of newborn stripers.

But I want to strongly urge against the implementation of any plan that would close down the striper fishing in the ocean and bays during November and December (Wave 6) be it no targeting or no catch-and-release. If the commissioners are intending to reduce the overall catch by 12 percent – a shutdown in New Jersey during Wave 6 would amount to far, far beyond a 12 percent reduction. This is the center of our season now. It is the most exciting time of year to fish, the absolute best time for us to catch stripers. To prevent us from fishing during this time would gut our recreational striper fishery. It would have to amount to well more than a 50 percent reduction in catch for our state, as November has truly become the magical month, with December not far behind. And October stands as a big month for us, as well.

Please, don't take this away from us. This would be unfair and a vast overreach for a target of 12 percent. If you must do a closure, do it during a period in the spring during the spawning run or in the summer. Certainly that would impact many fishermen, particularly those who fish the spring run up the Delaware Bay and River. It would also, of course, protect the fish as they spawn, which seems the point to all of this.

But shutting us down in the late fall and early winter would be beyond cruel and frankly, I think, represent a petty push from other Atlantic states to specifically deny mid-Atlantic (New Jersey, New York) fisherman their time with the stripers. It would cripple our fishery and do great economic harm to our industry of party and charter boats and tackle shops.

I believe you know all of this, so please, be reasonable going forward and do not make some arbitrarily selected target year and target percentage so sacrosanct and holy that you do something that amounts to a crushing penalty on a group of anglers who care very much to see this species survive and thrive.

Thank you.

Mike Daniels

1400 Prospect Ridge Blvd.

Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:52:29 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jiho Han
Email
jihohan@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I'm absolutely against no targeting - we should be allowed to target striped bass at all times. I am ok with no harvesting, however whether commercial or recreational.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:17:17 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Max Forlenza
Email
forlenzalawns@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Striped bass stocks in our area are healthy and stable. Closing recreational fishing for this species would be a brutal blow to so many folks along the Jersey coast. My kids and myself thoroughly enjoy targeting them spring and fall and have seen more bass than ever before the last few years. This fishery needs to stay open

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:08:04 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Gabriel Garcia
Email
ggarcia122@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
How can you penalize fishermen but commercial gets swept under the rug. The no targeting agenda has absolutely ZERO evidence based practice to it. Numbers are down especially in Jersey BECAUSE THE OMEGA BOATS TAKE ALL THE BUNKER! With all do respect, I feel the no targeting is a very very piss poor option with no evidence behind it. Please reconsider, or actually have some data to support

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From:	Abraham Salmon
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 11:00:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a young kid born in Bayonne, lived in Jersey City an raised in Plainfield NJ. Fishing for Stripe Bass has been my joy since I was 6years old. An now at 44 I've been teaching my 11 year old daughter since she was 5 to fish for Stripe Bass. Its been 4 years since I actually took 1 Stripe Bass home to eat that was within the limits because it was my daughters first one. At her age she knows an respects the values of catch an photo an properly releasing this beautiful game fish. It would be detrimental to many buisness an many children that love to fish. Im on the beaches during the season 2 to 3 times a week either by myself or with my daughter. Her an I both see 90% of the fisherman an women Safety releasing these fish. The problem lies not with the recreational fishing communites but with the Commercial Fleet. Go into many of these fish Markets here in NJ an you will see many 14in Stripe Bass for Sale an if you need proof I can get you Photos an Videos. An also by the way what you guys have done in the past with the size regulations has been amazing I've never caught so many 20 an 30lb class fish in my life. So in closing, please do not put a closure on Stripe Bass fishery. Thank you. Abe Salmon

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Abraham Salmon

11 Tunison Ln

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

smoovegroove007@yahoo.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:05:47 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dave Stickle
Email
davidstick16@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Status Quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:49:35 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
KIERAN GOLDEN
Email
GOLDENAIRNJ@GMAIL.COM
State
New Jersey
Comment
I agree we need to do more to keep the stocks rebuilding, i agree with having commercial guys tag on the boats, i agree with no harvest closures. I don't agree with no target, its hard to enforce so the folks who follow the rules will be sidelined, most guys are going to "target" blue fish and catch strippers "by accident" , i hear them in the tackle shops laughing about how its impossible to enforce. The charter guys will get hurt the most from the no target season.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:29:25 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
ray carpenter
Email
rcarpenter5380@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
By adopting these new regulations you are eliminating striped bass fishing in New Jersey by allowing only two weeks in May and June plus five weeks In September and October. We haven't had a striped bass fishery in May and June for three years . In the fall the Striped Bass fishery stars in November basically which is not allowed by the new regulations. With all the other new regulations over the past couple of years on fluke , sea bass, tuna and sharks there is not much to fish for. I am contemplating selling my boat and I am not alone . This will cause a negative effect on the economy of the state as well.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:21:29 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Patrick Munz
Email
pjdm_2000@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Commercial fishermen in New England are the problem harvesting all large female strippers All cuts should be taken out of the commercial quota The recreational fishing have been punished long enough for crimes they didn't commit No species has ever been extinct by recreational fishing that has been regulated The same cannot be said for commercial fishing

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:37:35 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Magyar
Email
rmag8546@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
I am curious if any of the people involved with drafting this Addendum go fishing for Striped Bass. Reading through this document I find that everything is based on assumptions, or estimates or projections. Data does not appear to be current. I have been Striper fishing for more than 50 years. The past five years have been the best I have ever seen. I am not opposed to the slot fish limits and the catch and release of non slot fish. I disagree with the estimated mortality rate of released fish, and the truth of the matter is that it is not a known number, and never will be. I am opposed to changing the current regulations. I am also offended by the statements made throughout the Addendum that the recreational angler could fish for an alternate species or not fish at all, which is what I believe is the end result this committee is working towards. The closure of the recreational Bluefin Tuna season is a disgrace as the commercial fleet continues to harvest these fish. It is NOT the recreational anglers that are overfishing either species, but we are the easiest to impose regulations on. It is a shame that bureaucrats can impose regulations from a desk in some office.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 6:56:11 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Adam Zermane

Email

adamzermane@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

My name is Adam, and I am a lifelong striped bass angler and supporter of conservation. I strongly oppose the proposal to close the striped bass season in 2026. While I understand and support the need to rebuild the stock, a full closure is an extreme measure that will devastate local businesses, charter operations, and coastal economies that depend on striped bass.

Conservation goals can be met through more targeted strategies, such as maintaining slot limits, strengthening enforcement, improving catch-and-release education, and implementing seasonal restrictions during spawning runs. These approaches reduce mortality while still allowing the public to access and enjoy this valuable resource.

The striped bass fishery is not just an economic driver—it is a cultural tradition that connects communities to our coastal waters. I urge the commission to reject a full closure and instead adopt balanced management measures that protect the stock while keeping anglers engaged in the stewardship of this important species.

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:	BRENDEN RUSSELL
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:40:17 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Fish have been Healthy!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

BRENDEN RUSSELL

300 Constitution Ave

Bayonne, NJ 07002

brendenjrussell@gmail.com

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:	Gianna Di Giorgio
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:00:18 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please do not tighten restorations. The fish have been very healthy.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Gianna Di Giorgio

1840 Long Ter

Union, NJ 07083

giannadigiorgio53099@gmail.com

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:	PJ Slade
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:50:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a central Jersey angler and I believe that we do not need this additional restriction to striped bass fishing. We have seen healthy fish all year, and us anglers do all the necessary steps to ensure safe handling for the bass.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

PJ Slade

232 Park Ave

North Middletown, NJ 07748

pslade52@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:41:17 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
PJ Slade
Email
pslade52@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The striped bass fishing in coastal NJ has been extremely healthy over the past year. All us anglers take every precaution necessary to treat these fish with care. I have never seen as many stripers as I did last year and I don't think a restriction on striped bass fishing is necessary this year.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:30:20 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Albert Lykon

Email

alykonsr@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I believe the problem is lack of bunker for the striped bast to feed on and be healthy. When I started swiped bass fishing in 2005 there will be schools of bunker 100 feet wide for 7 miles right outside shark river and let. We could catch 20 to 30 stripers each per day which we released and kept one or two for a table fair. I would always got my fish to see what was inside. I would find from 3 to 5 bunkers in different stages of being digested. Now when I do catch a striper that I am able to keep and open it up I find very little contents in his stomach, a lot of times a little Crabs or small bait fish. Whenever I went fishing out of Cape May 15 to 20 times a year for different species we would see bunker schools all over the place. This year I've seen three bunker schools on one occasion. Other than that, no bunker schools at all. I like that they cannot keep any trophy fish. I have recently saw something which I have preached for a while, if you want to take the fish out of the water, hold your breath and then release them when you can't hold your breath anymore. It bugs me when I see people with fish laying all over their deck, or dropping them and sticking their hands in their gills.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:35:14 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
MICHAEL STEVANUS
Email
turkeyman1953@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Just leave things the way they are and stop making all of these changes Thank You.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:02:43 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Christopher DeFoe
Email
christopher@defoeassociates.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The Striped Bass biomass is strong and active. I have been fishing for striped bass for 35 years and the enormity of fish in the fall is staggering. We should be permitted 1 fish per angler 28 - 36". Nice and simple. Let the big fish breed and we all take dinner home. I may quit fishing in NJ altogether if we lose the striped bass to questionable science.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 5:59:46 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Paul Tchorz Sr.
Email
skipperpaul425@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Keep the 28 to 31 inch one striper per person a day.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 5:20:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Baker
Email
robertbaker1173@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Hello, and just please let recreational anglers keep fishing and keeping slot bass thank you

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 5:13:06 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Scott Ford
Email
scotty.ford01@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please keep the Striper Regulations the same. I ask for no closed season. They are a migratory species and all States should follow the same rules. I believe that there should be no commercial fisheries meaning no fish for sale to businesses or restaurants. Thank you, Scott Ford

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 5:11:57 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Micco Dawkins
Email
miccodawkins@icloud.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I've been fishing for stripers for the last 10 years along the whole Jersey coast. In those 10 years I haven't seen any decline in fish, but rather an increase. Here in NJ stripers are the main fish targeted by recreational anglers in the fall(especially now because of the closure on bluefin). If this fishery was to close it would destroy small business who rely on this fall fishery. Another thing we have to consider is the amount of pressure that's going to be placed on other species if stripers are closed to targeting. One species I'm very concerned about are to because they are slow growing fish which makes them extremely susceptible to over fishing.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:26:44 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Capt. Paul Eidman

Email

paulyfish@reeltherapy.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a recreational angler and fishing charter boat business owner who prioritizes conservation, I want to stress that without stronger action, striped bass will not be rebuilt. If recruitment failure continues, there will be no option but a moratorium — something no angler or community wants, but which will become unavoidable if we don't act now.

_____

Top Concerns

• No-Targeting Closures: Law enforcement has already ranked these as unenforceable. They reduce impact only on paper and delay real rebuilding. Unless tied to environmental conditions, they should be rejected.

• Commercial Fisheries: Commercial harvest remains largely unaccountable. From tag loopholes in Massachusetts, to scouts' honor systems in the Potomac, to unchecked out-of-state sales in Virginia, reform and equal reductions are essential. The 2.8% bycatch mortality figure is not credible.

• Shore Anglers: Shore-based anglers account for half of all fishing trips yet take less than 12% of the catch. They feel population declines first and hardest. Management must reflect that reality.

• NOAA Data Issues: The Fisheries Effort Survey (FES) may have overestimated recreational effort by up to 40%. This implies commercial harvest is a larger component than previously assumed. The upcoming recalibration of the data will be critical.

• Catch and Release Science: Massachusetts DMF studies show release mortality can be reduced from 9% to under 3% with proper gear. Managers should adopt these proven methods immediately.

_____

Management Options

3.1 Measuring Total Length

• Option B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

• Rationale: Ensures consistency and closes loopholes.

3.2 Commercial Tagging

• Option B: Tagging at harvest.

• Rationale: Best way to curb illegal harvest and black-market sales.

3.3 Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline
• Option C: New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (may increase to 15% for precaution).
• Rationale: Simplifies seasons and accounts for shifts in effort to reduce mortality.
3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals
• Option B-01: 12% reduction across all sectors, no exemptions for the for-hire fleet.
• Sub-options:
o Ocean: O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption), with enforceable no-harvest closures. Wave 4 (North) / Wave 6 (South) to balance impact.
o Recreational Bay: Options for size/seasons; maintain equity across states.
• Additional Recommendation: Include Rhode Island in the Northern region; ideally, add CT/NY for shared waters.

Additional Priorities
• Protect forage species, especially menhaden; phase out the reduction industry.
• Make striped bass a game fish/no-sale species to close loopholes and stop illegal sales.
• Consider hatcheries and study spawning phenology to address environmental mismatches affecting recruitment.
• Support efforts to control invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay.
• Oppose for-hire exemptions; they place an unfair burden on 98% of anglers.
• Criticize ASMFC delays, demand accountability.

In closing:
Striped bass are more than a fishery; they are a cultural and ecological cornerstone. Equal accountability and conservation-first management are the only ways to avoid collapse.
If recruitment failure continues, there will be no other option but a moratorium.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:13:19 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Dam Mancino

Email

mancino.sam@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I wish to make my support known for the status quo given that is the least devastating option available. The current data is incomplete and insufficient to create additional burdens on the fishing industry in NJ. The economic impact has not been accurately projected and the committee is using flawed data and poor assumptions.

There is no basis for projecting a mortality rate of 9%. In the meeting I attended it was stated there is no way to determine the impact of circle hooks on the mortality rate and there is no data on how many circle hooks were being used prior to the new rule implementation.

Since the current mortality rate is a guess then the mortality reduction based on circle hooks should be a guesstimate as well. I can tell you I have not experienced one gut hooked fish since the change to circle hooks.

You claim there is no data to determine what percentage of circle hooks were being used prior to the new circle hook rules. I would suggest that is easy data to collect. Ask for historical data from the major hook producers. They can supply the percentage of circle hooks sold prior to and after the implementations of the circle hook rules.

Additional restrictions or closures would be devastating to the NJ economy and it anglers.

Thank you for consideration
Sam Mancino

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:	Michael Cinquegrana
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:40:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am imploring the commission NOT TO implement a "no target" agenda for Striped Bass. Strict recreational management within a slot has already put us in good shape with the species while continuing to help support those that depend on the recreational fishery for their livelihood. Each year, I and many countless others spend our hard earned dollars on the appropriate equipment needed to target these fish responsibly and those that supply this equipment depend on us and our money. I know I'm just one voice ... I only ask that you hear me ... thank you

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Michael Cinquegrana

417 Beverly Dr

Keyport, NJ 07735

michaelcinquegrana@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:59:46 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Mike Logan

Email

mikeylo720@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I'm a rec angler who practices C&R for stripers. I don't support any proposal to widen the current slot limit. We need to protect the 2018 class, as it's the last big class so it will be needed both to assist recovery when and if the spawning conditions are favorable, as well as to offer people a chance at catching a big fish a few years down the road (which might be the only draw for rec anglers at that point). Thus, a healthy 2018 class could help sustain some economic activity when the stock starts to decline as a result of poor recruitment.

I support the 12% target reduction in mortality and think this should be shared equally by all sectors. Within the rec sector, everyone should contribute, including C&R anglers (which I am one), so I support no-target closures to achieve this. I think it's unfair for C&R anglers to expect only others to be held to reductions when C&R accounts for half of rec mortality.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:05:54 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

THOMAS ERIKSEN

Email

theoldguy568@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

With all due respect to the experts ideas changing the striped bass regulations to a possible ' no targeting ' option is frankly a death kneel to recreational and surf fishing and local tackle shops. How can a surf fisherman avoid a strike by a certain species. This past late spring I had a striper at 34" hit my fluke rig. I carefully kept the fish in the wash removing the rig and making sure the fish was revived and strong. I can't say all people do their best but you must take into account the netters bycatch loss and deaths compared to us. The surf community does their best to preserve the season. Last season I've hooked several legal fish but only kept one so I can only plead with the council to keep the current limit and measurements in place or match it to a catch and release like blue fin tuna. Plus make sure the local authorities do random checks. IBSP/NJ is one example of a very lax enforcement practice. In conclusion the loss to businesses would be horrible and I doubt much would change being the commercial netters are untouched.
Thank you.

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:	Chris Parlow
To:	Comments
Cc:	JCSA RBBC
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:49:25 AM

To all,
Unfortunately, I am not a scientist so I find it very difficult to give a technical response to your Striped Bass Addendum III. I am, however, a fisherman and spend many, many relaxing hours on the water enjoying the sport I have been doing for 50 years. I strongly object to the idea that I may not be able to participate in future fall runs of striped bass. Especially considering the thousands upon thousands of striped bass I have witnessed making their annual migration over the last several runs. So I strongly question any data that suggests there is such a decline in the striped bass numbers that would warrant a complete closure of the fishery, or even a change to the current regulations.
For some reason, the recreational fishing community bears the brunt of all your decisions and gets the blame for whenever there is an issue with your "science", when there are so many other contributing factors involved. I am a New Jersey fisherman, but I do have a number of friends who live in communities along the Chesapeake Bay. They attribute any decline in the juvenile striped bass numbers to the abundance of blue catfish that have invaded those waters, but I don't hear anything about that. I have also seen a significant reduction in the number of menhaden that the striped bass rely upon for growth and survival, but once again, I do not hear any measures being proposed to counter that reduction. The only measures we hear about target the recreational fishing community. Why is that????
I strongly ask that no changes being made to the current striped bass regulations.
Regards,
Christopher Parlow
404 Earl Drive
Brick, NJ 08723
732-259-7140

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:15:29 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ivan Mendez
Email
mendezia@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Maintain the status quo! Let charter boat fishermen make a living and recreational anglers continue to enjoy striped bass fishing! There is no data supporting a closure!

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:	Phil Kocsi
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:00:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Spend more time and resources cracking down on poachers than punishing those that follow rules and regulations. All of the time I spend on the water I almost NEVER see and fish and wildlife police. In over 20 years of fishing the Raritan Bay I've been stopped 1 time.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Phil Kocsi

52 Oak St

Carteret, NJ 07008

pkocsi@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:51:11 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

John Istad

Email

JISTAD1987@GMAIL.COM

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am a surf fisherman and have been since the early 2000s, mostly off Long Beach Island in the spring and fall as well as charter fishing for Fluke, Sea Bass and Stripers. I've never caught a keeper size Striper off the beach (poor vacation timing) however I have harvested Stripe Bass from the charters in the past. I clearly wish for my attempts to continue but I am concerned about the diminishing Striper stock.
From what little i know about the proposed regulations having a consistent regulation across ALL the east coast states seems a no brainer. Placing exceptions does not create an even playing field for all. It also invites cheating. Massachusetts has some kind of exception and consistent length measurement seems like an easy thing to solve.
If, as mentioned, the CBay is responsible for 80% of the east coast stock, efforts to initially recover stock should be concentrated in that area. Basically, "the biggest bang for the buck". Further limiting harvests of commercial fishing and closing a partial season, especially during spawning, seem to be a logical step.
As hard as it is to reverse mistakes from the past (introduction of non-native species) that have unforeseen consequences has to be stopped. Their impact has to be curtailed.
Keeping a balanced ecosystem in our oceans is critical to all life on earth and we humans have to take responsibility for maintaining that balance since we have been responsible for creating the imbalances in the present and the past.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:42:20 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Gary Mickus
Email
gary.mickus@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Support Equitable Harvest Moratorium for stripers. As per Stripers Unlimited the the reproduction rates for stripers in the Chesapeake bay is below the level needed to sustain the striped bass fishery. Approving the Moratorium now will save the Stripers!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:13:52 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Thomas Rivas

Email

trivas1959@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I respectfully urge the Boad to adopt the following positions:
3.1 Method of Measurement: Option B - A uniform, enforceable definition of straight-line measurement: fish laid flat, mouth closed, tails squeezed.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Option B - tagging at the point of harvest (immediately upon possession) to reduce fraud and black-market diversion.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Baseline: Option C - new baseline with at least a 10% uncertainty buffer: 15-20% would be even stronger given failed spawns.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals: Option B - even 12% reductions across all sectors.
Ocean: O1 - one fish, 28-31", all modes, no for hire exception.
Bay: CB1 (20-23") or CB3 (19-24" slot with closures)

Seasonal Closures: For New Jersey, the most effective are Wave 2 (March-April) and Wave 4 (July-August). Wave 2 protects staging fish in Raritan Bay; Wave 4 reduces summer discard mortality. These must be no-harvest closures only.

Thank you,
Thomas Rivas

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:	Ernest Rogers
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:20:18 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The number of oversized striped bass are unbelievable. Soon they will be consuming all the rest of the fish species due to their size n number.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ernest Rogers

111 Weequahic Ave

Newark, NJ 07112

ernie381@gmail.com

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:	Emidio Batista
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:10:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I fish off the shore off my kayak and my boat. I have not noticed a difference in striped bass populations for years now. Every year i have a good spring and fall season fiahing for striped bass.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Emidio Batista

497 Roseville Ave

Newark, NJ 07107

jorgegt90@aol.com

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:	Robert Tomporowski
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:10:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

If the local angler is stopped from striper season how many boats and tackle shop will no longer exist. I hope there is a plan stop the net boats from taking all the striper food supply like the canning ships that scoop up all the bunker. What about the net boats that catch thousands of fish a day and don't let the stripers go. Will all the anglers that have spent thousands of dollars on fishing equipment be compensated for all the money?

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Tomporowski

127 Locust St

Tuckerton, NJ 08087

rtomporowski@comcast.net

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:10:49 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Michael Shepherd
Email
sheponfishing@tahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I write Shep on Fishing column that appears on line Mondays and in print Tuesdays in The Presa of Atlantic City and I host Shep Talking Fishing live radio program Saturday mornings plus daily reports on WOND. I have numerous decades-long ongoing contacts with local South Jersey just plain fisherfolk, stakeholders and activists. To keep this short I am advocating the "status quo" option for striped bass regulations. Thanks for the opportunity to make a comment! Mike Shepherd 609-350-0388

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:	Kristopher Paul
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:30:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Going to ruin a huge industry including bait suppliers ,bait and tackle shops,even gas for boats delivery making food for anglers, party and charter boat industry. It's totally ridiculous. Stop the letters for one season and the rebound would be immeasurable.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kristopher Paul

109 Peter Rd

Manahawkin, NJ 08050

striperkris@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:15:33 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dominic Sabo
Email
dominicsabo0725@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I strongly oppose no target closures because they are unenforceable and better management options exist! Such as no harvest year round. People travel from all over the country to fish for these fish, treat them like a game fish and strictly enforce a no harvest closure and we will see drastic changes.

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:	Jonathan Turner
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:50:18 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been fishing the Jersey coast since I was a kid. From what I've seen the striped bass population is doing well with world class fishing being had in New Jersey from mid October- December. The proposed no target ban would put hundreds if not thousands of people out of jobs. This ban would only hurt people in NY-DE. People north and south of those states would have no effect. The commercial fishing from gill netting does much more harm to the population than a group of recreational anglers ever could.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Turner

2 Wilcote Way

Medford, NJ 08055

jonturner79@comcast.net

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:	Anthony Melia
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:40:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As an angler we urge you to allow us to fish for stripers. Making it illegal would be devastating. Think about the kids who enjoy the sport and how they would get discouraged think about the people who use as a getaway after a long stressful day. You are taking this away from all of us in that act. As a recreational angler, all of my fellow anglers are usually strictly catch and release for stripers, even if we are legally allowed to keep them in order to preserve the species. By trying to make him illegal, you'll be ruining a community. keep our striper laws as they are, perfect. Please I beg do not ruin this for us.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Anthony Melia

353 5th St

South Amboy, NJ 08879

meliaganthony773@gmail.com

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:	Scott Vigar
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 6:50:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please do not penalize the hard working people of the charter/party boat industry and the recreational anglers anymore than they have already been forced to endure. It's time to look at some of the commercial quotas in states with no game fish status

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Scott Vigar

819 Andover St

Red Bank, NJ 07701

hd91sv@msn.com

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:	Chris Nasta
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 6:50:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I consider myself an advid recreational fisherman, although I don't get to go out as often as I'd like. While I can acknowledge that potential over fishing is a problem, I have a hard time understanding the logic of putting these restrictions on recreational fisherman. Not to mention what this does to bait and tackle shops who rely on the fall fishing run and beyond.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Chris Nasta

7 Marion Dr

Holmdel, NJ 07733

cnasta7468@aol.com

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: upfrontbaitandtackle
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 5:47:27 PM

I'm from nj and think we should with statis quo.
I think we should think about other things as well if you keep taking the bait out of the Bay we will no longer have any more striped bass even in the Bay of New Jersey or New York Or Sandy Hook.every year the bunker come in the spring we get rain pushes them out from fresh water and bunker boats are waiting for them..they take the bunker out and the stripers or bluefish will not stay in these bays if there's no food they won't stay.you should also think about giving back more quantity of winter flounder.years ago you took this away from us by dropping it to 2 fish I think if we go back to 5 fish per person it would change the fisher by alot.meaning all the chumming being done during winter flounder would bring in other fish. Thank you

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

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: Frank Giacolone
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 5:45:13 PM

10/01/2025

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to start by introducing myself, my name is Frank Giacolone and I am an avid angler and Owner of Gabriel Tackle Co. in Brick, NJ. I have been in business for 9 years and fishing for over 40 years, I am also a licensed Captain. Prior to becoming a shop owner I was a Firefighter for 22 years until a line of duty accident forced me to retire from my career that I loved in 2017. I found another passion and it is being a shop owner, I work an average of 100 hrs a week and nothing better than helping new and seasoned anglers enjoying the sport with their friends and loved ones.

With the regulations you are looking to impose on our healthy striped bass fishery will be devastating not only to my business but also the charter boats, distributors, and manufactures that employ thousands of people throughout our state and and country. The last 4 seasons have been the best I have ever seen in my lifetime and most anglers will agree with me on this. Closing the striped bass season will be financially disastrous since we all count on that season to get us through the long winter, there are so many better options to be considered before the board will destroy many local businesses, for example Striped bass should be placed in game fish status and should close all commercial fisheries for this species, that alone would be more than beneficial on what is being proposed for the species, second would be to correct the science that New Jersey Fish and Game has admitted in open meetings that they are 35% to 40% off on the stock assessment, third would be to up enforcement on poaching of the species. The fourth thing I would suggest is to start regulating and enforcing the bunker boats, this year was rare to see schools of bunker off our shores, also we sell bunker for crabbing bait and the size of the bunker is getting smaller and smaller in the the 45lb flats we purchase from the distributors to the point they are all a few inches above being called peanut bunker.

In closing I feel the right thing would be to close commercial fishing for striped bass in the states that still allow it also the regulations that are being entertained will be devastating to the New Jersey fishing industry and our industry in a whole especially when its based on science that has been proven to be 35% to 40% in accurate, proper steps should be taken to correct the science that is being based on before a decision is made especially on a state that already has eliminated commercial fishing for striped bass and an industry that has been taken a beating with all the other regulations that have been emposed on other species in our state.

Thank you,
Captain Frank Giacolone
Gabriel Tackle Co.
567 Mantoloking Rd.
Unit 5
Brick, NJ 08723
732-600-4905

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 5:15:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Todd Hershberger
Email
thershberger24@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I would not like to see a closure of striped bass fishing. I do want the stock to rebound. I've never killed a bass in the last fifteen years of fishing on the east coast. I dont understand the bonus tag for charter boats and I think it should be eliminated. I fly fish from the beach and always release the fish unharmed. I use barbless hooks and keep them out of the water as little as possible. Ive driven thousands of miles up and down the beaches as far north as Massachusetts fishing for striped bass. I spend thousands of dollars at local economy's in their off season along the way. Why is catch and release, unharmed, no treble hooks not an option? Most people I know are already doing this and we are causing as little harm as possible. I think regulation should be geared towards increasing the stock, protecting the economy, catch and release the charter boats, recreational boats and surf fishers and a tag for an accidental fish that was unrevivable that can be filled digitally with a fee that could be used to help build the stock. Thanks for reading how I feel about my last fifteen years as a surf caster.

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:	Tim Prosko
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 5:00:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please focus on maintaining a proper food source like Menhaden (restrict net fishery of menhaden to 10 miles) so the stripers can have plenty of food resources.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Tim Prosko

118 Cedar Ave

South Plainfield, NJ 07080

timprosko@protonmail.com

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:	Stephen Rapcienski
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 4:30:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Follow the data,you can't because it's too old. Do any of you people even fish?

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rapcienski

34 Cypress Dr

Parlin, NJ 08859

steverap53@gmail.com

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 2:04:26 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Bill Cohen

Email

billc97@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

1) The striped bass is not experiencing overfishing. Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low.
2) The striped bass female breeding stock biomass is in a strong rebuilding trend
3) Reference points are set too high and have only been reached once in the last 20 yrs
4) A full striped bass Benchmark Stock assessment will occur in 2027
5) New England wants the harvest states to accept the full burden of the closures while they continue to target (catch and release) fish
6) There will be a new MRIP program rolled out with the fishing effort survey being retooled for 2026.
7) Status quo is the only equitable management measure for all anglers.

Any changes will adversely affect the entire fishing industry in New Jersey and beyond.

Sincerely,
William Cohen

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:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: Striper input
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:25:17 PM

From: Richard melton <zeebee83@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:57 AM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Striper input

Hello Emily,
First of all thank you for all you do. I have many concerns about the current striped bass situation. I believe that the major issue is recruitment not harvest. Personally I have never heard of any concrete plans for fixing the recruitment issue in all the major spawning areas. It truly needs immediate attention. I have heard many times from commercial fisherman that the striped bass migration has significantly moved further off shore, the numbers massive. If the recruitment situation is not resolved the population will never recover, limiting harvest is NOT the answer.
Why since the mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks has the catch release mortality rate not be revised?
I work on a charter boat in NJ. If status quo is not implemented the economic impact will be dire. anything other than status quo this coming year will mean that my Captain will lose his business and me my job. I also have a private boat that I spend a lot of money on Dockage, insurance, maintenance , bait, tackle, fuel food at nearby establishments. I am limited to my boating range so Striped bass and summer flounder (fluke) are my primary species to catch. If we lose that much of the striper season keeping my boat will become a burden not a pleasure. Please in your evaluation consider the over whelming economic impact any closure on this fishery will cause. Thank You for your consideration on this matter Richard P Melton

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: Thomas Kosinski
To: Comments
Cc: Joe Cimino; Sen. Vin Gopal
Subject: [External] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:07:34 PM

Dear Commission,

I am a fly and light tackle guide in the Raritan Bay area of northern New Jersey. I am writing to share my comments on Addendum III for Atlantic Striped Bass. My preferences for the options are listed below.

Prior to outlining my preferences, I would like to touch on a few topics. I listen to the majority of the council meetings and it is abundantly clear that our state's representative, Mr. Nowalsky is incredibly biased in his management. He proposed that the commission maintains no target language in the document while 98% of the public comment requested that it not be included and it ranked at the bottom of a list of enforceability by law enforcement. It is abundantly clear that Mr. Nowalsky continues to cloud the discussion purposely, which is extremely disappointing as he is nor fairly representing the voice of anglers in our state. In addition, I have heard from multiple sources that there was a private meeting held in our state prior to the public meeting where the decision was made to vote status quo. Included in this meeting was the discussion of the state going out of compliance if the ASMFC doesn't note in their favor. This nonsense has to stop. It is clear that the representatives in our state do not care about the long-term health of the fishery and the economic benefit it produces. They simply want to maximize their harvest of the dwindling pie and will pursue this goal until there is nothing left and we are forced into a harvest moratorium.

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length: Uniform definition to prevent slot expansion.

- B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: Reduce black market risks.

- B: At point of harvest.

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: Simplify seasons, shift closures for better compliance/enforcement.

- C: New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort shifts) and increase to 15% for precaution.

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals

- B-01 for ocean: 12% reduction both sectors-oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); **no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R).** Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern **no harvest closures only.**

Best,
Captain Tom Kosinski
Sandy Hook Outfitters

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:35:34 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Edward Gillin
Email
edgillin@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
If a moratorium for fishing is instituted for the 2026 fall season in NJ it would financial bankrupt those marinas, restaurants, lodging, park fees, beach buggy access fees, etc. Moreover, the new regulations and enforcement will cost NJ taxpayers and municipalities to adjust their budgets accordingly to help fund this program. Federal assistance will be zip in this action, shops will close up early affecting shore communities income they receive after summer months. Enforcement and conviction of targeting said species will be problematic and will require more manpower and facilities to accommodate this measure. Courts will swell with felonious fisherman who were judged to be in violation. I will bring the popcorn when the courts are filled with hardened criminals whose only offense was fishing. There will alot of fishing gear for sale. What happened to NJ trophy fish program years back? Nah.....

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:	Joseph Capolupo
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:30:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Don't not take away our right to enjoy OUR NATURAL RESOURCES!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Joseph Capolupo

7 Dickenson Ct

Freehold, NJ 07728

mountain0336@gmail.com

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:	Joseph Albanese
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:20:17 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a catch & release fisherman I rarely harvest a striper. Usually it's just the one I am granted using the NJ Bonus Tag. We have that because the striped bass is a gamefish in NJ. Not fished commercially. There are a myriad of reasons that explain poor recruitment. There rarely seems to be a direct correlation between YOY and SSB. The fact that there are so many larger bass these day is a testament of the fact that catch & release works. However, education is key to best practices for C&R. That should be empjhazied please maintain the status quo. Also, there is much error in MRIP data over estimation of fishing effort and the results from Wave 5 & 6 have still not been factored into the forecast on rebuilding stock by 2029.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Joseph Albanese

4 Horizon Rd Apt 1201

Fort Lee, NJ 07024

president@thehrfa.org

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:	Peter A Waskiewicz
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 10:40:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I oppose the new restrictions. The data is unreliable, and these changes won't improve the situation. I believe the current management should be maintained to protect both anglers and the economy. We have the worst regulations compared to all the other east coast states it's politics and Commercial fishermen get everything.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Peter A Waskiewicz

14 E Ocean Heights Ave

Linwood, NJ 08221

paw30nw@comcast.net

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 10:18:36 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=VsTcH-9shtbzxoD506wNCrJ6RpNVBln3TnWAmlQzkyc.TzzC5W
Name
Kirsten Neptun
Email
klneptun@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
It is disappointing to me as a homeowner on the NJ coast to learn that the striped bass population is in decline. We need to be stewards of our marine environment to support the birds, marine mammals and other fish. Please adopt measures to monitor and regulate the fishing of striped bass so that they are able to thrive and repopulate for future generations.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 10:15:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kyle Gronostajski
Email
kgronostajski@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Maintaining the status quo cannot be an option. Consecutive years of less than ideal spawns primarily in the Chesapeake are setting the striped bass fishery up for failure in the near future. We cannot continue to allow commercial and for hire interests to dictate favorable rules for themselves that rob the future to pay for today. Creating consistent rules for all states must also be a part of the solution, no more loops holes. We all know that implementing no-target closures will be unenforceable and thus need to implement no-harvest closures specifically around times when fish are staging to spawn. Delaying appropriate action only furthers a collapse in the future. The ASFMC must act and be accountable for their recent inaction kicking the can down the road while the stock continues to be impacted negatively.

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:	Thomas Mahon
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:40:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been fishing most of my life and most recreational anglers that i know (including myself) care more about the life and environment of these fish than anyone on the planet. Please do not continue to hinder the hobby that we all love.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Thomas Mahon

19 Sycamore Dr

Blackwood, NJ 08012

tjm12995@gmail.com

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:	Brian Feldman
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:30:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have two teenage sons, who deserve to have opportunity's to fish. I have lived through the 1980 and 1990 when the bass biomass was very low because of commercial fishing. Through management practices that still allowed for anglers to keep appropriate size fish, we were able to rebuild the stock. Since then and today, I believe we have a very healthy striped bass population that now spawn in multiple waterways. The models ASMFC cannot be correct, and do not take into account the reality I'd anglers see in the ocean. The small sample sizes and variable that exist do not accurately depict the current health of this fishery. I am not alone, and our voice must be heard. Bad data leads to bad decisions, and that impacts the very people that you are trying to help, the next generation of anglers like my sons who want an opportunity to fish for a species so bountiful in our waterways.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Brian Feldman

401 Old Bridge Rd

Brielle, NJ 08730

caughtonwater@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:22:56 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=B_veH4Pe3YT_QqogSJZzdy3HvIXWCcczUGmPYpv4rNo.TzzC5W

Name

Josh Basket

Email

jbasket18@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The option that should be selected is the zero HARVEST for striped bass. The no target option does not make any sense. The zero harvest is the only option that will actually work. The zero harvest has to include both recreational, and most importantly any and all commercial! No one including party boats, for hire boats, and especially the commercial season boats should be allowed to keep any striped bass. Those boats are taking hundreds and thousands of fish each year and it is devastating the population of fish. And the commercial boats being able to sell striped bass, without any size limits is a complete joke and a mismanagement of the fishery. We should be allowed to continue to fish with CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY!! ZERO HARVEST OF STRIPED BASS IS THE ONLY OPTION! Better yet, make the Striped Bass a game fish, so no harvest ever! Do that, and the stocks will come back, so our kids can catch these amazing fish like we can!!

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:59:23 AM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Robert Walker
Email
bdwmrm@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
for striper, I believe it should remain status quo

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:37:20 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Matthew Heffner
Email
matthewheffner1@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I oppose a no target regulation for striped bass. I support a no harvest regulation for striped bass.

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:	Douglas Cornell
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:10:09 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I would have bad thoughts if not allowed to fish

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Douglas Cornell

64 Oceanport Ave

West Long Branch, NJ 07764

dcornell92@gmail.com

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: Michael Louie
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 11:02:31 PM

To the esteemed Commissioners of the ASMFC,

Once again I am writing to you regarding the management of striped bass.

I am a transplanted New Yorker who regularly fished the waters of Breezy Point and Rockaway Inlet, and from Caumsett to boulders of Caswells. I am now navigating the surf fishing spots of Raritan Bay and the sand beaches of the NJ shoreline, to the back bays and creeks. I also make several trips to Maine in the summer to fish the rocky beaches and rivers for striped bass.

I am a member of the Brooklyn Urban Anglers Association. Since 2009 we've worked to educate the public on the value of New York City's waterways and conservation issues regarding menhaden and striped bass. For years we have submitted letters advocating for responsible management of our fisheries, and for years we've been frustrated by the pace of the Commission's actions. I am frustrated by the Commission's lack of commitment to their own management triggers. I am frustrated by the Commission's repeated failures to keep states, like New Jersey and Maryland, accountable. I am frustrated by the Commission's commitment to allow loopholes and workarounds like "Conservation Equivalency" in place, knowing full well that states use this to abuse the system. For the last thirteen years I have written supporting conservation procedures only to watch your group kick the can down the road over and over and over. Now here we are again, knowing well enough that most of you are in the pocket of for-hires and an industry that seeks short term financial gains while making the future someone else’s problem.

The following are my preferred options in Draft Addendum III:

Section 3.1 Option B - Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched
Section 3.2 Option B - Tagging at point of Harvest
Section 3.3 Option C - New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort shifts)
Section 3.4 Option B-01 - 12% equal reduction across the board; I oppose any commercial and For-Hire favoritism

I adamantly support the **No Harvest** method for in-season closures. I DO NOT support a No Target closure as it is completely unenforceable, as you full well know.

Time is running out for striped bass. I expect the ASMFC to fulfill its charter and protect the resource for future generations, and not sell out for short term gains and settle for status quo to appease two or three unscrupulous states (my current state being one of those). This is your opportunity to make it right.

Michael Louie
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:58:54 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Joseph Albanese

Email

President@thehrfa.org

State

New Jersey

Comment

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS AMENDMENT 7, ADDENDUM III
While I support a reduction in fish removals, I still strongly support maintaining the status quo. For one thing, the MRIP survey overestimated fishing effort by as much as 40%. IMHO, maintaining the status quo should be more than sufficient to reach stock build back by 2029 IF:
1. Greater effort to enforce the existing regulations (size & bag limits, poaching, out of season harvest, etc.) by hiring more conservation officers and courts specifically assigned to litigating these infractions,
2. Greater education of recreational anglers on best practices for catch & release (see Save a Million Bass https://saveamillionbass.org program of Hudson River Riverkeeper),
3. SSB is already higher than past years (close to threshold and above what was considered needed to rebuild stock in the past). There doesn't always seem to be direct correlation between SSB and recruitment So, other factors must be considered to explain the poor YOY results - pollution, predation (blue catfish Chesapeake Bay, sharks, seals . . .), depletion of forage fish (like menhaden), dams on key tributaries block herring, alewives, etc. from reaching their spawning grounds, destruction of offshore and beach habitat by ACOE replenishment of sand removed by natural causes, endocrine disruptors, heavy rains reduce salinity of water, etc.
4. Encourage other states to make striped bass a gamefish and implement a bonus tag program (1 bass per year of smaller slot size) like the one NJ uses to increase data collection by citizen scientists that opt into the program
5. Support ($) research and more costly tagging efforts like acoustic telemetry and satellite tagging for the wealth of additional data they provide over traditional tags so that there is sound science to follow.

Anyway, if a reduction in fish removals is mandated and it must be achieved by any of the proposed options being considered, then I prefer:
1. Option B (a 12% reduction across all sectors),
2. O1 (one fish 28"-31" all modes), and
3. CB1 (20"-23" same season as 2024) for Chesapeake Bay.

4. If there must be season closure in New Jersey it should be Wave 2 (April-May) to protect staging fish in Raritan Bay and Wave 4 (July-August) when catch & release in warm water increases mortality. I think these should be "No Targeting" closures as opposed to "No Harvest".

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:	Ivan Crawford
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:20:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I reject the 12% reduction especially the "No Targeting". It is simply impossible since Stripped Bass will go after any bait that will be used for any other fish no matter how much you try to stay away from them. Adjusting size limits and strictly enforcing how anglers handle catch and release the Bass is a way better option to consider. Thank you for your time..

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ivan Crawford

207 Maple Ave

Westville, NJ 08093

ivandcrawford@gmail.com

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:	Lenny Abbot
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 7:40:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As an owner of a 6 pal charter business in the raritan Bay Area this will put me out of business as striped bass and Fluke are our main trips book yearly.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Lenny Abbot

65 Snug Harbor Ave

Highlands, NJ 07732

lennyabbot@gmail.com

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:	Harry Browne
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 7:30:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Worry more about the special interests in VA and relationship of Omega Protein and the TRUE effects to the Chesapeake Bay. Your "science" has flaws in it. A 9% mortality on estimates from the 90's and no research from the use of circle hooks for 3 years. We see it, how come you won't ???

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

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The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Harry Browne

150 Cherry Tree Farm Rd

Middletown, NJ 07748

Heypalfishing@gmail.com

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:	Mark Meyers
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 6:10:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Now that the bluefin tuna fishery has been closed early and will probably next year you can't take away the only other fishing for us.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mark Meyers

841 Knight St

Toms River, NJ 08753

mmeyers@comcast.net

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:	Andrew Variano
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 5:30:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Recreational anglers have proportionally much more positive economic impact on local areas, and have much less impact on fish populations than commercial, and the recreational angler is always the sector that is regulated first and the most. Rec has almost no bycatch whereas comm has a tremendous bycatch which results in many other species being decimated and usually being wasted.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Andrew Variano

8 Northwood Dr

High Bridge, NJ 08829

andydroid@comcast.net

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: D Sam
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 2:45:18 PM

No closure of Striped Bass in NJ.

David Sample
3 Surrey Court
Marlton NJ 08053

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 2:24:38 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

John Sheridan

Email

hammerjfs@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I think that no harvest or no targeting will have a terrible effect on the fishing in New Jersey especially but also in every state. The recreational fishermen support a huge number of people from Party and Charter boats to the many tackle shops that absolutely depend on their business. Then there is the fact that the fishermen themselves have invested heavily in tackle and equipment and lures that will go unused. I think that making the slot of 28” to 31” was a mistake to begin with. You end up removing such a high percentage of the fish in that particular class while all other fish are not affected. I personally think that the striped bass numbers have gotten a lot better in the past few years and will continue to grow with things like they are. I think a little wider slot would help by not erasing one very limited range of fish

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:	Stephen Rhodes
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 2:20:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I think the fishery has been in decline. My family has had charter boats in the Ny bright area for the last 56 years and we believe the best course of action is to close the commercial fishery up in Mass as they kill fish we are not allowed to kill as they have to be 35 inches or larger and we can't kill a fish over 31 so all the fish we throw go up there and get killed. We believe that closing the season may be needed but a no target would be irresponsible to businesses across the coast. We think the best course of action is to close the commercial season for striped bass and close the slot limit but still allow for catch and release.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

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Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rhodes

38 Post House Rd

Morristown, NJ 07960

rhodescustomrods@gmail.com

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:	Ryan Horton
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:10:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I run fishing charters out of Barnegat Inlet and this fishery is part of my livelihood. Shutting down this fishery will only cripple my business along with all of the other local Captains throughout the state of New Jersey. Keeping this status quo would be ideal for conservation and being able to fish for striped bass. I do not believe they are over fished because of my last 3 years of running charters I have caught more fish then previous years along the Jersey coast. Some trips we managed to catch upwards of 100 plus fish per trip.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Sincerely,

Ryan Horton

935 Seagull Dr

Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

atvnutl28@gmail.com

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:	Ryan Horton
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:10:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I run fishing charters out of Barnegat Inlet and this fishery is part of my livelihood. Shutting down this fishery will only cripple my business along with all of the other local Captains throughout the state of New Jersey. Keeping this status quo would be ideal for conservation and being able to fish for striped bass. I do not believe they are over fished because of my last 3 years of running charters I have caught more fish then previous years along the Jersey coast. Some trips we managed to catch upwards of 100 plus fish per trip.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Sincerely,

Ryan Horton

935 Seagull Dr

Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

atvnutl28@gmail.com

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: Paul PDA
To: Comments
Cc: pdadaloia@gmail.com
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Addendum III - Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 11:38:46 AM

Striped Bass Management Board Members:

Firstly, thank you for your commitment and diligence with respect to the preservation of the striped bass fishery and the SSB.

Secondly I want to share a personal and different perspective with the Board regarding the context of the comments.

Simply stated, I have come to realize there are few things more meaningful to me than spending time with great friends and family fishing for stripers (not other species but bass specifically) and after a long fulfilling career, and having raised my family, looking back over that time in my life, fishing for stripers has been one of my greatest passions. And outside of my family, and my new granddaughter, there are very few things that bring me more joy than pursuing striped bass, particularly during the Fall run here in New Jersey. I want my children and grandchildren to have those same experiences secured for their lifetimes.

My colleagues and I trust this board to do the right thing. And we realize that is a huge responsibility. We thank you for that. My only ask is that you consider how impactful fishing for these magnificent stripers are to the recreational anglers and all the personal experiences attached to that lifestyle.

I used to harvest fish for meals. But as I've gotten older, I've decided I'd rather have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and release everything; that doesn't mean I'm opposed to recreational anglers keeping fish, I'm not, and I understand that, but it speaks to and hopefully emphasizes my commitment (and many of my colleagues commitment) to the maintenance of the bass fishery.

With that said, I don't think there is anything that matters with regard to regulations and management of the stock unless the commercial fishery is managed differently. The gear (pound/gill nets) amount and size and the timing of those harvests, particularly in the Chesapeake, and in Massachusetts, offset in my view, so much if not all of the diligence that the recreational anglers displayed and agreed to regarding their conservation efforts. I've personally seen the care and delicate releasing of fish as if these historically rough and gritty anglers were handling trout in a mountain stream.

The recreational anglers do care so much about these stocks. I'm worried however that the commercial fishery and their harvest techniques have a massive impact unmatched by recreational anglers. Think about when a large school of fish is migrating down the coast. The surf anglers catch a very, very small percentage of those fish; the boat recreational anglers catch a slightly larger percentage of those fish, again very small percentage and mostly released (I've done both for many years and can attest how difficult catching those migrating fish can be and how many are released)

But in waters where commercial harvest is allowed, those boats are catching a massive amount and percentage of those fish; (we've seen the pictures and are mortified)

The Board must consider not just how many fish/pounds are allocated to the commercial fishery but how much may be harvested on any one day (8 or 12 hrs period) or how much from each body of migratory fish, (daily/hourly limits) to ensure that a particular school is not over harvested and devastated.

Lastly the amount of by-catch. i.e. oversized, fish or undersized fish likely have huge mortality rates and must be mitigated. I don't have an answer but I would like to see the commercial fishery, managed differently, ensuring that the big breeders continue to spawn effectively and accountability for by-catch .

How this Board achieves that is going to be difficult, but if you think about my story and the impact it's had on my life and extrapolate that across millions of other recreational anglers, your governance and care cannot be understated.

I hope my comments provide perspective and is meaningful to the decision making of this Board. Thank you again for your service and good luck!

Respectfully

Paul D'Aloia

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:	Joseph DeGruttola
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 11:30:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The recreational striped bass fishery drives billions of dollars in economic activity, supports tens of thousands of jobs, and sustains countless small businesses up and down the Atlantic coast. An additional 12% reduction would devastate the recreational fishing economy while doing very little to improve the health of the fishery. Status quo is the only equitable management measure for all anglers!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Joseph DeGruttola

104 Kentucky Ave

North Middletown, NJ 07748

info@chasintailsportfishing.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:56:07 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

John Dangler

Email

JDANGLER0866@GMAIL.COM

State

New Jersey

Comment

It seems to me these are the most important factors: Menhaden/sources of food & commercial fishing limits.
In, Massachusetts fishermen seem to complain about a lack of fish, and they have more lenient commercial harvest laws in place. (sources I could find listed a 15 fish commercial limit per day).
I hear good things about Striper fishing in Rhode Island, which seems to have a more strict commercial harvest system. Then, looking at the Chesapeake, Maryland still allows types of gill & seine netting for Commercial Striper fishermen (https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/maryland/COMAR-08-02-15-07). Virginia destroys their bunker populations. I'd argue we've had very good years for Striper fishing in NJ since the bunker showed back up in force.

To me, the signs point to anything but recreational anglers when they've imposed very similar if not the same recreational limits up and down the coast, yet we still see drastically different feedback from different parts of the coast. Stop punishing recreational anglers for your mismanagement of the stock in favor of commercial fisheries.

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:00:49 AM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Anthony Fisler
Email
afizz3@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Keep the fall fishery the way it is the spring fishery/commercial fishery's are what should be addressed

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:	Bill Wiggins, IV
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:00:16 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Status quo is the only option to keep tackle industry jobs. As a store owner for over 34 years, the striped bass fishery provides an economic impact that can not be replaced. Without access to the fishery an overwhelming number of business, mine included with not be able to keep the doors open.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Sincerely,

Bill Wiggins

105 Savannah Cir

Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

billwiggins@fin-atics.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 7:39:13 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Haidyn Castens
Email
castenshaidyn95@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I think NJ should not shut down/close the striped bass fishery. What I think should happen is do a catch and release only and make it mandatory all lures have single hooks and keep the circle hooks for bait fishing. What is also a good idea is close the fishery in the summer when the water is to warm for bass and less bass will die.Anglers will use the "I'm going for bluefish trick"

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:33:04 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
BRIAN ADKINS
Email
Brian2970pl@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I would like it to remain status quo.

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:	James Mascola
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 10:00:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

SLOT fishing bass is hard enough when you have to return to the sea the biggest fish of your life!!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

James Mascola

19 Eagle Rock Rd

West Milford, NJ 07480

jim.mascola60@gmail.com

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 8:42:40 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
John Lauk
Email
laukwvu@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Status quo….. please regulate bunker boats, and check for new striper spawning areas in slightly more northern or southern areas to align with rising temps. Maybe that's where the low number classes went.

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 6:49:27 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Virginia Contello
Email
gcon711@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Status Quo 1) The striped bass is not experiencing overfishing. Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low. 2) The striped bass female breeding stock biomass is in a strong rebuilding trend 3) Reference points are set too high and have only been reached once in the last 20 yrs 4) A full striped bass Benchmark Stock assessment will occur in 2027 5) New England wants the harvest states to accept the full burden of the closures while they continue to target (catch and release) fish 6) There will be a new MRIP program rolled out with the fishing effort survey being retooled for 2026. 7) Status quo is the only equitable management measure for all anglers.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 6:15:09 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nick Honachefsky
Email
nickymagnum@Hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
As a full time professional media member of the sportfishing industry, I implore there not be enacted any No Targeting closures on striped bass as it will completely decimate the shore economies during the prime of their season. Likewise, I suggest if there have to be no harvesting closures, they should be implemented during the early spring when the fish are spawning. As well, the 9% estimated mortality rate projected for catch and release is based on no truth in a micro subset of a few acoustic tags which cannot possibly be multiplied to get at the 9 % figure. That said, I propose status quo in the striper regulations in New Jersey. Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 6:02:36 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Bob Daley
Email
squidhead55@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I say no closure, we have done everything you have demanded for years. But you keep wanting more, with little, and I mean little cut to commercial fishing. We have done our part now it's time for the commercial industry to do there part. I'm not talking about 2,4, even 10% reduction for them. I'm saying no commercial fishing for stripe bass. Thank you

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 5:50:06 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

John Contello

Email

jcontello@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

1) The striped bass is not experiencing overfishing. Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low.

2) The striped bass female breeding stock biomass is in a strong rebuilding trend

3) Reference points are set too high and have only been reached once in the last 20 yrs

4) A full striped bass Benchmark Stock assessment will occur in 2027

5) New England wants the harvest states to accept the full burden of the closures while they continue to target (catch and release) fish

6) There will be a new MRIP program rolled out with the fishing effort survey being retooled for 2026.

7) Status quo is the only equitable management measure for all anglers.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 5:27:34 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Capt Jim Freda
Email
jfreda42156@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please keep the striped bass regulations for 2026 status quo anything else would decimate my business I am retired and rely on my chartering income to make a living thank you very much Captain Jim Freda Shore Catch Sportfishing

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:	John Walsh
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 2:50:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The current regulations have been proven effective in the rebuilding of bass stocks. The proposal to eliminate fishing is unjust, destroys the recreational industry and is not justified by science.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Walsh

800 South Dr

Brick, NJ 08724

ajwalsh53@hotmail.com

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 2:48:49 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Edward Fanz
Email
Saltedrim57@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I would prefer that recteational seasons remain the same. Status quo. I do feel that more monitoring and enforcement is needed both recreationally and commercially.

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 2:00:06 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Ronald Andrejko

Email

reconron3@hotmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am an avid fisherman. I have a son whom I brought up fishing since he was 5 and now 15. He knows every fish and and how make various knots like Fg pg alberta etc. He makes rigs and knows what lures, baits and tactics to use to catch fish. He and myself pride ourselves on striper fishing tremendously! It's fun and fish taste awesome. In the last 2 yrs, my son and I both have trained other people on how to fish for the stripers and how to read water. If you take away or restrict the fishing of stripers, you also hurting to charter and head boat captains, mates and their family as they will now have any income. This is their only means on livelyhood. I issue for one is the bunker is being scooped up by commercial boats. Other is why is Maryland different? Next this year has produced lots of stripers of various sizes. To shut striper season off completely or just a c&r or shut down on the fall run Oct & Nov, would hurt so many out here. Even us recreational fishing people love it for the hunt and thrill. Nothing like being out there at dusk or dawn trying everything in ur bag in a cold night shivering for that one keeper or cow! The pictures of men, women and kids faces are immeasurable! Especially for my son as he thrives for this (wife can verify as I took our soon off of school few times to fish for them).
So please no restrictions. Leave it as is for NJ! We all would appreciate it. Also look into these commercial boats. By catches and taking of the bunker that the stripers need!

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 1:44:22 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Nick Coxon

Email

nick.a.coxon@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I strongly urge the ASMFC not to move forward with the proposed draft addendum on striped bass, as it unfairly targets recreational anglers who are not the root cause of the problem. Recreational fishing is more than just a pastime- it is a tradition, a source of community, and a vital connection to our natural resources. The majority of recreational fishermen follow the rules, practice conservation, and take pride in protecting the fishery for future generations. It feels like we are being punished for issues largely outside of our control, such as commercial pressures, bycatch, and environmental factors. Instead of placing further restrictions on those who already contribute to stewardship, the focus should be on balanced, fair management that addresses the true drivers of stock decline. Recreational anglers deserve to be partners in the solution, not scapegoats for a problem we didn't create.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:48:50 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
M C
Email
MCGraphicsNJ@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
As a recreational surf fisherman who waits all year long for my shot at catching Stiped Bass from the beach, the current slot size and limit is restrictive to the point of having to fish all spring and fall with the hopes of catching one keeper fish. The current restrictions make it difficult enough on simple recreational fishers like myself. It is not the surf fishers who contribute to the over fishing of these species, but the commercial fishers and poachers. Closing the season(s) that people like myself can fish for Striped Bass will not effect the fisheries in a positive way but will definitely cause undue burden on the common fisherman. People like myself invest financially in equipment and contribute to the local economies (bait shops, paid parking, etc) It is not fair, nor effective, to restrict common people from targeting Striped Bass and would be a black eye to New Jersey's environmental and recreational reputation. Further restrictions would force so many people like me to leave the state to pursue our favorite pastime, and take our dollars with us. Please consider striking down any further limits and closures to the Striped Bass fishing regulations for common surf fishers like myself and so many others.

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 12:33:06 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Ernest Deman
Email
Ernest.Deman@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The current proposal continues an outdated and unsuccessful policy for striped bass. We can not continue to propose possession guidelines that should have been retired in the 1980s. To protect specimens that have reached optimum spawning age and size, we should be harvesting fish prior to that size and releasing, and/or not targeting, fish over that size. A size limit for the entire eastern coast should be set at 19 to 24 inches at a one fish per day limit.

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 12:28:51 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Carmen DiGirolamo
Email
cdigirolamo513@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
No targeting for striped bass March and April . Let them spawn Carmen DiGirolamo

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: Emilie Franke
To: Comments
Subject: FW: [External] [New] Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:12:30 PM

From: John Wood <jwood1078@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 10:08 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Regulations

I fish recreationally in NJ, and occasionally in MA and NY. At my age, I have experienced the highs and lows of striper fishing and believe changes are needed.

I support catch and release for recreational fishing of Striped Bass. I am opposed to the no targeting approach.

I understand the Board removed the 18% quota reduction on commercial fishing from consideration . I believe the Commission should greatly reduce the commercial quota, to 50%.

I also think NJ should stop the bonus tag system. I have observed the system being abused.

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] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 11:02:31 AM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Brian Brooks
Email
watizzitfishing@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I am a business owner of Watizzit Fishing Tackle and Watizzit Fishing Charters out of Sea Isle City NJ. Please keep the striped bass regulation's as is. Changing these regulations or eliminating the harvest of striped bass here in NJ will drastically effect my business and will probably shut me down. I am one of MANY small businesses owners that will be affected by your actions. My family, friends and clients ask that you please consider leaving our NJ striped bass regulations as is. Our livelihoods depend on your decision and a common sense solution regarding our fishing regulations. Appreciate your time!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:55:18 AM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Andrew Grossman

Email

Garules911@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As the business owner of Riptide Bait and Tackle , I'm in favor of a "status quo" position at the ASMFC. That represents a sound majority of anglers who spoke at both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania hearings, and it also recognizes that ASMFC will be looking at a new Benchmark Stock Assessment on striped bass in 2027 to consider the true state of the spawning stock biomass and target. Also, NOAA Fisheries expects to implement critical changes for 2026 in their "fishing effort survey" component of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) which is the primary reason for the 12% reduction proposal.

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From:	THOMAS mcmahon
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Re: ASMFC has received your public comment
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 9:45:40 AM

Dear ASMFC Team - Thank you for requesting stakeholder input as you consider potential action on stiped bass regulations. My name is Tom McMahon. I'm a lifelong NJ resident. I've always been an avid fisherman. I grew up fishing in Cape May. I'm a 1986 graduate of Stockton University where I took basic marine biology and environmental studies courses that included in-field lab work collecting environmental data on the Mullica River and Great Bay. While earning my BS degree in applied physics my understanding grew of the then nascent concern for climate change. I subsequently pursued a decades long career focused on helping electric and gas utility companies and state regulatory bodies shape and implement large scale programs to promote and accelerate energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption. So, in essence, fishing and environmental stewardship have always been fundamental to me.
I've lived and fished in Ocean County since 1988. I'm now retired following my 35+ year career with a large NJ-based company and for the past 3 years I've had more time to focus on, learn more about and enjoy our coastal environment. I long imagined I'd move South after retiring to a place where I could fish often and enjoy the outdoors. I'm happy to say I didn't need to move. I now fish our inshore saltwater environment about 200 days per year - typically from the surf or a kayak. I'm an active member of several environmental and fishing related organizations and clubs including the American Littoral Society, NJ Beach Buggy Association, Friends of Island Beach State Park, Re-Clam the Bay, and Tupperware Navy. Resource sustainability is a priority for me, and although I occasionally keep a fish to eat, I carefully handle and release nearly all my catch. Fishing for striped bass is very important - to me, to my fellow fisherman, to like-minded environmentalists and to our communities and the local economy. I attended your 9/16/25 live public input meeting in Manahawkin NJ and carefully reviewed the material that you shared. I listened carefully to the ASMFC staff and the comments of the stakeholders at that session and have read a lot on this topic following the session. I am now respectfully submitting this correspondence conveying my input and recommendations for your consideration. I urge you to maintain the current regulations (status quo) for striped bass and not to close this crucial fishery for many reasons including the following.

- I recognize and applaud that the commission is doing its best to utilize and optimize the relevant data, data acquisition methods, modeling techniques and analytics. But given the uncertainties and gaps in the data and the methodologies it is not clear that you need to take these potential actions at this time. Changing the recreational angling status quo for stiped bass (i.e., implementing no-targeting or no-harvesting changes) is extremely unlikely to have a significant positive impact on the health of the biomass and such changes would certainly have catastrophic economic impacts on our local businesses and quality of life. I have seen first-hand that small businesses are already feeling the negative impacts of a potential further restriction in recreational striped bass fishing. Retail shops are placing less robust tackle

orders for 2026 amid the uncertainty and remote anglers are reluctant to make their typical NJ travel plans and book fishing charters. The negative impacts of regulations change are real and very impactful while potential positive impacts are dubious at best.

- The acknowledged flaws in the MRIP survey questionnaire drive an overestimation of recreational trips, fish caught and projected stock impacts. You should leave the regulations unchanged at this time while you focus on assessing new data from the revised MRIP Survey as it becomes available in 2026.
- The regulations were changed five years ago to require inline circle hooks for striped bass anglers. But the resultant positive impacts have still not been included in your modeling. You should reflect this improvement in your modeling before considering any potential further restrictions on residential anglers.
- The specific potential options being considered are particularly unfair to the NJ recreational fishing community. We already have no NJ commercial fishery for striped bass while other states do allow commercial striper fishing. In NJ we consistently underutilize the trophy program allocation. You explained that you are considering potential multi-month (Spring & Fall) waves for closure times in an effort to ensure that all geographic areas would share the closure impact. However (given our mid zone location) such an approach would in fact place an unfairly heavy further burden on NJ. By including NJ in the zone From RI to VA, we would receive large negative impacts during two peak fishing times in our area (Spring & Fall) while anglers north and south of us would essentially be hit with just one significantly impactful restriction period (Spring or Fall).
- I support the full elimination of commercial fishing for striped bass. It is already the case here and it should be the rule for the entire Atlantic coast.
- The 2029 stock target seems unnecessarily high, unrealistic and it should be reviewed and revised downward.
- Chesapeake Bay area environmental degradation (not recreational fishing impacts) clearly appears to be at the core of the decline in young bass data. Increased pollution from relaxation of prior regulatory controls, invasive species (blue catfish), climate change driven changes in environmental temperature ranges, changes in the location and prevalence of key forage species for striped bass, etc. are impacting these key spawning grounds. Addressing / improving the health of the bay is where regulatory action is needed not further restricting recreational fishing.
- I wholly agree with his recommendation that Scott Thomas shared during your 9/16 meeting proposing that the commission drive an educational campaign to maximize the awareness and implementation of C&R best practices among the fishing public.

Thank You!

> On 09/29/2025 9:40 AM EDT ASMFC <comments@asmfc.org> wrote:
> Hi Tom,
>
> Thank you for getting in touch. We have received your public comment and will add it to the meeting materials.

If you would like to submit comments by email, please contact us at comments@asmfc.org.

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: Victor Gano
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 11:24:47 PM

Dear ASMFC, I believe one of the biggest threats to coastal striped bass in New Jersey is the loss of coastal habitat for foraging striped bass. Beach replenishment or beach nourishment is just verbal engineering and a billion dollar scam. Beach replenishment doesn't protect shore homes it is a waste of tax dollar money. Please educate the ASMFC that coastal marine habitat is extremely important. Striped bass migrations have dramatically changed and they are moving further off shore due to beach replenishment. Victor Gano 540 Barr Avenue Linwood, Nee Jersey 09221 609-602-2897

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:	Joseph Wells
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 28, 2025 10:40:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

My fishing is primarily off the NJ coast. My brother in law and I enjoy fishing for various species including Striped Bass. As most Striped Bass migrate through NJ waters first northward in the spring and southward in the fall, the Striped Bass limits on NJ recreational anglers severely limits our ability to enjoy taking home a Striped Bass without culling through many many fish to get to a possible keeper. I have personally heard reports of many charter boats catching many many striped bass only to release them as there were none of slot size. I find it hard to believe the Striped Bass population is under such duress as to require any further restrictions.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Joseph Wells

141 Treeline Dr

Woodbury, NJ 08096

joewellsusa@icloud.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 3:38:03 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dominic Sabo
Email
dominicsabo0725@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
No harvest all year only option. Unnecessary to not let us target the fish there are so many of them they will be caught no matter what. It is stupid to consider no target options. No harvest will save the fishery.

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: John Brackett
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] 2026 Striped Bass regulations
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 12:49:27 PM

Hello, my name is John Brackett. I've had a US Coast Guard 100 ton license for 45years. I owned the party boat Queen Mary for 30 years and worked on it a total of 43. There have been more striped bass in New Jersey's Waters the last five years, then I have ever seen. Please keep the same 2025 regulations for 2026. There is no sign of the biomass declining, quite the contrary, it seems to be increasing every year! Thank you, Captain John Brackett

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 10:03:40 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Wood
Email
jwood1078@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I fish recreationally in NJ, and occasionally in MA and NY. I support catch and release for recreational fishing. I am opposed to the no targeting approach. I understand the Board removed the 18% quota reduction on commercial fishing from consederation . I believe the Commission should greatly reduce the commercial quota, to 50%. I also think NJ should stop the bonus tag system.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 9:48:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Vinny DelGozzo
Email
vdelg@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Hello, as a New Jersey recreational angler for over 40 years, a licensed charter captain, and someone who provides for their family directly from the fishing industry, I'd like to express that it would literally destroy families if there's a non-target rule for Striped Bass. I firmly believe the population is better than it's ever been in my lifetime and that's thanks in part to your management over the last couple decades. Be happy with what you've achieved and open it up a little bit. It will benefit everyone and the species. Thank you for your time.

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Saturday, September 27, 2025 7:55:50 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Clay Emerson

Email

clay.emerson@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Members of the Board,

I was able to attend the New Jersey public meeting and was disappointed to hear so many argumentative questions from the attendees; most were about details related to the data used in the population model. The questions all ended with the attendee expressing their distrust of the numbers and that essentially being an excuse to do nothing. I am a proponent of people being able to ask questions and Ms. Franke did an excellent job of answering all the questions thrown at her; despite in some instances when the attendees were rude or launched into an expletive tirade.

Any reasonable person who has been around the water for more than forty years through the moratorium and historic population rebound can look at the long-term Chesapeake Bay YOY data and the SSB data going back to the 1980's and see that they tell the same story. The SSB data tells the story of the historic abundance from 20 years ago. This data mirrors my anecdotal experience as a recreational fisherman. One does not need a complex model to see what's happening to the population. Twenty years ago, the average fisherman was able to partake in the fishery with a reasonable chance of success. Those days are gone, and we continue to slide down the slope with a six-year period of comparably empty year classes slipping into the SSB.

We need the Board to take any and all expedient action to manage the fishery for abundance. Striped bass are too valuable to stand by and watch what was once the shining example of fisheries management success turn into the preventable and embarrassing collapse that it appears to be headed for.

My recommendations for the various options proposed in the Amendment are as follows:
3.1 Option B

3.2 Option B
3.3 Option C
Option B: 12% both sectors. No mode splits, no harvest closures only. No targeting closures are not enforceable and put an unfair burden on the charters, tackle manufacturers and shops.

Thank you for your consideration,
Clay Emerson

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From:	david lilly
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 27, 2025 8:20:16 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

you can walk across raritan bay , hudson river and jamaica bay bass every spring and fall . a state by state quota as needed ok fine but why penalize ny and nj that are crawling with bass ? why hurt local bait shops and charter boats and crush a vibrant fishing economy in states with massive bass populations ? science ? do you give chemo to those with out cancer ?

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

david lilly

23 Pine Creek VILLAGE

Hazlet, NJ 07730

cappy615@verizon.net

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 7:40:49 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Switzer
Email
robert_switzer@msn.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The current target numbers are unattainable in today's real world… having only been seen twice in the past 40 years. Given the pressure on these fish, again, it will be impossible to hit the target theoretical numbers. My opinion is that the fishery should remain status quo, no changes in harvesting. For NJ that is the one fish, limited slot option. Fallback is to allow catch and release only for as long as it takes.

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:	Vincent fiorentino
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 27, 2025 6:30:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

At 70 years old I've never seen the amount of striped bass on the NJ coast as witnessed the last few years. This is a vibrant population

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Vincent fiorentino

235 Suzanne Ave

Cape May, NJ 08204

vjf48@yahoo.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 8:52:20 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Lynch
Email
john@risingtideavalon.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I vehemently oppose the impending proposed restrictions regarding the striped bass harvest for 2026. The fishery is extremely healthy based on my personal experience the last few years, and continues to improve. The existing slot limits and catch limits are sufficient not only sustain but significantly improve the fishery . If any restrictions were to be put in place they should be for commercial fishermen and against the numerous foreign ships who are over harvesting the striped bass and the mullet, bunker etc not the recreational and charter fishery. Current limits of 1 fish and 1 bonus are well sufficient and further reductions will have no impact

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 5:17:48 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John T. Conyack
Email
johnnysea33@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
If you want to cause a depression on the east coast in the marine and fishing industry's your heading in the right direction. Instead start in the Chesapeake, clean up the bay, close it to harvesting of all fish bait and predators. Send Canadian OMEGA home. No commercial harvesting of bunker. Stop the consumer sales of stripers, federal game fish. Release the females . No take and no pictures, leaving her in the water. 1 fish per day, move the slot around as needed. Awaiting the newest data. Do this for 3 years and readjust.

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 Skuya
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 26, 2025 1:20:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Keep the status quo with a closure in March if needed

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mike Skuya

8 Old Farm Rd

Warren, NJ 07059

arleen.skuya@verizon.net

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:	William Lanciano
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 26, 2025 12:20:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The federal government shouldn't be in charge of the east coast fishery

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

William Lanciano

263 Northpoint Rd

Ocean City, NJ 08226

willlanciano6@icloud.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 10:57:15 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Doc McAllister
Email
Jrheam93@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I am opposed to the no targeting striped bass. Catch and release to conserve the population should be admitted if you want to save the population. I'm 50/50 with that because one should be ok to harvest and that's been the rule. Before aiming to end targeting, the slot limit should be reduced to 28"-29" and everything below and above be released. Striped bass fishing brings so much joy amongst anglers who've spent thousands of dollars to date on gear alone. There's tackle shops and other small businesses that'll go out of business if this no target goes into effect and this is how they support their families. Another great idea should be to make saltwater license mandatory at a fee specifically for striped bass if you wish to target them. If caught targeting them without license, fine them.

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:	John Enoch
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 26, 2025 7:10:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please make sure you are not making decisions on inaccurate data.Realize all States should be treated fairly when trying to evaluate the options .

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Enoch

213 Westmont Ave

Lavallette, NJ 08735

enoch.johnj@gmail.com

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: coleriback@gmail.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass comments
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 4:23:55 AM

---

my name is Cole Riback, would like to say the threshold that has been set is too high. To say we need the stocks to be essentially to the level of the best years ever is unattainable. This needs to be adjusted lower to a level that is attainable! I'm not saying it needs a drastic adjustment just to a level that actually has a chance to be met.

I'm forced to pick from what I feel are all terrible options, so status quo my choice going forward.

All of the options screw NJ the most, any of the split options screw NJ on both times not just one.

The past 15 fall seasons off the NJ coast have been outstanding and each year builds on the ye ar before. I really can't understand why we need to cut further. We have given enough in this effort. A 12% reduction will lead to well more than 12% reduction in the economic value that is brought to Jersey shore businesses. Late October to mid December is offseason in shore towns. Tackle Shops, Marinas, restaurants, motels, fuel docks as well as for hire vessels accommodate Striped Bass customers to keep us alive and well. A closure would be crippling to shore towns up and down the coast who depend on a Striped Bass fishery.

Thanks
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: David Riback
To: Comments
Cc: coleriback@gmail.com
Subject: [External] [New] Queen Mary Fleet Head Boats in NJ
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 9:56:49 PM

To whom it may concern;

1) I, David Riback, would like to say the threshold that has been set is unrealistic. To say we need the stocks to be essentially to the level of the best years ever is unattainable. This needs to be adjusted lower to a level that is attainable! I'm not saying it needs a drastic adjustment just to a level that actually has a chance to be met.

2) I'm forced to pick from what I feel are all terrible options, so status quo my choice going forward.

Honestly, I been running for hire vessels since 1994 and each year for 31 years I see more and more Striped Bass. The past 15 fall seasons off the NJ coast have been outstanding and each year builds on the year before. I speak to Party Boat guys North to Massachusetts and they all agree. Many have to leave their bottom fishing areas to get away from the Striped Bass to catch their intended Sea Bass & Scup. This issue has been getting worse for my good friend who sails from Onset MA. I really can't understand why we need to cut further. We have given enough in this effort. A 12% reduction will lead to well more than 12% reduction in the economic value that is brought to Jersey shore businesses. Late October to mid December is offseason in shore towns. Tackle Shops, Marinas, restaurants, motels, fuel docks as well as for hire vessels accommodate Striped Bass customers to keep us alive and well. A closure would be crippling to shore towns up and down the coast who depend on a Striped Bass fishery.

Thanks

Capt Dave Riback

Capt David Riback
Queen Mary / Purple Jet SportFishing
www.njqueenmary.com
www.purplejet.com
www.pointpleasantwhalewatch.com
732-996-2579

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From:	John Connelly
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 9:40:17 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Rather then focusing on what ethical anglers do when fishing for stripped bass, you should be looking at illegal activities. Poaching, undersized fish, keeping more then allowed , etc. Then huge fines, not the ridiculous $200 fines.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Connelly

25 Jacksonville Rd

Towaco, NJ 07082

johnaconnelly3@gmail.com

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:	Don Hieb
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 6:40:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been fishing for Stripers for over 45 years and have never seen better fishing for them than in the last 5 years. The current restrictions are working. Leave them as they are. The proposed new restrictions are based on flawed data. The only thing these new restrictions will do is drive more businesses out of business

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Don Hieb

178 Preston Rd Apt F-1

Milford, NJ 08848

donaldhieb@gmail.com

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:	TROY MAXWELL
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:50:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The best regulation to manage Striped bass was the previous regulation of- One bass at 28"to 32" and 1 bass over 43".
First because fish over 43" are entering the period of their life where they start declining in egg production.
Secondly when a big fish is caught the time to retrieve the fish causes lactid acid build up that stresses fish greatly causing many to not live or reproduce again.
This also cause more people to stay on the water trying to catch that fish that is legal which in turn cause more stress on multiple releases in a season.
My last thought and observation on the studies pushing this current restriction where completed during a period of years when we didnt have wind patterns that were pushing bait into the coastal areas. The fish were following bait out past the 3-mile fishing territory and that caused a false negative when recording fish populations.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-

based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

TROY MAXWELL

4010 Ivins Ave

Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

TROYRMAXWELL@YAHOO.COM

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:	Justin Healey
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:00:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I would have never thought in my short 31 year life I would see a "no targeting" closure of a fishery that has ZERO signs of slowing down in NJ. Flawed and illegitimate regional-based data will not be tolerated.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Justin Healey

5738 Route 9

New Gretna, NJ 08224

jhealey@vikingyachts.com

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:	tom hastings
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:40:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I caught my 1st striper in Hudson River in 1960 when I was 9yrs old. Will You be responsible for denying a kid the same wonder and excitement due to Your lack of using responsible science instead of the "Sameo-Sameo" numbers game?

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

tom hastings

696 Avenue E # 07002

Bayonne, NJ 07002

tomghastings106@aol.com

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:	Charles Munro
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 1:50:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Have we become such a reactionary society, that we would make such a dramatic change in course, as to suspend fishing for striped bass? It would seem we learned little from the pandemic, when a similar course of thought and action prevailed. We all know how that tied up society for months with unintended consciouses. Honestly, would we make this type of severe change in management with the goal of a .01% change in morality? Observe and note the data, but remain on the current course, holding the status quo. A per review of the methodology is set for the Spring of 2026. Let us update our methods and review the data then. We will be better informed and make a more grounded decision.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Charles Munro

5738 Route 9

New Gretna, NJ 08224

cmunro@vikingyachts.com

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:	Tristan Henningsen
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 1:10:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This kind of fishing cannot be taken away. So many local businesses live off of the Season. i understand not everyone follows the rules, by all means hire more game wardens if need be.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Tristan Henningsen

22 2nd Ave

Seaside Park, NJ 08752

golffishlove@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 11:45:20 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Keith Kesheneff
Email
kesheneff1@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I support New Jersey noncompliance and status quo for striper regulations

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 11:28:48 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kathleen Consalo
Email
swim691@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I understand there is a proposal to close the striped bass season in New Jersey. Please consider keeping the season open and making the fishery catch and release. Thank you.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 11:09:39 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Deandra B. Consalo
Email
dleone060890@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please do not close the NJ striped bass season. Leave the season open for recreational angers but mandate a catch and release program.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 11:06:40 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Consalo Jr
Email
rconsalo@atlantic.edu
State
New Jersey
Comment
I disagree with shutting down the recreational fishery. Please keep the fishery open but make it catch and release.

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:	Tyler Menninger
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:40:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

There are tones of striped bass in the water. we always practice safety catch and release.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Tyler Menninger

33 Panorama Dr

Beach Haven, NJ 08008

tylermenninger@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:34:25 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Leshko
Email
JLeshko0181@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
To completely shut down the fishery as a whole who have many negative impacts on all who target striped bass or run businesses that depend on them to provide for their families. Some would take a major financial burden due to the fishery being completely shut down as it is one of the largest fishery from shore, as well as from the surf. It would negatively financially impact commercial fisherman, fishing charters, tackle shops, plug builders and people who supply live baits to the tackle shops. It would also negatively effect the recreational angler not in a financial aspect, but in the aspect that this may be their therapy, their escape from the worlds responsibilities where they do not focus on everyday issues, finances, bills, work etc. I would strongly consider anglers to still be able to target striped bass and focus more on harvest rates if you truly want to bring the numbers up. It is not the every day recreational angler who is diminishing the numbers to the point the fishery should be shut down.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 8:51:02 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Thomas Rosati
Email
trosati42@verizon.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Currently the regulations state 1 fish between 28 and 31 inches in New Jersey waters. Striped Bass fishing has become a catch and release event since these fish are full of red meat and don't make much for table fare. Using the correct type of hook, I would hope the mortality rate is much higher. We get basically two opportunities to pursue this species, early spring and then again in the fall. As a small boater that means maybe a few trips out with the hope of hooking up with fish. There aren't many saltwater species to pursue in the first place in our waters and impacting this fishery and recreational fishing is going to kill the industry for everyone. Us recreational fishermen usually target a single species when on the water. It's not like we have other opportunities to replace this fishery with. The cost of owning a boat, maintaining it, marina slip fees, gas, fishing equipment, food for the day just doesn't make sense anymore when you are bringing nothing home. When I am on the water and I can count firsthand how many fishermen are on the waters going after striped bass and honestly, there are not many boats. Last year I fished the usual haunts and came up empty but at least I had the option. Please don't take away my reasons to be on the water.

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:	John Gerretz
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 24, 2025 9:10:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a New Jersey resident. Myself and all the anglers I know follow the rules to keep the fisheries sustainable! We are very limited at best when it comes to possessing keeper stripers.The boats I fish on will not survive

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Gerretz

22 Judys Ct

Hammonton, NJ 08037

jmgerretz@gmail.com

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: deceiver64
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass reduction for overfishing
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:50:01 PM

Good evening. My name is Bill Sistad, resident of NJ. This year marks 35 years saltwater fly fishing the Jersey Shore. I also surfcast and am an active member of JSS and SRSA. So here is my input. I fished through first moratorium back in the late 80's and watched and fished the rebound in the 90's. It was incredible the amount of stripers in the river systems and out front. Fishing is terrible right now where I fish. A river I fished today was void of bass, blues, and bait, worst I have ever seen. Please stop the harvest of striped bass. Make it a catch and release fishery.Why not even give it gamefish status for the entire seaboard. Definitely do away with this bonus tag fish in NJ, the size of these slot size fish need to be protected for the reason of poor recruitment the last say 5 years. Nobody even talks about the percentage of fish that are killed by poachers each year. I feel the only time to allow harvest is when the numbers are over abundant. Please do not go with status quo regs, you will be making a big mistake.

Good night, William A. Sistad

Sent from my Galaxy

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 2:44:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ben Lucey
Email
benlucey1@me.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I am all for responsible management of the striped bass fishery. I believe that we all have a hand in it and that significant steps need to be taken to preserve striped bass. I do think that a no-target overly burdens recreational anglers. I believe that any responsible management should solely be focused on catch-and-release. The majority of anglers I observe do catch-and-release and handle the fish with care. My son has recently discovered the joy of fishing for striped bass and I want him to be able to continue enjoying fishing for striped bass.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:44:44 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Bill Jackson Jr

Email

jacksonjr2@verizon.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I am 69. I surf fish. Only using plugs. I have not kept a striper in two years. All catch and released. I have been surf fish since I was 15.

I favor keeping slot size of 28 to 31 inches. I will continue to release.
I hope we don't get to the targeting aspect.

I am in favor of reducing the season but keeping the slot size. One fish per day only. NOT PER TRIP.

NO BONUS tags. The big girls need to stay in the cycle of life.

The poachers need to have a more severe penalty when caught with illegal catches, quantity and sizes. NO slap on the wrist.

Commercial fishing has to do their share as only one person can only impact the future like a grain of sand. Recognizing that their business will be impacted too. They have a tough situation.

The guys I fish with ALL practice catch and release.
For the future of this terrific sport, we all need to make adjustments and sacrifices.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:33:25 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jack Gioconda
Email
jack.gioconda@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
There is no way to enforce this addendum, therefore, there is no point in passing it. It will have little to no effectiveness in helping the Striped Bass populations.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:14:42 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Eleanor Bochenek
Email
knightabby23@Hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I strongly support remaining at status quo through 2026 for striped bass. The economic impact would be devastating to the NJ recreational fishery. The proposed options are not equitable. The calculated F for 2025 may not be the appropriate value and the F could be lower which means we would be closer to the rebuilding target. New Jersey will take the largest reduction. Since striped bass are a migratory species, they are not available in same numbers in each state from RI or CT to NC. The target biomass level may be too high and should be revisited and lowered. If we have to go to closures after 2025 then each state should be allowed to pick their closure dates to meet the 12% reduction.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:48:32 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=U9U165238JT47LSQLD2TG1SNU4&trk_sid=3BBMOL72ITDB32IR1ATEQI4GUC&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO
Name
Patrick Klevinsky
Email
pklevinsky@vikingyachts.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
CLOSE STRIPED BASS SEASON FROM JANUARY 1 TO APRIL 15 FOR ALL REGIONS. KEEP THE EXSITING CATCH REGULATIONS. DO NOT WANT ANY LANGUAGE OF NO TARGETING

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:	Michael Hagen
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 24, 2025 7:20:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

My own records and logs which will be submitted to NJ at the end of the season , shows a healthy mix of over and under bass size as well as a very good number of small bass. In my opinion the current regulations are sufficient. I very seldom even bring home a bass for the table. My group always make sure we revive and send them back in a fast and efficient manor to ensure their survival. I believe the fisheries council should leave current regulations in place.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Michael Hagen

292 Nautilus Dr

Manahawkin, NJ 08050

mphagen69@comcast.net

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:	James Brownhill
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 24, 2025 6:50:14 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Targeting backwater schoolie striper in the spring and fall was something I did with my dad and now do with my kids. All fish are released. Enforcement with a proposal such as this would be near impossible, and only serves to harm those who are honest and to shut down and important regional economic engine.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

James Brownhill

4505 Moss Mill Rd

Hammonton, NJ 08037

brownhill.j@gmail.com

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:	Thomas Zaborowski Jr
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:40:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Stop all commercial fishing for striped bass!!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Thomas Zaborowski Jr

13 Tiller Dr Apt Barnegat

Barnegat, NJ 08005

zzaborowski2@comcast.net

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: Victor Gano
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic, Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:31:29 PM

Dear ASMFC, I do not agree with any closures of Striped Bass in any of the Atlantic states. I believe there is an abundance of Striped Bass and I believe the food chain is actually messed up because of Striped Bass. I believe there are too many of them. I do believe you're correct with the stock numbers for 2006.

Victor Gano 540 Barr Avenue Linwood, New Jersey 08221 609-602-2897

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:48:55 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jeff Yannacone
Email
jyanny51@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
We The People are asking the ASMFC to reject new closures and maintain the status quo management on Striped Bass fishing. The businesses, boats, hotels, restaurants will be negatively affected by a closure. I am a life long surf fisherman and the memories fishing for Striped Bass with my grandfather as a child, taking my two sons fishing the beaches when they were young and now fishing with my wife, are memories past and present that need to continue. This is not a hobby of mine, its a life long passion.

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:	Philip Tom
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 7:12:29 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Maybe a recommendation would be to ban or have strict regulations on the commercial fishing of menhaden which has a direct impact on the striped bass population since their diet and consumption relies on this precious commodity. Netting by commercial from all states park themselves at the three mile boundary between state and federal waters and essentially cleans out the area to make omega oil products. I ask you is this worth the decimation of striped bass population? Everyone seems to always look for the easy answer and not look at the real reason for the striped bass decline. It is because it involves “big money” and corporations that are making billions of dollars from the omega products made from menhaden the prime food source of the striped bass. The regulations of one fish in the slot from 28”-31” is stringent enough and now it is being proposed to have an additional closed season is totally absurd. There is no way with the current recreational regulations that the recreational fisherman who maybe fishes once or twice a week is impacting the population. In my opinion I would look at and have tighter restrictions on the commercial fishing where they are using nets versus the recreational fisherman using fishing rods.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Philip Tom

10 Deer Hill Ct

Boonton, NJ 07005

philipxtom@aol.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 6:14:19 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Paul DiGiacomo
Email
pdgkids@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
As a recreational fisherman, I always wondered how my 1/2 doz fish each year(usually less) could possibly hurt the population. I would think the indiscriminate killing of all species during drag netting and alike is far more damaging to populations than a few guys on boats could ever be

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:51:56 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Raun Townsley

Email

raun_townsley@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Having a sustainable management position on conservation of any species should be unilaterally accepted across the board. In my opinion anyone against measures being implemented that would adversely impact a thriving eco system should reevaluate their viewpoint. I was prompted to leave a comment going against the proposed changes by a tackle business that would be monetarily affected by this change. That smacks of desperation and greed being more concerned about their bottom line than conservation and keeping a sustainable system. That short sighted approach will only harm them in the future if populations dwindle. Business can't sell gear, bait, and book charters if the species don't exist. As an angler that is catch and release only I understand the negative impact that even this approach has and can tell you even with my best efforts in handling the chances for delayed mortality exist. Not to mention harvesting. Slot sizes and truncated seasons are an inevitability to maintain a healthy population going forward. Anyone that wants to see future generations enjoy catching striped bass should allow themselves to understand that every action has a consequence. Over harvesting has brought us to a tipping point and in my opinion we as anglers have a responsibility to ensure the success of the species.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:34:47 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=L9TUGQ9PE715M0EE9N4KS7241K&trk_sid=2SCPF2NQKCTN7DAS7V5JG1FB4G&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO
Name
Bradley Weil
Email
bradweil@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Implementing a recreational closure for striped bass in NJ would be an economic disaster. We already do not allow commercial harvesting, and our bonus tag program does not even come close to taking our commercial harvest allocation. If you want the 12% reduction in harvest limit the commercial fishing in other states, this would have the least amount of economic impact. You are putting the needs/wants of the few ahead of the many.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:27:51 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=JDQD0CU15BHBTMUD7I7QU8R0H4&trk_sid=69AOTV0QRJQL87DPTOQ5742RLS&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO

Name

Dave Eisner

Email

dbe027@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

It is my opinion that the regulations for 2026 should keep the status quo. There needs to be more reliable research on stocks and migration patterns, particularly as it relates to the depletion of baitfish by both commercial and recreational anglers.

By an educated estimate from my commercial fisherman buddy: if 100 anglers per day are catching 500 peanut bunker per boat per trip for bait, that would correlate to 250 mt of fish in adult status. As we know, there are main bodies and breeding grounds of the Striped Bass stock, but we also know that predatory fish follow their food source.

While of course this is just my opinion, it's likely that there is minimal stock depletion, and rather a migration of the breeding stock to new grounds that better support their diet. There is an argument to be made that stronger studies and regulation on baitfish is needed, rather than the Bass fishery itself.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:09:51 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=MO9DLPB0TNF27U8H56OT3ALDNO&trk_sid=SP9G9814FSJ6G3LQPPV53D8A28&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO

Name

Brian B

Email

bkb12@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Stop letting commercial bunker boats over fish the inner waters of the mid-Atlantic. Canadian boats are wiping out nearly all of the menhaden from Maine to Virginia which is resulting in reduced amounts of bait thus limiting food for predatorial fish, like striped bass. It's not the recreational fisherman who are the problem. It's the companies like Omega who have been padding the pockets all the way to the top. The key to sustainable fisheries is not by stopping rod and reel fishing, it's stopping giant nets and restricting their quotas.

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From: Jason R
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:00:33 PM

To whom this may concern,

I strongly disagree with the possible no targeting and or closure of fishing for Striped Bass in Wave 6 for New Jersey. I feel that the current slot of 28" to 31" is still the best option for recreational anglers that fish in New Jersey. I strongly support option A status quo.
Back in 2023 it was reported that the FES was over estimating the amount of bass that anglers caught by 30 to 40 percent. If those numbers are that far off, it would seem that any type of closure or no targeting would be detrimental to not only the fishing community, but to local tackle shops as well.

According to the FES survey in 2023, and a report in the Fisherman Magazine in September of 2023, NOAA fisheries admitted that they were "overestimating angler effort by 30-40%". This is the same year that the new status quo slot 28"-31" was enacted in May 2023 at vote by the ASMFC. More specifically, New Jersey, had 5,834 total responses in the 2023 FES survey. The only problem with this data is that there are over 100,000 anglers registered per year in New Jersey for the saltwater license. There is other data that factors into the MRIP, but specifically speaking about the FES survey, this is 5% of the anglers in New Jersey that are registered for the saltwater license. I greatly appreciate for the ability to comment publicly on this, but I feel that there is a lack of data among all New Jersey anglers and people that do not live in New Jersey, but fish there.

Federally inspected vessels are required to report in "real time" their catches and that data is electronically submitted. Why aren't recreational anglers required to do the same thing? Most anglers, when they catch a fish, take a picture and either keep it or release it safely back into the ocean if it is over or under the slot limit. There should be an app that records location, weather data, day and time stamp and the angler can enter their data about length and weight. They could also take a picture with their phone and record that as well. Then they could submit it in real time. If this was mandated and enforced, we would have more data and a better understanding of what is actually being taken out of the ocean. This would also go for any trip where zero catches occurred. I do realize that there is a website in New Jersey that allows anglers to do this now, but there should be one central app for all 15 Atlantic Coast states that participate. Sending out postcards is time consuming and slow. We have the ability to collect data in a more efficient way that would give "realtime" reporting back to the board immediately. I do not personally know one angler that has received a FES survey. Therefore, I feel my voice is not being heard on this matter.

The SSB continues to rebuild according to the FES survey. The board has a goal to reach 250 million pounds of SSB by 2029, which is a great goal, but if the stock is continuing to rebuild and thrive, why is there still a time limit on this goal? Can an option be to increase the goal length by one year increments as long as the data for rebuilding is trending upward? This goal has only been reached roughly four times in the last 50 years. I am wondering if we are aiming too high and enforcing drastic measures to get to these numbers with the limited data that I have stated above.

I realize this is a charged topic among anglers and non anglers. But this isn't about just anglers, it is about a community. I live in Pennsylvania, but I fish In New Jersey a lot. I frequent Grumpy's Tackle in Seaside Heights and Fisherman's Headquarters in Long Beach Island. I do this in person and I also purchase online quite a bit. Every time I have gone into Grumpy's Tackle they always ask when you check out if you have a card for possession limits, minimum size and season info. They always have a stack of cards by the register. For both of these tackle shops it is about compliance and educating anglers so that we can all continue to enjoy this resource for years to come. As everyone is aware in this current retail economy, things are tough, really tough. Any type of closure will have a drastic effect on these tackle shops. Drastic. The fall run of Striped Bass in New Jersey is a tradition, one that most anglers take seriously and are great stewards of the resource. But as I stated before with so little data in regards to the total amount of anglers that fish in New Jersey, are our voices being heard? If we close down fishing in wave 6 for New Jersey, it affects anglers and businesses. How much revenue can they lose before they have to

close? And if they do close, in the current retail environment, they will be gone. And that is not only a loss for anglers, but for the community that they serve.

Everyone from board members, anglers, tackle shops and suppliers have a stake in this decision. This should not be a rash, hurried decision. Gathering more data that includes more anglers would be beneficial for all. Some would say I am asking the board to "kick the can down the road." Then after the vote we all go back to fishing until this pops up again next year. Let me be clear, the SSB is rebuilding and we are continuing to trend in the right direction. I feel the current slot of 28"-31" is a great compromise between the board and the angling community so that everyone benefits. What I would like to see is less rigid constraints. Look at moving the goal back one year if we are trending in the right direction. Better data collecting, make it easier for anglers to report their catches in real time as I stated above. Do not separate the for hire boats and the recreational anglers. Why can't we hold everyone to the same higher standard to achieve better data. The MRIP was brought about because it was deemed that the old system was "Fatally flawed," according to an article in the September 2023 edition of the Fisherman Magazine by Jim Hutchinson . If the MRFSS was flawed, then congress mandated NOAA fisheries to come up with a new survey technique and the MRIP is over estimating angler catches by 30-40%, how are we supposed to accept these drastic measures when according to the flawed data, the stock is rebuilding. This is why I am asking for pause, conversation and a change to the way things are being done.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Jason Rostkowski
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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:25:50 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David Diaz
Email
david20067diaz@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Striped bass fishing should not be illegal for offshore Fisherman, but should be sized down by big charter fishing boats

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:16:51 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Eric Zullo

Email

eric.zullo@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a dedicated recreational fisherman who cares deeply about the long-term health of the striped bass fishery and the communities it supports. I respectfully urge the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to maintain consistent striped bass regulations rather than moving toward a “no-targeting” policy.

Stable regulations benefit everyone involved—anglers, charter captains, and coastal businesses—while still allowing the Commission to protect the resource through science-based management. Frequent or dramatic changes, especially a sudden prohibition on targeting, create uncertainty and can unintentionally reduce public support for conservation efforts.

I fully support measures grounded in solid biological data to ensure a sustainable striped bass population. At the same time, I believe that maintaining consistent rules, while continuing to monitor stocks and adjust responsibly when truly necessary, strikes the best balance between conservation and access.

Along with consistent rules, I would also encourage the Commission to consider offering or promoting educational programs for anglers on best practices for catch-and-release, reducing release mortality, and proper fish handling. This type of outreach can further protect the stock and build a culture of stewardship among the recreational fishing community.

Thank you for your continued work and dedication to the future of our fisheries. I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective and to remain an active partner in preserving this iconic species.

Eric Zullo

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From: Ryan Brevogel
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 3:59:47 PM

I do not support “no target closures”. As an avid surf fisherman who is 100 percent catch and release of striped bass of any size. This will cause a hardship to bait shops in the Jersey shore area. This will also encourage fisherman to partake in “unlawful” actions which will then put a strain on law enforcement. I am, however, in full support of 100 percent catch and release for fish of all sizes.

Thank you,

Ryan B.
NJBBA
IBSP Pass holder

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:32:43 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Keith Ildefonso
Email
pastor.ildefonso@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I bleed that the striped bass should stay at status quo. There should be no stoppage of the fishery at all. This pasts season was amazing and we ant to to fish this great fish. The data is flawed and it should be rechecked.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 1:15:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Matthew Eckstrom
Email
matthewjayeckstrom@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I have been fishing the raritan bay and ocean waters for the last 25 years I have never seen the amount of striped bass I have seen, it has been good fishing for the last 10 years a complete closure or even the regulation now is not fair.

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 Gleason
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 11:30:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a tackle shop owner in Long Branch, NJ
If you close the fishing to striped bass you will absolutely crush every shop and charter boat operation. Striped bass play a pivotal role in our local economy.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mike Gleason

129 Brighton Ave

Long Branch, NJ 07740

takwaterman@gmail.com

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:	ken Monti
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:30:14 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This has implications on every business related to the fishing industry, local business (deli, bait shops, hotles bars, etc. You should be speaking directly to the Captains who work these waters 300 lus days a year.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

ken Monti

6 Elena Dr

Old Tappan, NJ 07675

kennethmonti3261@gmail.com

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From:	PHIL NAYLOR
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:00:14 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Stop hurting small business we are regulated enough!!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

PHIL NAYLOR

111 N Maple Ave

Tuckerton, NJ 08087

philnaylor@comcast.net

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:32:02 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Shane Brett
Email
shaneomac0809@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Hello asmfc, I dont really care about keeping these stripers cause I very rarely keep them. All I ask is to please let us continue fishing for them as all of october and November we would have nothing to do besides spend lots of gas money to ocean fish. This would also hurt the guys who depend on this fishery to make a living, please reconsider your descion on changing these regs. Thank you, Shane

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From:	Richard Redstreake
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:30:09 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Recreational anglers have made countless sacrifices to rebuild striped bass populations.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Richard Redstreake

312 May Ct

West Deptford, NJ 08096

rredstreake62@gmail.com

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:	John Sanchez
To:	Comments
Cc:	Jeff Kaelin; Adam S. Nowalsky; Sen. Vin Gopal; Joe Cimino; Anita A Kulik; Ddelloso@pahouse.net; Kristopher M Kuhn; Loren W. Lustig
Subject:	[External] INPUT FOR THE ASMFC ADDENDUM III TO AMENDMENT 7 TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR STRIPED BASS
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:52:37 AM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png

John C. Sanchez
221 West Euclid Ave.
Haddonfield, NJ 08033
john@mustangexpediting.com
609.992.0906
23 September 2025
Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
Re: Public Comment on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 – Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan
Dear Ms. Franke,
I appreciate the opportunity to share my public comment on the Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan.
I write as a veteran, a small business owner, a resident of New Jersey, and a lifelong striped bass fisherman.

Personal Experience and Enforcement
Last fall, I joined a for-hire trip with a group of service-disabled veterans. The captain began the trip by instructing us to use treble hooks to snag and drop bait, an illegal method. Later, when fishing was slow, he took us into the EEZ, beyond the 3-mile limit. When another passenger asked if we could keep striped bass caught there, the mate replied, “we do it all the time.” I released a fish I caught, only to be told by the mate, “there’s always one fare who doesn’t go along.”
When the boat returned to port and the crew and other passengers had left, I spoke with the captain directly and expressed my disappointment. From our conversation, I realized his actions were deliberate. This was not ignorance, it was willful violation, and it confirmed my conclusion: the arguments we hear against conservation are often made with selective reasoning, shaped more by industry pressures than by stewardship.
We have seen this cycle of depletion before, first with cod, then pollock, haddock, ling cod, winter flounder, and now bluefish. Striped bass recovered once only because of strong conservation measures. Now, those who benefited most argue they must be allowed to keep more bass “to make a living.” The truth is they are only able to target striped bass today because of conservation, yet they have worked to undermine recovery ever since.

Industry Stakeholder Arguments and Rebuttals
Since 2014, for-hire and commercial interests have recycled the same playbook to delay conservation measures. Their tactics are familiar: deny the science, attack the data, argue economic hardship, and demand exemptions. Weak or delayed cuts have only postponed recovery, which is exactly why closures are now unavoidable. The public must bear the cost of past half-measures.[1]

> **“Stocks are fine.”**
> Some will claim they’ve “never seen so many bass” and that striped bass are stacked just outside the 3-mile line. Six straight years of spawning failure in the Chesapeake, the most important spawning ground on the coast, is not abundance. If fish are bunched offshore,

that signals crisis, not health.

“The science can’t be trusted.”
Industry opponents dismiss peer-reviewed assessments with anecdotes or even profanity. The truth is we don’t count every striped bass one by one. Stock assessments rely on internationally accepted reference points: fishing mortality (F) and spawning stock biomass (SSB).[2] The 2013 benchmark reset those points because even with F below target, SSB kept dropping. That was science doing its job, adjusting models to match evidence. The Technical Committee’s July 22, 2025 memo is clear: without a 12% reduction, the chance of rebuilding by 2029 falls to just 30%.[3] That is science, not opinion.

“Targets are too high.”
Targets are not arbitrary. The threshold equals the 1995 stock size, when striped bass were declared rebuilt. The target is set at 125% of that level as a margin of safety to prevent another collapse.[4] Female SSB exceeded the target from 2002 to 2006, which proves it can be achieved.

“No-target closures are more fair.”
No-target closures are unenforceable, and the Law Enforcement Committee has already said so.[5] Only no-harvest closures create real conservation benefit. Fairness means every sector, recreational, for-hire, and commercial, carries the same responsibility. On a for-hire trip, I personally watched a captain ignore rules he thought were “restrictive.” That kind of disregard is exactly why clear, uniform rules are needed.

“Closures will devastate small businesses and the coastal fishing economy.”
I own a small business. I understand the pressure. Ignoring the problem now only guarantees collapse later, and when the fishery collapses, businesses collapse too. Abundance drives effort, and effort drives revenue. Conservation is the only way to protect that. The fishery survived the 1980s moratorium and thrived when the stock rebounded. Collapse is the real threat, not temporary reductions.

With those arguments addressed, I turn to my positions on the specific management options in Draft Addendum III.

Positions on Draft Addendum III Options
Section 3.1 – Method of Measurement
Support Option B (squeeze tail, straight line, laid flat, mouth closed). Uniformity eliminates ambiguity and closes loopholes.
Section 3.2 – Commercial Tagging
Support Option B (tagging at point of harvest). This reduces fraud opportunities while maintaining enforceability.
Section 3.3 – Maryland/Chesapeake Baseline
Support Option C (new baseline with 10% uncertainty buffer). Stronger buffers are warranted given recruitment uncertainty.
Section 3.4 – Reduction in Fishery Removals
Support Option B (12% even reduction for commercial and recreational).

- **Ocean:** Sub-option O1 (28–31" slot).
- **Chesapeake Bay:** Sub-option CB1 (20–23" slot) or CB3 (status quo 19–24" with seasonal closure).

Closures: Support regional no-harvest closures during Wave 2 (March–April, to protect pre-spawn fish staging in Raritan Bay) and Wave 4 (July–August, when high water temperatures increase discard mortality).

These option choices reflect both the best available science and the lessons we have learned from past management cycles.

Conclusion

Striped bass are a public trust resource, and this Board has a clear statutory obligation to ensure their recovery by 2029.[6] Status quo is not an option. Weak, delayed measures since 2014 have left us with no choice but to consider season closures. Conservation works, but only if the Board acts decisively, enforces fairly, and resists pressure from those who profit most in the short term.

We are witnessing the tragedy of the commons play out. Each group takes what it can, even as the stock declines. I've been writing letters like this to this board for 10 years, and included a couple in this thread for reference. It is time for the Board to put the striped bass and the public good first, and fulfill its legal responsibility. If we do not act now, there may soon be no stock left to protect.

And to the members of the New Jersey delegation: whether you are a paid lobbyist for the commercial industry or a captain for the for-hire fleet, when you sit on this Board, your duty is not to your industry… it is to the striped bass and the public good. Your obligation is to ensure this stock is rebuilt by 2029. Nothing less is acceptable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John C. Sanchez

Haddonfield, New Jersey

Notes / References

1. Addendum IV (2014) Advisory Panel Report: industry arguments have repeated across cycles.
2. ASMFC, Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Striped Bass FMP (2013 Benchmark).
3. ASMFC Technical Committee & Stock Assessment Subcommittee, Memorandum to Board, July 22, 2025.
4. ASMFC, Draft Addendum III Public Comment (Aug. 2025), p. 2–3 SSB chart.
5. ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee guidance on enforceability of closures.
6. Amendment 7 rebuilding mandate: 10-year statutory requirement (rebuild by 2029).

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w 610.497.6360 | m 609.992.0906 | www.mustangexpediting.com

book a meeting with John here

From: John Sanchez <John@mustangexpediting.com>
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 5:31 PM
To: comments@asmfc.org <comments@asmfc.org>
Cc: JKAELIN@LUNDSFISH.COM <JKAELIN@LUNDSFISH.COM>, captadamnj@gmail.com <captadamnj@gmail.com>, sengopal@njleg.org <sengopal@njleg.org>, joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov <joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov>, akulik@pahouse.net <akulik@pahouse.net>, Ddelloso@pahouse.net <Ddelloso@pahouse.net>, kkuhn@pa.gov <kkuhn@pa.gov>, senseofwonder@pa.net <senseofwonder@pa.net>
Subject: Striped Bass Comments

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

My name is John Sanchez. I am a 59-year-old avid surfcaster and a disabled combat veteran. I have been surfcasting since I was 10 years old and remain deeply passionate about striped bass fishing and its conservation. My commitment to this issue is driven by a desire to preserve this iconic species for future generations.

In my December 2023 public comment on Draft Addendum II, I warned that by taking half measures with only a 50% probability of success, the Board was simply kicking the can down the road. Unfortunately, this lack of decisive action has led to the current discussions of emergency closures and unenforceable "no targeting" measures.

> “Despite the urgency to act promptly, I cannot support Option B in 3.3 due to a history of inaction, the perception of a conflict of interest, and a lack of transparency. The existing approach has already shown a noticeable 50% chance of failure, coupled with a track record of shortcomings. If the Board were genuinely committed to acting in good faith, it should be putting forth more substantial measures without delay. Additionally, the Board should provide a clear outline of contingency options that will be implemented based on the outcomes of forthcoming stock assessments.
>
> I want to emphasize that my response to the request for input should not be seen as an endorsement of the adequacy of Addendum II. I urge the Board to strive for more effective solutions, placing a higher priority on the well-being of the species for the benefit of the public. It is essential that future actions align with the mandate to protect and sustain our natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.”

Unfortunately, this lack of decisive action has led to the current discussions of emergency closures and unenforceable "no targeting" measures.

The Urgency of Immediate Action

We are experiencing a tragedy of the commons. Decisions that favor short-term gains for commercial and for-hire interests are jeopardizing the future of the striped bass fishery. The Board's previous commitment to protect the 2011 year class was undermined by Maryland's misuse of conservation equivalency, resulting in a gross overharvest that devastated that year class. We cannot allow history to repeat itself with the 2015 and 2018 year classes. These cohorts are our best hope for rebuilding the stock, and any

measures that disproportionately impact them must be avoided.

Public Interest Must Take Priority

Striped bass are a public resource, and their management should reflect the public interest, not just the interests of commercial and for-hire sectors. The current approach has led to a pattern of depletion that harms recreational anglers, coastal communities, and future generations. The Board has a responsibility to prioritize the long-term sustainability of the fishery over short-term economic considerations.

"No Targeting" Regulations Are Ineffective

My recent experience on a party boat trip for military veterans in November 2024 highlights the futility of "no targeting" regulations. The captain initially instructed the use of treble hooks to snag menhaden, violating circle hook requirements. Later, when the boat entered federal waters, where striped bass retention is prohibited, the crew still allowed fish to be kept, stating, "everyone does." This demonstrates the unenforceable nature of "no targeting" policies and the ease with which they are ignored.

We Need at Least a 14% Reduction

To have any chance of rebuilding the stock by 2029, the Board must adopt measures that achieve at least a 14% reduction. Reductions must be taken ***from actual harvest rather than quotas that are often unmet***. Anything less will continue the cycle of depletion and bring us closer to a complete collapse of the fishery.

Key Recommendations

1. Enforceable Regulations:
   Replace "no targeting" rules with clear, enforceable measures such as no-harvest zones or seasonal closures.

2. Protect the 2015 and 2018 Year Classes:
   These year classes are critical to rebuilding the stock. Do not approve regulations that specifically or disproportionately impact these fish.

3. Achieve a Minimum 14% Reduction:
   Implement reductions that reflect actual harvest, not just quotas. This is the bare minimum needed to meet rebuilding goals with a reasonable chance of success.

4. Fair and Balanced Closures:
   Seasonal closures must be **equitable** and result in **meaningful harvest reductions**. Both **commercial and recreational sectors** should share the responsibility fairly. The Board continues to **squander its credibility** when it adopts measures that demonstrate a **clear conflict of interest**, favoring short-term gains for specific sectors over the long-term health of the fishery. To restore public trust, the Board must prioritize decisions that reflect **fairness, transparency**, and the **public interest**.

5. Strengthen Oversight and Enforcement:
   Ensure strict compliance for both for-hire operations and recreational anglers with size limits, circle hook requirements, federal water restrictions, and filleting regulations, including the retention of racks. Loopholes and lax enforcement undermine conservation efforts.

Conclusion

The continued survival of striped bass depends on the Board's willingness to act decisively, transparently,

and in the public interest. We cannot afford further delays or ineffective regulations. I urge the Board to implement strong, enforceable measures that prioritize the recovery of this vital resource and achieve at least a 14% reduction in actual harvest.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these critical issues.

Very Respectfully,

John Sanchez
Haddonfield, NJ
john@mustangexpediting.com
609-992-0906

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From: John Sanchez <John@mustangexpediting.com>
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 1:22 PM
To: comments@asmfc.org <comments@asmfc.org>
Cc: JKAELIN@LUNDSFISH.COM <JKAELIN@LUNDSFISH.COM>, captadamnj@gmail.com <captadamnj@gmail.com>, sengopal@njleg.org <sengopal@njleg.org>, joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov <joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov>, akulik@pahouse.net <akulik@pahouse.net>, Ddelloso@pahouse.net <Ddelloso@pahouse.net>, kkuhn@pa.gov <kkuhn@pa.gov>, senseofwonder@pa.net <senseofwonder@pa.net>
Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum II

John C. Sanchez
221 West Euclid Ave.
Haddonfield, NJ 08033
john.sanchez@comcast.net
609.992.0906

December 21, 2023

Emilie Franke

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Franke,

I appreciate the opportunity to share my public comment on the Draft Addendum II to Amendment 7 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

As a lifelong surfcaster and sportsman, I am deeply concerned about the adequacy and responsibility of the options presented in Addendum II. It is troubling to observe that some of these options fall short of the recommended 14.5% reduction, as indicated by the technical committee, leaving only a 50% probability of the stock being rebuilt by the 2029 deadline. Despite clear signals of a decline in Atlantic Striped Bass stocks since 2013, the Board's response has been slow and weak.

Rather than taking proactive measures, the Board has deferred critical decisions, leading to the current urgent need for emergency action. I question the Board's commitment to fulfilling its mandate to protect Striped Bass. The behavior of the Board reflects a conflict of interest that prioritizes the interests of commercial and for-hire fishermen over the health of the stocks. Over a 10-year period, we have witnessed the tragedy of the commons play out.

Specifically, my responses to the proposed options are as follows:

3.1.1 Ocean Recreational Fishery Management:

Ocean Recreational Options	Overall Reduction	Harvest Change	Rec. Release Mortality Change
Option B. 1 fish at 28” – 31” with 2022 seasons (all modes).	-14.1%	-49.9%	+2.0%

3.1.2 Chesapeake Bay Rec. Fishery Options:

Option	Min. Size	Max Size	Limit	Season	Overall Reduction	Harvest Change	Mortality Change
Option B. Consistent limits for entire Chesapeake Bay							
Option B1	19”	23”	1 fish	2022	-22.4%	-38.4%	+6.7%

3.1.3 For-Hire Management Clarification (if Option C mode split option selected)

Option	Will Captain & Crew count as For Hire anglers (allowing additional harvest)
Option B	No - Captain and crew subject to 1 fish limit allowed for P/S

3.1.4 Recreational Filleting Allowance – should the board establish minimum requirements

Option	Shall management plan establishes minimum requirements to retain racks in states where at-sea / shore filleting is allowed.

Option B	Yes – establishes minimum requirements

3.2 Commercial Fishery Management:

Option	Proposed Options for Commercial Fishery Management 2022 limits
Option B	14% reduction from 2022 quotas

3.3 Response to Stock Assessment Updates: If future assessments indicate Striped Bass stock is not projected to rebuild by 2029 with a probability greater than 50%

Option	Description
Option A.	Status quo – Board initiates and develops addendum

Despite the urgency to act promptly, I cannot support Option B in 3.3 due to a history of inaction, the perception of a conflict of interest, and a lack of transparency. The existing approach has already shown a noticeable 50% chance of failure, coupled with a track record of shortcomings. If the Board were genuinely committed to acting in good faith, it should be putting forth more substantial measures without delay. Additionally, the Board should provide a clear outline of contingency options that will be implemented based on the outcomes of forthcoming stock assessments.

I want to emphasize that my response to the request for input should not be seen as an endorsement of the adequacy of Addendum II. I urge the Board to strive for more effective solutions, placing a higher priority on the well-being of the species for the benefit of the public. It is essential that future actions align with the mandate to protect and sustain our natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my input to the matter of pubic importance.

Very Respectfully,

John C. Sanchez
Haddonfield, New Jersey

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Image removed by sender. signature_206965080

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From:	ASMFC
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] New public comment for General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Monday, September 22, 2025 4:45:41 PM

General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
General Public Hearing Webinar on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/general-public-hearing-webinar-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Scott Wettstein
Email
ScottWettstein065@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Catch and release only. Get rid of the bonus program. And stop commercial netting in all states that allow it.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 4:12:14 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Lou Vuono
Email
dirtymechanic1@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
I would like to be able to target striped bass For me, I don't keep any fish anyway so if you made it catch release only I'm good I guess we let it get so bad that you have to do drastic measures, but maybe we should've thought about doing something sooner Maybe if you close the season, the guys that are 65 and over we can still fish with a permit because there's not much time for us to fish anyway By the time the stock mass comes back will be too old to fish

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From:	RICHARD GROSS, DDS
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 22, 2025 4:10:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Striped bass more abundant than ever in spring of 2025

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

RICHARD GROSS

1758 Bay Isle Dr

Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

mothergross@comcast.net

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From:	PATRICK MARTIN, Esq
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 22, 2025 12:30:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I regulary fish for striped bass in the Great Egg Harbor River and tag most of the bass I catch for the American Littoral Society.I can tell you firsthand that the bass stock in this estuary is alive and well. Flourishing would be a good way to put it. And this does not include all the bass that would be breeding in the Tuckahoe and Middle Rivers. I have been fishing the GEH River for about 10 years now and have noticed more and more bass each and every year.
In my opinion, the trouble with Maryland/Cheasapeake stock is due to pollution in the bay and Omega harvesting the bass primary food base, namely bunker. Why are the regulators blind to this fact? Does Omega carry that much lobbying power to the expense of recreational fishing? why should we pay the price for the damage Omega is causing? Why should all of us suffer because the Cheasapeake is polluted from runoff and nothing is being done about it?
I know most tackle shop owners are opposed to this measure. I do business with Blvd. Bait & Tackle in Ocean View, NJ and personally know the owner. The proposal to have a closure here in November and December would put a lot of shops in danger of closing. Not to mention the negative impact on the charter fishing.
It is difficult enough fishing a 3 inch slot limit let alone the additional impact on release mortality. While I know how to handle the release of striped bass, many anglers are clueless about it.
IMO, the size limit should be 24" to 28". This limit would virtually assure that all the bass falling about the slot are females to be left to breed.
I am also a member of Release a Breeder Club (Dec. 2015) of Stripers Forever, although I do not necessarily agree with their support of these drastic measures.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MARTIN

36 Roosevelt Blvd

Marmora, NJ 08223

pmartinlaw36@comcast.net

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From:	LEO ROSSETTI
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 22, 2025 12:10:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please reject recreational closures for striped bass. This is getting ridiculous. We have masses of bass off our coast every fall. It is ruining recreational fishing and party boat fishing.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

LEO ROSSETTI

209 Balsam Ct

Medford, NJ 08055

rll234@comcast.net

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From: JOE BARTNICKI
To: Comments
Cc: ssaniewski@verizon.net
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 9:37:58 AM

Dear Emile Franke,
As a recreational NJ saltwater fisherman, I am beyond incredulous as to the "Possibility" of turning the striped bass fishery to "No-Target".
I fish religiously (3-4 times weekly) in NJ waters during April, May, early June, October and November for the past 20 years. I have seen the regulations change, and have questioned the "science" many times. However, this proposal is absolutely absurd and can be avoided by considering several alternatives.
Firstly, it is important to note that the data is likely flawed. The YOY surveys have not changed to reflect peak spawning periods. Since Hurricane Sandy, the bass fishery has been earlier and earlier. Water temps have risen, and peak spawning is earlier than most realize. YOY surveys need to adjust regarding their timing and locations. Also, the personnel that conduct said surveys are not skilled at the act of conducting the hauls. I have heard first-hand accounts of terrible net haul procedures in the Chesapeake from volunteers that were present. These surveys need to be done at the peak time periods (which change every year) by the same personnel (or similarly (highly) trained personnel) annually to be valid. Otherwise, there is no consistency or control in the data.
I would like to address the over-reaching issue with the fishery in the Northeast----all States----the reduction of the biomass of menhaden by Omega Protein----a Canadian owned company that travels north from Virginia to rape the waters of the Northeast. Their highly effective techniques of purse seining Menhaden account for more striped bass mortality than recreational catch and release mortality hands down. They utilize spotter planes and extract millions of pounds of the oceans most important food chain member each year. My question that I would love to get a response to is the following-- How does a Canadian owned company get around the Jones Act when commercially targeting these fish?
Finally, consideration should be given to closing all commercial fishing for striped bass. The ocean owes no one a living and because grandpa and great grandpa raped the seas years ago, doesn't give anyone a birthright to kill fish **larger** that can be taken recreationally by commercial fisherman in RI, MASS, and elsewhere. Allowing commercial harvest opens up a secondary "black-market" for these fish as well and these illegally sold fish can not be accounted for. Shut it down if the biomass is in trouble. If you allow for commercial fishing of striped bass, the population must be healthy, correct?
I believe that the fishery for recreational striped bass should remain status-quo with one exception. Allow for the purchase of a "Trophy Tag" . Allow recreational fisherman to retain 1 fish annually and charge $100 for the tag. Regulate it with data collection and harvest reporting. Use the financial proceeds to fund data collection, law enforcement expansions, and other striped bass initiatives.
This email will fall on deaf ears and blind eyes, but my conscience does not allow for silence.
Best,

Joe Bartnicki Sr.
908-230-8638

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 5:33:41 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Rob Lane
Email
rlane22@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I typically fish a couple times a week, often in charters. Should there be a shut down of the season, it will dramatically negatively hurt the local economy, especially the charter captains. The status quo should be kept in place.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 3:36:23 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nick DiGrosso
Email
1nickyd@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 6:52:39 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jack McDermott
Email
mcderm2fish@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Good evening As a long time fisherman shutting down the striped bass fishing would cripple a lot of small businesses. I think a catch and release only fishery would help with the population problem at least then people and businesses would benefit from the striper season along with the fish surviving. We should also consider doing away with treble hooks on lures to further lessen the risk of hurting fish. I myself have done away with trebles on my lures. Please take this into consideration and think about the potential crippling of businesses before making a decision Thanks Jack McDermott

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:04:55 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=G-zu0DHvymvUGMVf3ySdtkuvx5HRPTjhDxt7eodU6fU.TzzC5W
Name
Ed Barbieri
Email
dr.edbarbieri@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
3.1 B. 3.2B. 3.3 C. 3.01 C. Any regulations that the Panel would feel should benefit the restoration and preservation of the Striped Bass fishery on the East Coast. I am very much in favor of a catch and release policies. My feeling is that years ago when the keeper measurements had increased into the low to mid thirties the Striped Bass stocks had greatly increased. Have any efforts been made into raising and stocking Striped Bass? A little off subject, the Atlantic Menhaden netting also needs to be more heavily regulated. The stocks of both Schoolie Stripers and Bunker have vastly decreased in the area that I fish. Wishing you Luck in a difficult endeavor.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 12:26:35 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=eL1x4OS4eNQ7f7o_Fo4VWbJ6RpNVBln3TnWAmlQzkyc.TzzC5W
Name
James Kurtenbach
Email
jpkurten@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The Saltwater Edge supports the following 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. The Saltwater Edge urges ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. We would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort. I also support the Salt Water Edge comments on future recovery of striped bass. As an avid striper fisherman and retired fisheries biologist the striper fishery is to valuable not to take these actions.

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From: nicholas marchese
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass 2026
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:27:22 AM

I would like to comment on the coming years striped bass fishing. I am a surf fisherman for bass and it is my hope for a plentiful bass population and size year. I believe we have to monitor the ocean and the fish and protect future generations to be able to enjoy fishing.
Please keep in mind the multiple businesses that rely on pleasure folks to enjoy the sport and support their livelihood.

Look at both sides closely for everyone.

Nick Marchese
NJ

Get Outlook for iOS

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:55:57 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=ArbwslaU9XBjXSNP92V7eEfcvRXv50MUJrLMQFs7Oeo.TzzC5W
Name
John Yuschak
Email
johnryuschak@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I support the following recommendations as follows 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean I am against a closure of the fishery and support a catch n release policy till stocks recover as a surf fisherman my catch rate is already very low compared to boat fisherman

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:08:21 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=fosGiQak3b3jqcSfIEdhPIsI_KzHPqSIDSfgEf4ajGU.TzzC5W
Name
Adam Cummings
Email
njthunder19@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
My suggestions for Addenum III 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean

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] New public comment for NY Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 8:24:36 PM

NY Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NY Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ny-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Will Hyatt
Email
willhyatt11@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
STATUS QUO!

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:	Daniel Clark
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 20, 2025 6:40:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Keep the Regulations as is and only allow circle hooks to limit gut hooking

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Daniel Clark

61 Victory Pl

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

dansgonefishing@verizon.net

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 3:34:35 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Amodio
Email
johnamodio@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I'm not in favor for any closures at this time. It will hurt the industry overall. You should look at targeting the spawning areas of the Striped Bass. Also for the State of New Jersey do away with the Bonus Tag.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 2:46:19 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joseph Covello
Email
jcovello@libertyrealty.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
One fish between 28 and 31 inches get rid of the tags for smaller fish everyone I know is abusing it !! Thank you Joe

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 1:22:09 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nick Verducci
Email
nverducci@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
I am a life long angler from NJ and for the past 20+ years have been the advisor for the Ocean City Intermediate School Fishing Club and an employee at FinAtics Bait and Tackle in Ocean City. In those years I have seen the problems facing the fishery, but more importantly how difficult the regulations have made it to get the next generation involved in the sport of fishing. The complete closure of the striped bass fishery would be an awful step. Specifically the no targeting of striped bass. I am 100% against that regulation. Understand that I do have a concern with the population and have no problem with shutting down the harvesting of striped bass, but allow us to catch and release. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

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From: Drew Loughery
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 11:50:32 AM

Good Morning,
I am reaching out in regards to upcoming striped bass management decisions.

I am a land-based recreational angler who fishes Cape May & Ocean County in New Jersey. So far this year I have logged 82 days on the water- specifically targeting striped bass. By the end of this year I should log about 120 trips give or take. I use artificial lures 100% of the time, and release 100% of my fish. I have not harvested a striped bass since the June full moon of 2011 (34" fish that could not be revived). All of my fishing takes place on-foot (front beaches, inlets, and back bay sod banks). Over 25 years I have compiled a closet-full of of log books. Every individual trip is logged meticulously. Each trip I log the Air Temp, water temp, water clarity, tide, moon phase, bait present, barometric pressure (only since 2018), wind conditions, misc weather conditions, lures I used, # of stripers caught, length of stripers caught, time of catches, condition of the fish when landed (skinny, fat, clean/scuffs/marks/sea lice/etc…) amongst other miscellaneous details. Few people know about my catches, I am very tight to the chest about it. I do this 100% for the love of sport, for the most beautiful fish (and sometimes most challenging) that our waters have to offer.

The knowledge-through-experience I've gained of this fish is one of my most prized possessions. I want to be very clear though- I do not consider myself an expert by any means. Not a guy who's going to say I know this, I know that, you're right/wrong about striped bass, etc…

With that said- through MY experiences (without taking other anglers's experience into account)- I really believe it's time to take any/all necessary actions to save striped bass. 5 years ago I would say it's ridiculous to consider a no-targeting plan, there are plenty of fish. 2023, 2024, and the present season, however, it's really becoming apparent we have an issue. I could rattle off about 30 examples of what I'm seeing that is alarming. I will only point out 2 of those examples to spare your time:

1.) There are no more small fish. Out of 274 stripers caught by me this year, there have only been 29 fish under 24 inches. This is alarming, no new/young fish are coming up the pipeline. In 2024 I finished the year with 316 striped bass caught- there were 43 fish under 24 inches. Big Detail- 100% of the time I am fishing with either a white Bucktail (sometimes bare, sometimes with a white zoom fluke as a trailer), 4" padddletails, or a 5" Mister Twister 'twister-tail' soft plastic. Anything with a treble hook is a pain for releasing fish and that's just my preference. Thus, it is not like I am throwing out monster lures for big fish only. In years past using these lures- I used to catch a ton of small fish. These numbers of no small fish are MY biggest concern for the future of the

fishery.

2.) Considering Lack of Bi-Catch: Over my years of fishing for striped bass, I have caught countless species of bi-catch. Too many to name. From local staples, sharks eating lures, exotics, etc… The point I want to make here is the last several years- there is little bi-catch anymore. There are no more weakfish hitting the Bucktails, there are very few bluefish in the spring months/none in the fall & very few snapper bluefish in summer, the flounder have even gotten sparse. I think this is important to take into consideration- because once the striped bass are gone, there will be very little to catch in our waters. Except dogfish- I never thought I'd see the day where I'd be catching hundreds of dogfish a season on lures. This is a discussion for another day though.

I love striped bass so much, they are a pillar of my life. Because I love this fish so much, I would be willing to give them a no-targeting break for a few years- so the fishery can rebound to a sustainable level. This is tough for me to admit, but I believe it's the best course of action. If we do not give them a break soon, there will be none left.

My two cents- We either shut the fishery down now while the fish still has a chance. Or- we don't shut down the fishery, and in 5 years there will be no fish to catch. There will be no striped bass fishing at some point- whether it's through conservation regulations, or because we've wiped them out. Why not take the conservation option now while we still have a chance to save them.

Final remark: I would love to see a no-targeting rule of some kind imposed until the fishery rebounds to a better level. At the very least, there should be a recreational - and/or- commercial harvest moratorium imposed for the next few years.

Thank you for your time, and best of luck for your upcoming striped bass management decisions. I appreciate all of the work you do.

Regards,
Drew Loughery

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From: Peter Esposito
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Comment
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 10:33:02 AM

Dear Board,

I am writing to urge the Commission to consider a no-harvest season rather than a no-target closure in its upcoming striped bass management actions. While I respect and support the goal of rebuilding the striped bass stock, a no-target rule is not the right approach. A no-harvest season would achieve the conservation objectives while preserving public engagement, economic stability, and compliance.

Striped bass fishing is deeply woven into the culture of the Atlantic Coast, and catch-and-release is an essential part of that tradition. Anglers have long proven themselves to be responsible stewards of this resource, adopting circle hooks, refining handling techniques, and educating one another on best practices to reduce release mortality. Prohibiting even the act of targeting striped bass undermines this conservation ethic and sends the wrong message to a community that has consistently supported management measures when they are reasonable and effective.

A no-target rule is also unnecessarily difficult to enforce. Because enforcement would depend on proving intent, it risks creating confusion and distrust among anglers. By contrast, a no-harvest season is clear, enforceable, and ensures that removals are reduced in a way that meets rebuilding goals. It balances the biological need for protection with a management approach that is practical on the water.

Equally important are the economic and social impacts. Recreational striped bass fishing sustains countless tackle

shops, guides, marinas, and coastal businesses. A no-target closure would strip these communities of critical income during already challenging times. A no-harvest season still protects the stock by eliminating landings, but it allows these businesses to survive and anglers to remain engaged in the fishery. Keeping the public involved is vital because engaged anglers are invested in conservation, and their participation strengthens both compliance and long-term stewardship.

The goal of these management actions is to reduce removals and give the stock a chance to rebuild. A no-harvest season accomplishes this directly without alienating the very community that has historically been a partner in conservation. It is the most practical, enforceable, and conservation-minded solution. For these reasons, I strongly urge the Commission to adopt a no-harvest season instead of a no-target closure.

sincerely,
Peter Esposito
Point Pleasant, NJ

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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From: Stephen Saniewski
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 7:44:34 AM

I am initiating this contact out of concern of some of the proposals in the upcoming addendum. I am a NJ resident and have spent in excess of 50 years fishing for striped bass with approximately 90 trips per year on the water. I understand the issue of continued poor YOY indexes from the Chesapeake Bay region and the importance of reversing this trend but in no way believe a seasonal no harvest / no target approach will achieve this goal. I doubt anyone will question the abundance of larger breeding class fish (spawning stock biomass) and in spite of this we continue to have poor recruitment in the Chesapeake. I believe this is what should be researched and remediated. The Chesapeake is plagued with a host of environmental issues all of which are impacting successful spawning such as agricultural runoff, invasive blue catfish predation and the blatant exploitation of menhaden as well as the dead striped bass discards by Omega Protein. The aforementioned items must be dealt with if you ever expect to turn the tide of poor recruitment, and this is without considering the effect of rising water temps. Prior to any consideration of a seasonal shutdown I would strongly suggest a through socioeconomic study be conducted to examine the hardships imposed on individuals in the affected areas. I know in my area tackle shops, marinas, fuel stations, hotels and restaurants to name a few would suffer greatly with a no harvest / no target period. The other issue with a shutdown is how localized the abundance of striped bass is at any given time. In my home state of NJ when the north end of the state is covered up in bass the south is typically devoid of them and vice versa, making it impossible for any regional shutdown to have the same implications on all states grouped in a region. In closing I believe more accurate and current data is needed to support any thought of a shutdown of this fishery.

Respectfully,
Stephen Saniewski
612 Cedar Grove Rd
Toms River, NJ
08753

732-779-1089

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 9:43:24 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Aasim Kazmi
Email
aasim.kazmi@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I support the status quo, meaning no seasonal closures given that striped bass overfishing is no longer occurring.

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:	Justin Valerio
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 19, 2025 6:50:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Been doing with my dad since I was a kid and I want to have a chance to be able to pass it on to my kids when I can.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Justin Valerio

100A White St

Eatontown, NJ 07724

justinvalerio90@gmail.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:26:04 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Parker Vito
Email
parkervito7@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I Parker Vito, stand to keep the stripe bass fishery's open. The only thing hurting the species is the lack menhaden from commercial fishing boats. Closing these fishery's will have all small businesses and mom pops result in economic failure. So please reconsider on plan attack of here.

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 3:22:07 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
george FENEIS
Email
fvolant@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I have been fishing in NJ for 50 years. In the last 2 years I have caught many bass but not one keeper. All the fish have been over the size limit. I will be pulling my boat out next week as will not waste my time throwing all the fish back. I really have enjoyed eating some bass each week and sharing one with my friends. I would not care if they closed the season completely as at least the large number of throwbacks would not contribute to mortality .

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 2:27:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Adam Cummings
Email
njthunder19@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Im not sure of the methods utilized to calculate the striped bass stock, but clearly there needs to be more accurate data before rash decisions are made. Maybe a having better regulations throughout would help. Here in NJ you can only harvest 28-31 inch fish, should be the same for all Atlantic states. Also if a no harvest is the course of action, a no target cannot be answer. There's to many citizens that depend on this part of the fishery. It's frustrating that the board is willing to make such a consequential decision without more concrete data. I vote to keep the fishery open, if no harvest is needed during some winter months I'm not a fan, but a complete shutdown will have severe negatice effects on the businesses that count on these fish to survive! NO SHUTDOWN!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 1:42:27 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dawn Ann Applegate
Email
dawnapplegate@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I think it will be incredibly detrimental to shut down striper fishing. The negative impact to the local fishing community would be overwhelming. The consequences will be felt from charters to bait shops, restaurants to recreation. We're not only talking about finances but also the psychosocial aspect as well. My young grandson looks forward to his fishing time with his grandfather. Keep the status quo!!

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:	Dennis Galante
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 19, 2025 9:50:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have fished for Striped Bass for 60 years! I have never seen so many Bass. Leave the regulations as is!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Dennis Galante

1149 Cherokee Ct

Toms River, NJ 08753

dfgalante@aol.com

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: Nicholas Forsythe
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Atlantic Striped Bass Comment
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 9:44:10 AM

Dear ASMFC,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the idea of implementing a no-target season for striped bass. While I fully understand and support the Commission's responsibility to rebuild the striped bass population, prohibiting anglers from even targeting this species is the wrong tool for effective management. A no-harvest season would be a far more practical and balanced alternative.
Striped bass fishing has long been a cornerstone of coastal recreation and culture, and catch-and-release is an essential part of that tradition. Preventing anglers from targeting striped bass undermines responsible conservation practices and weakens the strong stewardship that recreational fishermen have historically demonstrated. Additionally, enforcing a no-target regulation would be extremely difficult, as it relies on proving intent on the water. A no-harvest season, by contrast, is straightforward, enforceable, and far more likely to maintain trust and compliance among anglers.
The economic impacts of a no-target closure would also be severe. Recreational striped bass fishing sustains countless tackle shops, charter operations, and coastal businesses, many of which depend on seasonal participation. By allowing fishing but prohibiting harvest, the Commission can protect the stock while ensuring that these industries and communities remain viable. Most importantly, a no-harvest season still accomplishes the central management goal of reducing removals. Properly handled catch-and-release fishing produces far less mortality than harvest, and with continued angler education, survival rates can be improved even further.
The striped bass population does need strong and decisive management, but it should not come at the cost of alienating the very community that has always been a partner in conservation. A no-harvest season reduces removals, protects spawning stock, and preserves angler engagement, making it the most practical, enforceable, and conservation-minded approach. I urge the Commission to adopt no-harvest measures instead of no-target closures in any upcoming striped bass rebuilding actions.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Forsythe
Lavallette, New Jersey

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:	Lee Petrenka
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 19, 2025 9:40:14 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a surfcaster, the striped bass run is one of the best times of the year. I as well as pretty much everyone I know practice catch and release fishing. the the costal communities rely heavily on the influx of fisherman coming to the area to take a shot at catching a striper. Tackle shops, charter captains, but the Bars, Restaurants and hotels rely on this boost in business in the off season to stay open. By putting a season closure on the state would kill so many businesses.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Lee Petrenka

28 Morningside Dr

Trenton, NJ 08618

petrenkalee@gmail.com

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 9:05:57 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Bill Wiggins

Email

billwiggins@fin-atics.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As the owner of Fin-atics Marine Supply Ltd., Inc. in Ocean City, NJ for the last 34 years I have seen many highs and lows the fishing industry. I saw the revival of the Striped Bass in the early 90's and it has become a staple of the tackle industry much like Fluke has in the Mid-Atlantic and North East states. I can not agreed with the "science" that has been presented to the public over the years for many species in the management plan. We were told when management started that we would help rebuild the stocks and gain access to those rebuilt stocks. However, time and time again as stocks improve we have never been given back any more access to a fishery as the stocks improve. Sea Bass is the greatest example of this. Closure of the Striped Bass fishery is absolutely not something I could ever endorse for the recreational fishery. I'm confident based on history that we will never gain meaningful recreational access to this fishery again, even if it gets rebuilt to these arbitrary time lines. I'm sure you will continue to allow a commercial harvest of Striped Bass in state waters, will this be closed also, I doubt it! There are ways to manage this fishery without closure, you just need to be more flexible with seasons and sizes. Why do we continually target one size class of Striped Bass, usually just as the become breeding size? There should be seasons for targeting breeding and non-breeding stock, like it is done in other fisheries in other states. I'm sure that is an argument for another day, but my main focus in this email is the simple statement that not all fish need to be harvested for the masses. Recreational fishing is just that, recreation and it provides jobs and $$ for the economy. Close commercial access and allow a recreational season so the economy can keep going and you don't put a large majority of tackle shops, charter boats and manufactures out of business...Myself included!

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: Ryan Stagaard
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Fishery - No Target
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 8:39:34 AM

Good morning, I am writing to you on this beautiful September morning here in Point Pleasant,NJ with regards to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery. I would ask that you reconsider the impacts a closure of this fishery would have on commercial & local economies as well as personal recreation. I am a third generation fisherman born and raised in Ocean County and practice catch and release. My son who is 10 is growing up to be avid fisherman as well and loves it. I do not want to have another recreational outlet closed to us where we bond and enjoy being outside. I understand the ASMFC has the best interest of the fishery in mind with regards to a no target closure period. However, why would we jump to a direct closure of the fishery when other options exist that haven't been attempted.

For example: strictly catch and release or closure the Raritan Bay & other back bay estuary fisheries in the spring for a small window since it is common knowledge that large female fish head to these areas to spawn. These options are easier to enforce and given that the current regulations (a small slot & use of treble hooks on snag and drops) are barely able to be enforced, I believe it is a better place to start or at a minimum implement it and see if it makes a difference.

Thank you for all that you do because we need rules in place so as to keep humans in check and not destroy this beautiful species or fishery. However, please reconsider the No Target policy for a Catch and Release only.

~Ryan Stagaard

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:	garrett Seevis
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 19, 2025 8:30:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This is an insane proposal. There is an aggressive move to band Fishing without backing. Why not do a closure for harvest during peak months?. I oppose no target closures.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

garrett Seevis

390 Old Deal Rd

Eatontown, NJ 07724

garrettservis@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:41:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Chris marciniak
Email
christopher.marciniak@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
This is absolutely absurd! you will destroy all small business across the state being this abundant fishery is their lively hood and we're seeing record numbers for recreational fisherman and local small business charter captains. This is 100% not ok. I've been fishing for this species of fish since 1990 and seeing the fishery now vs. than is clear that the number of fish migrating through our immediate area has significantly increased since the 90s and is one of the most reliable fisheries for recreational fisherman and charter captains to feed their families and pay their bills.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:29:03 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
John Brogan
Email
john.brogan27@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Implementing “no targeting” is unnecessary and unenforceable. A “no harvesting” change would be enough to have the biggest and desired impact.

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:	Matt Pelligra
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:50:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

To Whom it may Concern
The Striped Bass fishery is thriving. The amount of life along the east coast is unimaginable. With the 1 fish PP limit, which I personally don't even keep them I just have fun recreational catch and release fishing.
I believe there is no reason to put a stop on this fishery.

Also the striper eat tautog. So we need people to harvest striper as well to help other fish maintain the life they are supposed to as well.

I hope this message finds you well and that not only us recreational fisherman are against this, the charter captains definitely are. It's a huge part of their short seasons.
They rely on this to make a living and feed their families. Thank you.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Matt Pelligra

14 Whispering Grove Blvd

Jackson, NJ 08527

m.pelligra@aol.com

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:	Logan Wagner
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:50:24 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am an avid fisherman and love the striped bass fishing
I've been fishing since I was 9 and am 20 now I've worked on boats from party boats to the charter boat I am on now and the striped bass fishing has only been getting better and better as last fall was the best striped bass fishing I have ever seen. Also closing the fishing would put me and many others out of jobs as this fishery is where we make most of our income.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Logan Wagner

2 Princeton Pl

Hazlet, NJ 07730

loganw0994@gmail.com

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From:	Daniel Santos
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:20:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

It is a family bonding time when my brother and I go out for these beautiful fish. And we don't have to many hobbies we both like but this one is what we both love

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Daniel Santos

69 Orchard St

Freehold, NJ 07728

daniel_santos79@yahoo.com

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From:	Brian Pair
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Catch and release
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:17:19 PM

Targeting striped bass in the fall in NJ should be a NO HARVEST catch and release option only. This will allow the “slot sized” fish to grow and reproduce.
Sent from my iPhone Christian Pair
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: daniel legaspi
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:10:08 PM

Daniel Legaspi
312 Franklin Ave
Belleville, NJ, 07109
Dhlegaspi23@yahoo.com
09/18/25

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any potential ban on striped bass fishing along the Atlantic coast. While I fully support the conservation and sustainable management of this vital species, I believe that a complete ban is both unnecessary and counterproductive.

Striped bass are indeed an iconic species, not just ecologically but economically and culturally. Recreational fishing for striped bass supports thousands of jobs, from bait shops and charter captains to coastal tourism and hospitality industries. For many anglers, striped bass fishing is more than a hobby—it's a tradition that spans generations.

A total ban would unfairly punish responsible anglers who follow existing regulations and respect size and bag limits. Instead of blanket restrictions, the ASMFC should focus on improving enforcement, refining slot limits, protecting spawning grounds, and addressing real threats like bycatch in commercial fisheries, habitat loss, and water quality degradation—especially in critical estuaries like the Chesapeake Bay.

The ASMFC has tools to promote recovery without eliminating public access. Adaptive management strategies, seasonal closures during spawning runs, and data-driven adjustments to harvest limits have all proven effective in the past. Continued investment in scientific research and cooperative management with stakeholders is the key—not outright bans.

We all want to see striped bass populations thrive. But that goal must be achieved through balanced, science-based policies that allow for sustainable recreational access while ensuring long-term species health. A total ban would alienate the very communities most invested in conservation and ultimately undermine public support for fisheries management.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I urge the Commission to reject a ban and instead pursue more targeted, science-driven measures to protect and rebuild striped bass stocks.

Sincerely,
Daniel Legaspi

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From: Jack Babin
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Fishing
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:51:49 PM

As a dedicated Striped Bass fisherman from NJ I ask please keep this fishing open and no more restricted than it is already. Cut back on the take of the commercial fisherman per day. We are only allowed one per day if you are so lucky as it is. Love this fish and this sport. Do not eliminate a month or more especially during the busiest NJ months or November/December!
Thank you,
Jack Babin
Paramus, NJ
IBSP Beach Access Permit Holder

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:10:39 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William place
Email
squanwarrior54@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Stock rebuilding? What complete and total nonsense. I'm 63 years old and been fishing for Stripers my entire life. The Striped Bass population is totally out of control, so much that it is negatively impacting other species. Talk to Canadians, the Striper has expanded its territory and is impacting the Salmon Fishery. Catching a striper of any size isn't even a challenge anywhere on any waters (backwaters includes) in the NE. If anything more of this mass of fish needs to be culled. Please do not close the Striper season. This would be a colossal mistake and mismanagement of the species.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 6:55:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Dan Adkins

Email

danadkins66@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

First, I read but don't understand the possible closures in the tables near the end of the proposal (the option could be clearer). While I do see the need for, and appreciate, conservation efforts, I do not support no target closures at all. We (me and my extended family) have a long standing fishing vacation period (reservations) in Jersey in November. If a striped bass no target closure falls during this period we would have to do our best to cancel our plans. Please allow some fishing to occur, and let us know ASAP. I vote NO to no target closures.
My personal feelings on catch and release mortality are that it can vary greatly with water temperature and fishing techniques, as well as fish handling. I do not think the C&R mortality quoted in this proposal is accurate for bass caught on lures in November by conscientious anglers. This should not be compared to a novice anglers bait fishing in mid summer (or even any angler bait fishing at any time). Catch and release is always a better option than catch and kill, and lure fishing has less C&R mortality. We usually only keep a couple fish for the group to eat once or twice during our weeks long vacation, and I believe are good stewards of this resource.
As a long time striped bass fisherman who used to fish the Chesapeake mostly, I believe that the warming of our waters has changed the areas that striped bass spend most of their time in. I'm not convinced (as much as I'd like to see it) that the striped bass will ever return to the bay in the numbers they were, despite all the great conservation efforts. The patterns these fish follow are changing.

Dan
<'))))><

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 6:03:31 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nicole Montelli
Email
nicolemontelli@icloud.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I strongly disagree with “no targeting” and season closures for recreational anglers. This will hurt our local fishing communities and small businesses. What about more enforcement from fish and wildlife to ensure rules are being followed?

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From: Allen Abundiz
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:05:54 PM

To whom this may concern,

As a recreational striped bass angler, fishing for this beautiful species means alot to me as much as it does for the thousands of anglers in New Jersey. Not only will the closure hurt all the anglers, but it will be devastating to the local small businesses that rely on this game fish to stay open. I practice catch and release as do many anglers. Please do not close striped bass fishing. Thank you and have a great day.

- Allen Abundiz

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From: anthonymelore@gmail.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III)
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 4:37:28 PM

I do not support no target of striped bass in any way. NJ does not have a commercial fishery's. We need to be able to fish for them. It's a mental health issue if we cannot. Thank you have a wonderful evening.
Sent from Anthony Melore
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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 4:14:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jake Moyer
Email
moyerjw29@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please do not institute a “no targeting” closure for striped bass. So many businesses depend on anglers and the striped bass fishery in New Jersey. It would be a massive blow to these small businesses. As a recreational angler who loves to fish for striped bass, please allow year-round targeting for stripers.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:58:57 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joe Ribitzki
Email
jribitzki@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Striped bass regulations should remain as is. Catch and release is acceptable, but non-targeting is unacceptable. Thank you.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:32:26 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Desmond Persaud
Email
desmondpersaud1@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I vote status quo

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:	Cameron Koshland
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:13:46 PM

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for allowing us to add a public comment on this serious striped bass addendum. I am basing my opinion on an economic impact that could be shattering to our local Bait shops, charter boats, party boats, hotels, and every other business in the tourism industry along the east coast of New Jersey. I am a local bait shop owner in southern New Jersey (cape may county) and a striped bass closer would be detrimental to us for business. I feel the best decision for now would be to choose STATUS QUO until better data is received on striped bass population and Mortality. I believe accurate data is needed before any decision on a closure should be made.

Thank you

Cameron Koshland
Boulevard Bait & Tackle
Owner

Boulevard Bait & Tackle LLC
Cameron Koshland
535 Sea Isle Blvd, Ocean View, NJ 08230
609-624-7637
www.blvdbait.com
Find Us on Facebook!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:02:04 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Alex Rego
Email
alrego@verizon.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Status quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 2:47:36 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kyle Wegeler
Email
kylewegeler@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I agree with the idea that overfishing is a significant problem across our waters. But as an avid NJ angler it adds huge damage to recreational fishing and would be devastating to have closure for the striped bass species. The problem I seem to come to is all these party boats. I believe it makes a significant impact to the fishery itself. Too many fish killed. Now I am biased being mainly a catch and release type of guy but think about all the fish kept each day. Especially in the fall and spring run. They are definitely a huge target across the east coast. So if a closure were going to happen I suggest it has something to do with slot regulations. Party boats would be very upset and it would definitely affect people who enjoy keeping fish, but it would be totally worth it as the fishery would be able to increase. Catch and release should be allowed as striped bass are a favorite to target. Now how long it would take for striped bass population to grow? Probably a while. But as long as catch and release fishing would continue, I think the fishery would be fine. Natural resources should be respected to the wildlife across our area, but also accessible to the people as fishing is growing everyday to be a great hobby.

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:	Allen"s Dock
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Public Comment
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 2:32:56 PM

To whom it may concern,

I sat in on the meeting, but am not as elegant as some of the speakers such as Ray Bogan who I agree with whole-heartedly. For lack of a better option, Allen's Dock is in support of the status quo.

--
JUSTIN J. THENO

ALLEN'S DOCK
PO Box 72, 5698 Route 9
New Gretna, NJ 08224
609-296-5660

...more than just a bait store!
Allens Marina, LLC trading as "Allen's Dock"
info@allensdockmarina.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 2:20:10 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David Leo
Email
daveleo001@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Shutting down the striped bass season will have a catastrophic impact on my income and will force the closure of my bait business. Please reconsider this closed ur to the economic impact across the state of NJ.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:44:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
francis madaia
Email
frank.madaia@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
First and foremost, I do NOT agree with a no target closure. As technology infiltrates the next generations daily life the last thing we need is to restrict getting more young people outside. This will directly cause less people to care about the fish and the outside world. When less people care about the fish the conservation will stop, and the fish will be lost forever. My home waters are off sandy hook NJ where the striper fishing has been nothing short of excellent the past several years. I have also pursued striped bass in Montauk, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts over the past several years. I have seen firsthand that the fish populations are struggling. When going to areas with suitable habitat and forage to find no fish that once held many it is concerning. I do support a closure to the killing of any striped bass commercially and recreationally. It's simple let's try to build the breeding stock by killing less fish and keep people outside in pursuit of bass by allowing them to catch and release at the same time

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:35:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?omnisendContactID=6361a669e314cf00164bf6e7

Name

TED Matera

Email

HORSEFLEYE@YAHOO.COM

State

New Jersey

Comment

From what I have been able to ascertain there are several plans for the stock rebuild. As a recreational fisherman I am very concerned about the future of our Striped bass. I have heard that one plan would be ALL catch and release which to tell the truth I have been doing since the 90"s. This would be my first choice, only if fisherman could do it properly. Education would be a key point here. The second plan was NO Targeting, which would most likely be the best if it could be enforced. Now I have also heard that some think a full closure of bass fishing during November would be good. I would agree with if you could ensure that an equal plan would be in place for New England fisherman during their peak season. As a side note has the Bunker boat fleet been addressed? Over the last years I have seen a reduction if bunker in my area due to the boats sweeping up entire schools. Whatever the council agrees upon I hope that they take into consideration the livelihoods of our tackle shops and party boat businesses. We need to do something, and fast, but a program that will last, not a stopgap solution.

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] New public comment for Red Drum Draft Addendum II
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:26:04 PM

Red Drum Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Red Drum Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/red-drum-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Thomas Monaco
Email
tmonaco528@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please, for the love of God, implement a no target policy this fall. These fish are disappearing in front of our eyes. Yes, lives will be affected, however, failure to shut it down will result in irreversible damage to both the fishery and respective economy. Do the right thing and close it.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:47:48 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Chris Pereira
Email
chrisper4694@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
No traget regulations are asinine and pointless. Make common sense regulations or keep the status quo.

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:43:49 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Taylor Van Cleef
Email
taylorvancleef@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I oppose a no target regulation and support a no harvest regulation. Tackle restrictions would also be a great idea to reduce release mortality. Limit hook points on lures and no bait in the estuaries. Commercial limited to hook and line

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:30:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Tom Prosser
Email
fishforfun123@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please do not change the current striped bass regulations. Any closure will be a death knell to businesses.

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: peter geruntho
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass regulations
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:00:44 PM

Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,
I am writing in strong opposition to any closure on targeting striped bass on the east coast . Closing this fishery would devastate the livelihoods of countless small businesses, charter captains, tackle shops, and hardworking people who depend on it for their income and way of life. These people are the heart and soul of Nj fishing and don't deserve this .
From my direct experience on the water, the striped bass population is clearly strong catching fish in Elizabeth all throughout Sandy Hook, Long Beach Island, and Belmar area. On almost any given night, it is possible to catch 15-20 bass without difficulty. This is a clear indication that the fishery is thriving and should not be shut down.
Furthermore, it is impossible to physically count every striped bass in the rivers and ocean. No formula or model in the world can capture the true abundance of this species. Relying solely on projections and models rather than real-world conditions risks damaging both the economy and the culture built around striped bass.
I urge you to reject any closure and instead work with fishermen, businesses, and conservationists to create balanced measures that protect the resource without destroying the communities that depend on it.
Sincerely, Pete

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:59:48 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Luke Fetten
Email
lukepfetten@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Dear ASMFC Commissioners, I am writing to oppose the proposed non-target rule. This puts an undue burden on recreational anglers and would be almost unenforceable based on other cohabitating species like blue fish. I would support a no take for recreational AND commercial fisheries. This would be the most fair option. I would also support the ASMFC to seek enforcement on other contributing factors to striped bass mortality rather than just recreational and commercial takings. What about pollution and water quality? What about habitat loss from overdevelopment and beach replenishment? What about invasive species? What about by catch from other commercial fishing operations like bunker and fluke? Thank you, Luke Fetten Recreational Angler

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:56:55 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Salma Reid
Email
thewilsonfamily@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I can’t imagine fishing without this beautiful species I’ve been fishing for years look forward to striped bass fishing every year I am for the status quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:53:02 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Stephanie Wilson
Email
wilson1994@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I vote for status quo I've been fishing all my life for them since the 70s I do not agree with the new laws possibly at play

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:	Dan Valentino
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped bass regs
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:10:11 AM

I have never seen as many fish as I have seen the past few years in New Jersey. Pretty ridiculous the commercial fishery is being put in front of the recreational fishery. The rec guys care more about the conservation of our prized game fish. It's twice a year. We all look forward to bending our rods for these beasts. It is a resource that we all share, it is a gift from God. Yet, commercial fishery kills these large fish and hurts the delicate fishery. The Bunker boats are KILLING these fish by taking away a major bait source. Aim these attacks at the commercial industry, not the rec one. As the rec anglers are the best chance you have at "saving" striped bass.

No target would destroy industries. Tackle shops, rod and reel manufacturers, head boats, charter boats, makes, guides, etc.
People make their living off of the rec target of striped bass.
Catch and release only? sure seems like a decent compromise. But no target? come on.

Best and God Bless
-Dan

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:00:20 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Fisher
Email
wfisher5533@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I've been fishing all my life and I don't agree with this new rule that is trying to be enforced. I go for the status quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:59:25 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert D'Ippolito
Email
rhd@accelse.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Go after the commercual fishing boats and leave the hobbiests and seasons alone.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:57:59 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Claude Watley
Email
watley1972@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
My name is Claude Watley , I've been fishing for bass about 3 yrs now and I follow the rules of catch and release . The 28 - 31 size I think is well within reason. Yes they are people abusing that rule but why make everyone who is following the rules and guide lines suffer . Its has to be another way high fines , loss of fishing tackle , loosing your saltwater registry license should be implemented without prejudice. Just stopping it all together would impact a lot of anglers , bait and tackle shops . Fishing is a sport/ pastime/ hobby and when we go out fishing for the day . I know I spend money in neighborhood that I don't normally go to wether it's to have breakfast, dinner or lunch . And I know others do to . So now other businesses will be affected. So no I don't agree with this change . Keep the rules as is and crack down on the people that are not following them . PERIOD

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:36:36 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Kevin Moffitt

Email

kpmoffitt@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I support a full harvest closure in striped bass along with making them a gamefish with 0 commercial harvest. At a bare minimum, fish should be protected from harvest prior to spawning. After years of unsuccessful spawns, and diminishing stocks, it's time to take this matter seriously so that future generations can enjoy target these fish.

I spend close to 100 days on the water (both from the surf and boat), and the lack of small fish the past few years is truly frightening. The days of picking up schoolies blind casting the beach in the fall are over —you may get lucky and hit a blitz, but all soft and hard structure is simply absent of fish that have historically been there.

We learned in the 1980's that making hard decisions in the short term can yield favorable long term decisions. Charter captains and tackle shops are saying they will go out of business without being able to harvest bass, yet the tarpon and bonefish fisheries in Florida flourish in a catch & release environment. This is also a very shortsighted view of the impact on the livelihoods of charter captains and tackle shops…..with no striped bass in the future, both these industries will cease to exists.

Please consider the science and the poor spawn survey results for nearly a decade and make the correct decisions, however hard they may be.

Thank you,

Kevin Moffitt

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for ME Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:31:46 AM

ME Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
ME Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/me-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Isaiah Wilson
Email
iw056955@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I Isaiah Wilson have been fishing for striped bass since I can remember i respect the rules you guys enforce always and agree 100 percent with the 28-31 rule but I can't respect not being able to fish for them at all I believe in catch and release as well but not fishing for them at all will take away so much from our towns friends and family etc etc i do not agree and stand by the STATUS QUO!

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:09:49 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Chris Dupointe
Email
cdupointe@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Hello, My stance on this issue is to keep the status quo. Any impacts to the recreational fishery would be devastating to many who call this a way of life. Enforce regulations and allow fishermen to continue doing what they love. Thank you, Chris

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:00:59 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dimitrios Karandrikas
Email
dimitrikaras01@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Good morning, I am speaking on behalf of all recreational anglers. DO NOT introduce a NO TARGET season closure for this fish. We are NOT the problem. Commercial fishing and netting off shore cause all the harm. You would be putting businesses all along the northeast out of business. This is the most prized game fish of our waters. Make it a game fish. Like the way largemouth have grown over the years. This fish is people escape from the stress in their lives, you cannot take it away. Please.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:36:11 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Lee Evans
Email
Lee033@Comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Catch and release is the best option in my opinion. Address the bunker issue. No trolling for striped bass. And make a game fish.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:23:00 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

scott leadbeater

Email

sleadbeater7953@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

As a recreational fisherman I strongly urge to keep the current (2025) NJ Striped Bass regulations as they are.

Myself and my community of responsible anglers, abide by all regulations. We have supported the local NJ fishing businesses for more than 25 years. We pay top dollar for slips at Atlantic Highlands Municipal Marina. If we do not have access to fish for and release Striped Bass in the spring and fall, there is no reason for us to spend the money that we do for slips, winter season storage, engine tune up each spring (local marine shop), not to mention tackle purchases (local retail shop) throughout the year. I personally know 6 boaters including myself, just on our dock line alone, who will end our fishing and spending support of the local businesses if there were to be closures added to the Striped Bass regulations.

We urge and want to support the authorities to keep the Striped Bass 2025 regulations status quo. Thank you, Scott

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:00:48 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dominic Sabo
Email
dominicsabo0725@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The only option is closed harvest. The striped bass should not be harvested as it is a fish people travel thousands of miles each fall and spring for. They should be a catch and release fish only. If they make the fish no target people will not listen. They will say they are fishing for bluefish and nobody will care. Then that will force police too arrest hundreds of people, for fishing? Ridiculous. Make it no harvest for commercial and recreational fishermen and we will see drastic changes.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:59:35 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Spennato
Email
bobbysmiles@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please do not change the striped bass regulations. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE!!!! Not only will it hurt the recreational fisherman like myself, it will put many small boat captains (and some party boats too) out of business in the area and that would be tragic.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:33:35 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dan Picciallo
Email
picciallodan@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Striped bass fishing is very important to my area,I work in a tackle shop and closing the season would ruin our business. I think the number of striped bass is higher than ever before, I also have no reason to believe 9% of released fish die I would see atleast 1 dead one a year floating / or on the beach but I never see such things. I believe remaining status quo wouldn't have any ill effects on the future of our fishery which I care very much about as it is my livelihood and what I love .

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:30:36 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
lorenzo miceli
Email
micelilorenzo@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
This is an absolutely ridiculous addendum. The regulations are set so they can spawn and keep the fishery plentiful. This can't get approved

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:30:23 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Tom CRITELLI
Email
tcritelli@danitom.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please do not revise the striped bass restrictions and leave the current size limit in place. The species is thriving here in New Jersey as we haven't seen in decades!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:58:35 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Hunter Rose

Email

hunterrose53@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

For me personally, striped bass fishing has been life-changing. Some of my earliest and best memories are of early mornings on the beach, the salty air mixing with the sound of waves as I cast into the surf. Those moments taught me patience and respect for nature. They provided a peaceful escape from daily stress and a chance to connect with family and friends in a setting that feels timeless. Landing a powerful striper after hours of waiting isn't just a thrill—it's a lesson in persistence and appreciation for the outdoors. Over the years, the pursuit of these fish has become part of my identity, shaping how I spend my free time and deepening my connection to New Jersey's coast.

The economic ripple effect of striped bass fishing is also undeniable. Every trip I take requires bait, tackle, and sometimes a new rod or reel from local tackle shops. I buy ice, snacks, and fuel from small convenience stores and marinas. Charter captains, bait suppliers, and even local restaurants all benefit from the steady flow of anglers who come for the striped bass season. These small businesses depend on a healthy fishery to stay open, and in many coastal towns the striped bass run is a highlight of the year. Tourism dollars generated by visiting anglers help keep these communities vibrant and sustain jobs that might otherwise disappear.

New Jersey saltwater striped bass fishing deserves to remain a cherished tradition. It supports conservation, fuels local economies, and creates memories that last a lifetime. For me, it's not just about catching fish—it's about preserving a way of life that connects people to the ocean and to each other. Protecting and continuing this fishery ensures that future generations can experience the same excitement, peace, and community that striped bass fishing has brought to my life and to countless others along the Jersey Shore.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:51:43 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Young
Email
wry0860@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Before reducing the recreational limit, a real comprehensive study of the current biomass needs to be completed. The data currently used is completely outdated and flawed. As an avid saltwater fishermen for 50+ years, there is more bass around now then there ever was. I have also witnessed any beach replenishment projects along the NJ coast drives the bait fish further offshore and the bass follow their food source. This gives the illusion the biomass is depleted. However, outside the legal limit there are bass everywhere feeding.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:48:39 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Ryan Farrington

Email

rfarrington704@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Dear whomever it may concern,

I'm reaching out because I've heard about the possibility of shutting down striped bass fishing, and I wanted to share what that would mean to me personally.

I've been fishing for striped bass for nearly my whole life. It's not just a pastime; it's part of who I am. Some of my earliest and best memories are out on the water with family and friends. Over the years, this sport has become my way of connecting with nature, spending time with loved ones, and even finding peace during hard times.

I've also invested a lot into striped bass fishing — rods, reels, and countless trips that have supported local bait shops. This isn't just a hobby, it's something I've built my routines and relationships around and something that gives back to the local economy.

I absolutely support taking care of the striped bass population and keeping the fishery healthy, but I truly believe there's a way to do that without canceling the sport altogether. Anglers like me want to be part of the solution, not shut out of it.

Please understand that canceling striped bass fishing wouldn't just be a policy change — it would take away something that has been a lifelong passion and tradition for me and so many others. I hope you'll consider other, more balanced options before making such a drastic decision.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me out.

Sincerely,
Ryan Farrington

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:45:49 AM

DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Ryan Farrington
Email
rfarrington704@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Dear whomever it may concern, I'm reaching out because I've heard about the possibility of shutting down striped bass fishing, and I wanted to share what that would mean to me personally. I've been fishing for striped bass for nearly my whole life. It's not just a pastime; it's part of who I am. Some of my earliest and best memories are out on the water with family and friends. Over the years, this sport has become my way of connecting with nature, spending time with loved ones, and even finding peace during hard times. I've also invested a lot into striped bass fishing — rods, reels, and countless trips that have supported local bait shops. This isn't just a hobby, it's something I've built my routines and relationships around and something that gives back to the local economy. I absolutely support taking care of the striped bass population and keeping the fishery healthy, but I truly believe there's a way to do that without canceling the sport altogether. Anglers like me want to be part of the solution, not shut out of it. Please understand that canceling striped bass fishing wouldn't just be a policy change — it would take away something that has been a lifelong passion and tradition for me and so many others. I hope you'll consider other, more balanced options before making such a drastic decision. Thank you for taking the time to hear me out. Sincerely,

Ryan Farrington

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:21:08 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Adam Zalewski
Email
zalewski2000@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please no closure on striped bass. If you want to improve the stocks please put a stop to the bunker reduction boats that decimate the bunker population and by catch. AND make striped bass a game fish on whole eastern seaboard and stop any commercial fishing. Improve habitat in the spawning grounds of tge rivers and creeks.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:01:39 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Christopher Prasek
Email
cprasek6@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I support a catch and release only period. No targeting is too extreme. I also think NJ should eliminate the bonus tag program.

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:56:26 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Lance Mazeall
Email
lcmazeall@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Reduction of the season and size limits is making harder for recreational fisherman to enjoy the sport. It is also hurting the lively hood of commercial fisheries that depend on it.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 4:45:25 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
DJ Aanensen
Email
daanensen@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I do not want to see a closure for bass fishing in the spring or fall. I think this will destroy the tackle shops and the fishing for hire fleet. I've been bass fishing for over 40 yrs and have never seen more bass ever in my life yet science says they are in jeapordy as a stock? I don't see it. Keep the size limits and what we can keep. Fine. Don't close it down. Thanks you, DJ Aanensen

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: Matthew Quinones
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Proposal for Striped Bass Regulations – Protecting Both the Fishery and the Industry
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:25:22 AM

Dear [Regulatory Board / Fisheries Management Council],

My name is Captain Matt Quinones, and I own and operate Beastmode Fishing LLC. Our business, like many others along the coast, relies almost entirely on the striped bass fishery. Over the last four years, I have witnessed some of the best striped bass fishing of my lifetime, with consistent catches and strong fish health across the board.

Because of this, I would like to propose a management approach that both sustains the fishery and supports the charter and recreational industry that depends on it:

- Harvest Option 1: 3 trophy fish per vessel 3 slot sized fish 28-35” per vessel
- Harvest Option 2: 2 slot-sized fish per person (24”–35”)
- Harvest Option 3: 2 slot fish (24”–35”) per person and 1 trophy fish per vessel

* Only on 6 pack vessels where all permits and all lifenses are paid for by owner/operator .

*This is only for 6 packs for hire that are apart of the Special Program trying to help regulate and maintain a healthy stock of fish!

This approach ensures that every angler has a chance to take home fish for the table, while also preserving the balance of the stock.

Currently, striped bass are averaging 40–60 lbs, and the bulk of the stock appears to be in the 30–60 lb range. Allowing selective harvest of larger fish while reducing pressure on smaller fish would filter out the older fish while giving the younger population the chance to rebound. In contrast, the present regulations encourage the harvest of smaller bass, which ultimately works against stock recovery.

I strongly believe the current assessments of “critical biomass” are not accurately reflecting what we are seeing on the water. From firsthand experience, the striped bass fishery is thriving. A full shutdown of this fishery would devastate not only my business, but also countless others in the charter, tackle, and tourism industries.

I urge the council to consider these adjustments, which balance conservation with economic sustainability. If we manage this species wisely, we can ensure that striped bass continue to flourish and provide opportunity for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Captain Matt Quinones

Beastmode Fishing LLC

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:58:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Bradley Weil
Email
bradweil@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Why are we even considering a recreational season reduction in days allowed to fish??? REALLY? We already have a 28"- 31" @ 1 fish limit per day. How about you ELIMINATE COMMERCIAL FISHING of the species??? The economic value of this harvesting of striped bass commercially is a WASTE of this resource. Buy the commercial licenses out and your problem is solved.

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From: Ryan Brevogel
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:05:48 PM

I strongly oppose the “No Targeting” closure period.

Sincerely,

Ryan Brevogel NJBBA #4917

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:00:21 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Davis Goldman
Email
gdgoldie@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I'm a charter boat Capt. There are more stripers now than there have been in years. The last 3 falls during their migration for most of October through December beyond the 3 mile line there have been not acres but miles of striped bass out to and past 20 miles off shore. They are actually hard to get away from when we chase tuna…which is also unfortunately closed this year. A closure is totally unjustified because of the dense population of stripers. Whomever is studying the population of stripers is way off base. Thank you.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:35:43 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Thomas Moriarty
Email
tmoriarty514@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
A no target closure is not an acceptable idea. The economic impact this, and the horrible mismanagement of our bluefin fishery, will have on local tackle and charter businesses would be catastrophic. This conclusion will likely put people out of business, and the state of the fishery doesn't warrant this level of of decision. If we are contemplating that level of action, we should allocate the same or greater level of effort to ensuring the spawn can actually be successful (water quality, pollution, etc.). That is the largest problem to fix with this fishery by far.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:35:29 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Robert Reed

Email

rreed322@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

To whom it may concern , I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Striped bass fishing is something so many fishermen look forward to both in the spring and in the fall . This fishery is amazing , the fishing the last couple seasons have been great and I as well as many others hope it continues to be for many years.

Many businesses thrive because of these fish I'd hate to see small businesses impacted negatively by a closure of season/s . I'm sure there is a healthy compromise to continue to grow the population and continue to keep the sport and business alive and well. It would deeply sadden me to see people I know not be able to feed their families or continue to operate businesses that have been around for many years.

I'm not opposed to catch and release only as I primarily fish for sport . If I keep 1-2 fish a year that's a lot. I feel as though the commercial side of this should be lessened or closed and these fish should be classified as a game fish. Responsible fishermen that truly love the sport and these great fish shouldn't be punished with a full closure. We do everything in our power to protect and respect these fish.

I as well as many others hope and ask that you continue to allow us to target striped bass and enjoy the sport that so many of us love.

Thank you for your time.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:06:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Sean Place
Email
seanplacefishing@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I'd don't believe closing the targeting of stripes bass would benefit anyone. It would affect the tackle shops and charters because they'll miss important source of income from angler who chase these fish. I am a person who fishes charters and support those guys making a living chasing fish out there. I also am a surf angler. Just last year I met a group of guys who were from Oregon chasing the fish of their dreams in the surf, just one fish would have made their day. Putting a no fishing restriction would demolish those industries of charter boats and tackle shops who thrive on people coming to chase the fish. Taking memories of people who love to come together to do what they love and chase striper up and down the coast. Please don't put a no fishing restriction on it.

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: Peter Callas
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum IIII
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:46:58 PM

To Whom it May Concern at the ASMFC,

My name is Peter Callas, a life long NJ resident and avid saltwater angler. In response to the proposed regulation changes affecting striped bass, I am writing to provide my comment as a recreational, non-charter, non-commercial angler.

Striped bass fishing is integral to tens of thousands of anglers in New Jersey. Fishing for striped bass provides millions of dollars to the state economy. Anglers like myself spend money on tackle, food, gas, etc., all to chase stripers during the spring and fall. Closing the fishery down for extended periods would be not only personally upsetting, but would hurt the lives of thousands of people that work in NJ's fishing industry that rely on striper fishermen.

With that being said, the status quo does need change IF scientific data that is at hand is accurate. We need to do what we can to preserve breeding fish. The first thing that needs to be done is to curb overfishing of menhaden so that stripers have adequate forage. Next, New Jersey's rivers, where striped bass spawn, need to have stricter seasonal closures to protect spawning biomass. Too much poaching occurs on these rivers, and many juvenile or egg-laden females are taken from them as well. Shutting down the Hackensack, Passaic, Raritan, and tributaries to striper fishing would be a huge step forward.

While there is mortality associated with the practice, catch and release mandates during April could be beneficial to the striper stock without decimating the economics of the fishery and angering hordes of anglers. Perhaps allowing anglers to harvest striped bass after May 1 could provide the needed relief. A considerable amount of angler focus turns to fluke and sea bass as their seasons open in early and mid May as it is.

The fall season should be left as is in my opinion, with no closure.

While other issues like runoff, water pollution, overdevelopment, etc are also causes of striped bass population degradation, protection of spawning fish should be the easiest thing that we can all agree on.

Thank You,

Peter Callas

Sent from my iPhone
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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:42:24 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Karl Graetz
Email
Karlgr68@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I think that you should just leave everything the way it is now. There’s no need to change anything.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:37:19 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Richard Applegate
Email
rapplegate3@msn.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
With the amount of stripers I saw last year and only being allowed one fish @28 to 31, maybe the stock assments are flawed. I don't think it's fair to shut down striper fishing altogether. It affects all fishing businesses out there . Status Quo is the best option, in my opinion.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:18:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Samuel Pan

Email

span65@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I oppose both no-harvest closures and no-target closures. A no-target closure would be nearly impossible to enforce within the recreational sector and would disproportionately and unfairly affect for-hire operators and commercial fishermen. Closures in general would also have severe negative impacts on the fishing tackle industry, much of which is made up of small, family-owned businesses. Lower sales would in turn reduce federal excise tax revenue that is essential to funding conservation programs.

According to the Female SSB trajectory graph on page 6 of the draft addendum, the stock is still on track for recovery under the status quo. Unless there is an absolute requirement to reach the rebuilding target by 2029, I do not believe it is reasonable to impose measures that would unnecessarily harm stakeholders' livelihoods. Missing the target by three years, as indicated in the graph, still results in recovery while avoiding the disproportionate economic and social impacts associated with closures.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1854(e)(4)(A)(ii)) provides councils with flexibility to adjust rebuilding plans when strict adherence to the original timeline is not practical, so long as the stock continues on a path toward rebuilding. Based on the trajectory shown in the draft addendum, the resource will still recover under the status quo, even if the 2029 deadline is not met. Therefore, rigid closures are not justified and would cause far more harm than benefit.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:15:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Billy George

Email

williamogeorge4@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I believe we have a fully sustainable striper population here in NJ. I target stripers a couple times a week from April through the first week in June and then again from roughly October 15 to December. Never keeping more than a handful of fish through out the year combined.

In April and May I have had the opportunity to watch fish spawn in the back bays for years. Never keeping a fish with all swimming off strong. In the fall we have the pleasure of fishing wide open blitzes.

I want nothing more than to have the opportunity for my children to fish for these fish. I truly believe that a majority of successful spawning now takes place more commonly north of the Chesapeake. And I hope that we are focusing on more than just the Chesapeake spawning rates.

Moreover I feel the changed smaller slit size regulation is a more than conservative bounty for recreational fishermen. NJ does not have a commercial quota like other states and I feel we have sacrificed more than most for this best interest of the fishery.

Non target is unacceptable and seems absolutely absurd. Do something about the omega fish fleets, commercial, and net fishermen, decimating the population and leave the rod and reel rec fishermen out of this fight to save striped bass save and you will have our support 100%

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: Michael Hagen
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass draft addendum
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 7:45:29 PM

---

asmfc I believe in my opinion, the different areas I fish are showing good numbers of young of year and schoolies as well as overs , just unders and plenty of slots. I would love to strongly request that we keep at least the current regulations. So many small mom and pop shops will be forced to close their doors if our privilege/right to catch and keep an occasional fish for the table. This vote should be put off until all data is collected. I have been getting a bonus tag for several years just in case I want to keep a fish. I personally haven't kept a bass in about 10 years, always catch and release. My striper log I turn in this year will be quite impressive with the numbers and size variations as well as location fished. I don't have a boat it's all land base. Please do not destroy our right to fish for this wonderful gamefish. Thank you Michael Hagen
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: Matthew Rossetti
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striper fishing New Jersey
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 7:37:49 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to show my support of keeping the striper fishing guidelines the same. I grew up fishing and spearfishing these waters my whole life and can assure you that they are here in big numbers. We get them year round in the back bay in southern New Jersey and the run of hundreds of thousands if not millions of fish in the fall / spring. This is our state's fish and I cannot imagine not being allowed to even target them.

The guidelines should remain the same.

Thank you,
Matthew Rossetti
2nd Grade Teacher at SJRS
Small Jobs OCNJ LLC

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:48:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

John Grzymko

Email

tigger2jlg@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Not sure if earlier comments went through or not, save to edit later but never found it again.
In regards to the stock analysis, who ever is doing it and where it's being done doesn't seem to coincide with what I have actually seen being out on the shore and on the water.
My observation is totally opposite of uour stated findings.
The drone footage I've seen have shown massive schools of Stripers moving up and down the coast

If your numbers are real and I doubt it, then how do you even consider allowing a commercial fishery at all. If the stocks are not replenished by your standards then its counter intuitive to allow a commercial fishery where the by-catch isn't accounted for. To put on the recreational fishermen the possibility of a No Targeting of the species and then to allow a Commercial fishery is ludicrous.
Time to stop bending to the Commercial lobbyist and consider what a NO TARGET OF STRIPERS will do to the local businesses, they are as important if not more so than the Commercial Industry. .
Many small tackle shops, charter boats and party boats depend on this fishery to maintain themselves. Shutting down the fisheries will cause extreme hardships for them. Stop cowering to the commercial markets and think of all

Recreational fisherman strive to release many fush back to the water safely and healthy .
Wake up and do what's right shut down Commercial fishing for Sttipets

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:48:40 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Glaser
Email
williamjglaser@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please consider keeping the current regulations or changing them so we can still fish for them recreationally.

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From: Aguiar, Adam
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:36:56 PM

The strategies by which to catch striped bass off the surf during their migration are the same strategies by which to catch multiple other species in the same area at the same time (i.e. Bluefish and Weakfish). Therefore, unless the other species are also mandated to not be targeted, a 'non-target' mandate on striped bass along the jersey shore in fall (or spring) is illogical, unenforceable, and even immoral because it would solely rely on the assumption of the warden about the angler's intent, and not on any objective measure.

In addition to all the above, a no-target mandate would surely hurt, if not permanently close many businesses (i.e. tackle shops , headboats, etc)

Dr. Adam A. Aguiar, Ph. D.
Associate Professor,
Biology Department,
School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NAMS),
Stockton University
(adam.aguiar@stockton.edu)
732-939-5257

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From: marlinman1@aol.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:31:10 PM

Dear ASMFC,
I am writing to you because I was unable to attend the recent meeting in Stafford NJ regarding the striped bass addendum. I am very concerned about the possibility of shutting down the striped bass fishery.

From my experience on the water, the striped bass fishery has been as strong as ever. The current limits have been effective in maintaining the stock, and there has consistently been an abundance of striped bass off the New Jersey coast year after year. Based on these observations, I do not believe there is sufficient reason to consider closing this fishery.

I respectfully urge you to take into account the positive results we have seen under the existing regulations and to keep the fishery open for the benefit of both the community and the resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brian Moleen

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:23:50 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
LEE PETRENKA
Email
petrenkalee@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
For New Jersey for 2026 should be Status Quo

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: James Thomas
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:02:17 PM

Asmfc-

Don’t put a ban on striped bass fishing, the only reasonable option is a no harvest. We also need more enforcement from state wardens, theres not enough here in NJ.

Sincerely- Recreational Angler James Thomas

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From: Brandon Demone
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:53:58 PM

To Whom It May Concern,
As a New Jersey recreational angler I am deeply concerned about the proposed "no target" closure of striped bass, not only for personal reasons but for the overall fishing community and local economy.

With the recent changes to bluefin tuna regulations imposed by NOAA Fisheries, both recreational and charter fishermen have had to pivot how they prioritize their trips. In Section 2.2.8 of the Draft Addendum III, there is reference to "other species" effected. Without bluefin tuna or striped bass to target, the average local fisherman, with the average boat, charter or recreational, will only be targeting tautog which will put a burden on that species in particular.

Additionally, there is a significant boost to local small businesses during peak striped bass season. For anglers that do not have the capabilities or desire to target other species, imposing "no target" on striped bass will end their fishing season. Although I am an individual recreational angler and my effect seems insignificant, I think I can speak for others who will agree that boats will be pulled out of the water, charters will cancel trips, fuel docks will lose business, family owned tackle shops will suffer, local restaurants and hotels that provide hospitality to anglers will see a decrease in traffic, and coastal communities that rely on a boost prior to going through winter will all be hurt by this proposed Addendum. Most importantly, the parties I have just listed are all the most concerned people about the striped bass populations and practice the best conversation and catch and release tactics. A closure would impact those who follow the regulations and care about the future of the striped bass population, meanwhile rewarding those who ignore regulations or are uninformed of the proposed Addendum.

I hope that other options such as catch and release, tagging and releasing, or slot harvest limits are considered, as we all care about the striped bass population, but do not want to lose the ability to fish for them. Thank you for being open to comments.

Sincerely,
Brandon Demone
201-414-2445
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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:20:45 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Mike Stinson
Email
molsonice1234@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
You people need to get facts straight

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From: CHRIS NASTASI
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Conserve Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:10:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please don't pay attention to lobbyists and use best science to conserve striped bass.

Sincerely,

CHRIS NASTASI

33 South Ave

Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

CNASTASI33@VERIZON.NET

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From: Chris LeLong
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:04:11 PM

I am writing as a recreational angler in New Jersey to provide my opinion on the proposed Striped Bass Addendum III.

On the matter of recreation season closures for Striped Bass in 2026, I am **strongly opposed to any form of No Target Closure and I support the Status Quo option.**

The economic impact of a closure of the striped bass fishery along the New Jersey coast would be devastating to many businesses that rely so heavily on striped bass fishing. From tackle shops and for-hire boats to local eateries and motels. I fear that a closure based on theoretical numbers and statistics that can not be proven, is too great a risk.

If young of the year recruitment is the concern, measures should be taken that will directly impact that aspect of the species, i.e. water quality in the spawning estuaries, invasive predator species. etc.

On the issue of mortality rates, we have already gone from 2 fish greater than 28in to the current 1 fish slot and implemented the use of circle hooks. Greater focus should be placed on enforcement efforts against poachers and education on proper catch and release handling.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion of this matter.

Chris LeLong
Manchester, NJ

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:50:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Timothy Murphy
Email
tmurphyfirefitter@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Recreational fishing for striped bass should be kept open. I'm an avid surf fisherman. I have not harvested a single striped bass in the last seven years. Let's find a way to catch and punish the ones who take illegal fish. They are criminals

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: Michael Fish
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striper Fishing New Jersey
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:31:56 PM

I am writing in full support to keep Striper fishing going under the same guidelines as 2024-2025.

1 slots Striper per angler (28-31 inches)

As an avid fisherman in New Jersey, it would be a shame to, at minimum, not be able to target striper this fall.

Regards,
Mike Fish
Ocean City, NJ
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: JD haesloop
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:27:18 PM

Hi,

I'm a NJ recreational fisherman that no longer even attempts to fish striped bass because of the current regulations. I'm not going out and landing monster after monster striped bass all day just to toss them back in the drink with only a 75-90% chance of survival. The slot sizes are already so restrictive is basically ALREADY been banned for anyone that has any dignity. The same goes with fluke. I don't even waste my time accidentally killing shorts trying to find one legal size. So completely shutting down the fishery sounds stupid, but its not like people actually should be fishing for a 28-31" fish as it is. IDK why they just don't have a one fish bag limit, and open up the slot size a bit to reduce release mortality. This way people can still go have fun and catch but aren't out accidentally killing fish on the hook and tossing them back for shark food cause of some dumb law. That my .02.

JD Haesloop
South River NJ
732-221-9152

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:45:05 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Steve Kline
Email
steve.kline1280@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I strongly oppose the proposed "no targeting" closures for striped bass. The ASMFC's own Law Enforcement Committee has said these closures are unenforceable, ranking them last among 27 possible actions. They reduce fishing activity only on paper, not in reality, and will delay rebuilding. Instead, managers should prioritize measures that are enforceable and effective: equal reductions across commercial and recreational sectors, tagging fish at harvest to curb illegal sales, uniform measurement standards to close loopholes, and incorporating new science showing gear changes can cut release mortality. Real conservation depends on actions that work on the water, not rules that can't be enforced.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:31:09 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Matt Rooney
Email
chairsandsofas@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
There are so many people and businesses that rely on recreational fishing for striped bass. Fishing for striped bass is deeply embedded into New Jersey's history and a complete closure would be detrimental to our coastal communities. Please consider an alternative or a no harvest solution instead of a complete closure for recreational fisherman. Thanks, Matt

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:30:54 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
RICHARD SONA jr
Email
mudslingrr@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Just to let you know, this would destroy the East Coast. Economy. For the fishing industry and lack of tax revenue for the State of New Jersey. As a recreational fisherman and I am highly against the moratorium on closing the striped bass season, you should really consider not commercially netting. This species, which should be recognized as a game fish. It would also be very devastating. To the Jersey economy mom and pop food hotels operations and are charter party boat industry 2 years ago, they were very large body of fish. Which you allowed to be netted and the quota to be passed on after that. It died off. You could not blame the recreational rod and reel fishery they were plenty of 30, the 50 and 60 pound fish that were netted. Keep the season open 28 to 31 inch 1 fish limit is fine drop bonus tag but please do not close season it would be devastating

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:29:19 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Ken Curtiss
Email
kencurtiss97@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
take a look at herring run in rivers, strippers have no need to go up rivers to spawn no food going up so why shouldthey.they now spawn in raritain bay, eastchester bay feeding on bunkers

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:04:33 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

George Rude

Email

georgerudejr@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

If we aren't able to stay status quo then my suggestion would be to do strictly catch and release. To be honest all I do is catch and release as well as anyone I fish with. The only reason I opt for "status quo" is so the charters/party boats don't go out of business. I spent 150k on a boat last year not to mention upkeep, tackle, slip fees, gas, insurance and everything else that goes along with being a boat owner/avid fisherman. Targeting striped bass is my passion and what I live to do. I spend a lot of money on the sport and put a lot of money back into the economy to support my passion of striped bass fishing. Local tackle shops love to see me walk through the front door because they know I'm going to drop a ton of money to support my addiction to striper fishing. I guess the point I'm trying to make is that if you close striper season it will crush the fishing industry. I'm all about conservation. So with that being said rather than close it, worst case, just keep it catch and release. If people are still able to fish for stripers they will still spend their hard earned money on the sport and the stripers will also benefit from not being kept. Please lets rethink the closure of striped bass season and the affects it will have on the fishing industry. Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:01:09 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dominic Sabo
Email
dominicsabo0725@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The past 3 years the striped bass fall migration along the NJ coast has been nothing short of insane. Some days there were fish for miles upon miles. That doesn't make me think that there needs to be no target closures at all. I think the striped bass should not be allowed to be kept. No harvest of striped bass. They are worth so much more alive rather than dead. There are also plenty of other fish in the sea that taste the same if not better. If the ASMFC decided on a no target closure thousands of businesses would go under. Charter captains and tackle shops rely on these fish for their income. The striped bass is the fish everyone wants to pursue. People travel thousands of miles just for a chance at these fish. So why not treat them like tarpon? Very strict catch and release laws and absolutely no harvest. If there were laws on striped bass as there are on tarpon and they were enforced like they are on tarpon we would see much larger numbers of striped bass and better fishing.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:55:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Adam Klapko

Email

aklapko@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

To whom it may concern the striped bass population has been a never ending concern amounts fisherman for vast amounts of years.
I firmly believe that a catch and release only season will not only help the current population and classes of fish but also assist in there stock numbers. This would not only help not shut down all the brick and mortar tackle stores but also keep charter boats running and hence money continues to flow into the fishing industry. Data from Florida shows the tarpon number and increase in population from under going this type of season . Which helps keep fish in the water but no fish will be taken home as table fare.
Lastly, I believe through better education , more enforcement and more violations and fines would help set an example to poachers who decide to violate the NJ Fish and Game Regulations . A fisherman has no worries if they follow the rules just the ones that like to keep everything they keep. Also please also take every other ongoing issues into account of the striped bass population such as the off shore wind farms, population in the ground water, and lastly address the omega boats that comes into our shores and kill our native species . Make it illegal for them to operate with our shores .
Thank you kindly

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:30:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Richard Fiocco

Email

delegate171@aol.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

Good afternoon, I have been a saltwater angler for approximately 50 years. I do agree how important it is to regulate and preserve all species of fish, especially striped bass. However, I feel the regulations that are in effect right now have greatly reduced the amount of striped bass that have been Taken. That comes a point when the regulations are not in line with what is affecting the stock. I also feel that regulations outside of our area, including commercial by catch is way more detrimental to the thriving striped bass stock. I also feel that the commercial by catch is detrimental to all species. It is not fair to put such stringent regulations on recreational fisherman. I also feel that a better survey that needs to be done on all striped bass caught. I'm currently in the bonus tag program and feel that the information that I provide in that program is extremely important For you to make the proper assessment of the stock. This should be mandatory for all fisherman fishing for striped bass. It also may not be a bad idea to implement this for other fish, such as fluke, Seabass, etc.. The fact that the bluefin tuna was shut down so early this year is disappointing, especially when you see the amount of bluefin tuna that are being stripped from our oceans from other countries. We need to do a federal enforcement on some of these migratory fish. Thank you for your time

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:21:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Mark Kowaleski
Email
markkowaleski1@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please keep the striped bass regulations at status quo. Thank you.

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: Chris
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striper closure
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:19:21 PM

I have been fishing New Jersey waters for nearly 50 years and I am a USCG licensed captain who works in the charter business. Striped bass fishing makes up a large majority of our charters and a season closure, specifically one that doesn't allow even catch and release fishing would be devastating to the industry. This closure will crush the 6 pack charter fleet as well as party boats and local bait and tackle shops. The striped bass fishery is as strong as it has ever been in my lifetime of fishing. I would ask that you strongly consider other less impactful option before a full closure.

Thank you,
Chris Marsala
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: Craig Angelini
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:11:44 PM

Good afternoon!
I would like to express my opinion regarding potential striped bass closures. I am adamantly against a striped bass closure. This would be a completely unacceptable option.

I am a charter fishing captain (Canyon Runner Sportfishing) and HS AP Environmental science/Marine Biology teacher. In my professional opinion, it is crucial to continue public access to this valuable resource for countless economic, ecological, and cultural reasons.

Recreational fishing affects a much larger population of people than commercial fisheries.

It is unacceptable to regulate the recreational/charter fisherman out of a publicly owned resource.

The recreational/charter/headboat (per person) trip limit should be one fish 34 in and over, or two fish under 34 inches. There should be a stipulation that when you've landed your limit you are done fishing for striped bass on that trip. Boat totals are contingent on the number of passengers.

This will prevent a large number of release mortality, continue access to the resource, give charter boats adequate catch totals to market/book trips, anglers sufficient quantities of meat for their family, and law enforcement concrete measures to easily enforce.

If the stock assessments are concerning; go back to eliminating the commercial fishery for striped bass in the northeast, as the data overwhelmingly supports abundant population rebuilding in the absence of commercial fishing pressure while recreational fishing was allowed over the past few decades.

In addition, historically the last few decades have not seen the commercial fishing capital investment in this resource (due to closures) the way recreational fishing has geared up to target striped bass. Therefore, the economic consequences of commercial closures are much less severe than the impacts a closure would have on the recreational/charter/headboat community.

If data is honestly driving these decisions then reflecting on the rebuilding efforts of the early 2000's demonstrated one of the largest success stories of management in my 40 yrs on the water. Rec fishing was allowed and commercial fishing was not.

If an attempt to include commercial fishing landings is part of the agenda, then mandate a rod and reel only commercial fishery the way Massechusets does....net fisheries for striped bass are too effective and include too much bunker, bluefish, thresher shark, etc.. bycatch.

Thanks for taking the time to hear my opinion. - Capt. Craig Angelini--
Craig Angelini
Head Coach Varsity Boys' Lacrosse
Invention Convention Coordinator

STEM Fair Coordinator
Cinnaminson High School
Teacher of Biological Sciences

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:10:45 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Andrew Heine

Email

Apheine1@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

While I recognize that striped bass populations are facing serious challenges, I strongly believe that proposals for a moratorium or a “no-target” option are unrealistic and misguided. Closing the fishery entirely to anglers is not the answer. There is still a major lack of understanding about these fish — their true numbers, their offshore distribution, and how their migration and spawning behavior shifts from year to year. For instance, relying almost exclusively on Chesapeake spawning surveys ignores the fact that spawning grounds have shifted further north over time. Using that as the sole benchmark for the stock’s health is incomplete at best, disingenuous at worst.

Instead of punishing recreational anglers with unrealistic closures, management should focus on two priorities:

Reduce commercial harvests further — this is where real gains can be made immediately.

Wait for better data — the 2027 benchmark assessment will provide a clearer picture, and decisions should be based on that more complete science.

In the meantime, anglers can and should do their part through better catch-and-release practices — minimizing air exposure, handling fish carefully, and keeping them in the water whenever possible. Those changes can reduce unnecessary mortality today without shutting down the fishery.

The long-term goal should be working toward zero harvest, but getting there requires good science and fair management. A moratorium or no-target option is not the solution — it’s unrealistic, unfair, and ignores the real gaps in our knowledge.

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: Sandy
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Fishing for Striped Sea Bass in the Fall
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:05:11 PM

To whom it may concern:

This has been a rite of passage in New Jersey for years, and now all of a sudden, you feel the need to take this away from so many people who love to fish and eagerly wait for this migration all year long. Do you realize the impact this will have on all the bait and fishing stores that rely on fishermen and fisherwomen coming into their stores to purchase equipment and bait during time? They are the ones who might have to close and never reopen. Last year was the first time I ever caught a striped bass, and it was so exciting. There are young, seasoned men and women who fish all the time, who cannot wait for this season to begin, and I am one of them. Please reconsider your decision to close the season this year. I am so looking forward to catching another fish this year.

Thanks for your consideration

Sandy Schemelia
Women who likes to fish

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:49:50 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Michael Megill

Email

mnmegill@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

The can has been kicked down the road for too long. Refusal to accept the commercial and recreational pressure on the biomass along with continuing poor recruitment with the Chesapeake's tribes is unsustainable and will, not maybe, will lead to a total collapse of this fishery. There's no magical offshore mass of stripers that secretively spawn in unknown places … there's no evidence stripers have changed locations and it's not being captured in YOY surveys. Having caught my first striper in 1969 and living through the moratorium's of the 80's and watching an epic restoration of the biomass and then complete mismanagement of that same biomass is unforgivable.

Minimally a no harvest needs to be put in place until there are a couple, if not more, successful recruitment years. Then look at potentially reopening to a limited harvest.

Do the right thing for the fishery and not pander to stakeholders who are only concerned with the short term benefits of continuing to harvest. As a C/R fisherman I would be open to a no target as well. My sacrifice at something I'm extremely passionate about is justified to preserve a fishery for my son and his kids. We are stewards and have not been acting as responsible stewards with the striper bass fishery.

Sincerely,
Mike Megill

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:40:02 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Anthony David
Email
adsurf@verizon.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Catch and release only Single hook crushed barbs

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:20:38 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Freddie Horan
Email
59bluefish@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I am a weekend recreational catch anything kinda warrior ! Beach boat fly , whatever is running at the time … that said let's not go there, 28 slot , one fish if really going to save for Taco Tuesday 's great , let's not outlaw Striped Bass fishing for commercial or recreational fisherman ! Continue to monitor if need be ! Growing up in Jersey in the 70's we dodged medical waste and now that the water and beaches are cleaned up it makes no sense to alienate the public on the coast by limiting Striper fishing ! Let's find something else to alienate

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:16:49 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Mike Purvin
Email
mpurvin@purvinlaw.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Any moratorium imposed will have severe financial repercussions on the recreational fishing community. The striped bass fishing in NJ is the best it's ever been during my lifetime (63 yo). How about doing something to prevent the boats netting menhaden off of our shores. Especially the Canadian companies who continue to have decimate the bunker population in our waters. Don't hurt the small guys (6packs, headboard) by letting this continue.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:12:23 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Donna Flanagan Sciortino
Email
donnaflan@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Leave it to the powers that be to ruin thr industry. STATUS QUO!

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: Joseph Crouchman
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:09:35 PM

Greetings,

My name is Joseph Crouchman and I am a 25yr old angler from Ocean County, NJ and am a member of the Berkeley Striper Club, along with Tupperware Navy. I am writing to share my perspective on the management of striped bass. While I fully support a **no-harvest stance** as a tool to protect the stock during this critical rebuilding period, I strongly oppose the idea of a **no-target closure** that would prohibit anglers from catch-and-release fishing.

The current issue facing striped bass is not the absence of large fish—there are still plenty of bass in the 35-inch and larger range. The real challenge lies with the **smaller spawning-class fish**, which are having difficulty reproducing successfully. This is fundamentally a spawning issue, and management strategies need to address recruitment and spawning success, rather than eliminating responsible opportunities for catch-and-release fishing.

Catch-and-release remains an important way for anglers to stay connected to the fishery while supporting conservation. Anglers who are engaged continue to contribute valuable data through tagging and reporting programs, help educate others about best release practices, and advocate for the resource. Prohibiting targeting altogether would weaken that stewardship connection and cut off a critical source of support for striped bass recovery.

Additionally, a no-target closure would create unnecessary economic hardship for local businesses, charter captains, and tackle shops that depend on striped bass activity. A **no-harvest policy paired with strict enforcement and angler education** achieves conservation goals without undermining communities or traditions tied to striped bass fishing.

I also believe it is reasonable to **maintain the current status quo regulations until further research and updated data are available**. Sound science should drive management decisions, and we should be cautious about implementing drastic measures without a clear understanding of their necessity and effectiveness.

I believe the best path forward is to:

- Maintain a strict **no-harvest policy** during the rebuilding period.
- Focus on improving **spawning success and recruitment**.
- Promote and enforce best practices for catch-and-release to reduce mortality.
- Enhance angler education and expand outreach.
- Prioritize enforcement against illegal harvest.

This balanced approach will protect the spawning stock and ensure a stronger future for striped bass while still allowing anglers to responsibly participate in the fishery.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly urge you to pursue a no-harvest strategy, not a no-target closure.

Joe Crouchman

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:01:57 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brian Parker
Email
Pinebarrensexpress@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
1st thank u for the opportunity to express my thoughts .Im a recreational fisherman who fishes from the southern parts of New Jersey to Massachusetts I have seen 1st hand the low numbers of smaller class stripe bass. Im for protection and suggest Catch n realse for 2026 and longer closes spring spawning dates to protect them fish during that time .I know there are many issues specially in the Chesapeake bay and tributaries I know ASMFC has been doing research and trying to address the problems..Thank u for your time

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: tom t
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 12:24:25 PM

Good afternoon,

I am a recreational fisherman here in NJ. I believe the regs should stay status quo with some differences. Limiting all charter boats to one trip a day should be considered, the bonus tag program should be eliminated, commercial fishing for striped bass should also be reduced. I also believe that striped bass fisherman whether it be a shore based fisherman, a recreational boat, or people going a charter all spend money at in a local economy and support local small businesses. It could be local food places, the local tackle shop, local gas stations and the list goes on and on. I think the commercial and charter guys need to be more tightly monitored than the recreational guy who goes one possibly only one or two times a week vs the boats that are out there daily.

Thank you

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:39:21 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Richard Swisstack
Email
richardswisstack@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please do not take away the catch and release part of our surf fishing history. This fall run fishery is something that my family and I have participated in through generations and continue with my children currently. I have been doing this for 55 years and I've seen the highs and lows of the Striped Bass stocks. I can honestly say that I fish well over 60 days a year during the fall run and the numbers of Striped Bass that move up and down our beaches our beaches is as strong as I've ever seen it over the last few years. Taking this away from us would have a huge impact on the shore businesses, right before the winter down time, which is huge and also it leaves a lot of younger folks with nothing to look forward to which leads to them turning to other detrimental things to occupy their time, and lord knows we don't need any more of that right now !!! Thank you for your time and consideration on my views !

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:05:44 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Mary Sunham
Email
mdzoom732@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
To begin, I've been a surf caster for over 30 years. I put my time in and yes I've seen the fishery change. However, as I resident of the NJ shore I do not feel if regulations are placed, NJ should not be penalized as states with commercial licenses. Let's truly help the striped bass to spawn by closing the back bay areas and rivers like the Raritan and the Chesapeake until the end of May or June. Let these bass do what they are here for in the first place …. Spawn. I really have a hard time believing the numbers that Rec fishermen are having a greater impact on the population than commercial. No targeting would have a great impact on local head boats. Let them keep one in the slot- no bonus tag. Let surf casters catch and release…. No targeting is too extreme!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:05:43 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

TACKLE BOX

Email

tackleboxfishingco@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

RE: Nick Cicero
Folsom Corp.

Nick,
Thank you!
Thank you for being the only fishing distributor and brand to stand up for our business and livelihoods!
Where was everyone else!? Where is the outcry!?
Totally disappointed and disheartened.
My father & grandfather must be rolling in their graves over this!
We have been following the current rules for years and releasing TROPHY Striped Bass with care , making sure they swim away strong; only for them to swim north 2-3 weeks later and be slaughtered in NY & MA!!!!! HOW DOES THAT MAKE SENSE ASMFC!????? We have been getting screwed for years!
It's already been the worst two years ever in our almost 50 years here at the shop…. Any no harvest closure will put us all out of business. Four generations worth…gone. Please take that into consideration ASMFC.
But we knew who had our backs!
Thank you,
Phil Sciortino, Jr.
(Sent to ASMFC as official comment as well)

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: Robert Barranger
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:54:28 AM

As an avid New Jersey surf fisherman and outdoors man I **DO NOT** support a No target option for striped bass.

This completely ruins the surf fishing for me and my children that I am teaching to love and respect the outdoors. Not being able to target a species I respect and have fished for for over 25 years and spent thousands of dollars in gear and tackle on is not acceptable.

Closing the fishery is not the answer. Although I do support complete catch and release of the species, many tackle shops and charters rely on the income of fall fishing for striped bass.

Closing the fishery only hurts us as catch and release fishermen that respect the species and their decline. **I am voting for the "status quo" option to continue a slot bass option for next year. If nothing else a complete catch and release season for striped bass.**

I support complete catch and release of the striped bass species until stocks come back. On that note we need better research that is backed by better facts and science. What we currently have and use is not acceptable to base your decisions on.

IN CLOSING I 100% DO NOT SUPPORT A NO TARGET SEASON FOR STRIPED BASS!

--
Robert F. Barranger Jr.
(908) 433-2294

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:51:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Timothy Colbert
Email
clinton.colbert@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Hi! I believe practicing proper methods of catching and releasing Striped Bass should remain the same for 2025/26. But, to keep the future of the fishery strong, harvesting Striped Bass should be paused until the numbers grow to a health amount. Thanks so much! Tim

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:43:23 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Chris Wilkinson
Email
wilk_8@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I support the current regulations and do not support “no targeting closures”.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:39:24 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Vincent Voiro
Email
vinnievoiro@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I would like to see NJ continue with the status quo for the stripped bass regs. I do not support no targeting closures.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:38:43 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kevin Staub
Email
kcscontracting@comcast.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
I've been fishing these waters for 45 years and never seen an abundance of striped bass as we have now! They are known to eat pretty much anything including Seabass, blackfish, scup, blue claw crabs, fluke, flounder and of course menhaden. And keep in mind half of this is juveniles. Something needs to be done with these fish, either commercially or recreationally to damper their abundance.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:13:19 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Charles Many
Email
cmany@embarqmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
In NJ, If you are concerned about C & R mortality, we should have a closure, no targeting, when mortality is most likely (warm months). I would suggest, June 15 - September 15, which is when I see releasing Striped Bass to be most difficult. I get that this would not reach the desired target numbers, but does make the most sense. 2nd closure that would make the most sense is March 15-May 1 in Raritan Bay and surrounding rivers, when Stripers are going up the Hudson to spawn. Thanks for listening. Chuck Many (Tyman)

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:05:49 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joseph Gray
Email
joegray83@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I support No Harvest but I absolutely do NOT support no target.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:58:47 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Richard Armstrong
Email
rmarmstrong1@verizon.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
The option of not targeting striped bass is borderline insane. I'm a 55 year old recreational angler and have experienced the low numbers of striped bass in the 80's and 90's. In the last several years striped bass have come back in huge numbers and size. Incredible to watch them feed. Are we saying this huge volume of large fish doesn't spawn anymore? Are the scientists looking in the right areas to determine young stock assessments? We are already at 1 fish between 28 and 31. There is no meat left on the bone to give more back. Can we discuss the true problem? The food source. Bunker reduction by Omega. Killing everything including striped bass. When you take their food source away the fish are forced to find it elsewhere. So do the right thing. Protect the bunker. The most important resource in our oceans. Let's be smart and not let politics drive ridiculous decision making. Next stop trawling! 75% by catch is discarded after destroying the ocean floor and habitat for marine life. I mean really, we think recreational anglers with a 1 fish bag limit a few months of the year are negatively impacting spawning stocks???? Do the right thing. Keep status quo and help us protect our ocean and marine life by starting with the bunker! Help!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:36:14 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Gary Karcher
Email
gkarcher25@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
No to in season closure of striped bass No to no targeting of striped bass

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:35:35 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Matt Pagano
Email
paganomatt834@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
If striper fishing is shut down, you not only destroy charter boat businesses, but tackle shops and tourism. The regulations have already changed over the years. In my opinion, striper fishing should be catch and release only if you're so concerned about the numbers.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:23:06 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Chris Weber
Email
webrbc72@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
My biggest concern is for our bait and tackle shops who make the majority of there money that keeps them afloat during stripped bass fishing seasons. Without selling Striped bass lures and other tackle these shops will not survive. I'm an angler on the Raritan bay where we see the fishing getting better and better every year and do not see a need to fully close the season.

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:16:13 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Eric Pignataro
Email
tightlinesep@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I believe something is way off I don't really know about restock but I fish 3 to 5 days a week in spring and fall both barnegat bay and ocean i just don't see any type of drop in the population i feel stock is great tons of 12"to 40"+ bass also have seen large schools of bass offshore as far as 70 miles if you asked me what can be done to help them I'd say do not allow trolling bunker spoons and logo rigs as well as any type of trolling is killing the breeders we also need a east coast law have different rules per state is not gonna fix anything

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:10:40 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jason Veres
Email
jasonveres01@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Status Quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:04:32 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Max Davidson
Email
maxiandavidson@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Please do not ban recreational catch and release fishing for striped bass. I'm in favor of more restrictive limitations on harvesting to preserve the stock (even a moratorium on harvesting) but the economic and cultural impact of prohibiting targeting of this species would profoundly impact coastal communities and beyond. The striped bass is the only large local game fish accessible to almost anyone, regardless of economic status. Taking away the opportunity to target this species will disproportionately impact angling participation among those who cannot afford to access other fisheries via private / for-hire boats. As a soon to be father it would be devastating lose the opportunity to take my son fishing for striped bass, it would also be devastating to see the stock collapse. Please consider harvest reductions but not taking away our fishery.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:58:07 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Matt Bruncati
Email
saltpursuit@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Let's address the issue of menhaden instead of looking at striped bass. Seems so obvious to me that because of the commercial pillage of bunker the bass numbers come back low. Why is nobody talking about this? A catch and release fishery would eliminate tons of boats as it is. If there was an issue before why is there such a large commercial fishery for striped bass. It's pretty disgusting that the focus is on the bass and not the bunker.

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] New public comment for DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:38:49 AM

DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
George Hamway
Email
geoh124717@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I'm getting tired of all the taxes I pay to have my hobbies and interests to be trampled on by corrupt government organizations. 85% of the fish caught here in the states is exported. You don't give a shit about the fish or the people who make a living fishing the NJ waters. All you people care about are the outside influences that line your pockets. You're a bunch of lowlife cunts and if you close the fishery I know plenty of people that will protest this by fishing for them. This country has fallen apart and the cost of everything is out of control because of corruption our government created. We can't keep this fish, only one of that fish, can't target this species but you can buy them all at a market that lines the pocket of corruption all while robbing Americans of the right to hunt and forage. Fuck you, you group of stupid pieces of shit and you don't own the fucking ocean, if anyone does, it's the taxpayers. Also, requiring my last name to comment on a public forum is unconstitutional and violates my right of privacy. I don't have to give the government a name to deliver a complaint about shitty I think they are at their jobs.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:30:17 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Eddie Brown
Email
captaineddiebrown01@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I've been fishing for striped bass my whole life. Been a full time charter captain for the last 5 years and was part time before that. I've never seen more striped bass in my life. The waters of NJ are literally infested with them. To put a no target measure in place is ridiculous. I love these fish as much as anyone and would absolutely agree with whatever it took if I truly felt they were in danger but they are not. Your data must be severely flawed. Come Fishing with me and u will see. You can't put people out of business because of flawed data. The economic ramifications are great for lots of other businesses as well. From tackle shops to bait shops to marinas and tackle manufacturers it will be a death blow for some. Please use some common sense here. The striped bass are thriving in NJ. Maybe focus on Omega coming through and taking all the bunker and surely killling striped bass while they net em all up. That's the real problem.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:30:06 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Tyler Fernandes
Email
tyler.fernandes29@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I would be fine with no harvest but can still target. I think that would be the best option. It would kill the industry and people can have a positive view of the fishery.

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:	Paddy Sciortino
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:21:48 AM

Hello

I'd like to start by saying your data is wrong. Wildly flawed and the methods of collecting your data ignorant and pretty much the most absurd thing I've ever heard. None of you are on the water everyday or even at all so you truly have no clue as to the number of striped bass.

I am a 4th generation bait and tackle shop owner here in New Jersey and my livelihood is extremely threatened by the proposed closures. Recent regulation changes across the board have put us in hard times. It's not easy operating a small family business, especially one that relies heavily on the traffic headed towards the beach and the party boat fleet. My grandfather founded this store in 1975 and it's been handed down through the generations to me. I would like to keep it open for another 50 years and provide the locals with a place for fishing gear and knowledge. Not a god damn Walmart or bass pro shop. We need to keep REAL stores REAL businesses alive.

You're also going to put countless charter boats and party boats out of business. Quite literally these closures will put people out business. A lot of people. Hard working good people who are keep this industry alive while you all attempt to take our right to fish away.

I fished almost daily from Black Friday through Christmas Eve last year off Sandy Hook/Sea Bright/Long Branch. The amount of striped bass (slot size and smaller) that I witnessed is beyond human comprehension. Millions. You could have walked on them. All the way up to Christmas week.

You people are clearly either getting paid to ignore the obvious or are just simply that ignorant but I don't believe that is the case. My family has been helping people catch fish and have fun since 1941(!!!!!) please do not destroy our business and my life. This is history real Jersey shore history and you people are going to murder it all along with the entire fleet of recreational party boats.

I urge you all to maintain the STATUS QUO!!!!!!!

Thanks

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:14:40 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

LAWRENCE HERRIGHTY

Email

LHERRIGHTYSR@HOTMAIL.COM

State

New Jersey

Comment

At the request of Jack Ciattarelli, and on his behalf I submit the following:

September 16, 2025
Statement on Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Hearing
New Jersey's identity, culture, and economy are built on our natural resources, and nowhere is that clearer than along our coast. When I travel the state, I hear frustration about many things, but one issue that comes up again and again from anglers is fisheries management.
This is not just about whether someone can catch a few fish on the weekend. This is about jobs. It's about protecting a way of life that defines who we are as New Jerseyans.
I know striped bass are a big concern for anglers right now, but I've also heard about the struggles with fluke, sea bass, bluefin tuna, and more. These challenges matter—not just to anglers, but to small businesses, restaurants, tourism, and the culture of our shore communities.
As Governor, I will make sure New Jersey finally has a strong voice in fisheries management. We will fill the Marine Fisheries Council, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Mid-Atlantic Council, and every vacant advisory seat with people who truly represent our sectors—as the law intended. We will give the DEP the resources it needs to produce the science and data for smart, fair decisions. And we will open up a transparent process where every stakeholder has a seat at the table and a voice in the outcome.
And let me be very clear: when New Jersey's interests are on the line, I will provide the political will and leadership to stand up for our state and deliver results.
Because this isn't just about fish. It's about fairness. It's about jobs. It's about protecting the culture and economy of New Jersey for generations to come.
Jack Ciattarelli

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:	Fred Nirschl
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:12:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Unless the harvest of menhaden (Bunker) in the Chesapeake Bay is discontinued, the water quality in the bay and the environment necessary for the reproduction and rearing of juvenile striped bass (and other species) in the bay will not return to previous measured levels. There is an alarming lack of adult menhaden between Sandy Hook New Jersey all the way down to the Chesapeake estuary.
It is time to address the impact that the Reduction fleet is doing to a public natural resource and that time is now.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Fred Nirschl

900 Brookside Ave

Ocean, NJ 07712

Capt.fluoride@yahoo.com

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:	Jay Matgolias
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:30:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please have the findings reviewed by an independent body to determine their accuracy.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jay Matgolias

7 Sherwood Rd

Manalapan, NJ 07726

zoobadog62@yahoo.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 4:09:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Sean Carkeek
Email
wardensportfishing@yahoo.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Status quo anything else will effectively result in the destruction jobs for thousands of people.

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:	Bryan Knittle
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:30:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a tackle builder and a deck hand. This reduction would harm my livelihood and businesses.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Bryan Knittle

326 21st Ave

Brick, NJ 08724

saltywifejigs@gmail.com

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:	Kathrine Sciortino
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 1:50:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

My family owns a tackle shop …already hurting from current economic conditions and big box stores and Amazon …please don't do this

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kathrine Sciortino

3 Anderson St

Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750

pksciortinofam@verizon.net

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:	Patrick McGovern
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 1:40:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am all for ensuring the population of striped bass is maintained for the long term. At the same time, fishing restrictions need to avoid restrictive overreach when not tied to the long term needs of a fish stock.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Patrick McGovern

142 Colonial Rd

Summit, NJ 07901

142pdm@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 9:06:34 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Phil Sciortino
Email
tackleboxfishingco@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
A letter to ASMFC in regards to Striped Bass. My name is Capt. Phil Sciortino, Jr. of the TACKLE BOX in Hazlet, NJ and my family has been in the fishing business since the late 1940s. My grandfather Johnny started the Striped Bass charter industry in Highlands, NJ and now our fourth generation bait & tackle shop relies on the Striped Bass for over 75% of our business. Any change in the regulations would hurt our livelihood significantly and drastically reduce the millions of dollars anglers spend in NJ in pursuit of Striped Bass every year. We are the professionals here and in our expert opinion there is no need for additional limits right now! Keep it the way it is! STATUS QUO. Thank you, Capt. Phil Sciortino, Jr. TACKLE BOX, INC.

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:	Robert Muller
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 8:30:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The impact of continuous reductions in striped bass quotas, WITHOUT SCIENTFIC PROOF, is extremely detrimental to local economies as well as to the fishing industry in general. Last fall season we could easily catch as many large fish as possible, only to release them with known high mortality rates. None of this makes sense !!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Muller

169 Marina Blvd

Long Beach Township, NJ 08008

rcmuller@optonline.net

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:	Robert Panza
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:30:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Your numbers are flawed! Anyone who fishes for striped bass knows the bio mass is huge out there. If you target other species past the demarc line sonar picks up huge bio mass schools.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Panza

12 Point Rd

Waretown, NJ 08758

robertpanza@comcast.net

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 6:56:05 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Harvey Yenkinson
Email
vetcraft@aol.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
With the upwards trending of the striped bass stock and a new stock assessment to be done next year, I feel it is premature to warrant a change in striped bass regulations. Further I think inaccuracies in MRIP data particularly as it relates to overestimates of catch by as much as 40% due to faults in the FES survey, as shown in the follow up pilot study changing the order of the questions. I think the wisest course of action is to maintain status quo until the new stock status is completed and necessary modifications are made to FES sampling

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:39:03 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Nick LaTour

Email

ngl10020@yahoo.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

To whom it may concern,

I am a recreational fisherman who enjoys getting outside in pursuit of a striped bass. When looking at the future of this fishery I understand the importance of it but if there is a complete shut down this will not only be detrimental to small local tackle shops but also charter business. When looking at the other options, shutting down the season for a certain amount of time or even catch and release will not work. As everyone know true fisherman care about all fisheries and we would follow the rules put in place, however, people will still be fishing for them and killing them no matter what the rules are and it will be impossible to police these new rules. Please when looking at the outcome for this decision please think of the real fisherman and the local businesses that rely on this fishery especially during the fall run and the spring season.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you use this for consideration.

-Nick

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:	Robert Davis
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 15, 2025 10:40:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I fish the spring and fall season and spend a lot of money on fishing tackle, fuel, hotels and other local establishments. Currently the regulations are extremely restrictive to recreational anglers and any further reduction would cause me to rethink my fishing expenditures. My reductions along with many others would definitely adversely affect NJ's economy.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Davis

34 Gravel Hill Rd

Kinnelon, NJ 07405

rwdavis9293@gmail.com

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:	Clinton Androus
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 14, 2025 9:50:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

stripped bass run the raritan river. i pike fish, and simetimes stripped bass bite my lure. also, even if i wanted to, id like to be able to cast for stripped bass in the raritan river.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Clinton Androus

280 River Rd Apt 5A

Piscataway, NJ 08854

candrous207@optonline.net

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:	Andrea Kopon
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 14, 2025 9:40:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The restrictions imposed the past few years have made it nearly impossible to go out on a family day trip for strippers.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kopon

54 Pulaski Rd

Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

Andrea.kopon@gmail.com

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:	tom borkowski
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 14, 2025 6:50:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I support status quo. However, I suspect the catch (at least in Raritan Bay) will be reduced from prior spring and fall runs because of the bunker reduction boats that have been operating in the area. Bunker schools in the bay have been a small % of prior seasons. I hope you can factor that in with your calculations and troubleshooting of a poor harvest.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

tom borkowski

69 Skylark Ct

Matawan, NJ 07747

borkowskit@yahoo.com

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:	Peter Kearns
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 14, 2025 4:40:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

There are loads of people who release all of the stripers they catch regardless of length. Also, improved release tactics which are being used helps to reduce mortality. I ask that regulations be kept as they are currently constituted. Thank you.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Peter Kearns

305 Curtis Ave Bldg

Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

pdkearns@hotmail.com

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:	William Hoblitzell
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 14, 2025 3:50:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I see no benefit to NJ coastal anglers the sport fishing community and local shore economy by having a 12 reduction Let's reduce beach replacement here and reduce the out of state bunker Omega boats than you will notice a real increase in local coastwise striped bass populations
I've been a recreational angler and charter boat captain and have enjoyed coastal striped bass fishing for the past 60 years

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

William Hoblitzell

15 Seaside Ln

Belmar, NJ 07719

bill.hoblitzell@yahoo.com

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:	Timothy Anfuso
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Sunday, September 14, 2025 7:20:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please stop punishing the recreational sector for mistakes made to the commercial sector. The problem stems from Omega Protein and Virginia. Has a commercial fishery with a large presence ever been closed?

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Timothy Anfuso

50 Society Hill Way

Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

cnplanners@optonline.net

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:	William Hicks
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 13, 2025 7:50:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The absolute destruction of both sport fish and baitfish populations by the commercial fishing industry that is being allowed by the governments of states like Virginia is appalling. It always seems to be the recreational sector that suffers from the actions of the commercial sector. Baitfish populations are decimated and then the low young counts are blamed on the recreational sector. If the food is gone, the fish are gone. It's that simple.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

William Hicks

1140 Hessian Ave

West Deptford, NJ 08093

fastharley77@gmail.com

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:	Vincent Trasky
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 13, 2025 4:20:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a first mate and that would be money I will be losing… trying to make a living

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Vincent Trasky

13 Hanson Ave

Fords, NJ 08863

Hotelwhiskey77@yahoo.com

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:	Dale Donnell
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 13, 2025 4:20:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a recreational angler for over 50 years, I have seen tremendous regulation changes that have changed the fisheries for the worse. Please don't regulate us anymore. I want to be able to take my grandson fishing. Teaching a kid to fish, keeps them off the streets.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Dale Donnell

22 Stone Hill Rd

Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

daledonnell1968@gmail.com

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:	Allan Sherman
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 13, 2025 1:00:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Preventing generations to share a tie to nature distroys family bonding All because of decsions made by people who work in offices not on the watwer

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Allan Sherman

104 Arborridge Dr

Forked River, NJ 08731

allansherman302@gmail.com

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:	William Bolton, E
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 13, 2025 11:40:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have fished out of Manasquan and Barnegat inlets for 45+ years. I have never encountered more striped bass over the last few years than years prior. Last year drastic size limits have made it difficult to catch legal fish to harvest. Many fishermen dont participate in the Spring fishery as a result of so many larger, currently not legal fish present. It doesn't make sense to implement more strict regulations on such a robust and plentiful striped bass stock.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

William Bolton

4 Yarmouth Rd

Chatham, NJ 07928

billengb@gmail.com

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:	Joseph Deantonio
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Saturday, September 13, 2025 11:00:18 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

There are plenty of striped bass for private, charter and party boat fishermen!!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Joseph Deantonio

307 Baltimore Blvd

Sea Girt, NJ 08750

nibillfish@yahoo.com

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 10:56:54 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
George Zaf
Email
george.zaf110@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
The problem isn't the recreational fisherman or the guys on the little 6 pack boats the problem is the commercial fishing boats and the net boats that thanks everything and anything with not a care. You guys are going off of bullshit and are ruining fishing for everyone. Go after the big boats go after the boats that come from china and other areas and net everything in site. How is it fare the you close it for everyone but the commercial fisherman same as for bluefin tuna you let them keep fishing cuz they are commercial. But fuck the little guy that takes 1 fish. You guys are a scam and go off of fake numbers to fuck everyone

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 1:04:03 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Chuck Umba
Email
Ceumba57@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
I have a question. Why are we still targeting stripers 28-31 inches. I thought this size was put in because of the 2015 hatch that was said to be a good hatch. Those fish have now grown to be in the 32-35 inch range. Can someone explain this to me.

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 12:56:20 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Chick Umba

Email

Ceumba57@gmail.com

State

New Jersey

Comment

I started fishing for stripers back in 2001. Back then I would chunk for stripers in the Delaware bay. My season would start in mid October and last until the mid December. I did this until 2012 when Hurricane Sandy hit. Fishing for stripers started slowing up in the bay after that. I switched over to trolling for stripers in the ocean off of Sea Isle/Avalon. I did very well trolling for them. But every year the migration would get later every year. Current day stripers don't get to South Jersey until at least Thanksgiving' weekend and most of the fish are beyond the three line where you can't fish for them. I am currently a Charter boat Captain running a business full time since I retired. So what am I supposed to do, shut my business down and not fish for stripers or what. Stripers used to migrate to south jersey years ago and we would have at least a chance to target them but now it isn't even worth going for them. I would like the so called experts tell what happened from years ago when they would migrate to south jersey close to the shore and now they don't. My theory is that they have changed their migration pattern due to lack of bunker close to shore because the bunker are overfished so the stripers are looking for a different food source like sand eels which hang on lumps beyond the 3 mile line. If someone could explain this to me it would greatly be appreciated. I still like putting my customers on stripers even if it is just catch and release but that is not even allowed beyond the 3 mile line. Do like I said you tell me what am supposed to do.

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 BOGAN
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 12, 2025 10:50:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a career fisherman I can personally attest to the fact that I've never seen so many striped bass in my life. I understand that would be considered anecdotal but it's absolutely true. No need to impose a reduction in this region.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mike BOGAN

6 Hayes Ave

Brick, NJ 08724

mpbogan@msn.com

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:	Yvonne Li
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 12, 2025 6:20:21 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am writing to oppose the proposed 12% reduction for the recreational striped bass sector. My reasons are:

Unfair Burden: This places a disproportionate burden on recreational anglers who already comply with complex regulations.

Lack of Focus: It fails to adequately address the critical challenges of poor annual spawning success and ecosystem changes affecting baitfish.

Economic Impact: Recreational fishing supports countless coastal businesses. Further restrictions will unnecessarily harm these communities.

Better Solutions: effort should be focused on protecting the Chesapeake Bay spawning grounds and implementing more effective commercial bycatch mitigation.

Please reconsider this proposal and pursue more balanced and effective management measures.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release

mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Li

20 Half Moon Isle

Jersey City, NJ 07305

yli_yli@yahoo.com

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 1:08:35 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Joseph Ignas
Email
striperjoe@verizon.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
Don’t penalize the state of New Jersey The bass follow bunker during the migration the bunker don’t reach some states. Thus the bass don’t get there. I’ve been bass fishing for 45 years and I’ve never seen a better population of healthy bass release everything we use circle hooks. How about no harvest do not close the season one you’ll never enforce it and into you will close businesses I urge you please do not close the season in November You will cause chaos

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:	Dennis OKeefe
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 12, 2025 11:10:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This proposal will destroy the charter boat and party boat business which depend on the striped bass fishery in New Jersey. Please, for the sake of all those concerned, reconsider the proposal

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Dennis OKeefe

5 Hampton Rd

Mendham, NJ 07945

okeefed@msn.com

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: Hart_Smart Hart
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 10:00:16 AM

I am a 69 year old NJ recreational Fisherman in NJ. My retirement allows me the opportunity to finally fish regularly. The Striper population in NJ is robust. Please consider allowing seniors the ability to keep one fish daily... Thank you.

Get Outlook for Android

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:	Michael A Moriarty
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 12, 2025 10:00:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I'm a seasonal recreational fisherman and boat owner that rarely even gets a chance to go fishing. I register my boat and trailer with the State of New Jersey, I pay for an annual ramp fee at a recreational park, when I do get a chance to go fishing down, I pay for fuel and ask a few friends and my family to come with me for a relaxing day fishing at no costs to them. With the tight fishing regulations with striper fishing, my favorite, and fluke fishing, it will not be cost effective to go out on my boat for the little relaxation we all deserve once in a while. I know for a fact there is NO shortage of striper blues through my own experience over the years in the Raritan Bay or Sandy Hook area. I finally retired from heavy construction looking forward to finally using my boat for what it was intended for and feel a bunch of non- fact information can ruin it all. I'm giving this matter a piece of my mind for the sake of all of us recreational and party boat fishing captains that give our best shot to make life all the more worth while.
Michael A Moriarty

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-

based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Michael A Moriarty

69 Michael Rd

Spotswood, NJ 08884

mam19582@gmail.com

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 9:07:32 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Edward McGuinnes
Email
Eddiemcg@verizon.net
State
New Jersey
Comment
The regulations in place now should be left alone for the recreational fishermen! They put a lot of money into the economy during the spring and fall in search of taking home a striped bass for the dinner table. Not to mention the amount of money they spend to local businesses up and down the state! If any changes need to be made they should be quantity amounts be the same for each state. Also restrict the sale of stripe bass commercially for several years to help build the bass population!!!

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:	Jeff Weigle
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 12, 2025 8:00:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I work at Greenhorn outdoors in SouthJersey.Striper season is our and many other taclke shops busiest seasonany reduction or closure would be detrimental to shops, charter companies, marinas ,resturants and hotels up and down our coast please keepmour regs where there at thanknyou

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jeff Weigle

245 E St

Penns Grove, NJ 08069

wrecker68@hotmail.com

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:	Don Imbriaco
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 12, 2025 1:00:17 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I've been fishing for striped bass for over 60 years and can honestly say that the fishery is far from being in trouble. What we are currently allowed to keep is not representative of the size and quantity of fish we should be allowed to possess.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Don Imbriaco

102 Sheldon Ave

Neptune, NJ 07753

fishfly102@aol.com

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:	michael skiff
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 7:40:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I've been fishing stiped bass for 40 years from Cape Cod to NJ. I've seen more stripers in long island sound and NJ in single days of fishing than I saw in a decade of fishing in the 90's. My on the water observations conflict with the admittedly flawed survery results.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

michael skiff

104 Trego Ln

Downingtown, PA 19335

mskiff1@gmail.com

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:	John Azzinaro
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 4:20:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a former NJ resident and Hi Mar Striped Bass Club president who has moved south but still visits NJ to fish for Stripers in the Raritan Bay area during the Spring and Fall I urge the ASMFC to reconsider closures. Since the implementation of circle hook requirements and the increased awareness on fish handling prior to return for larger fish I don't believe the current mortality figures to be accurate. Until there is a more accurate way to determine mortality or for that matter actual bio mass since there is no current study done in the Raritan Bay and Hudson Estuary no closures should be employed. A simple phone app would help make MRIP figures more accurate and meaningful.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Azzinaro

3010 Donaldson St

Fort Mill, SC 29715

Johnazzinaro962@gmail.com

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 3:55:52 PM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Nick Bizzarro
Email
smartimus25@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
As a young angler infatuated with striped bass fishing, I would like to suggest the wave 2 no target closure because In April and March. These fish are in spawning mode, last April I caught one within the slot(30.5) and it was a male, as soon as I got it out of the water, it started spewing seed. If I Haven't have caught this fish, it may have been able to fertilize eggs and create more stripers. I would also like to propose a no target closure for wave 6, starting December 7th. The month of November is huge for striped bass on the Jersey shore and I want to experience the November fishery in its full force for the next years.

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:	John Kuhles
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 3:10:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please do not make striped bass regulations more restrictive. Me and my buddies have been responsibly targeting SB since the 80's and have always limited our harvest. Additionally, I do a lot of surf fishing which is far less productive than boat fishing.

SUGGESTION: Please consider making SB restrictions far more lenient for surf fishing and allow us to take a one small fish home for supper once in a while.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Kuhles

118 Sunset Dr

Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

jkuhles@comcast.net

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:	Keith Wakefield
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 2:40:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Wow...another species of fish we can't fish for. Stripers are one of my favorite fall fishes. Bad enough we had to deal with slots. Why don't you guys figure out root causes. rather than just proposing these draconian measures on the recreational community.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Keith Wakefield

1311 BRIAN CIR

STEWARTSVILLE, NJ 08886

keithfishman321@outlook.com

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:	Jim Freda
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 1:50:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I only support status quo for the 2026 season. Anything else will be an economic hardship and will put me out of the chartering business.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jim Freda

290 22nd Ave

Brick, NJ 08724

jfreda42156@gmail.com

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:	William Pike
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 9:10:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

It is already extremely difficult for recreational anglers to target and harvest stripped bass with the current regulations of a slot fish.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

William Pike

76 Mandon Dr

Wayne, NJ 07470

willp0712@gmail.com

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:	Leo Marino
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 8:00:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Its already regulated to the point I don't even want to fish for striped bass

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Leo Marino

36 Clinton St

Belleville, NJ 07109

lm3641@aol.com

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:	Roxy Spatola
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 5:50:14 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Making almost inpossabke for people to enjoy fishing. And owners to survive

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Roxy Spatola

90 Center Ln

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Foxyroxy7508@hotmail.com

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:	Shawn Rehman
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 5:40:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

New Striped Bass Closures would be ineffective for recreational anglers when the cause of the issues is commercial fishing.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Shawn Rehman

2118 Chew Ave

Franklinville, NJ 08322

sarhawk12345@gmail.com

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:	Daniel Clark
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 5:10:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

You are taking the fishing sport away from the people that need and have fun doing the fishing. When I go for stripers I don't even keep any. Some anglers just go for the sport !!!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Daniel Clark

61 Victory Pl

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

dansgonefishing@verizon.net

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:	tom hastings
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 1:50:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please consider the Rod & Reel Fishermen and reject the proposed 12% reduction for Striped Bass. I don't believe the studies conducted were fair or honest.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

tom hastings

696 Avenue E # 07002

Bayonne, NJ 07002

tomghastings106@aol.com

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:	Paul Thomson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 9:40:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

After being raised in Atlantic highlands and being a part of this fishery for 50 years it is so disheartening to see such a thriving fish population be constantly attacked with closures and limit changes. In the past several years the amounts of fish we have seen in both spring and fall and even being able to catch during the summer months are incredible. Please don't allow these proposed changes as it continues to cripple our fishing community and business members that are constantly trying to survive with never ending restrictions.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.
Five Lines Charters

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Paul Thomson

81 Bay Ave

Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

fivelinescc@yahoo.com

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:	Mark Thomas
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 8:40:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I fish for striped bass in the Fall and the Spring in NJ. I almost always fish with my family- my wife, sons, grandkids, brother and nephews The fishing has never been better and there are fish everywhere. We always practice catch and release because we enjoy the sport of fishing. We do keep fish when we are on party or charter boats. We always are sure to keep only our 1 fish even though we catch many more. Please don't take a fantastic fishery away from the recreational fishermen or the few boats that can still make a living from this fishery and bring many families together for a fanastic day on the water.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mark Thomas

30 Post Rd

Clark, NJ 07066

markmapes0131@gmail.com

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:	John Paul
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 8:30:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Striped bass are the most important species to the recreational fishing sector. Any closure would decimate the recreational fishing economy.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Paul

12 John St

Kenvil, NJ 07847

johnjpaul76@gmail.com

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:	John Quartararo
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 7:50:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This closure would devastate many if not all charter businesses that fish fall and early winter. Would also make me pull my boat probably two months earlier. Maybe this is what everyone wants to have happen!! But this is not what is fisherman want!!!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Quartararo

1017 Maple Ave

Point Pleasant Boro, NJ 08742

qman@comcast.net

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:	michael manley
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 7:30:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Northern statestes from NJ up to maine should get increases in keepers both in size and creel limit. States below Nj have commercial fishing for stripers. Maryland regs are atrocious letting small fish to be caught in the summer at places like conowingo dam in the summer with hifg water temps. Fish down stream when this happening and se many striper floaters due to stress from hidg water temps and mishandling. NEW jERSEY HAS MUCH BETTER REGS FOR STRIPERS BUT NEED TP BE MORE LENIENT FOR SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS. wHY SHOULD EVERYBODY SUFFER FROM OTHER STATES SINS. sTOP THE BUNKER KILLING A MAIN FOOD SOURCE FOR STRIPERS AND OTHER FISH.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

michael manley

927 Alpha Rd

Wilmington, DE 19810

michaelman340@gmail.com

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:	Kaitlin Julian
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 7:11:32 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a business owner with a family dependent on the sport fishing industry, I strongly urge you to reject the 12% reduction in striped bass fishing removals. The problem does not lie with Striped bass population numbers. I strongly suggest instead of taking unnecessary action further limiting American recreational anglers you look to the root cause- Omega Corporation's Canadian demand, leading to overfishing of menhaden. This is affecting multiple species, including Osprey, eagles, bluefish, striped bass, tuna, fluke, seals, dolphin, and others that rely on this feeder fish in all areas where this mega corporation operates.
We have firsthand experience witnessing how Omega's menhaden fishing off of the Jersey shore has harmed our fishing here in New Jersey.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Julian

129 Mohawk Ave

Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

kait.a.mckiernan@gmail.com

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:	Brett Young
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 7:00:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This is rediculous more fish than ever . Let us fish and feed our families.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Brett Young

916 5th Ave

Belmar, NJ 07719

byoungohsix@gmail.com

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:	Tom Kowalak
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 7:00:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a 76 year-old conservationist and have have been a law-abiding striper fisherman for 60 years. Have seen the good and the bad years. We have all made sacrifices to the effect that NJ recreational fishing for striped bass these last few years has been better than it's ever been.
A proposed reduction, and or a rumored moratorium on striper fishing is unconscionable. The 3 inch window regulating the size of "keeper" striped bass is bad enough. Most of us recreational guys practice catch and release anyway.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Tom Kowalak

10 Susan Ln

Byram Township, NJ 07821

Tomkaye@verizon.net

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:	Albert Franchetta
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 6:10:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

There is an abundance of Striped bass here in New Jersey. It is unfair to post more retrictions on a fishery that is not overfished!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Albert Franchetta

24 Mendes Ave

Elmer, NJ 08318

al5641@aol.com

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:	Thomas Hennessy
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 6:00:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am against any further restriction on recreational striped bass angling. I have been a striped bass fisherman for 60 years. I have obeyed all of the angling restrictions even though I disagree with most of them. I have not been able to catch one to take home and eat due to regulations, (too big, too small). We have no commercial harvest in NJ and we were promised a bonus allocation for anglers that never materialized in a useful way.(meaningless size restrictions). I am a graduate of Rutgers University with a biology degree. I was a NMFS interceptor many years ago. The extrapolated manner of harvest interpretation is not valid scientifically in any manner. The samples are not random and are not of adequate size to be valid by any scientific standard. Please refrain from penalizing anglers by further restricting our harvest.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hennessy

20 Santa Cruz Rd

Tuckerton, NJ 08087

thennessy30@gmail.com

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:	Robert Maryott
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 3:20:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please maintain the current striped bass regulations for 2026. We have been seeing tremendous numbers of fish and all boats are very vigilant with the slot rule.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Maryott

20 Pine Hill Rd

Old Tappan, NJ 07675

bobmiss2@gmail.com

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:	Joseph Baumle
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 3:10:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Striped bass cannot sustain the food sources available to them as the larger fish are going to create problems for other species. You need to create a model that works on the ecosystem and not species based. I do not agree with status quo as I believe a portion of the larger sized fish needs to be culled to help sustain the species.

As a recreational angler, I do not urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals. I want this fishery opened up to larger sizes.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Joseph Baumle

1163 Millstone River Rd

Hillsborough, NJ 08844

captjoebaumle@comcast.net

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:	Eric Smith
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 2:50:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been a life long NJ fisherman. Now I am sharing that enjoyment and responsibility to my son and daughter. We own a landscaping company and work very hard all summer long. We all love looking forward to the fall striper run. We talk about prior years and tell fish stories. We laugh while enjoying time on the water with family and friends. We are very respectful to the size and quantity limit. If you cut the season, that cuts our fish able days down dramatically. You are assuming the fall and winter weather will be perfect everyday and we can just go out whenever we want. Well, we can't. We need good weather to be safe and those days do not come around often in those months. Not to mention, we have seen more stripers over the past 10 years than we have ever seen. You can damn near walk across them they are so thick. Everywhere I look I see boats throwing back monster stripers so people are conscious of the regulations. Why make it harder for everyone??? You will encourage illegal harvesting in both size and quantities.PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS. Many families including mine look forward to this and will probably sell their boats and gear if this happens. You could severally hurt multiple industries... boats, fishing gear distributors, restaurants, coffee shops, cold weather gear stores, ect. With all due respect, you people can not see your nose at the end of your face. Then you complain about jobs.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Eric Smith

105 Kathy Ln

Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

eric@a-elandscaping.com

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:	Thomas Smith
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 2:50:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

When's the last time there was a closure to a fishery with a significant commercial presence? Addressing the blue cat fish population in the Chesapeake and driving Cooke Inc. out of the Bay to give bunker a chance to clean up the cesspool needs to be done but Virginia lobbies not to because of the money they receive in kick backs from Cooke Inc and Omega Protein. Don't punish the recreational industry for the mistakes of Virginia. Increase enforcement with the hundreds of millions of dollars generated by recreational fishing to enforce the laws on the books and stop unabated poaching of stripers and give the fishery time to rebuild the biomass. Don't drive another nail into the coffin of this fishery which will have permanent and irreversible impacts on the stock and small businesses up and down the coast. You have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the resource without destroying the economy, there's ways of doing that without the need for a closure. Don't destroy legacy fisheries and businesses dependent on them because it's the easy thing to do and don't make decisions under a different set of standards for the commercial sector versus the recreational sector which contributes as much if not more to the economies of the Mid-Atlantic States.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Thomas Smith

2 George St

Mine Hill, NJ 07803

smith.tom560@gmail.com

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:	Anthony Spatola
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 2:40:13 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The new restrictions are not only bad for business, but bad for the sport. Nobody wants to pay to go on a charter to not take any fish home to eat. This will take money out of our pockets and food off of our tables.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Anthony Spatola

90 Center Ave

Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

arspatola86@msn.com

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 Danko
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 2:10:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The striped bass biomass has grown significantly since the 1980's and along with that so has the fishery. It is time to stop restricting harvest based on arbitrary goals that are unachievable. The fishery is management success from both and environmental and fisheries management perspective. Time to take a step back and look at where we were and where we are now and not impose any further restrictions.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mike Danko

2305 Pineneedle Rd

Point Pleasant Boro, NJ 08742

mdanko2392000@yahoo.com

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:	Larry Hart
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 1:50:18 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am a rec Fisherman for 50+ years. .NJ Stripers are more prolific than ever!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Larry Hart

76 Diamond Ln

Old Bridge, NJ 08857

hart_smart@msn.com

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:	Harry Browne
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 1:40:32 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Leave the status quo until more updated and geographic data is available including a study to the economic impact of closures or reclassification to sport fish only status

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Harry Browne

150 Cherry Tree Farm Rd

Middletown, NJ 07748

heypalfishing@gmail.com

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:	Jeremy Johnson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 12:50:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a worker in the recreational angling industry, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals and SAVE MY JOB.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Johnson

3 Viola Ave

Leonardo, NJ 07737

jbird71@gmail.com

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:	Cole Riback
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 12:40:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As owner/operator of multiple charter/head fishing boats we have seen more striped bass with every passing year. October-December striped bass makes up nearly 50% of our business, a closure would crush the profession fishing fleet. We have already been cut down, time after time and cannot afford to lose anymore

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Cole Riback

1216 Remsen Mill Rd

Wall Township, NJ 07753

coleriback@gmail.com

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:	Gabriel Garcia
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 12:30:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

12% reduction is atrocious. Why aren't you targeting commercial guys that take by the tons, regardless of size

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Garcia

16 Baldwin Rd

Edison, NJ 08817

kicksfish@gmail.com

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:	George Lees
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 12:10:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The data do not support these kinds of arbitrary closures . No more harm to the recreational industry please.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

George Lees

380 Pines Lake Dr E

Wayne, NJ 07470

gfl3nj@yahoo.com

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:	Kevin Henshaw
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 12:00:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Should be focused on commercial fisherman than recreational. Seems fishy.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kevin Henshaw

3 Susqueanna

Haskell, NJ 07420

kevhen225@gmail.com

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:	Christopher Wilson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:40:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please do not take away a great fishery and creat grave economic harm!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Christopher Wilson

2164 Milford Warren Glen Rd

Bloomsbury, NJ 08804

christopherwilson099@gmail.com

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:	Fred Verdi
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:20:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

More reductions, how about 1fish between 28 1/2” and 28 5/8”. Just kidding. I’ve been fishing for 60 years and have yet to see any positive outcome from restrictions on recreational anglers. Yes today’s technology can decimate a fishery with commercial methods. Hook and line fishing never has or will affect the biomass of a species. I’m all for realistic regulations on recreational fishing, but current regs are way too restrictive. To restrict even more just reveals the true motive behind these agencies and encourage people to not abide by the laws.
Fishing saved my life from going astray in my younger days. It could have been very easy to take another path. But I used an earlier love of fishing as my escape from the wrong crowd of friends. Please don’t take this opportunity away from future generations.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Fred Verdi

118 Gary Dr

Trenton, NJ 08690

rockhopperv@yahoo.com

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:	Harvey Yenkinson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:50:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

It seems reasonable to keep status quo another year to see if this proposed reduction is really necessary

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Harvey Yenkinson

300 E Raleigh Ave Apt 306

Wildwood, NJ 08260

vetcraft@aol.com

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:	Ron Santee
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:30:22 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

My father started this Party boat business in 1960. Over the years we have been through countless changes in the fishing industry, none of which I can say have done any good for the fishery!
Size, bag limits, have had their place but are now to the point where we have lost so many customers because of them, while the fish have flourished.
After paying our dues all those years now you want to take away the one thing that truly pays the bills!!

Striped bass fishing accounts for 55% of my business. The fall run between mid-October through mid-December (after the spring bass have spawned) has been incredible for several years now. To limit us access to that would be devastating, especially with the arcane rules, 1 fish between 28-31 inches is a joke. We basically have a catch & release fishery, fortunately we have the Bonus tag program which does help, but I'm sure that will be cut next.

The amount of Striped bass I have seen the past several years has been unreal, not only in our area but out East, to the South and not counting the fish out beyond three miles.
Any type of closure would severely impact the business, and anyone associated with it. Please re-think and reconsider what you are looking to do. This could be the final straw for many hard working people who have dedicated their lives to the fishing industry!! Capt. Ron Santee/Fishermen

As the son of a third generation party boat captain, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ron Santee

1200 S Lakeshore Dr

Browns Mills, NJ 08015

ronnierude@gmail.com

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:	Patrick Sciortino
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:30:21 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Your data is flawed and WRONG. Proposed closures threaten my families small fishing business that's been operating since 1975. You will destroy many peoples way of life. There are so many Striped Bass in the water your brain can't even comprehend it. You people have no grasp on spawning numbers, rates, any of it. Unless you're a striped bass. So just know how foolish, dumb, ignorant, and uneducated all of you people look to the general public. Make the right choice! Thanks!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Patrick Sciortino

1134 State Route 36

Hazlet, NJ 07730

paddysciortino@yahoo.com

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:	Alex Cohen
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:30:20 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Close off commercial striped bass fishing and bunker harvesting. I hear theres canadians harvesting bunker in masses. Tell them to eat rocks. Its these boats that keep killing off bass by taking all there food. Also commercial bass fisherman need to go too. Boat fish dont count anyway. Surf anglers actually work hard for there fish.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Alex Cohen

18 Madison Dr

Helmetta, NJ 08828

alex.cohen52300@gmail.com

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:	Cyndi Johnston
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:30:16 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been fishing this area all my life & I have never seen the striped bass fishery thrive & be better year after year than I have these last 10 years. Shutting down this fishery would not only be terrible for the commercial fishery of charter boats that use this fishery to make a living you will also ruin it for us recreational fisherman as well. Basing your logic on scienc3 & not reality is poor judgement. Your not out seeing this fishery thrive & how successful it is. Are you out there asking the fish about their spawning habits & to see how they live or die? Start with all the boats that come into the north east especially New Jersey & net all the bunker which is their number one food source. You are the ones killing this fishery not the fisherman that actually go out all the time to spend their own money on fuel & tackle to catch these fish legally. You will ruin so much for many people if you shut this down

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Johnston

26 Victoria Dr

Eatontown, NJ 07724

osquirt11@aol.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:01:03 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Tom Tremer
Email
remer.1@hotmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Why make the recreational angler who mostly fish 1-2 times per week suffer. We also boost local economies near marinas or charter boat areas. Limiting the commercial or closing commercial striped bass fishing would be more beneficial to the species as a whole and the local economies. Also could the omega bunker boats be part of the reason for the struggling striped bass. When you eliminate a main food source from a specific area it hurts the spawning class.

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From:	Charles Temple, III
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 9:30:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have fished for striped bass for over 50 years. I believe the rules you have in place are enough to sustain the bass population.Maybe more enforcement of the existing laws will help keep honest people honest.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Charles Temple

48 Eaton Rd

Bordentown, NJ 08505

mctemple@msn.com

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:	Peter Kellison
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 9:00:21 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Having seen the Striper population off New Jersey go from marginal to abundant in the last few years I feel that there are more fish in the biomass than reported. Also the mortality rate is lower than reported.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Peter Kellison

140 Douglas Dr

Jackson, NJ 08527

pjkellison@yahoo.com

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:	Gerard Zagorski
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 8:40:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Stripers are a public resource and we can't let flawed science and assumption based data further restrict public access to this important resource.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Gerard Zagorski

17 Montview Rd

Edison, NJ 08837

njfishing@aol.com

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] New public comment for NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 6:33:05 AM

NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
NJ Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nj-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Brian Walters
Email
wally891@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
Non target closers are impossible to enforce. If non target closers are enforced it will be detrimental to many mom and pop tackle shops that rely on either a spring run or fall run. I know striped bass needs some help to rebuild the stock but non target closers are impossible to enforce.

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:	Parker Vito
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 6:20:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I Parker Vito, stand with all recreational anglers. To maintain status for our striped bass fishery. Taking away seasons to better fishery is only going to devastate economy up and down the Atlantic in fishing aspect.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Parker Vito

76 South Rd

Chester, NJ 07930

parkvito7@gmail.com

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:	Fred Truex
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:00:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Having fished the waters off Manasquan NJ for almost 50 years I can attest that the Striped Bass fishing here, particularly in the Fall, is some of the best on the East Coast. I fully support limits on harvest and size but completely disagree with any complete closure of the fishery.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Fred Truex

13 Orchid Ln

Brick, NJ 08724

FredTruex@gmail.com

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:	Philip Sciortino
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 1:10:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The Striped Bass population has never been better! My family business of 50 years - TACKLE BOX in NJ would be jeopardized if they limit the recreational angler anymore than we already are!! Please keep it as is! Thank you

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Philip Sciortino

3 Anderson St

Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750

tackleboxfishingco@gmail.com

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:	Rob Fuggi
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 11:20:08 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I look forward to this short two-month season all year. Please don't shut it down for recreational anglers! Tackle shops are already struggling even with the season open, and closing it would be the final blow. Enough with the restrictions—let us enjoy targeting these fish for the love of the sport.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Rob Fuggi

216 Hancock Ave

Seaside Heights, NJ 08751

fuggirobby@gmail.com

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:	Charles Weinkofsky
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 11:10:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I've been fishing for striped bass in NJ since the early 1960s so I can attest to some really great years early on and some very very very lean years in the late 70s through the 80s I found that size limitations do work in keeping the fishery healthy. How about implementing some common sense such as making it mandatory to use crush barbs on treble hooks on lures I haven't killed a fish in decades by crushing the barbs down on all my hooks

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Charles Weinkofsky

103 Adams Ave

Oakhurst, NJ 07755

cbw1103@aol.com

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:	George Osipovitch
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 11:00:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed 12% reduction in the recreational striped bass fishery and maintain current management practices. The existing slot limit has successfully reduced fishing mortality to a 30-year low, well below the target needed for rebuilding the fishery. The proposed closures, including “no targeting” rules, are based on unreliable MRIP data with acknowledged design flaws, where the cited 0.01 difference in fishing mortality falls within the margin of error and lacks scientific justification.
Additional closures would devastate small businesses, coastal economies, and the billions in economic activity driven by recreational fishing. They would also disrupt family traditions and outdoor sportsmanship, which are vital to our communities. From my own observations, striped bass populations have been abundant in recent years, further questioning the need for restrictive measures.
Please prioritize angler access and economic stability by rejecting these unnecessary closures and maintaining the status quo

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

George Osipovitch

147 Duchess Ln

Brick, NJ 08724

gnj911@gmail.com

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:	Nick DeGennaro
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:20:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

There is no reason to close the season. Maybe offer courses on how to better handle fish.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Nick DeGennaro

32 Tiller Dr

Barnegat, NJ 08005

nickdeg98@gmail.com

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:	Phil Shwartz
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:10:09 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Stop limiting recreational fishermen !

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Phil Shwartz

2 Ruby Ct Apt Lakewood

Lakewood, NJ 08701

pshwartz92@gmail.com

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:	Joseph Passerella
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 9:50:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Striped bass catch and release only

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Joseph Passerella

1 Maple Ave

Bordentown, NJ 08505

jpasserella1@gmail.com

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:	Chris Lacass
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 9:10:13 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

These regulations are stupid and unjust to the fishing community leave the regulations as is and let people enjoy themselves there's plenty of resources and reject ur new closures

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Chris Lacass

725 8th Ave

Toms River, NJ 08757

chriscross1285@gmail.com

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:	Milosz Labno
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:40:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

No to reduction until we have current data showing anything that supports the closure.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Milosz Labno

705 Pear St

Lawrence Township, NJ 08648

mlabno1@icloud.com

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:	Bobby Mccready
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:40:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please do not reduce the stripped bass fishing, as fisherman we are constantly under more and more regulations and restrictions

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Bobby Mccready

1133 Mermaid Ave

Beachwood, NJ 08722

bobby.mccready@gmail.com

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:	Christian Palmisano
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:30:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This would single handily ruin my business and cost me and my family our income. My business completely practices catch and release and we teach our clients the importance of conservation. This is complete over reach and will affect tens of thousands that rely on this beautiful natural resource we have in our back yard

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Christian Palmisano

3818 Herbertsville Rd

Point Pleasant Boro, NJ 08742

christianjpalmisano@gmail.com

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:	jason szabo
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:50:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I've been working in fishing tackle retail for the past 19 years. As a career and as an angler I've seen many changes in regulations and I've paid attention to the fisheries and stocks on a local level and to the north and south of my location. The assessed stock numbers are absolutely flawed. Just like any other species; striped bass have changed patters whether it is spawning, migratory, feeding habits - things change and the numbers and science that they base these flawed numbers off it is totally inaccurate.
A striped bass - no harvest - is NOT the answer. The economic impact alone is an absolute disaster.
Bottom line is; the ASMFC needs to be open to listening to the anglers and people in the industry that have their finger on the pulse of the true harvested numbers. And also the state of the striped bass migratory and spawning patterns.
A closure is NOT the anwser

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-

based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

jason szabo

583 Route 539

Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

szabojason15@gmail.com

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:	Greg Hueth
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 8, 2025 7:20:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The ASMFC is attempting to micromanage the stripe bass rebuilding by reacting to short term fluctuations. As demonstrated in the past, chasing a 0.01 difference in fishing mortality is an unsuccessful approach. There is also a full benchmark stock assessment due out in 2027.
I support Status Quo and not putting undo pressure on fisherman and businesses in the Northeast by the ASMFC until further data is available supporting their position.

Sincerely,

Greg Hueth

2167 Gregory Pl

Sea Girt, NJ 08750

ghueth@gmail.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 12:44:38 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Rush
Email
starfishboats@gmail.com
State
New Jersey
Comment
After reviewing all options given for Striped Bass "Status Quo" is the only option to go with. There is too much uncertainty with closures that will be a major detriment to the For Hire Industry and tackle shops.

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From:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] Comments on latest Striped Bass stock rebuilding proposal
Date:	Friday, September 5, 2025 2:39:07 PM

From: Tom Kling <tkfins@optimum.net>
Sent: Friday, September 5, 2025 2:04 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Comments on latest Striped Bass stock rebuilding proposal

Hi Emilie,
As a lifelong striped bass angler I thank you for allowing me to put in my thoughts. I live in NJ, about a mile and half from the ocean, I am retired and fish almost every day, I caught my first striped bass in 1967. This year has been the worst year for bass fishing in a long time. As far as the Wave time period designations, here in NJ, Waves 3 and 6 are the most productive time periods for me. Let me add that I am strictly a shore based angler. Here in NJ I think the most effective thing we could do would be to put a No Harvest designation on the Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay fishery during March and April (Wave 2). Anything you could do to protect the bass who are staging to move up the Hudson and spawn would have a great significance in helping the stocks rebuild. Fishing pressure is quite high during this time and unfortunately there is also a significant amount of poaching that goes on. Instead of a March 1st opening in the back waters of NJ it should be May 1st, although I know that is a state law. I would like to see the bonus tag program gone also . but again that is a state thing. All the guys who I fish with regularly feel the stocks are in trouble, last year our fall run in November and December (Wave 6) was weak at best, it was the first year ever that I didn't catch a single bass in December. There were local factors involved as well but it was still considered a poor fall. At 74, I'm not sure how many seasons I have left but I hope to see a resurgence in the stocks. NJ has a long history of Striped Bass fishing, there are many clubs dedicated to it as well as a significant amount of money that is generated from the recreational sector. The Asbury Park Fishing Club is the oldest saltwater fishing in the USA. I would hate to see that legacy fade away.

Sincerely,
Tom Kling,
64 Avondale Ave.
Neptune City, NJ

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 6:48:24 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Francis Branagan

Email

fbjb3@comcast.net

State

New Jersey

Comment

I run a Charter Fishing business out of Waretown/Barnegat Light and my thoughts on this subject are as follows. I am now a first-year member of the SBBP, and I very much appreciate being one. I know this sounds self-serving but based on the table on page 17 of the draft I believe there is approx. 200,000 Striped bass harvested in July and August in our State. If it shows caught fish but not harvested another table shows an 89 percent mortality during that time frame.
To show a greater effort to help the fishery I believe the fishery should be closed for striped bass during this period as there are other fisheries available. I would like to see a more logical approach to the seasons making it all easier to define and manage. I believe these changes below will help
EXAMPLE: Close Striped Bass 7-1 to 9-30 Delaware River and Delaware Bay and all tributaries, South of Island beach State Park and all of Barnegat Bay and its tributaries. 7-15 the rest of the State closes.
Open Sea bass 9-15 to 10-31 for 10 fish
Open Fluke to May 1 to Sept 30 for 3 fish
Open Tog Nov 1 to DEC 31 for 5 fish

Is the biomass measuring of the Stiped bass population as far out as they appear to be offshore? I saw them every day I went Bluefin fishing last season in large school's surface feeding on bait. Many folks cast surface lures for fun as a strictly catch and release option.

Also to increase viability is the three-hook snagger was made illegal for live lining menhaden. I think that all angler from surf anglers to boaters must eliminate treble hooks from all poppers, shad raps, plugs, spoons and go to a single hook when fishing for stripers. Its more sporting anyway. these items should be mandatory across all the striped bass management areas.

Last and most important of all, I know you want to save the bigger fish for breeding purposes. I am 62 years old and won't be chartering for too much longer. In 47 years of chasing Stripers, I still have never personally caught a fish over 50". I have had about 5 people in 30 years of running charters catch a fish over 50". I believe that if someone is lucky enough to catch that size fish and are striper fishermen, they

will return it to the water immediately. I know others will want to take pictures with it and that holding it by its jaws out of the water for that time is going to increase mortality. I think that we should allow a trophy fish in NJ 50" or better. My justification is simple, I see it all the time there are less and less youth involved in this sport. One of my customers who was 15 when he caught his striper over 50" still goes out of his way (now 32) to tell me about him taking his son fishing with him and their catches. He is hooked for life and it sure better than sitting around playing video games or watching TV. We are over managing the fun out of fishing. If not 50", 52". Please consider my request for the future of sportfishing.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 2:24:30 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dayton Gray
Email
dgray@thegrayarea.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Hello, I support harvest restrictions only. I also support heavily restricting the commercial harvesting of prey fish (such as bunker) that are crucial to the restoration of striped bass populations. Thank you for your consideration, Dayton Gray dgray@thegrayarea.net

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 8:56:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=CfMYn2j1qZjxvt6Nj42HmAe667J05K-QpznxDgx9zbM.TzzC5W
Name
Mark Hellberg
Email
hellberg@aol.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I support the following (feel free to copy and paste for your comment): 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. I urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. We would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort.

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 9:27:52 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Thomas Smith
Email
tjsmith69@yahoo.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals.

From:	Gary Cochran
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:40:10 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Frankly, I don't think this has anything to do. This is all about money because you're not touching the commercial fishery you hold us responsible for the decline of the striped bass when it's actually the commercial fisherman that does the most damage and you know it but you make money off them more than you make it off the angler so I think your rules and your shutdowns are bullshit and I'm not gonna stop fishing and the only thing you're gonna do is kill businesses and take any fun and satisfaction out of people's lives. This is the only thing that makes me happy.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Gary Cochran

2461 Old Forty Foot Rd

Harleysville, PA 19438

gapc316@aol.com

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:	Jeff Carson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:40:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Cut the commercial take of striped bass if you want to improve stocks and make recreational catch and release.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jeff Carson

16 Twin Pines Rd

Downingtown, PA 19335

jwckac@aol.com

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:	Ronald Nederostek
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 7:00:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Keep the season as is and eliminate the bonus tag

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ronald Nederostek

2753 Rising Sun Rd

Slatington, PA 18080

rned@ptd.net

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:	Paul Davis
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 3:20:17 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I strongly disagree with a moratorium on fishing for striped bass. I do, however, strongly favor, catching release with a no harvest.. I believe the mortality is occurring with improperly handled fish after caught education. Here is key. I also favor no treble hooks on lures single hook, lures only.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Paul Davis

1627 Kimberton Rd

Chester Springs, PA 19425

psdavis1@verizon.net

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From:	Jeffrey Stambaugh
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:20:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Pease "Reject" the new closures and maintain the status quo! I've been fishing the Chesapeake Bay for many years and have done my due diligence in maintaining healthy fisheries. I ask you to please respect my opinion.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Stambaugh

228 Melinda Dr

York, PA 17408

jlstambaugh@outlook.com

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:	Musa Jakypbek
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 11:40:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a recreational angler, to close striped bass seasons or only making it catch and release only in is unnecessary, if you want more striped bass to live educate more anglers on practising proper catch and release techniques, many anglers aren't educated in such manners so find ways to educate the majority of anglers. Get other states to stop net fishing for striped bass which kill and harvest striped bass of many different sizes.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Musa Jakypbek

4628 Hillside Ave

Bensalem, PA 19020

musajakypbek@gmail.com

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:	Matt Retallick
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 26, 2025 8:50:15 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please leave the striped bass quota as it is. We are already working with a tough slot size and bag limit. Last year i saw more striped bass up and down the New Jersey coast and bays in all my 20 years of fishing for them. We have also already came a long way on proper fish handling and specific tackle to target stripers. I do not see the need to close the striped bass season even more. This will also negatively affect many businesses and charters who are already struggling even though theres are tons of fish everywhere. This proposition is simply unfair.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Matt Retallick

959 Scarlet Oak Dr

Chalfont, PA 18914

mretallick29@gmail.com

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From:	Ulanbek Jakypbekov
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:50:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I fish for Striped bass with my Son who is 18-years old now and it gives him such a joy, he started fishing from age 12 and he is with Special needs, Striped bass fishing helped him to improve a lot and right now he is doing well, I think there a lot of fishermen's, children, wounded soldiers who need this Fishing relief and right now Regulations already strict, please do not close Striped bass fishing for 2026. Children needs to be in outdoor healthy activity by doing Striped bass fishing, instead of sitting home on front of computer games, please do not harm our USA children by closing Striped bass fishing season. Thank you!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ulanbek Jakypbekov

4628 Hillside Ave

Bensalem, PA 19020

ulancarpenter@gmail.com

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From:	JOHN A KREZEL
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 22, 2025 4:30:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Please do not try to fix something that is not broken in New Jersey.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

JOHN A KREZEL

3374 Kayford Cir

Philadelphia, PA 19114

Vahnstuka@gmail.com

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From:	carl fischl
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 22, 2025 5:30:16 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am 73 years old, and there isn't much time left to enjoy fishing. There are many " Geezers" out there who are in the same situation. Please do not take this activity away from us. Do not punish the recreational fishermen for the mistakes of corporations or politicians.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

carl fischl

135 S Main St

Nazareth, PA 18064

fishonmain2@yahoo.com

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:	Roman Boell
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:20:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Don’t shut down the fishery. Striped bass needs to become a game fish and no commercial industry just like New Jersey has and it’s thriving there at least it seems

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Roman Boell

921 Mountain Ave

Pen Argyl, PA 18072

romanboell8@gmail.com

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:	Jack Drey
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 15, 2025 10:40:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a fisherman who takes countless trips to the Jersey shore with my family and friends for striped bass I urge you to continue to allow this fishery to remain open for fall fishing. Taking away this opportunity will negatively affect our pastime as well as the many businesses I visit on my travels for the occasional striper or two per trip for table fare.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jack Drey

15 Fox Hollow Rd

Pottsville, PA 17901

jadfey@outlook.com

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:	Sara Lee
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 3:40:10 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I think they need to put more restrictions on the commercials then the recreationals,because we recreations are already at one fish limit, this very unfair. I opposed this proposal. I think whoever comes up with this ridiculous idea must not eat fish.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Sara Lee

6406 Elmwood Ave

Philadelphia, PA 19142

sarale4545@gmail.com

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:	Frank Sanfilippo
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:30:20 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude for the hard work and dedication of those involved in developing and maintaining the data points for the future of the Striped Bass fishery. Your efforts to preserve this valuable resource are greatly appreciated.

As an angler who deeply values this fishery, I would like to share my perspective following the Atlantic Striped Bass informational webinar on December 5th. The session provided valuable insights, but it also raised some concerns that I feel are important to address:

Equity in Proposed Waves by Region:
The proposed timing of closures by region does not appear to reflect an equitable approach to the fishery. This could result in significant disparities, with some states being disproportionately affected, either positively or negatively. Ensuring a fair and balanced approach is crucial for maintaining support and compliance among stakeholders.

Authority of the Commission Without an Addendum:
Granting the Commission the authority to make decisions without following the standard Addendum process seems like an overreach of power, even if the intent is to benefit the fishery. I strongly recommend that any closures or significant decisions continue to follow the established Addendum process to ensure transparency, stakeholder input, and procedural integrity.

Magnitude of Potential Changes:
Given the relatively small impact of the proposed changes, I question whether it makes sense to implement any adjustments this year. It might be more prudent to maintain stability in the fishery and focus on larger, more impactful changes when necessary.

Thank you for considering my input on these important matters. I am confident that with continued collaboration and open dialogue, we can achieve the best outcomes for the future of the Striped Bass fishery.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Frank Sanfilippo

11734 Hill St

Felton, PA 17322

sanff@zoominternet.net

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:	Devin Sem
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 9:30:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Recreational is not the problem!!

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Devin Sem

2416 S Bouvier St

Philadelphia, PA 19145

dsem215@gmail.com

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:	Michael Shields
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 1:20:09 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I grew up fishing the New Jersey coast for Striped Bass and Bluefish and it is an important hobby for me and countless others. Striper fishing is essential to the community so I strongly urge you not to consider "no targeting" which would probit anglers from fishing for Striped Bass in any method. I urge you to take a more common sense approach that limits catch limits but still allows for catch and release.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Michael Shields

403 Wynchester Way

Kennett Square, PA 19348

mshields@wire-cablespecialties.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:17:52 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brian Hines
Email
hinesf4i@hotmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
As someone who loves striped bass and fishes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine all currently - and Delaware and Maryland in the past, I support Option B for 12% reduction. Additionally, the 12% reduction, in my opinion, should apply to for-hire, commercial, and the average recreational angler. The for-hire and commercial sectors should not get options giving them exemptions to take more, as the great striped bass is far too valuable in the mid-to-long term to risk appeasing the for-hire and commercial immediate short term interest that could likely do greater harm for them later on. The time is now to save the striped bass. Thank you so much for everything you do.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 4:56:38 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Frank Nelson
Email
f.e.nelson75@googlemail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I support the following: 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. I urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 8:29:30 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=CfMYn2j1qZjxvt6Nj42HmAe667J05K-QpznxDgx9zbM.TzzC5W
Name
Mark Hellberg
Email
hellberg@aol.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I support the following 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. I urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. We would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort. Thanks Mark

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:23:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nicholas Apice
Email
nickapice@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Hello, I am an avid Surfcaster, who practices responsible 'catch and release' Striped Bass fishing from shore points primarily in New Jersey. Please consider the measures outlined below, with intention of increasing the fishery while protecting ethical recreational access. If the consensus is that these measure are not enough, please consider Harvest Closures, as opposed to No-Target Closures. Thank you, Nick 3.1) Option B 3.2) Option B 3.3) Option C; request to increase buffer to 15% or more 3.4) Option B-01

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:11:56 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

zachary pryor

Email

zpryor76@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

There should be a complete closure in all spawning areas (bays and rivers) during the spawn. These areas are heavily targeted during that time of the year and we're adding a huge amount of pressure and damage at a critically important time of year.

This is a chronically mismanaged fishery, and we cannot continue the status quo, and continue kicking the can down the road.

Using the same slot, year after year, along the entire East Coast, effectively removes specific YOY classes from the bio mass as they enter the slot. We found this out with the 2011 YOY class. The 2011 YOY class was supposed to be the one that saved the fishery. Instead, they were allowed to be completely removed from the biomass due to ridiculously poor management. These fish are pressured up and down the entire coast, from spring through fall, and the same slot is pulled every year.

Get rid of New Jersey's bonus tags. Get rid of Maryland's small bay slot size and start protecting these smaller fish. Eliminate the trophy season.
Underslot fish have been hard to find for years now, up and down the coast. I fish from Maryland all the way to Maine, all year long, and I see the decline along the entire coast. This is not a lack of bait fish issue. This is a lack of bass issue.

I've been fishing striped bass since before the moratorium and it became quite clear in the early 2000s that we were starting to go back to the same issues. From 2004 to the present, it has become a yearly decline that is evident to anyone who fishes regularly. It is not the 70s or 80s anymore. The Internet has increased fishing pressure many times over compared to years past, and the fishery has not been regulated to adjust.

It's well known, industry wide, that this is a monetary agenda based fishery. It's time to stop guessing and blowing smoke and get this straightened out. There never was a percentage to recovery. It's a made-up

term to silence certain factors who lobby in the fishery. Take the politics out of this fishery and get it straightened out. This has gone on far too long and I'm tired of wondering if my kids will get to see the same fishing I was lucky enough to have many decades ago. Forget about whose pockets are being greased and make changes for the betterment of the fishery.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:54:31 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Richard Natoli

Email

rich@fatdadfishing.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I have looked into the research being used as support for changes to the current striped bass regulations. I think it is beyond clear the data does NOT support the need for any changes. What I do see is anecdotal information being twisted toward an agenda to close the fishery. What I do NOT see is proper data collection, a clear understanding of the methodologies utilized to make claims (IE mortality rates) or even utilization of available data (Capt catch logs). Furthering my concern is the ASMFC's objective to "return" striped bass levels to a number not achieved in the last 100+ years. This reeks of a personal agenda-driven initiative. With all that said I am open to changes to the regulations if the data supports the need. There is nothing presented to the public that comes close to doing so. I see a complete lack of collection of available data (Capt logs), no statistical analysis on mortality rates that can show anglers CAUSE a statistically significant reduction in populations, no analysis of the impact of previously instituted mitigation steps (circle hooks) and no discussion of efforts to measure the stocks of striped bass outside of the traditional inshore breeding areas. If you want changes, you need to show actual data that can be analyzed, not a list of assumptions and guesses.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:06:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Robert Solarz

Email

rsolarz@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Thank you for there opportunity to provide comment on Draft Addendum III. I am a long-time recreational fisherman committed to the long-term health of the striped bass fishery. The evidence is clear: the stock remains overfished, recruitment failure in the Chesapeake Bay is a serious concern, and more aggressive action is needed to meet the 2029 rebuilding deadline.
I submit the following, largely based upon the recommendations of the American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA), their priorities and research:

Recommended management options:

Reduction in fishery removals (Section 3.4)

Recommendation: Adopt Option B-01 for the ocean fishery, which mandates an equal 12% reduction for both the recreational and commercial sectors.
Rationale: We strongly oppose any options that show favoritism toward the commercial sector or place a disproportionate conservation burden on the recreational fishery. Equity in conservation measures is critical for both the health of the stock and the morale of the fishing community.
Ocean recreational management (Sub-option O1)
Recommendation: Implement Sub-option O1, which calls for a uniform size limit for all recreational anglers in the ocean fishery.
Rationale: The proposed for-hire exemption (Sub-option O2) is unacceptable. It would place an unfair burden on 98% of anglers while granting a longer slot to the for-hire sector, which already harvests a disproportionate share of the fish relative to the number of trips they represent. A single, uniform regulation simplifies compliance and enforcement for everyone.

Regional seasonal closures:

Recommendation: Implement "no-harvest" seasonal closures instead of "no-targeting" closures.

Rationale: A "no-harvest" closure is both enforceable and allows for continued catch-and-release fishing, which supports the recreational fishery's economy while still achieving conservation goals. Conversely, we believe "no-targeting" closures are unenforceable and create significant equity issues, as they do not account for geographic differences in fish availability.

Commercial tagging (Section 3.2)

Recommendation: Adopt Option B, which requires commercial tagging at the point of harvest.
Rationale: Requiring tags to be applied at the point of harvest is the most effective way to reduce the risk of illegal black market sales and improve accountability within the commercial fishery. Waiting until the point of landing or sale introduces unnecessary risk and loopholes.

Additional concerns and required actions:

Rebuilding and accountability
Issue: The plan's goal of a 50% probability of rebuilding by 2029 is a low bar and insufficient given the stock's declining health.
Action: The ASMFC must be held accountable for meeting the rebuilding triggers established in Amendment 6. If the 2029 rebuilding deadline is not met, a moratorium on the fishery must be seriously considered.

Measuring length (Section 3.1)
Issue: Inconsistent methods for measuring fish create loopholes and undermine conservation efforts.
Action: Implement Option B, a mandatory uniform method for measuring total length. This would provide much-needed consistency and close loopholes that can increase fishing mortality.

Stock recruitment failure
Issue: The current plan does not adequately address the root cause of the stock's problems: six consecutive years of poor spawning success in the Chesapeake Bay.
Action: While tighter harvest restrictions are needed, management must also address the environmental and ecosystem issues that are crippling the spawning stock. The ASMFC must acknowledge that relying on aging fish to carry the stock is not a sustainable rebuilding strategy.

Conclusions:
ASGA's recommendations are based on science, equity, and a commitment to long-term conservation. While the proposed 12% reduction is necessary, it is likely insufficient to guarantee rebuilding without addressing the underlying issues. We urge the Commission to adopt the most conservative and equitable options available and prepare for more stringent measures if rebuilding milestones continue to be missed.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:12:29 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Zachary Feaster

Email

zfeast22@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I strongly oppose the proposed closure of striped bass fishing for surf anglers in New Jersey, as this measure unfairly targets the wrong group of individuals and does not address the root cause of the issue. Surf fishermen have long been responsible, conservation-minded anglers who abide by regulations designed to preserve fish populations. They represent a small fraction of the overall fishing effort and are not the primary contributors to the decline in striped bass stocks. Instead, the real threat to both striped bass and their primary prey, menhaden (or bunker), lies in the commercial fishing industry. The overfishing and netting of menhaden, a vital food source for striped bass, has caused significant disruptions in the ecosystem. Commercial operations, by removing vast quantities of menhaden from the waters, have directly impacted the health of striped bass populations. Closing striped bass fishing for recreational surf anglers would not solve these critical issues and would instead unfairly penalize an entire community of responsible fishermen. Rather than imposing a blanket ban, we should focus on reforming commercial fishing practices and ensuring more sustainable management of both striped bass and menhaden populations. It is crucial that surf anglers are not unjustly blamed for the problems caused by industrial-scale commercial fishing.
Let's preserve our sport, while protecting the striped bass for future generations by addressing the true threats to our marine ecosystem.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:49:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

D Todd Bruno

Email

todd.bruno@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Given the binary choice, I urge the commission to keep STATUS QUO.

As an recreational weekend warrior fisherman, I greatly look forward to the spring and fall striped bass run on NJ shores. I started targeting striped bass as a 10 year old on my Dad's boat in the late 1980s. While I have never taken a controlled study, I have fished yearly in these 40 so years, and from my first hand experience, the fishery is strong. Much better now than in my adolescence and teenage years.

While I do understand that the current measures mean our target will not be met, I also know that the current study data is flawed. It would be imprudent to make a harsh decision using known inaccurate data. Please keep the STATUS QUO, let nature take it's course, and make a more informed decision when the data is better.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:26:50 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brandon Kirk
Email
kirkb40@yahoo.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Hello, In regards to future striped bass regulations, they should remain as the status quo. There is no need to shut down the fishery. Thank you

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:24:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Heap
Email
rhheapads@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Striped Bass populations are in the verge of collapsing. They have not had a successful spawn in the better half of a decade, and yet commercial interests are allowed to plunder their dwindling populations to make a few extra dollars on the back end. Please put the safety of our ecosystem over profits.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 3:47:57 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Mark Soley
Email
mgsolman@yahoo.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I am in favor of a status quo or at minimum a catch and release system with no harvesting restrictions.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 2:09:29 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Don Lappin
Email
dlappin2013@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Please do not increase the “no targeting season” for recreational anglers in Chesapeake. We have not been able to fish for “rockfish” in April in the bay for years now. Please allow us to continue to catch and release bass through the month of March in the upper bay. Thank you

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 5:01:01 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joe Becker
Email
mbbjjb@aol.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Keep status quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:13:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Gerald Lewandowski
Email
jerlew@verizon.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Due to known inherent issues with MRIP data collection and accuracy, I think it would be irrational to invoke any option that includes a "no targeting" period for areas that rely on the fishery for economic and recreational purposes. I suggest keeping the existing regulations in place for recreational anglers (status quo) and standardizing measurement methods.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:01:42 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Stephen Abbott

Email

stevea547@yahoo.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Section 3.1 Method of Measuring Fish
Why do you not just tell us how you would like us to measure a fish. We are talking about a 1" difference at most. Most anglers i know are not that picky and usually add to minimum for fish kept on their boats. Lay fish flat on ruler, mouth at zero, tail fanned or pinched. Who cares.
I can't believe that you would even waste time on this issue.
My Vote; Option B
Section 3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging
On this I feel that commercial should have to tag the fish at point of harvest.
This would help eliminate discarding large quantities of fish of a certain size in favor of catching more favorable size fish for re-sale. Since most fish caught in nets are dead or will not survive release.
My Vote; Option B

Section 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline
I believe from what little I know is that the regulations need to be changed in all states surrounding Chesapeake Bay. Also that allowing large commercial boats to net menhaden in the bay needs to be stopped.
You can say that menhaden stock is regulated to take into account its need to supply food for other fish but you have no numbers of the amount of striper by-catch. Every fisherman knows if you have a school of bait there is a good chance there are predators around.
My vote; Option C

Section 3.4 Reduction
I feel that with the lack of accurate data, and no info on the mortality figures since you forced us to us circle hooks that you are way out of line to try to restrict us any further from targeting striped bass.
I have never seen fisherman take so much care of a caught fish as I have with striped bass. I find it very hard to believe that 9 out of every hundred fish caught did not survive.
I am tired of you coming up with more restrictions and blaming recreational fisherman for a supposed

striped bass shortage. We have done everything you said was going to fix the problem but yet here we are, according to ASMFC.
You are dealing with people's livelihood, and needed relaxation.
I get it, these are scientist that are paid to study a problem. If there is no problem they do not have a job.
How about looking into beach replenishment, Omega boats taking food source, new migrating patterns, sonic testing for wind power construction, wind turbine transmission lines affect on sea life.
I could go on.
My Vote; Option A

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:54:14 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Matthew Yost
Email
mattdyost@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Hello, Commission I'm in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland Recreational season baseline and also Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:11:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Shawn Smith

Email

ssmith3989@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

Hello,
In regards to section 3.1 I agree there should be a standard measurement definition for all states to reduce confusion but I do not think that this will greatly effect the population numbers of striped bass.

In regards to section 3.2 I am in favor of option C. I am hoping this would cut down on the amount of undersized fish that make it to commercial market. I can go to two local fish markets within 6 miles of each other currently and find undersized striped bass on ice for sale. In addition to tagging changes I believe it would be much more beneficial to the species for current rules and size regulations to be enforced more on the commercial industry.

In regards to section 3.3 I am in favor of a new baseline to simplify the confusing multiple changes but do not agree with a no targeting closure. Again in addition to any changes I feel like it would be much more beneficial to the species for current rules and size regulations to be enforced more especially at night when most illegal harvesting happens. I do not personally fish the Chesapeake but I'm sure it is like all the other "hot spot" areas where the "trash bag mafia" shows up in full force at night to illegally fish and harvest whatever they catch.

In regards to section 3.4 I am absolutely against both a season time reduction of any sort and more so a no targeting period. I would agree with a no harvesting period in the spring for both the Delaware and Hudson (bays and rivers) similar to proposed options B and C for the Chesapeake. I do believe that it is very important for these fish to not be harvested during the spring run in all spawning areas on the NE coast. A no targeting time for this is not the correct answer though. Once again I feel like it is much more beneficial for current rules and size regulations to be enforced. I personally have seen 100's of fish illegally harvested over the past 20 years especially in the stretch of river between Morrisville PA and Trenton NJ. This is a huge problem especially at night in this area, I have personally almost ended up in a physical altercation more than once trying to explain the importance of releasing fish here that then became escalated. I can not blame the game commission officers for this either as the spring run

coincides with opening of trout season for both PA and NJ in which officers have their hands full policing that.

In general I also think the 9% mortality rate is overestimated and based to heavily off of out dated data from the 90's which was pre circle hook regulations, pre no use of live hearing in the river, pre slot fish regulations, and most recently pre "emergency size limit reduction". I would also personally like to see the Virginia Omega Bunker netting fleet stay in Virginia waters vs coming up to NJ and NY and netting all the bunker in this area. They come up here with a fleet of boats and spotting planes to pillage the waters of bait which is the main food source for striped bass in the ocean. I understand they are usually/ supposed to be outside the 3 mile line which is federal waters and technically not state but morally and for the fishery this doesn't seem right to be able to do. In addition to that I would also like to see the entire Delaware water way system or at least above the bay treated as one fishery. Currently there are Delaware, NJ, and PA regulations that contradict at times. This is all the same fishery and should be regulated as one.

Thank you very much for your time.

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] New public comment for PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 8:28:59 AM

PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/pa-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Michael Shields
Email
abbyroad2@verizon.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
The commercial fisheries industry is the largest source of fish kills in the world not the recreational fishing folks. Stop taking the bait fish instead of stopping the folks fishing from shore line.

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] New public comment for PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 8:23:07 AM

PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/pa-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Michael Shields
Email
abbyroad2@verizon.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
To stop recreation fishing for striped bass in the Atlantic ocean and or Jersey beaches is a hard take, especially if you have commercial fishing off our coast ruining the species. to stop me or penalize me in regards of recreational fishing should not be tolerated. Me personally I am a catch and release fisherman with Rod and Reel with artificial baits. recreational fisherman are not the problem you know it my vote will be no please submit.

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] New public comment for Red Drum Draft Addendum II
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:08:39 PM

Red Drum Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Red Drum Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/red-drum-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Grant Adams
Email
gadamsjr@comcast.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland Recreational season baseline and also Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:05:03 PM

PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/pa-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Nicholas Apice
Email
nickapice@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Hello, as an avid Striped Bass fisherman & surfcaster, I support the following measures: 3.1 - Option B 3.2 - Option B 3.3 - Option C 3.4 - Option B-01 Please support measures that hold all states equally accountable, de-prioritize commercial interests, and protect land-based recreational fishing, in particular. Thank you, Nicholas Apice PA resident

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:47:40 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=tAEnSQiZp3bJ8bAf9ukbhcht3vKiaE8Y7JuapsD2jFU.TzzC5W
Name
chris buck
Email
bigbucker3@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:24:39 AM

PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/pa-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Michael Shields
Email
abbyroad2@verizon.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
To stop recreation fishing for striped bass in the Atlantic ocean and or Jersey beaches is a hard take, especially if you have commercial fishing off our coast ruining the species. to stop me or penalize me in regards of recreational fishing should not be tolerated. Me personally I am a catch and release fisherman with Rod and Reel with artificial baits. recreational fisherman are not the problem you know it my vote will be no please submit.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:02:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Hunter
Email
john97988@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I am in total support of a strip bass closed season in the springtime when these fish are spawning. No need to kill or harvest fish during this time

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] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 7:07:16 PM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Matthew Morgan

Email

mmorgan6480@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

I applaud the goal of recovering striped bass populations along the Atlantic coast but seriously question the efficacy of complete closures. I have fishing the catch and release season on the Upper Chesapeake since the early 2000s, until recently. As a young man, every year I saved my money for boats, fuel, tackle, and all of my PTO at work to make as many trips as possible every spring. I took friends, family, and coworkers, exposing them to the amazing fishery and teaching the practice of safe catch and release.

I now have a 13-year old son that is dying to go out and I'm sure there are countless fathers in my shoes, begrudgingly respecting the closure and staying off the water completely. If we are not exposing the next generation of fisherman to our sport, who will see that the fishery is cared for and how will local businesses survive?

I would encourage the committee to consider alternative measures in regulating the fishery (i.e. banning treble hooks, trolling umbrella rigs, the use of live or chunk bait, regulating run-off up river, dealing with sediment control in riparian areas, repairing failing sewage treatment facilities, enforcing poaching, and regulating commercial harvest).

Thank you.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 5:58:34 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kenneth Luongo
Email
knluongo@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
3.1 Method to Measure Total Length: Option B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched. 3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging: Option B: At point of harvest. 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline: Option C: New baseline +10% uncertainty buffer (to account for effort shifts). 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals: Option B-01 for Ocean: 12% reduction both sectors. Oppose for-hire exemptions: Unfair burden on 98% of anglers; for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% landings from 1.4% trips). Criticize ASMFC delays: Demand accountability; if rebuilding fails, push moratorium.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 3:51:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=7pPzpickgctxlk0xrWaTNEewc6wabUX0Ae9_6bYT3rM3RFGh08FYn3VPV1vY0Z_S.TzzC5W

Name

Dennis Mitchell

Email

d.r.mitchell@comcast.net

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) - Re: Addendum III for Striped Bass

I support the 12% reduction efforts outlined in Addendum III to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Striped Bass resource.

The 12% reduction is the absolute minimum we can do for the resource to prevent further decline.
I strenuously oppose any 'for-hire' exemptions, all groups must contribute to the reduction efforts equally.
'No-target' closures are unenforceable, 'no-harvest' options could contribute to the overall resource recovery.
Because of the shortsightedness of too many user groups, I fear even these options are another example of kicking the can down the road, and it is only a manner of time until the stock collapses and another moratorium will need to be implemented.

My specific preferences for the proposed management options are as follows:
• 3.1: Option B
• 3.2: Option B
• 3.3: Option C
• 3.4: Option B
o Sub-option for Ocean: O1
o Sub-option for Chesapeake Bay: CB3

Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis Mitchell

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attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 8:42:31 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
MARK TOOLAN
Email
mark@toolancpa.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
We enjoy fishing in the bay for stripers very much and are very lucky to have a great captain for our charters. He is a small businessman and this is his livelihood and we need to protect that. I am a small businessman myself. I am in favor of option A status quo for the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals. I am against catch and release of pre-spawn female fish in Chesapeake Bay during the month of April I hope you look favorably on these comments - we need to protect small business in Maryland Thx Mark Toolan

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:37:24 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Paul Filion
Email
paulfilion@verizon.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland Recreational season baseline and also Option A status quo for fishery removals. Thank you, Paul Filion

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Red Drum Draft Addendum II
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 9:20:24 PM

Red Drum Draft Addendum II

Action Title
Red Drum Draft Addendum II
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/red-drum-draft-addendum-ii/
Name
Michael Flory
Email
ctabby754@comcast.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I'm in favor of Option A.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 7:28:38 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
jack fearer
Email
knowfear@toast.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
option A status quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 5:50:28 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Mike Michael
Email
mikekat1960@icloud.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Option A

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 9:17:29 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Betsy Cramer
Email
jbcramer4@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I am in favor of option A.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 8:42:43 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David Brunner
Email
davidrbrunner@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Option A for both the Maryland recreational season baseline and for fishery removals

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 8:17:47 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Missy Rohrbaugh
Email
missyrohrbaugh@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:27:30 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Garry Trimble
Email
gttrimble@aol.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
In favor of option A.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:54:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Elsie Peters
Email
elschaney@aol.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Let us fish for striped bass

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:39:22 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
jennifer drey
Email
jennkunetz@hotmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I am in favor of Option A. Status Quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:32:38 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jack Fearer
Email
knowfear@toast.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I like option A - status quo

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] New public comment for PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 11:53:03 AM

PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/pa-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Thomas Lawrence
Email
tomfromthepoconos@yahoo.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Is there any talk about restructuring the harvest of atlantic menhaden as a possible strategy to save striped bass? The Chesapeake Bay is a major nursery for breeding striped bass. Menhaden are a major forage fish for the striped bass. The fleet of menhaden boats out of Virgina travel as far north as New Jersey. I only imagine they would burn that much fuel if they needed to. Is there an overconsumption of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay requiring the commercial boats to fish elsewhere. Does a possible overconsumption of menhaden hurt the striped bass population? The water quality of the Chesapeake Bay continues to be in question. Menhaden filter a lot of water. Menhaden move the nutrients of the Chesapeake up the food chain as biomass. I really feel the Omega Protein company is the elephant in the room. It would be unfair to limit the Omega Protein company, but might be better for the entire Atlantic fishery. Eminent domain is an awful way for the government to take land for the "greater good." Maybe a moratorium on bunker harvesting from the Chesapeake to Maine would help. Every state along the Atlantic coast benefits from tourism related to the #1 forage fish, menhaden. Whale watching, shark watching, charter fishing, party boats, sport shops, boat sales, fishing equipment sales all benefit from mehaden as a forage fish from peanut bunker size to adult bunker size.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:39:28 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ed Lambert
Email
edlambert2001@yahoo.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Please take no target closures off the table. They are completely unenforceable and punish honest anglers who won't target stripers and claim that they are targeting other species. I support an extended no harvest seasons if that is what is needed to protect the remaining breeders until we get a few good spawns in the Chesapeake. Thank you!   Ed Lambert

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:28:36 PM

PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
PA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/pa-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Scott Cosmi
Email
s_cosmi@msn.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Perhaps we could reduce striped bass catch and release mortality further(circle hooks were very effective when fishing with bait) by limiting lures to 1 treble hook. It is very difficult to release a fish that has been foul hooked with multiple trebles. It takes at least twice as long and the foul hook often injures the fish. Many fisherman use rubber baits or jigs that have only one hook and they are very effective..really no need for two or three trebles on any lure.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:37:50 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brook Gabel
Email
brookgabel@yahoo.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
The government needs to protect not just the stripped bass but the environment and its prey the menhaden.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:03:40 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Gregory Prestosh
Email
gprestosh@ptd.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Please keep the striper regulations the same. We are already dealing with huge cuts. I also think the data you follow is flawed...thank you.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:19:54 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Roman Boell
Email
romanboell8@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Please don’t shut down the striped bass fishery. It is ridiculous commercial guys in Massachusetts can keep big breeders and whatever they need to fill quota but us recreational guys who go out to make memories with our loved ones get punished. I’m no expert but make it a game fish get rid of the omega boats and watch things flourish. Oh wait then that affects peoples pockets…… anyways thanks for listening

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:03:20 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Aiden Rodriquez
Email
arodz2286@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I agree that striped bass need to be regulated but that doesn't necessarily mean that the season needs to be ended or targeting them should be illegal. To me this means that the species itself should be regulated more. What I mean by this is increasing slot size and making the slot size smaller. For example last year's slot was 28-31. I feel as if the slot was a larger sized bass, but not to large it could help the healthier fish in the long run. Possibly making the slot 31-34.This still gives your larger breeders a chance to reproduce and your smaller healthier fish the chance to get bigger. Finally, CRACK DOWN ON THESE DAM POACHERS AND PEOPLE WHO DO NOT FOLLOW REGULATIONS. Last years fall run I barely saw any game commission officers and I was out on the surf at-least 2 times per week.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:27:26 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
kyle stigale
Email
kylestigale@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
Striper fishing has become the center of many of our lives, many of us take the best possible care of these fish resulting in as high of a successful release rate as possible. These past few years I have seen more bass on the coasts then in a long time if anything needs to be done it is in the commercial fishing side of things and not the guys with 1 rod and reel

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 12:30:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Bob Myaing
Email
bobmyaing@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I am a recreational fisherman mostly fishing in New Jersey. I support any outcome that prioritizes recreational catch and release, and either limits or outright eliminates harvest. I do not support no-target for recreational fishermen. I support the reduction of commercial harvest, by poundage and/or seasonal closures.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 12:24:03 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Alex Sargent
Email
alex.sargent@monetate.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
keep 25/26 regulations the same

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:30:14 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Steve Mcintyre
Email
smac0167@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
The best way to accomplish making everyone happy is making it catch and release only. Also it's time to force Maryland to actually follow the rules which they never do.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:48:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Patrick Gallen
Email
patgallen@comcast.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
“No target”especially for NJ in November should not be on the table for consideration. That is went the stocks are off our coast. If that is the solution, follow the stocks down From the north and issue no targets for each area as the stocks progress south. It would not be enforceable and if implemented would be devastating to the businesses that rely on that month’s revenue to survive. I think the math and logic is flawed. NJ has no commercial Harvest of Bass. These are just a few of the things to consider.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 5:20:35 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Mark Leister
Email
mal4210@ptd.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I oppose add3 as it limits my fishing. I oppose add3 as it strains local economy and is destroying waterman's livelihood.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 6:46:28 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Tedor
Email
wtedor@comcast.net
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I believe that striped bass should be closed immediately and be reopened in may 2027.That would give the striped bass 2 years of migratory and spawning protection to rebuild the stock,The slot of 28 to 31 inches I believe causes to much release mortality.After the two year closure the slot should be 28 to 34 inches or 30 to 36 inches.If the stock is in trouble as your numbers indicate you cannot afford to do nothing like last year.At the very least you should protect the stock during spawning season.Maybe give a two week season end of april to first week in may or first two weeks of may when most if not all fish have spawned .If no action is taken now then we will face a more devastating closure in the future if the stock is in as dire straits as has been reported.I am in favor of any action which would help the stock and cause the least amount of pain for the recreational fisherman.Sometimes you have to look at the facts and accept that actions need to be taken to rebuild the fishery

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 10:22:40 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Dan Watt

Email

hartroadpotters@gmail.com

State

Pennsylvania

Comment

In the interest of fairness, I am strictly a catch and release guy and despise all manner of netting for fish harvesting due to high loss of targeted species and of coarse by-catch loss. While I am not fond of commercial hook and line I realize that can't be stopped due to political pressure but also feel the harm to the fish stock is not so great as to warrant stopping it.
I applaud the decision the cancel the trophy season for reasons I don't need to list. Also, closure of all manner of harvest during mid July to August 1st is genius in saving many fish from warm water stress. I do believe it should carry over to at least mid August as the water doesn't miraculously cool on August 1st.
As far as some simple suggestions to help the loss of fish from catch and release, I believe it should be mandatory for all hooks to be barbless. Even deeply hooked fish are easily released with barbless hooks, out the gill and twisted from the outside. It also makes in water release much easier. Finally, required use of artificial lures only would eliminate the thousands of dead fish that occur from baited hooks, (spot, bunker, or cut bait) which are often swallowed, circle hooks or not. Thank you.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:10:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Eryk Lewandowski
Email
eryklew@icloud.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
As a surfcaster every year we look forward to catching these fish in the fall. Every fall tackle shops up and down the coast make the majority of there money allowing them to stay open. These fish are important to everyone in their own ways. Striped bass would be much better off if we stopped the people netting bunker. If you stop the omega oil companies you would also help ospreys which are struggling to feed their young.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:25:54 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Adam Naples
Email
naples.adam@gmail.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
CATCH AND RELEASE

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 12:51:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Smith
Email
clarkg9480@aol.com
State
Pennsylvania
Comment
I fish the Delaware river and The Atlantic Ocean for stripers and have been through the closures back in the day , I understand that there needs to be strict rules for this fishery ,this fish supports many livelihoods and for this reason I think the season should remain the same .To many families will suffer from tackle shops to 6 pack charters to party boats to the guy selling spots and eels to the gas stations and marinas this fish helps so many people make it through the winter so I hope you can keep this fishery going for this year.Thank You Bob

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: Michael Ferraro
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Comment re. Striped Bass
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:33:47 PM

I would like to see a moratorium on keeping striped bass for both recreational and commercial fisherman until the population has rebounded sufficiently to sustain growth. Thank you.

Michael Ferraro
1590 Sundance Dr
West Chester, Pa 19380
cell 610 909 2580

"How old would you be, if you didn't know the day you were born?"
Toby Keith

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:	Bob Brandt
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 6:20:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Stripers go after blue, bonito and albie lures. It's tough not to "target" stripers. I'm in favor of a reduced slot limit or "no keep". Get rid of the extra fish tags too.

Sincerely,

Bob Brandt

1570 Creek Rd

Glenmoore, PA 19343

bbrandt05@gmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:42:30 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Nicholas Miller
Email
nickmiller28@hotmail.com
State
Delaware
Comment
I feel that if the fisheries commission needs to make changes to the limits it imposes on a certain group, it should be imposed on the commercial industry. A reduction in the commercial industry's already large impact on striped bass populations would serve the commissions purpose of restocking the population better than a reduction in the already minimized slot allowed by recreational fishermen. Perhaps an extended closure during spawning season for recreational fishermen would be fair but an even further extension for commercial fishing would be a more realistic step towards achieving the 2029 goal the commission desires. Thank you.

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:	Shawn Carpenter
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:40:22 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

We need more access to Striped Bass not less.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Shawn Carpenter

604 Woodview Dr

Hockessin, DE 19707

carpenter_shawn@yahoo.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 9:03:09 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Gene Shaner
Email
shaner45@comcast.net
State
Delaware
Comment
No catch and release of breeding stock!! Keep the one fish from 19" to 30" during the same dates that we currently have. I fish Maryland waters 2-3 times a week and I see what is there. Keep charters at the same requirements as recreational except the Captain and Mate each get to keep one.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:46:51 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Andrew Stauffer

Email

gunfan2001@aol.com

State

Delaware

Comment

There're no argument stripe bass stocks are not even close to what they used to be. It's time to take real meaningful action to save these great fish. Reduction in harvest here and there is not going to solve the problem. Let's start with their spawning grounds in the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries. Kick Omega and the bunker boat fleet out of the bay and keep them at least three miles offshore. As we all know menhaden provide a vital food source for the bass as well as many other species of marine life. I can't for the life me figure out why the powers at be thought it was a good idea to introduce blue cats to the bay tributaries, whoever is responsible for stocking blue cats in these tributaries thinking they'd stay there should be thrown in prison. These invasive fish have exploded and will eat whatever they can find taking forage away from the bass as well as eating them too. It's time for real action. First, it's time to end commercial fishing for the stripe bass period. Second, keep the bunker fleet out of the bay and at least three miles offshore. I spent 25yrs in the Coast Guard and seen firsthand while conducting fisheries boardings how the bunker fleet nets great quantities of bass as by catch and even though they're supposed to release the bass by the time they get to them they're dead. Third, until stocks recover make the bass fishery catch and release only. There was a moratorium back in the 80's and I believe it worked maybe it's time for another one. Thank you for your time.

r/
A. Stauffer

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 12:40:03 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Daryl Crisconi

Email

renovationservicesllc@gmail.com

State

Delaware

Comment

I have been a recreational fisherman for 61 out of my 66 years of life. I have always followed the rules and more than most of my fishing has been catch and release. I'm familiar with the striper fishing concerns and have been through the moratorium in the 80's.

Stopping or not targeting sripers would be a devastating effect on the sport with a huge negative effect on the economy by stopping or not targeting stripers. Not to mention the amount of people that enjoy it.

I don't mind the one fish slot rule or putting a ban on keeping them. I don't support stopping it all together. I still find it hard to believe the commercial fisherman don't impact the striper population more than the recreational fisherman. I'm not naive enough to realize that lobbyists and big money rules.

I hope you take my comments with some thought as I'm sure there will be plenty of people that echo my same scentiments.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 10:44:08 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Wayne Rapine
Email
chasenfish@aol.com
State
Delaware
Comment
I own a small business in Delaware and we bring customers and friends to Maryland to fish for striped bass and I am in favor of continuing with the status quo. Thank you! Wayne Rapine

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:58:56 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joseph Whitten
Email
whittenj82848@gmail.com
State
Delaware
Comment
Options A

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 6:19:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joe Goldberg
Email
joegold17@gmail.com
State
Delaware
Comment
As an avid striper angler I believe we need to do our absolute best as a community to protect this species from further damage. Protecting the striper population involves much more than simply closing fishing or adjusting slot sizes. The real threat to these fish is the commercial fishing fleets decimating the bait fish that the striped bass need to survive. I am in support of having a no harvest law put in place put am completely against a no target law. Many businesses and people would be negatively affected by a closure to target. Charter captains and avid anglers such as myself are the majority in wanting to protect this special fishery we have. Do not let the big commercial fishing corporations continue to overfish and instead allow the public to enjoy and protect striped bass. PUNISH THE CORPORATIONS NOT THE PEOPLE. NO TARGET IS NOT AN OPTION

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:28:45 PM

DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
DE Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/de-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
joseph smith
Email
smith1667777@gmail.com
State
Delaware
Comment
hi, my name is Joseph Smith i am one of the commercial members of Delaware's finfish council. and in my opinion, we should stick to status quo with no reduction in harvest to the commercial fisherman. this is a problem from the recreational side of the equation which commercial fisherman should not have to suffer for.

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From:	Eugene Garner
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 2:10:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Reduction not needed populations are high if anything control bunker boats.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Eugene Garner

36934 Horsey Church Rd

Delmar, DE 19940

Eugenegarner@garnergroupfinancial.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 5:26:45 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

William Richter

Email

bill9299@icloud.com

State

Delaware

Comment

First of all Addendum interferes with my past time of stripped bass fishing.

Second if recreational fishing is further regulated this will affect local economies up and down the east coast. Regulations have already hammered charter boat owner's ability to make a living. You pay the same money to catch fewer fish.

Third the stripped bass population is being decimated by the unchecked growth of the blue catfish population in the Chesapeake Bay. I have fished Delaware and Maryland for years.

This Addendum should not be adopted as it lays the so called fix on the shoulders of fishermen not where it belongs, on the invasive species.

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From:	Eric Burnley, Sr.
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 8, 2025 5:40:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I have been involved in Striped Bass management since the mid-1970s when I was on the State-Federal Striped Bass Management Board. To base any management decision on MRIP is just plain foolish. I currently serve on the Advisory Council for Black Sea Bass, Scup, and Summer Flounder and Bluefish and Spiny Dogfish. I am more than familiar with MRIP and it is very bad. Please do not punish recreational fishermen and the industry they support due to bad data from MRIP..

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Eric Burnley

16840 Randor Dr

Milton, DE 19968

eburnle@aol.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 1:48:01 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Lisa Doricchi

Email

lisadoricchi@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

My comments for Striped Bass:

We would like to increase recreational opportunities while still conserving the striped bass resource for future generations. We have given up catch & release fishing on the Susquehanna Flats for several years now. But follow the science. A fish released in cooler temperatures lives much longer than a dead fish caught and released in July/August. Past decisions are not effective. We recreational anglers have been completely shut out, and it's time for the decision makers to act in our interest. Fair play, using the right methodology, can be beneficial for all anglers.

Allowing catch and release fishing in the Chesapeake Bay can significantly contribute to the region's economic well-being by promoting sustainable recreational fishing. This practice helps preserve fish populations, ensuring long-term viability of key striped bass, which are vital to the Bay's fishing tourism industry. As more anglers are drawn to the area for the opportunity to fish responsibly, local economies benefit from increased spending on lodging, dining, bait and tackle shops, and guided fishing trips. We also pay for boat maintenance, ramp fees and boat slips to nearby marinas. By balancing conservation with recreational access, catch and release policies support a thriving fishing culture while protecting the natural resources that drive tourism and support jobs throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. I would be happy to volunteer my time and effort in showing how to properly catch and release fish. I would do this at local tackle shops. Have a recreational angler attend a course on C&R to ensure that proper release methods are being employed. This, in turn, will keep the Spring stripers healthy and ensure a good spawn for future generations.

Date: October 3rd, 2025

Comments to:
Ms. Emilie Franke,
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Comments – Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

I am a recreational angler from Maryland who has fished the Chesapeake Bay for over forty years. I started fishing here during the 1985-1990 moratorium, and have fished the Bay and its tributaries ever since. For five years I ran an annual striped bass tournament event for disabled veterans that hosted 75+ anglers – which is now closed for lack of fish. For decades I've advocated for estuaries, for national fisheries, and the Chesapeake Bay writ large.

As of today, Maryland has measured six years in a row of failed striped bass spawns. We have endured decades of tepid (and even contrary) measures to conserve the fishery. We are sleepwalking through a steady collapse in productivity, and the response has been to avoid, deny, and postpone any real impact to anglers and fishers. At some point, and perhaps we have reached that time now, there will be no more room for parliamentarianism and delay. Another year or two of failed or lackluster spawns and we'll most certainly be planning a moratorium.

This year's Maryland juvenile abundance index will be released just prior to the ASMFC Fall meeting. Hopefully the index will come in higher than the low-single-digit results we've seen over the past half-decade. Regardless, a wider view should drive planning – precautionary, careful reductions to protect the remaining year classes.

With regard to no-target closures, law enforcement in the ocean states have said such actions are unenforceable. However, no-target closures in the Chesapeake Bay have been generally successful when enacted in specific calendar segments. To that end, I respectfully request that the Commission consider the following: Until the biomass recovers to plan, all striped bass fishing in the Chesapeake should be closed – no targeting – from December 1st to May 15th.
While 100% compliance is statistically impossible, the vast percentage of anglers and fishers will honor the law and 'leave the big girls alone' until the stock can rebound.

The technical committee has released a complex set of options to protect the existing biomass. My comments are below.

Section 3.1. Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass:

I support Option B for the Total Length Definition.

Section 3.2. Commercial Tagging:

I support Option B, Commercial Tagging At the Point of Harvest to strengthen accountability to individual quotas and reduce or eliminate illegal harvest.

Section 3.3. Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline:

I support Option A, retain existing Chesapeake Bay seasonal baseline. In seasons where harvest is permitted, respectfully request the Management Board increase the buffer to -15% reduction as a precautionary measure.

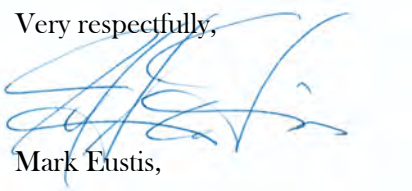
Section 3.4. Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding:

I support New Baseline and Option B, Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%. Within the sub-options, I support CB1 – size limit identical within the recreational sector. Additionally, and as requested above, I respectfully request increasing the reduction to -15% for all sectors in the Chesapeake Bay.

Regardless of how the Board chooses to proceed, they should increase the standard of success for plans from the current 50% threshold to 1-sigma/68%. The move to at least one standard deviation of success will necessitate more stringent controls and is the conservative, cautious, and appropriate course of action in this critical time. And such a plan may just work without modification over the term. The 50/50, flip-of-a-coin metric hasn't worked yet, and it's well past time to stop gambling away our shared resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I hope the Board will take substantive, meaningful and immediate action to protect this American asset for all of our anglers and fishers along the Atlantic states.

Very respectfully,



Mark Eustis,
Managing Director.

STEPHEN S. HERSHEY, JR.
Legislative District 36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, and
Queen Anne's Counties

MINORITY LEADER

Finance Committee
Executive Nominations Committee
Rules Committee

Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics
Legislative Policy Committee

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 423
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3639
800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3639
Steve.Hershey@senate.maryland.gov

October 2, 2025

The Honorable Joshua E. Kurtz, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
RE: Addendum 3 to Amendment 7 of Maryland's Fishery Management Plan/Letter of Opposition

Dear Secretary Kurtz,

I am writing in opposition to Addendum 3 to Draft Amendment 7 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for the Atlantic Striped Bass, which is proposing a 12% reduction in the harvest of striped bass as well as a commercial quota reduction since 2012 of 58%.

The Charter Boat Captains, Watermen, and Recreational Fishermen of Maryland have suffered from the most recent Fishery Management decisions. The Draft Addendum proposes an additional 12% reduction to Commercial and Recreational Harvest. This objective is to solely reproduce the Striped Bass Spawning Stock to record numbers by 2029. The spawning stock is projected to be rebuilt in a short duration thereafter and it still has a thirty percent chance of being rebuilt based on the current data collected. This is a deadline that is merely a line in the sand, that will create an insufferable burden to the Atlantic Coasts Fishing Community.

Since the adoption of the last Addendum, Fifty-Four Charter Boats have been listed or sold, and Five Tackle Stores have closed in the State of Maryland due to economic hardships. For perspective, last season the Maryland Charter Boats harvested 34,985 Striped Bass (2024), down from 100,997 the year before (2023). As of September 15, 2025, from Public Information Request the Charter Boats of Maryland had harvested via the FACTS Reporting System 26,566 Striped Bass. The total number of trips were reduced from 11,362 (2023) to 5,412 (2024) and the numbers are projected to be lower in 2025. The number of anglers on Maryland Charter Boats also declined from 78,839 (2023) to 50,955 (2024) by the

end of 2024. Year to date (9/15/2025) in 2025 the reporting Charter Fleet has only hosted 35,117 passengers in Maryland.

I feel that this reduction is unnecessary and will continue to cause financial hardship for the commercial industry and the charter board industry. The trickle-down effect would impact many aspects of the fishing industry as well as tourism, restaurants and many other small businesses related to the fishing industry.

I urge the Department to conduct a thorough analysis of the expected mortality and reproductive loss under this proposal as well as the potential financial loss to most of the aspects due to reductions and loss of business.

Regards,

Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.

September 17, 2025

The Honorable Joshua E. Kurtz, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Addendum 3 to Amendment 7 of Maryland's Fishery Management Plan/ Letter of Opposition

Dear Secretary Kurtz:

I, Delegate Jay Jacobs, Chair of the Maryland General Assembly Commercial Waterman's Caucus, submit this letter of opposition regarding the Fishery Management Plan Addendum 3 to Amendment 7 proposing a 12% reduction in the harvest of striped bass, as well as a commercial quota reduction since 2012 of 58%. As proposed, the members feel that these reductions are unnecessary and will cause financial hardship for the commercial industry and charter boat industry as well. This reduction would have a trickle-down effect, impacting many aspects of the fishing business as well as tourism, restaurants and many other small businesses related to fishery.

The caucus members are also especially concerned with the proposed change to the baseline on the recreational side where there is a proposal to open a catch and release season from January 1st to April 30th. Currently the no target season begins April 1st through May 15th. The catch and release period should not be altered as proposed. As the bay has warmed over the past several years, spawning females have begun their pre spawn journey up the Chesapeake Bay much earlier to the spawning grounds. During the 2024 legislative session, House Bill 1238 was introduced to adjust the no target date from March 1 to May 15, inclusive. The caucus discussed and supported that legislation though it was not passed. As you are aware, the trophy season was abolished in 2024 and

HB1238 was intended in addition to the trophy season closure to help give the spawning females a clear path to the spawning grounds to hopefully have a better natural spawn.

The caucus members are also very concerned with the stress and increased mortality during this critical time may have on these spawning females. We really don't know the impact of the health conditions of these spawning females after a long fight by an angler. Then the fish is removed from the water, not always correctly, for pictures etc. Lactic acid buildup from stress renders eggs sterile and some removals can cause premature egg discharge. Many of these conditions are supported by peer-reviewed research.

The caucus members are also opposed to the proposed recreational and charter boat closure from August 1st to August 31st. The charter boat industry is already experiencing a 75% reduction in business due to the 1 fish limit. This proposal would most likely be the final blow to that business in many cases. There would also be a heavy impact on tourism, restaurants, lodging, and other related businesses.

We urge the Department and the technical committee to conduct a thorough analysis of the expected mortality and reproductive loss under this proposal as well as the potential financial loss to most aspects due to reductions and loss of business.

Respectfully,

Delegate Jay Jacobs
Chair

Cc: Governor Wes Moore
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

From: Emilie Franke
To: Comments
Subject: FW: [External] [New] Comments for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 1:22:02 PM
Attachments: SCI LIT on Stress.pdf

From: Bob Munro <munrore@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Comments for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Hi Emilie, when I submitted my comments on Addendum III I wanted to include a synthesis of the scientific literature on stress-induced egg sterility and discharge in fish, but it wouldn't fit in the comment block. The literature clearly supports NOT increasing fish handling during the pre-spawn period, as in allowing Catch and Release during the month of April. Maryland's new baseline proposal not only ignores science, it contradicts what DNR has said for years about protecting the spawning stock.

Please find attached the synthesis I mentioned above. Regards, Bob Munro

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Scientific Literature on Stress-induced Egg Sterility and Discharge in Fish

Stress-Induced Lactic Acid Buildup, Egg Sterility, and Handling-Induced Egg Discharge in Fish: Physiological Mechanisms and Scientific Evidence

---

Introduction

The reproductive biology of teleost fish is characterized by a complex interplay between environmental cues, endocrine control, and metabolic status. In both natural and aquaculture contexts, fish reproduction is highly sensitive to stress. Two phenomena of particular interest in fisheries and hatchery practice are **lactic acid accumulation induced by acute or chronic stress potentially rendering fish eggs sterile**, and **the discharge of eggs (ovulation) in response to handling or removal of female fish from water**. Understanding the physiological and metabolic mechanisms underpinning these effects is essential for optimizing broodstock management, ensuring hatchery success, and interpreting research on wild populations.

This report synthesizes recent primary literature, comprehensive aquaculture manuals, and experimental studies, with particular attention to hormonal, metabolic, and species-specific responses. The evidence is presented in a structured, paragraph-driven format and includes a summary table of key studies—each annotated and contextualized in detailed prose immediately following each section.

Section 1: Metabolic Response and Lactic Acid Accumulation in Stressed Fish

Acute and Chronic Stress Pathways: From Environmental Cues to Cellular Events

When exposed to acute stressors, fish rapidly elevate their **plasma cortisol and catecholamines**, initiating a cascade of metabolic changes to supply energy for escape or physiological adaptation. The hypothalamic–pituitary–interrenal (HPI) axis is the central neuroendocrine axis managing this stress response, analogous to the hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis in mammals. Following catecholamine release, the HPI axis stimulates cortisol production, which acts systemically to increase gluconeogenesis, suppress non-essential anabolic processes, and shift from aerobic to anaerobic metabolism under conditions of **hypoxia, crowding, or intense exertion**.

Anaerobic glycolysis in fish muscle, precipitated by hypoxia or excessive muscular exertion (such as during capture, transport, or spawning), results in **lactic acid (lactate) accumulation**. Under conditions of inadequate oxygen supply, pyruvate is reduced to lactate to regenerate NAD+, sustaining ATP production albeit less efficiently than aerobic respiration. **Muscle lactate may rise significantly during stress, peaking at exhaustion and gradually decreasing during recovery. However, protracted or repeated stress leads to chronic elevation in blood and tissue lactate, metabolic acidosis, and disruptions to cellular functions**.

Species vary considerably in their tolerance of lactate and metabolic acidosis. Hypoxia-tolerant species (e.g., goldfish, catfish) exhibit adaptations for sustaining metabolic depression and utilizing anaerobic pathways more efficiently, while others have lower thresholds and exhibit swift physiological collapse under lactic acidosis.

Table: Stress and Metabolic Responses in Fish

Study Reference	Species Studied	Key Findings	Publication Details / Web Source
T. M. Brereton (2021)	General fish species	Stress and increased activity trigger anaerobic respiration, lactate buildup	Brereton, 2021
Moser et al. (2018)	Multiple freshwater	Chronic hypoxia reduces viable egg production and reproductive success	Moser et al., 2018
Pörtner & Knust (2007)	Marine fish	Anaerobic capacity linked to climate resilience and egg viability	Pörtner & Knust, 2007
Stangl & Wegener (1996)	Zebrafish	Heat loss/metabolic rate decline under hypoxia; lactate buildup documented	Thermochimica Acta 271:101–113
Ferguson & Tufts (1992)	Rainbow trout	Air exposure post-exercise leads to severe acidosis and high blood lactate	Can J Fish Aquat Sci 49:1157–1162

Fish respond to acute stress with observable increases in lactate concentrations in the blood and tissues. For example, **muscle lactate in zebrafish and rainbow trout is significantly higher after exhaustive exercise or air exposure, with slower recovery at lower rearing temperatures**. Air exposure for >30 seconds after chasing significantly increases extracellular acidosis and plasma lactate, with adverse effects on survival, swimming performance, and (as discussed later) reproductive outcomes.

Chronic or repeated stress, particularly if coupled with insufficient environmental recovery, leads to metabolic acidosis, which can have more insidious effects on long-term physiological processes, such as reduced growth, compromised immunity, and, most pertinently, reproductive dysfunction.

Section 2: Effects of Lactic Acid on Oocyte Viability and Egg Sterility

Impact of Lactic Acid Accumulation on Fish Reproduction

There is **extensive experimental and observational evidence** demonstrating that stress-induced metabolic shifts can jeopardize oocyte development and fertilizability. During stress, the **accumulation of lactic acid**, driven by hypoxia or intense exertion, is linked with depleted glycogen stores, reductions in

ovarian ATP content, intracellular acidosis, and shifts in the ionic and metabolic landscape of the oocyte microenvironment.

While direct mechanistic studies linking lactic acidosis per se to oocyte sterility are still developing, there is compelling evidence that **cells exposed to lactic acid exhibit impaired function**. Lactic acid reduces cytosolic pH, ultimately affecting ion channels, enzymatic activity, protein stability, and organellar integrity—all crucial for oocyte viability. **Metabolic acidosis is implicated in increased rates of atresia (degeneration) of developing oocytes, impairing maturation and rendering eggs non-fertile or non-viable**.

Histological and Molecular Evidence

- Histological studies report **degradation of oocyte structures, such as the disruption of yolk globules, breakdown of ooplasm, and increased rates of follicular atresia**, attributable to metabolic and oxidative stress incurred during or after stress exposure (including accumulation of lactic acid and reactive oxygen species).
- Transcriptome analyses during **atresia** (the process of oocyte degeneration in response to poor metabolic status or stress) demonstrate down-regulation of genes involved in steroidogenesis, mitochondrial ATP synthesis, and cell proliferation, with concurrent upregulation of oxidative phosphorylation and ROS-related genes, consistent with a shift toward damage control and nutrient salvage.
- **Cathepsin** activity (enzymes associated with protein breakdown in degenerating oocytes) is elevated during stress and correlated with decreased muscle and egg firmness, further linking metabolic acidosis with loss of oocyte viability.

Table: Key Studies on Lactic Acid and Oocyte Viability

Study Reference	Species	Findings	Publication Details
Bahuaud et al. (2010)	Atlantic salmon	Low pH (from high lactate) linked to cell separation, atresia	Food Chem 118:602–615; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2009.05.028
Lerfall et al. (2015)	Atlantic salmon	Flesh softening associated with high cathepsin activity, lactate	Food Chem 175:157–165; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2014.11.111
Moser et al. (2018)	Multiple freshwater	Fewer viable eggs, reduced reproductive success under hypoxia	Moser et al., 2018

Study Reference	Species	Findings	Publication Details
Martyniuk et al. (2013)	Largemouth bass	Atresia involves downregulation of metabolic genes	PLoS ONE 8: e59093
Van den Belt et al. (2002, 2003)	Danio rerio (zebrafish)	Endocrine disruption increases atresia, reduced egg viability	Environ Toxicol Chem 21(4), Aquatic Toxicol 68:193–217

Summary Paragraph:
Extensive data reinforce that **the accumulation of lactic acid as a consequence of anaerobic metabolism directly impairs the bioenergetics and structure of fish oocytes, leading to sterility or atresia of eggs**. While precise lactate thresholds and susceptibilities vary by species and even egg stage, the fundamental risk across teleosts is that stress-induced acidosis disrupts the tightly balanced environment required for gamete viability. The risk is heightened in intensive aquaculture systems and during stressful wild capture events, where metabolic demands are high and recovery opportunities may be limited.

Section 3: Hormonal Alterations in Stressed Fish Affecting Reproduction

The Hypothalamic–Pituitary–Gonadal (HPG) Axis and Stress-Imposed Disruption

Reproductive success in fish is regulated by the hypothalamic–pituitary–gonadal (HPG) axis. This axis, integrating environmental cues via the central nervous system, controls the synthesis and release of gonadotropins (FSH, LH) and the subsequent production of sex steroids (estrogens, androgens) that mediate oocyte maturation, ovulation, and spawning behavior.

Stress-induced activation of the **hypothalamic–pituitary–interrenal (HPI) axis** results in elevated cortisol, which exerts both direct and indirect effects on the HPG axis. **Cortisol acts at multiple points to suppress the reproductive axis, as shown in the following ways**:

- **Suppression of gonadotropin synthesis and release:** In several teleosts, both acute and chronic stress causes reductions in circulating LH, FSH, testosterone, and estrogen levels.
- **Direct inhibition of steroidogenic enzymes:** Studies in medaka, Japanese flounder, and pejerrey show that high temperature (a stressor) increases cortisol, which inhibits aromatase (cyp19a1a), the enzyme synthesizing estradiol, thereby impeding oocyte maturation and supporting masculinization or atresia.
- **Epigenetic and transcriptomic effects:** Chronic cortisol exposure alters the expression of oocyte and embryo developmental genes, and can mediate long-lasting effects across generations, as shown in studies of maternal mRNA and methylation in marine and freshwater fish.

Species specificity is significant. For example, Atlantic cod, rainbow trout, and striped bass show different patterns of cortisol effects on oocyte gene expression and viability, likely reflecting evolutionary adaptations to their respective reproductive ecologies.

Table: Key Hormonal Mechanisms in Stress-Imposed Reproductive Dysfunction

Study Reference	Species Studied	Stressor	Key Findings	Venue/Details
Kleppe et al., 2013	Atlantic cod	Cortisol administration	Alters oocyte/embryo cytogenesis factors	Gen Comp Endocrinol 189:84–95
Castañeda Cortés et al., 2019	Medaka	High temperature	CRH-B expression up, cortisol increase, prevents sex reversal in CRHR mutant lines	Development 146: dev172866
Pickering et al., 1987	Brown trout	Acute & chronic stress	Suppression of reproductive hormones, increased atresia	Gen Comp Endocrinol 68:249–259
Chen et al., 2020	Orange-spotted grouper	Cortisol administration	Induces female-to-male sex change	Front Endocrinol 11:12
Bobe, 2015	Multiple	Environmental, handling stress	Maternal mRNA profile in oocytes altered, effects on egg quality	Animal Frontiers 5:66–72

Summary Paragraph:
The interaction between the fish stress axis (HPI) and reproductive axis (HPG) is highly conserved among vertebrates. **Cortisol, and possibly other stress hormones, impair gonadotropin production, suppress key steroidogenic enzymes, and downregulate genes necessary for oocyte growth, maturation, and embryonic competence**. Epigenetic changes in eggs from stressed females further undermine viable reproduction in subsequent generations. These effects are modulated by species, reproductive stage, and even individual genetic background.

Section 4: Metabolic Acidosis and Gametogenesis

pH Regulation and Reproductive Failure

Fish eggs and developing oocytes exist in a tightly buffered microenvironment. **Stress-induced metabolic acidosis (drop in blood and tissue pH linked to lactic acid buildup) can directly compromise this**

environment, resulting in widespread effects on ion balance, protein stability, and enzymatic reactions necessary for egg maturation and early development.

Acidosis impairs **mitochondrial function** and thus decreases ATP availability, which is vital for both oocyte growth and protective responses to stress. The process of atresia, or resorption of developing oocytes, is reported to speed up under these conditions, and is associated with apoptosis, immune cell infiltration, and upregulation of cathepsin and hydrolase activity within the ovary.

Investigations in both lab and aquaculture settings have shown that metabolic acidosis is more detrimental to egg quality in some species than others, with variation likely due to differences in the composition of egg envelopes, ovarian fluids, and the efficiency of iontransporters and pH regulators in the ovarian tissue or surrounding plasma.

Table: Metabolic Acidosis and Gametogenic Effects

Study Reference	Species	Key Findings	Publication Details
Kumai et al. (2012a)	Zebrafish	Acid stress increases cortisol, upregulates ion transporter genes; promotes Na+ retention	Mol Cell Endocrinol 364:113–125
Kwong & Perry (2013)	Zebrafish	Cortisol reduces Na+ loss and paracellular permeability post-acid exposure	J Endocrinol 217:253–264
Bahuaud et al. (2010)	Atlantic salmon	Low pH (acidosis) associated with increased atresia and tissue softening	Food Chem 118:602–615

Summary Paragraph:
The effect of lactic acid-induced acidosis on egg viability is multifaceted—encompassing disruption of cellular homeostasis, reduction in ATP supply, activation of programmed cell death, and a breakdown in the structure of oocytes and supporting ovarian tissue. While the underlying mitochondrial and ionic mechanisms are shared with other vertebrate systems exposed to acidosis, unique adaptations in some hypoxia-tolerant fish do not necessarily confer resistance against reproductive suppression.

Section 5: Species-Specific Lactate Tolerance and Hormonal Responses

Variation Among Fish in Tolerance to Lactate and Stress

Teleosts exhibit broad interspecific and intraspecific variation in tolerance to lactate and stress-induced acidosis. Catfish, carp, and goldfish demonstrate high tolerance, owing to evolutionary adaptation to hypoxic waters, while salmonids and many marine species show lower thresholds for stress-induced egg inviability.

These differences are mediated by:

- **Efficiency of glycolytic and metabolic depression pathways**
- **Degree of antioxidant enzyme activity and ROS scavenging**
- **Function of monocarboxylate transporters (MCTs) in oocytes for lactate transport and clearance**.

Table: Species-Specific Responses

Study	Species	Key Findings	Details
Tanaka (2019)	Goldfish	High hemoglobin confers limited anaerobic endurance	Tanaka, 2019
Houghton (2018)	Lungfish	Efficient anaerobic metabolism supports hypoxia tolerance	Houghton, 2018
Davis et al. (2019)	Carp, tilapia	Selective breeding for hypoxia tolerance improves survival	Davis et al., 2019

Summary Paragraph:
Tolerance to stress and lactic acidosis is not uniform among fish, **with some taxa more resilient to environmental and handling stresses**. In all species, however, there is a point at which stress-induced metabolic shifts surpass the compensatory capacity of the egg and ovarian tissue, resulting in loss of reproductive competence, rendering eggs sterile or promoting atresia or abnormal development in embryos.

Section 6: Lactic Acid, the HPG Axis, and Monocarboxylate Transporters

Lactic Acid Transport in Oocytes: Role of MCTs

Eggs and oocytes shield themselves from metabolic derangement by utilizing monocarboxylate transporters (MCTs) to balance intra- and extracellular lactate concentrations. Recent zebrafish studies confirmed that **MCT1 is the principal isoform for oocyte lactate uptake; genetic ablation of MCT1 disrupts macrophage activation and regenerative responses, and likely interferes with proper oocyte bioenergetics and egg viability under stress**.

Researchers observed:

- **MCT1 knockout impairs lactate transport in eggs and immune cells**
- **Exogenous lactate can partially rescue defects caused by metabolic inhibition**, underscoring the importance of lactate in cellular energy and signaling

- **Disruption of MCT4, the main lactate exporter, does not impair lactate-dependent functions in oocytes, indicating that uptake rather than efflux is the limiting step for reproductive cell function under stress**.

Summary Paragraph:
While research is emergent, the evidence suggests that **disruption of lactate transporters compromises egg viability under metabolic stress, and may represent an additional link between stress-induced lactic acidosis and egg sterility**.

Section 7: Egg Release Induced by Removal from Water, Handling, and Air Exposure

Mechanisms of Induced Ovulation and Stripping

The **removal of female fish from water, air exposure, and manual handling** are standard practices in aquaculture for collecting eggs ("stripping"), and they also occur during transport and survey capture of wild fish. There is **consensus from hatchery manuals, aquaculture studies, and experimental work that these procedures can trigger ovulation (egg discharge) via mechanical and hormonal mechanisms**.

Mechanistically, **mechanical manipulation, acute stress, and mild dehydration (during air exposure) promote rupture of ovarian follicles and release of mature eggs**. These responses are modulated by:

- Increased plasma cortisol and catecholamines, triggering premature ovulation if the fish is near the end of the oocyte maturation process
- Mechanical pressure or pneumatic injection (in aquaculture) that forcibly expels eggs through the oviduct and/or ovipositor

Manual stripping, air stripping, or exposure to dry surfaces all can result in complete or partial egg release. **Prolonged air exposure exacerbates the stress response, potentially degrading oocyte quality if the eggs are not immediately collected and fertilized**.

Table: Studies of Air/Manual Stripping and Handling-Induced Egg Release

Study	Species	Findings	Details
Mahmoudi et al., 2024	Rainbow trout	Pneumatic egg extraction (air stripping) gives higher hatching rates than manual; correct pressure prevents egg damage or sterility	Iranian Journal of Fisheries Science
Kowalski et al., 2018	Rainbow & brown trout	Air stripping produces cleaner eggs, higher hatch rates in rainbow trout	JoVE Video

Study	Species	Findings	Details
Cejko et al., 2016	Northern pike	Air stripping increases fertilization, decreases damage compared to hand stripping	Czech J. Anim. Sci. 61, 483–491

Summary Paragraph:
Removal of female fish from water—a form of acute stress—readily induces egg release if eggs are mature, and the associated mechanical, hormonal, and dehydration cues coalesce to break follicular integrity. Although this method is indispensable for synchronizing egg retrieval in aquaculture, there is risk of decreasing egg quality and viability if fish are handled improperly or stressed excessively.

Section 8: Aquaculture Hatchery Manuals on Egg Stripping and Water Quality

Best Practices for Minimizing Stress

Industrial aquaculture hatchery manuals confirm and elaborate on the need to **avoid excessive stress and maintain optimal water quality for maximizing egg viability**. Standard protocols call for:

- Gentle anesthesia before manipulation to minimize handling stress
- Maintenance of high oxygen, proper pH (6.2–6.8 for salmonids), low carbon dioxide, and minimum disturbance during and after egg stripping
- Incremental temperature changes to avoid shock, which can otherwise **induce premature hatching/sterility or atresia in eggs**
- **Eggs should be handled in a moist, oxygenated environment and immediately fertilized post-collection to avoid loss of viability due to desiccation or contamination**

Table: Environmental Parameters from Aquaculture Manuals

Parameter	Ova	Alevins	Source
Water Temp (°C)	1–8	1–8	Atlantic Salmon Hatchery, 2019
Oxygen (mg/ml)	7.0	7.0	"
O2 Saturation (%)	90	80	"
Carbon dioxide (mg/ml)	<6.0	<6.0	"
pH	6.2–6.8	6.2–6.8	"

Summary Paragraph:
Proper handling, immediate fertilization, and strict water quality control are emphasized to prevent losses in egg viability related to stress, lactic acid accumulation, and improper egg release. Deviations from these standards, especially prolonged or repeated handling, have direct negative impacts on egg fertilizability and downstream progeny health.

Section 9: Experimental Studies on Stress-Induced Egg Viability Loss and Field Evidence

Evidence from Laboratory, Aquaculture, and Field

Laboratory and field studies alike underline that **stressors reducing oxygen supply or increasing mechanical stress—netting, crowding, air exposure, transport—directly impair reproductive performance, as measured by egg counts, fertilization rates, and hatching success**.
Conserved findings include:

- Reproduction is more sensitive to stress than growth or survival, often declining even at stressor levels not lethal to adults or not detected by gross health indices.
- **Handling stress, including transportation and stripping, can decrease the number and quality of eggs produced**.
- **Transported broodstock show reduced fecundity and diminished viability of progeny**, especially in species not adapted for frequent capture or handling.

Case Studies

- **Atlantic Salmon**: Incubation and transport stressors associated with loss of egg viability and early mortality, with hatchery procedures adapted to minimize physical and metabolic stress.
- **Chinook Salmon**: Captive-reared females show lower egg viability and fry survival than wild counterparts, although both rates may be sufficient for population maintenance.

Table: Key References on Broodstock Handling and Egg Quality

Study Reference	Species	Key Findings	Publication Details
Armed et al. (2010)	Catfish, trout	Handling stress negative correlation with egg quality	Int. Aquatic Res. 2, 37–44
Stark et al. (2018)	Chinook salmon	Captive-reared have lower egg-to-fry survival	TAFS 147:128–138

Study Reference	Species	Key Findings	Publication Details
Raby et al. (2013)	Pink and chum salmon	Mature spawners are somewhat resilient to handling; prespawn mortality low	TAFS 142:524–539

Summary Paragraph:
Experimental manipulation and real-world events confirm the sensitivity of fish reproduction to stress-induced lactic acid accumulation, handling procedures, and improper environmental conditions. Even at sublethal or seemingly minor stress exposures, egg number and quality can be reduced, fertilization can fail, and broodstock performance can be undermined. Standard hatchery procedures and conservation protocols aim to mitigate these risks.

Section 10: Histological Analyses of Lactate-Induced Ovarian Damage

Detailed Oocyte and Ovary Morphology Changes

Histological and imaging studies of fish ovaries after stress demonstrate:

- **Breakdown of organelles and cytoplasmic structure in atretic oocytes**
- **Liquefaction of yolk, disruption of nuclear envelope, and influx of phagocytic granulosa and immune cells**
- **Presence of apoptosis markers (cleaved caspase-3) in oocytes and surrounding follicular tissue**
- **White bodies in yolk sacs as a result of coagulation and damage from handling or metabolic insult**

Freezing and delayed preservation worsen morphological integrity, complicating both histological diagnosis and the chance for successful fertilization or embryonic development.

Summary Paragraph:
At the cellular and tissue level, **stress-induced lactic acidosis causes visible, reproducible, and diagnostic adverse changes in oocytes and ovarian tissue; in severe cases, these are indistinguishable from those seen in advanced atresia or before programmed cell death**. Such findings reinforce the importance of minimizing stress in both research and practical settings.

Conclusions

There is robust, multidimensional support for the claim that **lactic acid buildup, resulting from acute or chronic stressors, can render fish eggs sterile by disrupting the metabolic, ionic, and hormonal**

environment necessary for oocyte maturity and viability. The handling of broodstock—particularly the removal of female fish from water for egg collection (stripping)—unambiguously induces egg discharge via a combination of mechanical and neurohormonal cues. Both phenomena are mediated by the highly integrated HPI-HPG stress and reproductive axes, with crucial roles for cortisol, catecholamines, and downstream metabolic responses.

Species exhibit varying thresholds for stress tolerance and lactic acid accumulation, but **no teleost is immune to adverse reproductive outcomes in the face of severe or repeated physiological stress**. Aquaculture manuals, field studies, and laboratory experiments converge in their recommendation to minimize handling, optimize environmental quality, and utilize gentle anesthetic and egg collection protocols wherever possible.

Reproductive suppression via stress is among the most sensitive indicators of suboptimal fish welfare and environmental mismatch across aquaculture and fisheries conservation—a fact that must inform both commercial practice and ecological management.

Table: Summary of Key Peer-Reviewed Studies, Manuals, and Experimental Data

Study Reference	Species Studied	Stressor/Intervention	Key Findings	Publication / Year
Barton & Schreck, 1987; Pickering et al., 1987	Salmonids, brown trout	Handling, crowding, air exposure	Stress doubles metabolic rate, suppresses reproductive hormones	Gen. Comp. Endocrinol, U.S. Fish Symp. (1987)
Bahuaud et al., 2010; Lerfall et al., 2015	Atlantic salmon	Low pH (lactic acid)	Atresia, softening, increased cathepsin & lactic acid	Food Chem 118:602–615; 175:157–165
Martyniuk et al., 2013	Largemouth bass	Atresia via metabolic stress	Downregulated metabolic genes, upregulated ROS pathways	PLoS ONE 8: e59093
Mahmoudi et al., 2024; Kowalski et al., 2018	Rainbow trout	Air/manually stripping	Air stripping yields higher egg viability than manual	Iranian J. Fish Sci.; JoVE video

Study Reference	Species Studied	Stressor/Intervention	Key Findings	Publication / Year
Cejko et al., 2016	Northern pike	Manual vs. air stripping	Air stripping increases fertilization, less damage	Czech J. Anim. Sci. 61:483–491
Kumai et al., 2012a; Kwong & Perry, 2013	Zebrafish	Acid stress	Increased cortisol, altered ion transporter gene expression	Mol. Cell. Endocrinol. 364:113–125; J. Endocrinol. 217:253
Bonnet et al., 2007a; Kleppe et al., 2013; Bobe, 2015	Trout, cod	Environmental & cortisol stress	Egg/embryo malformations, mRNA profile changes	BMC Genomics 8:55; GCE 189:84–95; Anim. Frontiers 5:66–72
Arends et al., 1999	Gilthead seabream	Air exposure	Increased cortisol, stress response documented	J. Endocrinol. 163:149
Raby et al., 2013; Stark et al., 2018	Pacific and Chinook salmon	Capture, transport, handling	Mixed resilience; prespawn mortality low if handling minimized	TAFS 142:524–539; 147:128–138
Pickering et al., 1987; Bobe, 2015; Escaffre & Billard, 1979	Brown trout, rainbow trout	Post-ovulation holding, chronic stress	Fertilization declines, higher atresia if stress/prolonged storage	GCE 68:249–259; Bull. Fr. Piscic. 272:56–70
Wedemeyer, 1972; Specker & Schreck, 1980	Coho salmon, steelhead	Handling, air exposure, transport	Handling reduces viability, increases mortality	J. Fish Res. Board Can. 29:1780-1783; Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 37:765–769

This synthesis provides a rigorous, nuanced account of the evidence relating to lactic acid-induced egg sterility and handling-induced egg discharge in fish, drawing on dozens of high-quality peer-reviewed sources, experimental aquaculture manuals, and recent advances in reproductive and stress physiology.

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 10:07:48 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kevin Nestor
Email
nestorkevin60@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Option A

Maryland Fishing and Hunting, LLC
P.O. Box 31
Stevensville, MD 21666

ASMFC
Attn. Emilie Franke
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

On behalf of the Maryland Fishing and Hunting, we are in **Opposition to Draft Addendum III to Amendment VII of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass and Support Status Quo**. We are also in **Opposition to the change in Maryland's Seasonal Baseline and support maintaining Maryland's baseline reverting back to the 2022 Recreational Season and Support Status Quo.**

Opposition to Draft Addendum III to Amendment VII of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass and Support Status Quo:

The Charter Boat Captains, Watermen, and Recreational Fishermen of Maryland have suffered from the most recent Fishery Management decisions. The Draft Addendum proposes an additional 12% reduction to Commercial and Recreational Harvest. This objective is to solely reproduce the Striped Bass Spawning Stock to record numbers by 2029. The spawning stock is projected to be rebuilt in a short duration thereafter and it still has a thirty percent chance of being rebuilt based on the current data collected. This is a deadline that is merely a line in the sand, that will create an insufferable burden to the Atlantic Coasts Fishing Community.

Since the adoption of the last Addendum, Fifty Four Charter Boats have been listed or sold and Five Tackle Stores have closed in the State of Maryland due to economic hardships. For perspective, last season the Maryland Charter Boats harvested 34,985 Striped Bass (2024), down from 100,997 the prior year (2023). As of September 15, 2025 from Public Information Request the Charter Boats of Maryland had harvested via the FACTS Reporting System 26,566 Striped Bass. The total number of trips were reduced from 11,362 (2023) to 5,412 (2024) and the numbers are projected to be lower in 2025. The number of anglers on Maryland Charter Boats

also declined from 78,839 (2023) to 50,955 (2024) by the end of 2024. Year to date (9/15/2025) in 2025 the reporting Charter Fleet has only hosted 35,117 passengers in Maryland.

Opposition to the change in Maryland's Seasonal Baseline and support maintaining Maryland's baseline reverting back to the 2022 Recreational Season and Support Status Quo:

Representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources continue to be a conduit for special interest and continue to push the restructuring of Maryland's Striped Bass Fishing Season. Special interests including the Maryland Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation desire to take access of the Striped Bass Fishery away from Maryland Anglers during the Summer months which is unnecessary. It is statistically supported through MRIP and the FACTS Reporting System that the Summer Months are when fishing effort on Maryland waters are at its peak. Sacrificing the opportunity for anglers to harvest the State Fish of Maryland during Summer months to merely reopen the April Catch and Release Fishery at a cost to the Spawning Stock is irresponsible and requires additional reductions to do so. The caveat that the season would begin May 1-15 by adding the slot limit sized fish (19-24") is an unnecessary cost to Maryland anglers when the Coastal Slot limit (28-31") can be re instituted by maintaining the 2022 baseline by fishing on a post spawn biomass that is currently accessed by the majority of the Atlantic Coast and Commercial Fishery of Maryland. There is no justification for the restructuring of Maryland Season other than to negatively affect the Fishing Community in Maryland and the Atlantic Striped Bass Spawning Stock.

Supporting Status Quo and maintaining the 2022 Seasonal Baseline will add two weeks of access to the fishery. Starting the season May 1st that was taken from the Fishermen of Maryland in 2023 will also help keep Maryland businesses open when Fishing effort is statistically supported through MRIP and the FACTS Electronic Reporting System during the months of July and August. Supporting the 2022 Baseline will provide more access without cost to the Fishing Community of Maryland. It should be recognized that the two weeks of the 2022 baseline option (May 1- 15) was intentionally left out of the graphical presentation at the ASMFC's Public Comment hearings and was only displayed in text on the back of the Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III: Excerpt of Options (see page 2).

During the months of March and April the Striped Bass Spawning stock are at their most pivotal point of reproduction. The thought of creating additional fishing mortality to the biomass is a concept that is inappropriate at this time. Over the past several years, catch and release has been prohibited during the month of April to protect the Atlantic Spawning Stock, this is the time when the Female Striped Bass are most fecund. They are of the utmost importance for the future of our fishery and promoting this activity during this time period has numerous consequences.

To further support our opposition to Addendum III, the majority of the audience that attended the past two Maryland ASMFC Public Comment Meetings voices were heard. At the first meeting 187 attendees unanimously voted in Opposition to the Addendum and the baseline

change suggested by the State of Maryland and the majority did as well at the second meeting. The Fishermen of Maryland have been devastated by the Fishery Management Decisions and cannot endure further reductions.

Depriving families, school children, and all walks of life, the opportunity to experience the State Fish of Maryland in the Summer Months would be tragic. Especially to the boating industry, restaurants, hotels, boat sales, state fishing licenses, and other related businesses. There is also no statistical information that supports there will be an economic increase and/or an economic impact study that has been conducted pertaining to the restructuring of Maryland's Fishing effort from the months of July & August to April and partially May. We cannot recommend business owners change their business models dramatically or choose an option that is statistically unproven. From January 2024- April 2024 & January 2025- March 2025 only 47 For Hire trips were documented through the FACTS Reporting system (PIA Request 040725). It's impossible to justify such a change in policy or business operations based on this alone.

Recruitment of the Striped Bass Spawning Stock Biomass and Accessibility to one of the Atlantic's greatest resources is of the utmost importance. It is the greatest concern to the Charter Boat Captains and Watermen of the Chesapeake Bay.

We appreciate your support and willingness to help the Fishing Community of Maryland and the Atlantic.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Seman

Captain Jason A. Seman

iFishMD.com

Sport Fishing Charters

09/22/2025

ASMFC Striped Bass Board
Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Comments

As professional fishing guides and a sales representative for a recreational boat manufacturer in Maryland, we wanted to provide feedback pertaining to Draft Addendum III. The two portions of the document that pertain to us and we feel strongly about are to **SUPPORT 3.3, Option B** regarding the NEW BASELINE for Maryland and to request **option A, STATUS QUO, for 3.4** the reduction in fisheries removals. Below is our reasoning.

3.3 MARYLAND CHESAPEAKE BAY RECREATIONAL SEASON BASELINE

We STRONGLY support Option B, New Baseline with NO buffer

- The NEW BASELINE creates a simpler, more enforceable season for the recreational angler, promotes access to the fishery, supports business and safeguards the Striped Bass population.
- The NEW BASELINE **saves fish** by shifting the no-target closure to August, when water temperatures are hot and fish have been in low oxygen water longer. In August the fish are more prone to die from release per DNR science. This will result in a reduction in actual mortality, especially given the current small slot and creel. .
- The current spring no-target closure has not shown to benefit spawning success in a measurable way. It has only resulted in lost access to our public natural resources and hurt our economic benefit. It also discourages people from fishing at all due to fear of catching a striped bass in error.

It is important to note that safeguards will also remain in effect with the NEW BASELINE:

- The historical spawning grounds in the Chesapeake Bay will remain closed to fishing as they have since the 1980's.
- Existing Gear restrictions including limits in number of rods, hook configurations, and live-bait restrictions will remain in place as specified March- April.

3.4 REDUCTION IN FISHERY REMOVALS TO SUPPORT STOCK REBUILDING

We Support OPTION A; Status Quo

- The proposed 12% reduction in fishery removals is a knee jerk reaction to short term fluctuations in MRIP data. Nor has there been enough time to fully evaluate the effectiveness of current regulations to develop a trend.

Sincerely,

Capt Greg Shute, FGR202
Captain Brennan Shute, FGR3938

Homeport: Annapolis Maryland
410-533-1435 | ifishmd@gmail.com

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:28:42 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Tucker white

Email

8twhite8@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Striped Bass Management Board,

As a commercial striped bass quota owner, I am writing in opposition to the proposed reduction of commercial quotas under Draft Addendum III. While I recognize the importance of rebuilding the striped bass stock, I do not believe that cutting commercial quota is a justified or effective tool in meeting that goal.

There is no strong evidence to suggest that reducing commercial harvest allocations meaningfully contributes to stock rebuilding in the way the Commission intends. Historically, commercial harvest has represented a smaller portion of total removals compared to the recreational sector, which is responsible for the vast majority of striped bass mortality—both through harvest and release mortality. Yet, commercial operators are repeatedly asked to absorb proportional quota cuts, despite our catch being well-documented, closely monitored, and enforced through strict reporting and tagging requirements.
Commercial fisheries already operate under tight limits, full accountability, and traceability. We are not the source of the management uncertainty that threatens rebuilding. Reducing our quota further only penalizes working watermen and seafood markets without addressing the true drivers of fishing mortality. Meanwhile, recreational removals remain highly variable, difficult to enforce, and heavily influenced by unmeasured discard mortality.

If the Commission is serious about rebuilding striped bass, the focus should be on management measures that directly reduce the largest and most uncertain source of mortality—recreational removals—rather than targeting the most accountable and regulated sector. Cutting commercial quota will not fix recruitment challenges, nor will it guarantee the rebuilding success ASMFC seeks. It will only hurt small businesses, coastal economies, and the supply of wild, local seafood to the public.

For these reasons, I urge the Board to reject additional reductions in the commercial quota under Addendum III and instead pursue measures that address the greatest sources of mortality and management uncertainty.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully,SEP Tucker White, Commercial Quota Owner

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:13:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Holden Smith

Email

hsmith@davidabrambleinc.com

State

Maryland

Comment

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For these reasons, I urge the Board to reject additional reductions in the commercial quota under Addendum III and instead pursue measures that address the greatest sources of mortality and management uncertainty.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully 1 SEP Holden Smith

Commercial Quota Owner

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:08:19 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Charlie Bryan
Email
cbchartersfishing@gmll.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support option A

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:08:48 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Gregory McCrickard
Email
gmccrickard@me.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Harvest should be restricted to the maximum effect . While I would prefer a moratorium implemented immediately I recognize that this is not on the table yet…..we will be there by ‘27 at the latest. For now option B with a 12% reduction appears to be the best we can do.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:51:12 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Jeffrey Darby

Email

jeffrey.darby@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

To make this as short as possible, I am an avid fisherman who spends a lot of time on the Chesapeake. I fish from the Chesapeake bridge tunnel up to the bay bridge. I am apart of a great network of guys in the eastern shore area who fish together frequently. Through my years of fishing and having my network of fishing buddies we have definitely seen a huge decline in rockfish numbers. Just so we're clear, I don't eat rockfish so I and all anglers on my boat throw back every fish we catch. I typically catch 300 fish a year and within our network of guys who catch and release, I don't know if any fish that died due to catch and release. Maryland really screwed up after the moratorium was lifted years ago. It allowed way and I repeat way too many fish to be removed from the stock. Now we're seeing the same problem repeat itself. Although there have been counter measures it's not enough. I believe the commercial fishing for rockfish has devastated the population. Example, I fish through the December month and can recall over several years knowing first hand the devastating affect of netting. The last two years there were breeder rockfish just south of poplar island. Huge schools of these 40-50" rockfish. They hang around the same area for several weeks to months. And without the blink of an eye…they are all gone. So to answer my curiosity I started doing some research and what I found was sad. After talking to several people from the tilghman island area I found out the commercial netters went in and netted the entire population of breeder rockfish. That is what happens when the state allows netters to use theyre numbers to be made up in colder months. The problem with overfishing is it will never stop unless netting is permanently suspended in the Chesapeake. When a commercial guy nets fish there is no chance of rebuilding the rockfish stock. I wish I had more time to discuss this matter.
Feel free to reach out to me
Jeff Darby
443-262-5833

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:21:03 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Poore
Email
wpoore@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
It's really very simple; "SAVE THE STRIPER". Eliminate net fishing of all types. Hook and line cut in 1/2 with declining take over 10 years to 0. Option to buy-out license to minimize impact. Federal slot (all states) of 24" to 30" with 1 per fisherman per day. Keep it simple and easy to understand. None of this targeting closures as it's too difficult to enforce and prove in court. Good luck. Fisherman everywhere are counting on you to make the tough decisions. It may come with a lot of whining and crying, but in the end, it's the best thing for the fishery.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:35:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Gail Manley

Email

gmanley@kent.k12.md.us

State

Maryland

Comment

The slot size for Maryland striped bass should be changed, especially for the For-Hire Charter Services. This slot implementation is causing more dead discards. Please listen to the charter captains --- they know more about what is happening in Maryland than the ASMFC. The regulations placed recently have not had enough time for anyone to collect data to ascertain if they are working as hoped.

I was pleased when the regs were changed in Maryland to move the opening of the striper season to May 1st. I believed we needed to allow the fish to finish spawning. But after a few years, when the season opening was moved to May 15th, I thought that was an even more effective move. Closing the catch and release during this time truly helps with the spawning outcomes. Now for some reason, the powers that be want to regress and open the season for catch and release again at even earlier time frames. This is ludicrous if the ASMFC and the MD DNR are truly interested in protecting the spawning stock.

The reduction of the commercial fisherman by another 12-13% is totally unfair. Are you willing to take such a decrease in your income? I don't think so.

I also attended the meeting in Wye Mills, MD on September 22nd. While listening to Ms. Franke's presentation, it was clear she rehearsed it well as all answers to the questions were the same. But Ms. Franke used the words "uncertain" and "uncertainty" throughout her presentation. How can you make such decisions with so much uncertainty? You must wait for true data . . . not just cherry-pick the data that you want. Why was the bar set so high ?

The charter services in Maryland should have the two fish per customer restored until ALL recreational fisherman are required to participate in the online hail-in, hail-out service. If you do that, you will truly find who is causing most of the dead discards. Tournaments also cause a huge amount of fish kill and a moratorium on tournaments should be imposed immediately to protect the stock.

Our small watermen communities are hurting financially due to the nonchalance of the ASMFC and the Maryland DNR. I am certain that you do not care and would like nothing more that to exterminate the commercial seafood harvesters and the For-Hire Charter service. As Maryland is the breeding ground for most of the striped bass on the east coast, why should unelected bureaucrats from outside of Maryland dictate what happens in Maryland waters? The Maryland watermen, commercial and for-hire who earn a living on the Bay, are truly conserving the stock.

I do not support of any of the proposals put forth by the ASMFC!

Thank you,
Gail Manley
Rock Hall, MD 21661

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:42:05 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Garnet Humelsine
Email
buddy_h@live.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Nothing will ever get accomplished until recreational fishermen embrace catch and release. C&R is practiced across the globe on dozens of gamefish species with no ill effect but management practices continue to shun the practice, especially in the Chesapeake. Likewise, nothing will get done with the money being spent by special interest groups to vilify recreational fishing while taking money from commercial outfits. Star with Omega Proteins and the foreign Menhaden fleet raping our waters.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:39:52 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Aaron Gardner
Email
agardn9729@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support the following options for 2026 striped bass management adjustments: 3.1 I support Option A (no changes, leave this up to each state). 3.2 I support Option C (Must be tagged before boat returns to the dock.) 3.3 I support Option B (summer closure August 1-31). 3.4 I support Option 1 for the ocean fishery 3.4 I support option 3 for the Chesapeake Bay fishery.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:34:24 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Pickens
Email
pickensonthebay@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
NO CHANGES !!!!!!!!! I have taken enough reductions in harvest and days I can fish from just the past few years. I have watched businesses close and charter boats sell. What we have is a water quality issue in the bay that needs to be addressed NOT OVER FISHING. As someone who has grown up fishing the bay and been able to provide for my family I certainly have seen changes..... BUT .... let's address the real issues at hand and work on water quality correct science and data. PLEASE. Catch and release on the spawning stock is ridiculous. After we have taken years of cuts to protect it ? Now open it ? I think EVERYTHING needs to be reevaluated and previous actions given a chance to work or not work before we continue to just cut cut cut Thank you for your time.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:48:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Shawn Gibson

Email

sgibso2@yahoo.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Hello,

I am a 3rd generation charter captain on the Chesapeake Bay. I am in favor of Draft Addendum III, option B to the Striped Bass Management plan.

For the past 8 years on the Chesapeake Bay we have witnessed the biomass of juvenile striped bass shrink and shift migration patterns which places fish in the upper Chesapeake Bay. The current leadership of the MD Charter Boat Association, most of whom operate in these upper Chesapeake Bay regions, wants to avoid any regulation changes that will impact their ability to harvest these smaller fish in the summer months. The summer months are the most harmful as the 19/24” slot limit inevitably leads to catch and release of fish caught by live lining Spot fish, also a harmful means to harvest striped bass. Closing August, the warmest water temperature month of our season, is beneficial to reduce release mortality during the most high risk time period. The MCBA leadership does not represent every charter boat in Maryland. They represent small group of charter jays in the upper bay that is determined to protect their summer striped bass fishery, at the detriment of protecting our SSB recruitment.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:33:53 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Perry Davidson
Email
excaliburcharters@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Ian opposed to addendum 3 and any reduction vote status quo

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:57:32 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Michael Nickerson

Email

michael.nickerson2001@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Striped Bass Management Board,

As a commercial striped bass quota owner, I am writing in opposition to the proposed reduction of commercial quotas under Draft Addendum III. While I recognize the importance of rebuilding the striped bass stock, I do not believe that cutting commercial quota is a justified or effective tool in meeting that goal.

There is no strong evidence to suggest that reducing commercial harvest allocations meaningfully contributes to stock rebuilding in the way the Commission intends. Historically, commercial harvest has represented a smaller portion of total removals compared to the recreational sector, which is responsible for the vast majority of striped bass mortality—both through harvest and release mortality. Yet, commercial operators are repeatedly asked to absorb proportional quota cuts, despite our catch being well-documented, closely monitored, and enforced through strict reporting and tagging requirements.

Commercial fisheries already operate under tight limits, full accountability, and traceability. We are not the source of the management uncertainty that threatens rebuilding. Reducing our quota further only penalizes working watermen and seafood markets without addressing the true drivers of fishing mortality. Meanwhile, recreational removals remain highly variable, difficult to enforce, and heavily influenced by unmeasured discard mortality.

If the Commission is serious about rebuilding striped bass, the focus should be on management measures that directly reduce the largest and most uncertain source of mortality—recreational removals—rather than targeting the most accountable and regulated sector. Cutting commercial quota will not fix recruitment challenges, nor will it guarantee the rebuilding success ASMFC seeks. It will only hurt small businesses, coastal economies, and the supply of wild, local seafood to the public.

For these reasons, I urge the Board to reject additional reductions in the commercial quota under Addendum III and instead pursue measures that address the greatest sources of mortality and management uncertainty.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully,
Michael Nickerson
Commercial Quota Owner

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:26:13 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Dan Colhoun

Email

dwcolhoun@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

To: the ASMFC Striped Bass Board
Ref: ASMFC ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM III PUBLIC COMMENT

3.3 MARYLAND SEASON RECREATIONAL BASELINE
I support Option. B New Baseline

3.4 REDUCTION IN FISHERY REMOVALS TO SUPPORT STOCK REBUILDING
I support Option. A Status Quo

As a recreational fisherman on the Chesapeake Bay - myself and 3 sons put in a lot of hours striped bass fishing…we catch very few fish - this summer maybe 30 striped bass all season and we cover a lot of water…and yes while we are not very good at it mostly using fly rods and no live bait - it absolutely confounds me that commercial fisherman haul in pounds of fish whether using live bait or nets and all of us are lumped into these studies together….my friends do not fish much anymore it's tough to find them without bird showing the way…in my opinion the netting and commercial harvesting is doing the real damage to the biomass - us recreational anglers - mostly catch and release are not the problem…

Dan Colhoun
Annapolis, MD

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 6:55:19 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Thomas Hallock
Email
tommylouhallock@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Maryland charter boats have taken the largest reductions of anyone in this state,totally unacceptable,all based on speculation,very little knowledge or science on the amount of fish actually out there ,status quo's for me !!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:32:55 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Wm Williams
Email
fishmegabite@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am totally against addendum 111 I support option A status Quo.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 3:39:47 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jeffery Ruth
Email
captjruth@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
As a life long waterman if 60 years I am against the reduction in catch striped bass that is proposed by Maryland. Also against the catch and release season proposed during spawning season. The recreational fisherman do not know how to carefully catch and release fish they pass them around to everyone to take pictures and if you did a study on this you would see how many die. Your study is too inclusive of too many areas each one area should have their own study.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:38:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Kenney
Email
Wmkenney72@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Status Quo. Recreational fishing does not need a 12% reduction. The winter fishing is for big boats and excludes the majority of regular folks. Reductions have not have the the data to show any increase spawning biomass. We are loosing charters and that is many people access to the water.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:22:30 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Stev Arentz

Email

steven.arentz@house.maryland.gov

State

Maryland

Comment

I am writing in Opposition to Draft Addendum III Amendment VII of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for the Atlantic Striped Bass. I am supportive of maintaining Status Quo.
For many years I have seen where DNR relies heavily on the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) for what is best for Chesapeake Bay and its watershed and our fishing industry. Both organizations have very open agendas, I see this in legislation that they support and disagree with in my committee. As a State Legislator, I took an oath to protect and ensure the Public Trust, I am certain these organizations are not held to this standard. When making decisions all the data needs to be shared and there should be no bias based on the agenda of these types of organizations. Decisions should be made with all available knowledge and facts being considered. DNR appears to put far too much weight on these opinions and suggestions without taking a more comprehensive look at the complete data and what a lifetime of experience and actual living and working on the waters of Maryland has provided.
I am in favor of more equal representation when making these decisions. Accountability is needed with facts and not an agenda.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:49:28 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Phillip Langley

Email

Desperatemeasuresfishing@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I write this comment being opposed to Draft Addendum III and would like to stay with Status Quo.
As a Light tackle Fishing Guide and lifetime waterman of the Chesapeake Bay I have major concerns with the re opening of catch and release for Spawning Striped Bass. Many sacrifices were made throughout the charter boat industry when the spring season was closed to keep and more sacrifices were made when the spring was closed to targeting. Although we knew these closures were going to hurt our business we also knew that drastic measures needed to be taken in effort to rebuild the spawning stock. The life long watermen, men and women that have devoted their life to fishing the waters of the Chesapeake Bay for generations, Men and women who have been around long enough to live through the moratorium, watched the rise and fall of the Striped Bass in the Bay watched the "new breed" of captains and anglers rise in recent outrageous numbers, these well seasoned guardians of the Chesapeake Bay are begging you to not allow this.
These long time captains of the Chesapeake Bay including myself could take advantage of the Spring catch and release season. We could book catch and release trips and build our spring business back up BUT we are standing here asking you not to allow it. Not because we do not want to fish that time of year but because we see that catch and release of spawning striped bass can be devastating to the recovery of the Spawning Stock. We have sacrificed and worked hard to save our businesses and it would be a slap in the face to see our hard work go to waste because new, uneducated user groups that have not dedicated their lives to this bay can not find a way to survive without an April season.
I have witnessed first hand over the past 25 years on the water the intense increase in not just recreational pressure but part time un educated guides. With social media and boat electronics these days people with limited experience or education on the water can be successful at finding these big fish. This leads to unexperienced anglers handling a profound amount of Spawning fish incorrectly and leading to higher mortality rates than predicted. Handing a License to target troubled delicate Spawning Striped Bass to the public is a pure act of carelessness and deliberate destruction of a fishery we have been working and sacrificing to save.

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attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:44:47 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Russell Green
Email
carolgfishing@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I'm in favor of option A. Status quo for the Chesapeake Bay. We can't take any more cuts and stay in business. Thanks for your consideration. Capt Russ Green

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:41:24 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jon Tkach
Email
jtkach11@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support maintaining current regulations, and no targeting closures.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:06:49 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Paul Wolfe

Email

pobrepaul@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I support the Maryland's proposed new baseline season change. It will help simplify and bring some consistency to the seasons, which have been changing constantly the last few years. It maximizes the number of possible fishing days while using science to make no change the removal rate of fish. As long as the spawning grounds a kept off limits during spring and there is no trophy season, this new baseline will help. The fact we are seeing more bluefish and red drum in the summer also makes this less painful.

I also think the Commission needs to consider further population wide restrictions on commercial catches to meet the 12 percent reduction you are considering. Some states already treat striped bass a purely game fish where no commercial take is allowed and given the reduced availability we need to consider treating it more like what Florida does with Tarpon than perch.

In all the materials I have read there was no discussion of the forage fish biomass. I assume that means it is beyond the control of the Commission, but if it is in scope, then that needs to be part of the discussion. The by-catch and forage fish removal levels in the lower Chesapeake bay are unsustainable and the reduction or a one year moratorium on this fishery should be considered at the very least as a test to see how it impacts species further up the food chain. It would be great to know if such a moratorium could be used to meet the reduction in take target.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:54:16 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Richard Gardner
Email
rich.gardner.mailer@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I appreciate the Commission's efforts to rebuild the Striped Bass stock, and willingness to accept public input on ways to enhance it. I support the following Management Options, and provide the following comments: 3.1 - I support Option A, I do not feel this is a material enough issue to be regulated at Federal level 3.2 - I support Option C 3.3 - I support Option B, and would be in favor of an even longer summer closure (eg. close the entire Wave, or at least July 16 - August 31) since that is when waters are hottest in Chesapeake Bay (high release mortality) and the most other species are available to fish for. I do not support shortening the catch & keep season in December when the waters are cold (release mortality is VERY low), fewer people are fishing (due to many more days of harsh weather conditions, and hunting season being open), and there are very few other species in the Bay to fish for. I think December should stay open all month, and would be OK losing additional days from May or July if needed to make up for it. 3.4 - I support Option 1 for the Ocean Fishery. I do not think the for-hire charter boats and recreational anglers should have different regulations. I support Option 3 for the Chesapeake Bay. Keep the same as 2025. The 19"-24" slot is plenty restrictive.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:15:45 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
frank carver
Email
LOOSENUPCHARTERS@GMAIL.COM
State
Maryland
Comment
vote status quo for Maryland

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: Evan Dintaman
To: Comments
Cc: Lynn Fegley; Michael Luisi; Emilie Franke; David Sikorski
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Comments
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:06:22 AM

ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the continued decline of the striped bass population. The troubling state of this fishery is not only the result of poor natural recruitment but also, in large part, due to the repeated mismanagement of this resource by the ASMFC Board. Decisions made in recent years have failed to protect the stock when warning signs were clear, and the result has been a fishery in crisis.

As someone who deeply values the striped bass resource, I strongly support the following management options:

- 3.1: Option B — Mandatory Elements for Total Length

- 3.2: Option B — Tagging at the Point of Harvest

- 3.3: Option C — New Baseline with Buffer

- 3.4: Option B — Full 12% Reduction Across Both Sectors

- No-Harvest Closures: I do not support no-targeting closures (except on spawning grounds).

These measures represent the minimum actions required to restore this fishery and improve accountability within management.

In past comment periods, I have tried to limit my comments to the available options, even when they didn't rise to meet the level of reductions needed to rebuild the fishery. It is clear that even more restrictive and precautionary measures are essential if striped bass are to recover to levels that will sustain the fishery. Therefore, I would also like to encourage the Board to **strongly consider a full moratorium on <u>all</u> harvest (recreational and commercial) of striped bass**. I recognize the economic impact this may have, but taking this action now before a full stock collapse will be far less devastating than waiting until there are no fish left for anyone to catch.

The future of this iconic species depends on bold and responsible action, not sector favoritism and more delay. We owe it to our children, and to their children, to ensure they inherit the abundant fishery we have enjoyed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Evan Dintaman

Maryland Angler

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:52:08 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jonathan Griffiths
Email
jonandrewgriffiths@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am a fishing guide in the Chesapeake region and Washington DC. I support catch and release as there are no evidence that it effects the spawn the fishing outside of the spawning reaches.

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From: Darin Crew
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Stiped Bass Comments- ASMFC Striped Bass Draft Regulations
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:39:57 AM

Hello Review Committee

The council should error on the side of increasing biomass and catch without regard to economic consequences as water quality conditions due to climate change and increasing human population are also impacting the fishery. More drastic reductions in recreational catch and creative use of closures and incentives can allow the fishery to rebound.

Fishing this fall in Patapsco River has not been good for 2 years now. I fish in MD so support conservation measures across the states that can improve the fishery for all states, my comments on are MD as that is where I live. I own a boat fishing license on my 16' john boat and regularly fish from kayak for snakeheads and striped bass (mostly in May/June and Sept-Nov). I am biologist by training and directed watershed restoration programs for Blue Water Baltimore for the past 15 years. This summer I worked on an invasive fish collection program: Reel Rewards run by the Environmental Justice and Journalism Institute.

I would urge the commission to take bold action that leaves us room for error for our beloved striped bass. The humans will be just fine and we will adapt.

Darin Crew
3008 Beverly Rd.
Baltimore MD 21214
Organization Affiliations:

- Board Member Maryland Trout Unlimited
- Member of MD Coastal Conservation Association

Support

3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

- Option B for measuring striped bass by states/regions

3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

- Option B. Commercial Tagging **At** the Point of Harvest

3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

- **Option C. New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer**

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

- **Option B: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%**
  - **Implement mandatory Commercial tag buyback program to total reduce catch to 15% for commercial anglers switching to blue catfish harvest during Waves 3-6 (3% buyback of Striped bass tags in addition to the 12%**

reduction)

- **Recreational Seasonal Closure Tables**
  - **Support Table 11 with some creative use of non-harvest**
  - **MD should continue is Wave 3- no target and implement a no harvest during Wave 4 for the entire period for recreational fisherman and charter boats**
  - **Wave 6- should be changed to no harvest as well or allow 1 per season and issue tags like in hunting**
    - **Perhaps a tagging system could be implemented by all states by the ASMFC**

--
Make it a Green Day

Darin Ashley Crew
Environmental Restoration Community Consultant
443-629-6285

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From:	Mark Brown
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:16:44 AM

Capt. Mark Brown
Safari Girl Charters
3551 Revolea Beach Road
Middle River MD 21220

Emilie Franke
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200 A-N
Arlington VA 22201

Dear ASMFC,

As a charter fishing business owner operating on Upper Chesapeake Bay, I'm writing regarding Addendum III to the striped bass management plan.

I support Option A, status quo, for fishery removals. Additional seasonal closures are not needed. Strict recreational fishery management using a narrow slot limit has effectively lowered fishing mortality to a 30-year low which is well below both the target and threshold needed for rebuilding. The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

I also support Option A, status quo, for Maryland's recreational season baseline. This proposal is unnecessary. The reductions in Addendum III wouldn't be considered if not for the increase in catch in the coastal fishery when fish entered the coastal slot. There was over a 90% probability that the 2029 goal would be met before that occurred, not because of what was happening in Maryland's summer fishery.

Maryland DNR claims that the current baseline is too complicated and creates enforcement issues. My colleagues and I are on the water very frequently. We don't see any evidence of that and DNR hasn't provided any. Contrary to DNR's assertion, we think the public is able to read a calendar.

DNR claims that its baseline season proposal provides for business opportunity. That couldn't be further from the truth for most of us for hire captains. Any one- month period of striped bass fishing in summer accounts for 30-35% of my bookings. On top of what we've already lost in the last couple years many of our businesses aren't going to survive this proposal, let alone a 6- week closure in summer if the board votes for a reduction.

Over the winter Maryland DNR put a panel of stakeholders together to meet about this proposal and Mike Luisi told the board, " At the end of the day if we cannot come to some agreement with our stakeholders, we will be the first to come back to this table and say, we were not able to reach something that everyone could live with, therefore we will stick to the status quo." In May he told the Board, "Since we walked away from that meeting, we've had some members of the committee kind of change the direction of what they were thinking, and they are no longer in support." Let me set the record straight. I listened to the meetings. My colleagues didn't change direction; they were never in favor of this. And I haven't spoken to any of my recreational angler friends who are in favor catching egg laden female fish in April.

But, despite that emphatic promise from Mr. Luisi to the board and the public, here we are talking about it anyway. This is exactly the scenario that undermines the public's confidence in the Board and the Commission. The board has a chance to correct itself here. It should do that and reject Maryland DNR's baseline season proposal.

Sincerely,

Capt. Mark Brown

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:58:26 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Rhodes
Email
captbobbyrhodes@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
Im in favor of status-Quo opposition to addendum 3. And I support status-Quo to the Chesapeake Bay seasonal baseline.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 6:25:34 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kevin Oyarzo
Email
horsemanko64@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Do whatever is necessary to save the resource! Shut down bait fishing during catch and release season. No trophy season. Or just shut it completely down. Pound nets need to be banned they pull more fish out of the bay than all the recreational fisherman and to blame the recreational fisherman for the decline is ridiculous. Educated the watermen, they dont do anything to give back to the resource. Farmers have to do alot to get there harvest. Watermen just take and give nothing in return for the take. Anyone letting omega protien continue to rape the ocean and chesapeake with spotter planes and 1 mile long nets needs to be reprimanded.

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From:	Richard Hurchalla
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:10:12 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I reject the striped bass closing. It is the big commercial letters doing the damage . Recreational fisherman are allowed 1 per person! Not fair to us.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Richard Hurchalla

8817 Reddish Run

Delmar, MD 21875

reddisrun2@gmail.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:58:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joseph McGurrin
Email
joemcgurrin1@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose the proposal for Maryland's Chesapeake Bay for changing the recreational baseline season to simplify Maryland's Chesapeake Bay regulations. The opening of a Catch and Release season in April during the primary spawning month for the fish is irresponsible and unwarranted for a stock already experiecing spawning problems. Instaed, I support the status quo for a MD season. I also support all other provisions of the proposal. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:43:00 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Abbott
Email
calebsdad5@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I strongly oppose the unnecessary fishing closures of addendum lll. There is no accurate data to support closures for mortality basis. Closures hurt all stakeholders involved.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 4:52:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
JJ Vigil
Email
jjvigil@vigilbusiness.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Subject: Striped bass draft addendum 3: Item 3.3 - support option B Item 3.4 - support option A

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From:	william martin
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Regulation of striped bass harvest
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 4:06:48 PM

I remember well the last time the Striped Bass population had reached a similar crisis in numbers. The management process spent years trying and failing to stop the decline. The tragedy of the commons failed to keep the stock of striped bass from continuing to reach crisis levels. It took a threatened lawsuit by renown writer Lefty Kreh to reach the only effective solution: close the season totally.

I am watching the same frantic effort to stop the decline in breeding stock with micro solutions. Please recognize the time has come to do what is universally needed: please stop rearranging the deck chairs and make the unpopular but only effective solution: close the season immediately until the stock recovers! Please act now!!

Bill MartinPh.D., Baltimore MD.
williamhmartin341@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:26:39 AM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Marc Mancini
Email
mancinim063@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Why continue to allow the targeting of striped bass during closed season under the guise of catch and release fishing? It is the only major game species of which I am aware that allows such ridiculous management behavior. I can't target tuna, flounder, sea bass etc during closed periods. Please apply the same sense here. DNR claims an 8-10% mortality rate on catch and release fish. If you went to work with 100 people and knew only 90 of you were going home, you'd find a new line of work. End catch and release fishing and help our families afford to live our lives.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:30:20 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Walter Carl
Email
captainwallywilliams@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am against Maryland's baseline proposal for Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Specifically the proposed Catch and Release season of January through May in Chesapeake Bay. These are the very fish we will need to get spawning production rates to increase. They need to be off limits, especially while traveling the Bay to reach the Spawning areas. The Maryland Y.O.Y numbers continue to be poor and below average. ASMFC needs to ensure these fish get a chance to get to and from the Spawning ground with as little stress as possible. CCA's pressure through Maryland DNR to get January through May open to Catch and Release is driven by economics, not science or considerations as to what's best for the fish. Please protect the fish!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:43:03 PM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/

Name

Sharen Spears

Email

Sharenw328@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am against Maryland's baseline proposal for Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Specifically the proposed Catch and Release season of January through May in Chesapeake Bay. These are the very fish we will need to get spawning production rates to increase. They need to be off limits, especially while traveling the Bay to reach the Spawning areas.
The Maryland Y.O.Y numbers continue to be abysmal. These fish deserve our best efforts to ensure they can get to and from the Spawning ground unmolested.

Sharen Spears
dated 9/30/2025

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:34:35 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Wally Williams

Email

wally@fishstrikezone.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have fished the Chesapeake Bay region since 1975. I have witnessed
both major declines in Striped Bass in the Bay. We need to do everything we can to give the fish their best chance at recovery.
Maryland's proposed new baseline should be rejected! It's inaccurate,
incomplete, and is flawed at best.
in 2024, Maryland DNR deemed the spawning stock crisis critical enough
that it added closures from May 1 to May 15, along with the April
closure. Now today, they are proposing opening the January through May
to catch-and-release fishing to appease a few special interest groups. Opening these days to
catch and release certainly is not in the fishes best interest! These
are the very fish we need to protect!
A easy online search will show these fish are fought on very light
tackle to exhaustion, brought on board, dropped and pictures taken.
Lactic acid buildup from fighting these fish on light tackle will lead to exhaustion and will
undoubtedly increase stress and very well may inhibit spawning success.These fish most likely will die. If they are left alone during the spawning run, there's a much better chance for at least making it to the spawning grounds healthy.
It's difficult to fathom a catch and release season from January to May being helpful to the fish during it's spawning journey.
April has been closed for five years to protect spawning fish. Opening
it now will lead to a significant increase in fishing activity during
the time these fish are most vulnerable migrating to their spawning
grounds. Catch-and-release in January- May will increase handling, stress
and mortality, both immediate and delayed.
Again, These are the very fish we need to protect!

Allowing catch-and-release in April goes against the very statements Maryland's DNR

(M. Luisi) publicly supported last year. Why the sudden change in thinking? What's changed? The Maryland Y.O.Y survey has not shown successful spawns.
A single female can carry millions eggs each year. Catch and release during the Spring migratory season will impact tens of thousands of juvenile fish each season forward. Maryland DNR doesn't address any impact their new proposal may have on failed spawns.
For every one SSB fish that is killed during the Spring catch and release season, millions of eggs are lost! We can't afford that.

I believe this proposal only reflects the wishes of a vocal minority at the expense of the long-term stock rebuilding plan. Special interests roll backs do not benefit the fish.
I implore ASMFC to error on the side of the SSB fish, give them protection to and from the Spawning grounds. Then when Spawning conditions are favorable we have a greater chance at success with more robust fish.

Dated: 9/30/2025

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 7:33:53 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=OVCPKI664RFRL10VRT4QPKL508&trk_sid=SRT9387LQVQ3JMPAN322SQ4IR4&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO

Name

Bruce Jezek

Email

bwjbass@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

My comments are about rockfish in the state of Maryland. I have Fish for 60 years in Chesapeake Bay for these fish and live through the total shut down from 1985 to 1990. Amazing what this did to be recovery of rockfish. We and Chesapeake Bay are near this situation unless major steps are taken to significantly protect a private spawning fish. Closing the traffic season in Chesapeake Bay was a good start and now those large fish traveling along the Atlantic coast need major protection. I have seen commercial hooking liners, generally catching fish in a hotspot in the bay, keeping an unlimited number of rockfish while I as a recreational fisherman and only entitled to one fish for fisherman oh my small boat. Both recreation and commercial fisherman need to make major sacrifices to save the rockfish. Stopping all kitchen relief is not the answer because there are not many fish to catch in Chesapeake Bay when the water temperature is below 60°. Stopping in commercial fishing during the prime spawning time is essential to protect the fish. Time that we step up and save our rockfish for our future fisherman. I'm 82. I don't have many more years to enjoy catching these fish as I have in the past so let's save them for next generation.
Hopefully all parties involved in this can come to a decision which protects the Fish and not the Fishing for them
Yours truly
Bruce Jesse

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From: Andrew Aus
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 5:01:34 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Andrew Aus and I represent the over 1200 passengers that I take fishing on the Chesapeake Bay every season. These people are recreational fisherman in Maryland, out of town guests from neighboring states, and new anglers being introduced to fishing in Maryland. We are in full opposition of Addendum III, as it negatively affects the ability for successful recruitment for the future of Striped Bass, as well as imposing unnecessary cuts that will limit the access to the fishery during the time of the year when ALL anglers have access to the water.

Addendum III Comments:

Section 3.1- Measuring Striped Bass

Option A: Status Quo: Allow the states to determine how a fish is measured and how it will be enforced.

Section 3.2- Point of Tagging

Option A Status Quo: The Commercial fisheries are different in each state, allow the states to use their best methods for tagging and enforcement for their unique fisheries

Section 3.3- Maryland's New Baseline

Option A Status Quo: Changing Maryland's baseline season negatively impacts the chance for a successful spawn in the Chesapeake Bay. I personally was contracted by Maryland DNR to conduct the Spring Spawning Stock Biomass study in the Spring of 2025. We sampled multiple large female fish enter the spawning grounds around the "ideal time" for a successful spawn. Also, we sampled multiple female fish entering the spawning grounds late, and the timing of their arrival would not allow for a successful spawn. When discussing this with Maryland DNR Biologists it is their strong opinion that these fish entering late to the spawning grounds, do not have a successful spawn. When asked, why these fish are late, their answer was, the fish has endured some sort of trauma on the way to the spawning grounds, such as being caught and released. Opening more access to the KEY spawning months in Maryland MARCH AND APRIL, will only negatively affect the chance of a great year class. While it is noted catch and release in cold water months has a lower mortality rate than warm water months, the female spawning fish that is released in March and April has a much higher probability of an unsuccessful spawn. An egg bearing female fish that has an unsuccessful spawn, is killing millions of fish! In Maryland recruitment has been low for the past 6 years, at a time when a good year class is key for the rebuilding of the Striped Bass, I recommend the board closes March and April to no-targeting to allow the fish the best possible chance for a successful spawn. This isn't just an opinion of a bystander, these are the facts of someone that was hired by the state to perform the Spring Spawning Stock Biomass Study, and the information that was learned from the team of Maryland biologists that were onboard for the month-long study. If you would like what is best for Striped Bass recruitment, you will not

vote for Maryland's New Baseline and stay with Option A: Status Quo.

Section 3.4- Reduction in Fishery Removals

Option A Status Quo: Implementing a 12% reduction in hopes of rebuilding the SSB by 2029 is an unnecessary reduction that harms access to the fishery. MRIP data is flawed by up to 40%, fishing effort in Maryland is down, the charter industry alone is down by 70%, the recreational anglers do not fish for Striped Bass with the small creel limits and narrow slot size. Something needs to be done about MRIP, and the antiquated data that it produces. With all the access to technology, using data that could be flawed by up to 40% to make decisions that could negatively affect the lives of so many people is absurd. The SSB target threshold is at an unreachable goal. The SSB target should be lowered to reflect a realistic fishery, not some unattainable target. The SSB is at levels above the 2018-year class and we could have a record recruitment year, we need to protect these fish at all costs during the months leading up to their spawn. We have not had enough time to even see if the current reductions in place are successful, please allow for status quo to allow the reductions in place to have the time to be successful and wait until the next stock assessment to make any measurable changes, if necessary.

Please do not hesitate to call me 443-988-8020, or email maverickchartersllc@gmail.com with any questions you may have about the information provided. I can go into more detail about the spring SSB study, and the information that was captured and provided by a team of Maryland biologists. This information is not always provided by our state representatives as it does not fit their personal agendas. At a time when a successful spawn is more important than ever, I hope you find this information helpful in making decisions that are best for the rebuilding of the Striped Bass fishery.

Sincerely,

Captain Andrew Aus

--

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:52:36 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Michael Smolek
Email
msmolek@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I am against Addendum III and want status quo for the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Baseline Season

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 6:39:29 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brandon Andrathy
Email
bandrathy@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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From: Justin Kaufman
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum 3
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 2:44:42 PM

Hello
I vote for Option A (Status Qou). Taking more days, the busiest time of the year, well farther hurt my business. I have already seen a dramatic decrease in business since the one fish limit and size restrictions. Taking more days and making a tighter size limit would hurt my small business even more, making it harder and harder to keep it going.

Thank you
Captain Justin Kaufman
Biff Charters

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: Edward Jurkevics
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 9:26:49 AM

Dear ASMFC,

I reside on Greenwood Creek in the Eastern Bay, within Queen Anne's County.
I am a recreational fisherman, and in my opinion striped bass are the most important recreational species in the middle Chesapeake Bay.

I have reviewed the 2024 Stock Assessment Update, and its conclusions are consistent with my own observations.
In fall of 2024 striped bass were largely absent from the Eastern Bay, with almost no schools of juveniles chasing bait, and no birds working above them.
The Atlantic Striped Bass fishery is in a state of dramatic decline.
I have in 2025 stopped targeting rockfish.

ASMFC should adopt restrictions in Draft Addendum III that would meet the Federal mandate by 2029, WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE.
A high degree of confidence would be a probability of success in excess of 66.6%
A 50% probability is surely gambling, since there is uncertainty in the likely effectiveness of the various measures proposed for Addendum III.

We all rely on ASMFC to restore this historically great Chesapeake Bay resource, and to avoid a repeat of the catastrophic collapse of the fishery such as happened in the late 1970's and early 1980s.

Respectfully,

Edward Jurkevics

_____

Edward Jurkevics
142 Greenwood Creek Rd.
Queenstown MD 21658
Mobile 1 202 255 1403
jurkevics@chesanal.com

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From:	Michael Field
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Friday, September 26, 2025 2:20:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The ones you need to control on the harvesting of striped bass. It's not the recreational fisherman. It would be the commercial fisherman the ones that get away with slaughtering thousands of fish every time they're out.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Michael Field

110 Waldon Rd Apt B

Abingdon, MD 21009

fieldm30@aol.com

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From: RICCIO FRANCIS (JOE)
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] ASMFC Draft Addendum 3 for striped bass
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 9:59:40 AM

Submitting my comments for Striped Bass Addendum III

First off:

- I am in support of Option B for section 3.3 with no buffer for the new baseline for Maryland.
- I am in support of Option A, Status Quo for section 3.4

Explanation:

I am confused by the catch and release issue/regarding striped bass.

In my previous years of tournament fishing, throughout most of the east coast states for largemouth bass, I was constantly reminded, even by DNR officials at captains meetings, tournament weigh in, etc. to catch and release fish. In a tournament, I had to keep 5 fish in a livewell, culling smaller fish with larger fish throughout the day, until weigh in at the end of the tournament/s, normally 8 hours. Those fish were kept in livewells for extended periods depending on time of catch.

During largemouth bass spawning seasons we sight fished spawning beds for the larger/heavier females. We were constantly reminded to catch, and release as it was absolutely beneficial for the fish. In a 40/60 boat tournament with most or all of the boats weighing in fish there was less than 1% mortality rate. Feel free to verify the data by reviewing tournament weigh in sheets. The fish that expired were/are tracked, and the fisherman bringing dead fish to the scales, were/are penalized for dead fish.

Fast forward to striped bass, and now there the seems to be an argument against catch and release. Catch and release has always been taught to be the best way to sustain fisheries. The key is handling the fish, and getting it back into the water for continuance of its life cycle. Keep in mind, largemouth bass share the same brackish water, as the striped bass population.

Lastly, DNR tags striped bass, and encourages their release to monitor/gather migration data. So why the debate on catch and release? It benefits the fish population, it benefits data collection, and it benefits the sportsmen/ladies, and so many that journey from all parts of the country, to fish our great Chesapeake bay.

You all make things way to complicated. Catch/Release, the simplest of theories for sustainment of all types of fish, that has worked since the inception of fishing, is now a topic of debate? I as well as countless other fishermen do not understand the negativity associated with catch and release debates.

Let me take it one step further, should I not clean my aquarium at home? I have to catch the fish, release them into a holding tank, clean the aquarium, then release them back into their original

environment.

That's how ridiculous the catch/release argument is. It's a dam shame people choose to ignore the true benefits for the fish provided by catch/release. I have been taught, and will always be a firm believer in catch/release.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on catch/release.

Regards,

Francis "Joe" Riccio

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From: Jerry Dewese
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 5:57:15 PM

I'm an avid fisherman in the Chesapeake. I donate regularly to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the CCA of Maryland. The last 2-3 years I know first hand that Striped Bass is in big trouble. There are very few juvenile fish in the upper bay. I travel yesterday over 70 miles in search of Striped Bass from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge north to Tolechester.
All the lumps and reefs where fish should be this time of year, was absent of fish! Only fish that could be found were at the Bay Bridge.
All of the state agencies worry more about the economics than the natural resource. We need to stop commercial fisheries for harvesting mature breeding stripped bass. Also In the Chesapeake stop summer time fishing(July & August)when water temperature is high. Require single barbless hooks when fishing the catch and release season, stop slot regulations. Maybe look at the mortality rate fishing with live bait (ells)
Also limit Menhaden fisheries, stop spotter planes, and include drones from being involved in the harvesting
Make and enforce stiffer penalties and fines on violators.
I'm just a 73 year old fisherman who trying to saved Striped Bass for our next generation.
Just remember wisdom comes with age.
Respectfully Jerry Dewese

Jerry Dewese
18 Jordan Mill Ct
White Hall MD 21161

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From: Troy Barrick
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] "Striped Bass Addendum III"
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 5:02:26 PM

Dear Committee,

I am writing in support of OPTION B for Section 3.3 for the new baseline for Maryland and OPTION A, Status Quo, for section 3.4.

As a recreational angler, and CCA member, I am opposed to all regulations against "Catch and Release" except during August when the water temps are dangerously high and oxygen levels are low for the fish. I generally do not fish during this time because I want to see fish swim away and it causes too much stress on them. I have never seen a dead fish float by during the Fall, Winter or Spring months but often times I do when fishing during the summer. It is a sad sight to see. Most recreational anglers do know how to properly handle and release fish. Maybe the commercial fishing should be shut down during those months when it is too dangerous for the fish like in July and August?. The damage is not being done to the fishery during the Winter, Fall, and Spring months, its during the hot summer months like August. I'm ok not harvesting big trophy stripers in April and May when they breed, but I do like to catch them.

The striped bass population is in decline in the Chesapeake Bay, we had a world class fishery and it was ruined! and not by responsible anglers who practice catch and release but by those individuals who don't practice conservation, individuals who do not understand or abide by the rules and laws, and our commercial industry needs to be regulated more stringently. Another thing is the amount of bait that you see now vs several years ago is troubling, this needs to be addressed and more strict laws about menhaden consumption needs to be put in place immediately. I fish all up and down the bay and it is a problem everywhere. The Omega boats need to be regulated and their consumption of menhaden needs to be drastically reduced!

Thanks,

Troy Barrick
Myersville, MD

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 2:45:47 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Rhodes
Email
captbobbyrhodes@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I vote for option A status quo

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 2:06:53 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Tom Clayton
Email
thomas.clayton77@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please follow science and not emotion and monetary gains. It is a natural resource and needs to be protected. I would like to see a closure of live bait use as well. Deep hooked over slot fish floating near the "fleet" was bad all summer.

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:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] [New] Striped Bass
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:40:51 PM

From: Jesse Austin <jtaustinllc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 11:17 AM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass

Good Morning Emilie,

My name is Jesse Austin and I attended the public comment meeting at Chesapeake College on Monday evening. Little bit about me. I'm a Charter Boat Captain, Avid fisherman, as well as full time Patrol Boat Captain at Aberdeen Proving Ground. I Spend an average 230 days in the upper bay on the Aberdeen Proving Ground restricted area alone just for work and pretty much everyday I'm not here I'm either boating the bay in one way or another or fishing offshore, I spend a lot of time on the water.
Before I started working at the Proving Grounds I had a previous life of being a Commercial waterman as well as Farmer (on the eastern shore of MD) and I had a Trucking Company that hauled primarily agricultural products from NY to SC and as far west as Ohio and southern MS. I've been on just about every side of bay life sustainment and preservation in one form or another. One point I've tried to make over the past 10 years that never seems to get across to anyone is that MD farmers and watermen take all the blame for issues in the bay when in fact they're the ones that are doing the most to preserve and protect the bay and all of its life.
The Agriculture side I've seen major improvement, Water ways, cover crop programs and no till just to name a few. The Chesapeake Bay watershed spans approximately 64,000 square miles, the state of MD is only 12,407 of those square miles. I'm sure this is all information you already know but i'll get to my point and I really want to share another perspective into building and sustaining all marine life of the Chesapeake Bay. Isn't that what your organization is all about? So as I've previously stated coming from farming and traveling trucking all over the Chesapeake Bay watershed I've witnessed and understate nutrient management plans and farming practices throughout the watershed. MD farmers have the most strict nutrient management plans of any state in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Susquehanna River spans approx. 444 miles with the head of it way up in NY (only 7 miles of the river are in MD). I've personally seen in upstate NY and PA the application of cow manure on top of snow and rain flooded fields, this is not best farming practice. (A Maryland farmer would be incarcerated for doing this) Starting at the head of the bay itself the towns of Havre De Grace MD and Perryville MD have

sewage treatment plants that overflow or "spill" anytime we have an inch of rain. As well as every other sewage treatment plant down to Charm City Baltimore.(they had an unexplained estimated 25,000 dead fish in the harbor yesterday 09/23/25). We know for a fact that high nitrogen levels in the water deplete oxygen levels to unlivable conditions for aquatic life. Back in the summer Baltimore "reported" an estimated 2 million gallon spill within days spot that were held in pens for rockfish bait were dead as well as eels, crabs were clinging on pilings at water surface to almost seem to try and breath at the surface. It seems every spring during prime striped bass spawning season we have a large rain event and the Susquehanna Dam needs to be opened, in recent years sometimes for weeks once so bad a mud plume that could be seen from space and killed every razor clam from the Sassafras River to Oxford MD.

So with all the above stated information there's some things I would like your organization to present to your people and see if we can get some support for other avenues to support the bay and the striped bass other than just taking from the fishermen. It has been presented before companies have offered to dredge the muck behind the Susquehanna Dam at zero cost to the state of MD in exchange for the carbon credits for its removal. There's an estimated 90 feet of silt behind the dam made up of topsoil and cow manure primarily from the up river run off, let's work on getting it removed by 2029 so when they do open the dam its not releasing a 30 year nitrogen load into the primary spawning grounds of I believe you said 70% of the entire striped bass population. Let's work on getting everyone in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to follow all the same and best farming practices with nutrient management plans, and finally but probably most significant let's hold the sewage plants accountable for the their actions and make them do the proper upgrades so they stop spilling millions of gallons of raw sewage into the bay and we will see a more sustainable and prosperous bay than any of us have ever seen in our entire lives without a constant take from the fisherman commercial or recreational.

Also the other day on the boat ride home from work for the first time in my life the Omega fleet was in the upper bay headed to NJ have we finally reached the point where they've harvested all the menhaden out of the lower bay now they need to move on so they can completely annihilate that stock as well? Something to think about!

Emilie I really hope you read this and take some of this into consideration for yourself and everyone thats a part of your organization thank you!

Jesse Austin
443-480-9464

jtaustinllc@gmail.com

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From:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] Maryland Public Comment Addendum III
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:39:21 PM

From: Patrick Love <patrickalove@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:01 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Maryland Public Comment Addendum III

Thank you for the meeting last night in Annapolis. Here is my public comment in support of the new base line and against the 12% reduction.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Pat Love, I am the owner/operator of Back Creek Charters (www.backcreekcharters.com), a fishing guide service out of Annapolis, Maryland that emphasizes education, conservation and adventure. I run summer camps for kids throughout the summer and fish regularly with kids with or without their parents on charters. I also have adult angler clients who enjoy fishing for striped bass as a sport fish, seldom are my clients interested in harvest, though they will take the opportunity to harvest a fish if they want. I am a member of the Chesapeake Light Tackle Guides Association.

I support the new baseline for striped bass for the state of Maryland. I am against the 12% reduction for the 2025 season.

Support the New Baseline
The new baseline is easy to explain to my customers, to kids who fish with me and to other recreational anglers. Teaching best practices for release only makes sense if the regulations support what we are saying. Opening fishing in April and the half of May that was closed (when release conditions are favorable) and closing fishing in August (with highest historic water temperatures and unfavorable release conditions) aligns regulation with Science. The new baseline accomplishes these goals.

Against No Targeting
I'm against no targeting closures, but since we must have one in addendum III, August makes the most sense. No target closures are difficult (if not impossible) to enforce and each of the 365 days are treated as equivalent but release mortality is known to be much worse in warm fresh water (August - Baltimore) than cold saltier water (April - main stem). No Targeting is bad for tackle shops as there is decreased (0) effort. This decreased effort is difficult to plan for as the seasons get reshuffled each year. The no targeting in the new baseline is the best guess for the worst conditions for releasing in Maryland and happens during a time when the most species (other than striped bass) are likely to be available eg. puppy drum, slot drum, speckled trout, bluefish, spanish mackerel.

Against 12% Reduction - Back Against the Wall
I am a small boat light tackle sportfishing guide but I have some friends who are large historic charter boat guides with inspected vessels. I can say that given poor recruitment, invasive species, warming climate and increased pollution, and actions resulting in smaller slots, fewer fish and season closings, our big charter boats have their backs against the wall. An additional 12% will result in many more boats going under. While I don't have a large historic boat, I value their historical significance and the art of bait fishing but I believe that as the fleet has dwindled down, the guys who are left are the most responsible captains who fish best and care about the resource the most. Your average recreational angler struggles to catch fish in the bay right now without following guides around. The 12% reduction will decrease economic activity, put historic charter boats out of business and will not make a meaningful difference in Maryland's striped bass population. This is difficult because I would like to limit

the ability of commercial fishermen throughout other states to harvest the same fish that we return to the water. However, if the 12% reduction takes place, the guide community in Maryland will be decimated. I am against a 12% reduction.

Beyond Addendum III, Catch and Release
Going forward it is paramount that ASMFC continue to respect catch and release fishing as a viable option for allowing the stock to rebuild until 2029 and beyond. If conditions do not allow for a dominant year class in the Chesapeake soon and we fall further behind the 2029 threshold, the proposed baseline option represents a shift in fishery management back toward catch and release, opening more days and decreasing harvest. Catch and release sport fishing with no harvest from commercial and recreational users is a way to keep tackle shops open, guides employed, and the public, through their engagement with amazing experiences catching and releasing fish in beautiful places, aware of the resource we seek to rebuild for our children. If the growth of the experience driven light tackle catch and release guides is a sign, the public agrees. Red drum and largemouth bass have thrived through catch and release, and I believe catch and release can help rebuild the stock while keeping the public engaged and the economic effect minimal.

Thank you,
Captain Pat Love
Back Creek Charters
Annapolis, MD
Light Tackle Guides Association

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:23:50 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

John Haschert

Email

jdhaschert@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

To: the ASMFC Striped Bass Board
Ref: ASMFC ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM III PUBLIC COMMENT
3.1 METHOD TO MEASURE TOTAL LENGTH OF STRIPED BASS B Mandatory elements
3.2 COMMERCIAL TAGGING; POINT OF TAGGING No Comment
3.3 MARYLAND SEASON RECREATIONAL BASELINE B New Baseline
3.4 REDUCTION IN FISHERY REMOVALS TO SUPPORT STOCK REBUILDING A Status Quo
Rationale:
3.3 MARYLAND SEASON RECREATIONAL BASELINE
support Option B: New Baseline
● Since 2015, Maryland has modified regulations for 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 for each action, resulting in newer regulations becoming increasingly complicated through time, including a complex suite of season closures throughout the year.
● The NEW BASELINE creates a simpler more enforceable season for the recreational angler, promotes access to the fishery, supports business and safeguards the Striped Bass population.
• It should be noted the majority of the fish we catch and release in April are males in the 25” range
● The historical staging spawning grounds in the Chesapeake Bay will remain closed to fishing as they have since the 1980’s.
● There is no data indicating C&R fishing as detrimental to spawning success. In fact, fishing or attempting to fish for striped bass in the entire month of April in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay has been prohibited for the last five years. These have been the worst consecutive years of spawn on record.
● Existing Gear restrictions including limits in number of rods, hook configurations, and live-bait restrictions will remain in place as specified by Maryland DNR January- April.
● It moves the two-week May closure and two-week closure in July to the hot summer month of August where release mortality is highest. It opens up the cooler April to catch and release fishing, whilst maintaining the 2024 chances of rebuilding the SSB stock by 2029.
● Introducing a Buffer will be punitive causing economic distress with no measurable impact to rebuilding the SSB.
3.4 REDUCTION IN FISHERY REMOVALS TO SUPPORT STOCK REBUILDING
Support OPTION A; Status Quo

• The proposed 12% reduction in fishery removals is a knee jerk reaction to short term fluctuations in MRIP data. This proposal could close recreational fishing in Maryland for up to 12 WEEKS in prime season. This will devastate the recreational fishing industry and all its subsidiaries, creating undue socioeconomic hardship with no convincing data to improve rebuilding stock probabilities.
• Due to strict fisheries management fishing mortality (F) is at a 30 year low. Poor recruitment in the Chesapeake Bay is mostly environmental and not caused by fishing mortality of the SSB.
• No Targeting is not a meaningful tool for fisheries managers, it prohibits fishing entirely, is hard to enforce yet has minimum impact on stock removals and should not be considered.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 11:34:02 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Kirk Marks

Email

kirkamarks@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Hello,

Simply put, I support striped bass conservation. Please find my comments below:

3.1 - Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass (pg. 25)
I Support Option B - coastwide uniform length definition

3.2 - Commercial Tagging - Point of Tagging (pg. 26)
I Support Option B - commercial tagging required at point of harvest

3.3 - Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline (pg. 28)
I Support Option C - new Maryland Chesapeake bay recreational season baseline with a 10% uncertainty buffer

3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding (pg. 33)
I support Option B - even 12% reductions for recreational & commercial striped bass fisheries
I oppose sub-options O2 & CB2, which would exempt for-hire fleet from participating in recovery effort proportionally to all other segments of the fishery
I oppose all no-target closure options included in O1 and CB3

Thank you,
Kirk Marks

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:40:36 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Mohr
Email
fishmasterjohnmohr@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
The upper bay water quality is terrible and neglected.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 8:36:07 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Tres Lewis
Email
tdigitee@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Hello, for ASMFC ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM III PUBLIC COMMENT, Regarding 3.3 MARYLAND SEASON RECREATIONAL BASELINE, I support Option B - New Baseline. Regarding 3.4 REDUCTION IN FISHERY REMOVALS TO SUPPORT STOCK REBUILDING, I support Option B, either CB1 or CB3. CB1 is fine but I feel CB3 would be more effective to achieve the desired reductions. Thank you.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 6:09:39 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Marcia Hanifee
Email
52hanifee@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Option A

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 9:47:18 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Cooper Shirey
Email
cooperashirey@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland Recreational season baseline and also Option A status quo for fishery removals. You also might not realize but you are damaging local charters profitability. What was once a profitable and thriving career is no longer becoming so because of such seasons you've created in the past years. the next chance you get, ask your local charters how they've been affected by the new regulations you have imposed.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:37:51 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Garland Lowery
Email
gplowery17@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I fully support the baseline and no reductions.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:58:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Terrold Cook
Email
jbcook3@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I vote option A for Md recreational baseline and also vote A on fisheries removal..Thank you

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:04:16 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Douglas Frazee
Email
dgfrazee@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Striped Bass Draft Adendum 3 Support new baseline Do Not Support 12% cut Please do everything within your powers to stop the menhaden reduction fisheries at the mouth of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:46:22 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David Bell
Email
dinger00a@hotmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I do not support Amendment 3 in any format, the current season and regulations should be maintained

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:21:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Thomas Wilkison
Email
Thwilkison@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I like the idea of catch and release from December 6 to April 30th and then catch and keep from May 1st till July 31st and from September 1st till December 5th of each year. However, I also believe we should be growing rockfish and releasing them each year. Other States have done this with success on other types of fish.

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: Toby Frey
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:17:40 AM
Attachments: ASMFC Addendum III thoughts.doc

Dear ASMFC Members,

I place my vote on Option B/C

I do not believe Addendum III (26), Addendum IV (27) Addendum V (28) or Addendum VI (29) will save our Striped Bass.

For at least 7 or 8 years Striped bass have been managed re-actively….I have never seen a war won just on defense, you have to have an offensive strategy.

1. MRIP was developed and put in use in the 70's. Computer Technology has advance exponentially, especially considering the advances of Artificial Intelligence. It is my impression that MRIP is NOAA's baby and in the Fall or '23 NOAA admitted that MRIP could be off by as much as 40%...How can any Scientific Body managing anything with that margin of error. It's time for the 15 state members of ASMFC to step up and fund a new management system. As a side note, the Gulf States were getting terrible numbers on Redfish, similar to Strip Bass on the east coast, and they designed a new system and proved how far NOAA was off on their numbers.
2. Water Quality, the Choptank River, one of MD's primary spawning rivers, water quality is Red from Oyster Shell point north to the headwaters (per River Keepers) In Florida water/fish test, Birth Control drugs have showed up in fish and water test… It seems if "young of the year" is our major benchmark for Striped bass success, it's time to get Pro-Active. Get MDE more involved. Require treatment plants to treat the water to eliminate drugs getting into our Rivers and clean the Rivers up.
3. Pro Active Measure: Texas just released it's One Billionth, that's with a "B". hatchery raised Redfish into the Gulf of Mexico, I have not seen any numbers from Mississippi, Alabama or Florida but assume they are contributing to the healthy Redfish population as well. The Gulf States now enjoy a healthy Redfish population, A population that was thought to be on the brink of extinction a few years ago.
4. Maryland had a hatchery program years ago, think "BIG", bring it back and require each of the 15 ASMFC member states to provide a minimum number of stripers back into the system each year. (suggested number be based on commercial harvest numbers) In the late 80's and early 90's, I raised striped bass in Aquaculture, under Pete Jensen, head of MD DNR, we raised and spawned pure striped bass in ponds on Griffiths Neck in Dorchester county. We did it in a converted 80' house trailer and a pond at the Delmarva Power plant in Vienna. If I recall correctly, we had a around a

15% return rate the next year in the Nanticoke River. I cannot recall how many fingerlings we raised in an 80' trailer, but it was in excess of 100,000 and at a cost of less than a $2,000. not counting one biologist.

Members, it's time to become Pro-Active, change how we are doing things, Invest Money in our Future, < **Replace MRIP, establish a Restocking Program>**

Thank you for your time,
Respectfully Submitted,
See attached Document below

Sewell "Toby" Frey
CCA Board Member
State of MD Sport Fishing Advisory Commision
State of MD Tidal, Coastal, Recreational Fishing Committee
Mid Shore Fishing Club Board Member

<*)))))»>{
Toby Frey
103 Third St.
Oxford, MD 21654
410-725-1781
MD Tidal Coastal & Recreational Fisheries Committee
Coastal Conservation Assoc. MD ~ Board Member
Mid Shore Fishing Club ~ Board Member
MD Sport Fishing Advisory Commission
Brotherhood of the Balloon
American Legion Post 91
Cambridge Skeet Club
Salt Strong Insider
Secret Dove Club
VFW Post 7460
Please be a responsible emailer:
Be considerate when forwarding messages, remove names and email addresses of previous recipients and my name as sender. Another courtesy is to use Bcc: for any "bulk" e-mailings,

instead of the To: or Cc: to keep our addresses private. This will help to cut down on spam and computer identity theft. Thank you.

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] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 9:20:41 AM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action Title
MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
William Larimore
Email
Leesbeagle@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I have seen in my 80 years of being around the Chesapeake Bay a steady decline in the fishery. Striped Bass/Rockfish at one time could be caught anywhere at anytime. Now to catch one is an event. The only way to replenish the stock is to curtail all commercial harvesting! I know that will not be popular, however if you want positive results in a short period of time then maximum effort must be done . Some short term pain can be long term gain. With the non invasive species threat that now exists from blue catfish and snakehead invasion that are predatory upon juvenile rockfish we need not be afraid to be bold in our actions if true success is the target. Thank you for reading.

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] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:21:09 AM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn

Action Title
MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III -Woburn
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Debra Hankish
Email
dsh1116@me.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Opposed to Addendum III and opposed to 12% or any reduction

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:00:21 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joseph Warnecker
Email
hvacr1@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
Please go with option A I really enjoy rock fishing here in Maryland

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:29:46 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Richard Forfa DVM

Email

rforfa@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am a 72 year retired large animal veterinarian . I have fished my whole life in southern Jersey and for 40 years in Chesapeake .
1 I feel catch and release mortality can be lowered even more by proper fish handling people being trained to do better . I was out on a charter trip I won on a raffle and this captain a prominent light tackle guide he netted fish dropped them on the deck handled them too long . This would never happen on a lot a boats . I fished with another captain all fish were lipped and had minimal handling .

The point
of this is anglers need catch and release instruction once again .

2
I am all for the July and August complete closures water too warm !

3 Fish slot limits and number of keepers I feel are the boards decision .

4 pre spawning catch and release I have my concerns if we have data that shows us ok ,then do it but if it's to appease charter captains and the general public recreational fisherman I would not .

5 Proper Methods of bait fishing with proper hooks and eliminate treble hooks and insist on barbless hooks in the new regs especially in catch and release seasons .
I put my trust in the science and I feel for hire boats , recreational fisherman and commercial fisherman should be treated equally . No different regs in the case of for hire boats .
We are all in this together . My hope is for some good decisions . Sincerely Richard Forfa DVM

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:00:12 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Edgar Kalb
Email
procruz1@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
50% chance of recovery by 2029 is a very poor goal since 100% chance methodology is proven in the same period, moratorium- just do it. It's just science not even rocket science. Do what is known to work, not guess work. Poor management got us to this point twice in 40 years - get over the shame & make the surest choice.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 6:03:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=PVSOFUSIS5V0QR1HAP58N98HKC&trk_sid=I0HR1VRR22T3SN6C5SG961F4IS&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO

Name

Liam Gallagher

Email

lgallagher190@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I got an email from TackleDirect encouraging me to leave comments opposing the reduction of striped bass targeting and harvesting. I am here to say SHAME ON TACKLEDIRECT. The email suggested that the research supporting further fishing restrictions are baseless and unreliable. I, however, have done my own research in the form of my entire lifetime spent fishing for striped bass in the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. In my fishing career I have never seen so few striped bass before. As well as so few striped bass under 18 inches. The places where I have historically found young striped bass summering, I have found none in 2025. I would be happy to leave striped bass alone for the next 5 years in order to have a healthier fishery by 2030. As much as I love chasing this wonderful sport fish, I can refrain and for those who can't - I say you are not a fully developed angler.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:27:58 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Phil Civitarese
Email
philcivitarese1@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
We all talk about overfishing. Yea it has an impact but nothing like the terrible water quality that cannot support life. We always skirt around the main culprit, Agricultural runoff of nitrogen, phosphorus and a host of pesticides. We certainly want to support farms and farmers but since the 70s we implemented no-til and have drank Monsantos cool aid that falsely claims no-til is better for the environment. It is better for Monsanto. I have lived, fished, crabed and hunted the bay since 1965. The bay has declined and continues to decline. Wake up!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:45:13 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Paul Llufrio
Email
pllufrio@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
prefer draftAstrongly

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 12:36:22 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Cabala
Email
jrockjrock@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
Please implement longer catch and release periods for Striped Bass to the maximum extent possible and large fines and advertise that all fines go illegally keeping fish will be publicized (made public). This would deter people from even considering breaking the rules. Also, please increase limits on all forage fish they eat. The fish are practically starving.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 11:10:34 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

John Gasper

Email

johnrgasper@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Striped bass populations are demonstrating a trait similar to that prior to the moratorium. They are concentrating their range in MD during most of the current open season to the area roughly from around the Bay Bridge to north of Baltimore where conditions are probably optimal for their survival. Fishing pressure has focused on this area (and around the 301 bridge in MD/VA) in particular. Focused fishing in these areas in the past led to population decreases that led to the Moratorium. No one wants that to happen again. Short term loss in for long term gain in population needs to be the strategy going forward. If the short term economic impacts result and fall unevenly on selected groups such as commercial fisheries and charter captains, then short term economic relief can be provided to the impacted groups.

Reducing the striped bass harvest throughout the Bay but especially in these areas could be a powerful way to improving the overall population size. This is especially true during times of high water temperature when release survival is at its lowest. The ASME has recognized this fact by implementing the current short summer closure. Expanding this closure significantly especially in these areas of high striped bass population would seem an important next step in meeting the restoration goal. I would support a closure for all of July and August as a part of the current restoration plan.

It also should be recognized that in many parts of the Bay there is already a virtual closure season for most of the year due to the lack of striped bass in those areas except for during the fall migration. As a result and to ensure the striped bass fishery can be enjoyed in areas other than in the summer concentration areas, the end date of the harvest season should not be reduced.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:49:08 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William F Reichert Jr
Email
wreichert10@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
Please discontinue catch and release!!!

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] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 10:22:44 PM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/
Name
Mason Hallock
Email
masohallock@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support status Quo/ do not support the closure of August and the opening in April to catch and release pregnant fish

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 9:28:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ron Crabbe
Email
hookedonfishing_1999@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I vote no to Addendum 111 and no to a 12% reduction.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 6:16:35 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David Madden
Email
davidmadden42@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I suggest we stay with option A status quo!

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:48:04 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Andrew Collins
Email
remington21623@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
A vote of no to both addendum III and an additional 12% reduction. There should be no catch and release fishing of the breeding stock of fish. Let those fish come to the Chesapeake Bay and it's tributaries and leave with out being harassed and unharmed. A summer time slot to 25" would be beneficial because several fish over the 24" slot may not survive being caught and released to only need to catch another fish to keep for the daily limit of one even tho two fishes died. Thanks, Andrew Collins

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From: Jeff Horowitz
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 7:48:43 AM

Dear sir/madam,
I am writing to express my concern about the dwindling striped bass population and the importance of this species to the fishing enjoyment and longevity of this sport in New England. Please help by doing the right thing. Commercial fishing and other management decisions have left us seeing fewer fish, especially the younger ones. SWew need your help now.
Thanks. Jeffrey Horowitz MD

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 7:05:27 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
THOMAS BROWN
Email
nworbsamoht@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Save the fish, don't submit to guys who would catch every last one then ask why you didn't stop them.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 6:53:27 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Derick Thrappas
Email
Derickwt@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Optional a of draft addendum for rockfish

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 8:51:20 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Daniel Kautz
Email
dkautz2@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
No

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 7:36:10 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Alissa Long
Email
alissaraney@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 4:56:31 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jack REID
Email
BUCKREID@RAMCUSTOMSVCS.COM
State
Maryland
Comment
Opening the Spring, to catch and release of the large female rock is just plain stupid. They lay thousands of eggs each year and are important to getting our rock population back. I have no problem with the 19 - 24 inch slot, but do think we should be able to keep 2 fish per person in the slot range. I agree with a longer summer closure for the rockfish. Maybe the last 2 weeks of July and the first week of August.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 4:07:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Joseph Sadler
Email
captpridecharters@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
NO. This is a insane proposal. No more reductions, no more days taken away from us. An especially No catch and release on Spawning Fish making their way to Maryland Spawning Grounds. Maryland produces approx. 85 percent of the East Coast Striper Population. By allowing catch and Release on those Large Females could possibly upset the Striper population on the entire East Coast. I am a Full time Charter Captain and Waterman. I'm on the Bay everyday. I have Seen what catch and release (Kill) has done to our Striper Population. As I watch people that call themselves Sportsmen set on fish and just try to see how many they can catch. And our State of Maryland just sets buy and lets this Destruction of our Natural Resources happen. Maryland D.N.R. doesn't care about the Fish and they as they claim are guided by Science is a joke, if that was true they would never allow this to happen. Keet it Statis Que and lest finish out our 10 year Rebuilding Plan.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 2:41:50 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William pruitt
Email
wspruitt@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please tell my why C&R is now ok on pre-spawn fish when it has not been for so many years. I also believe the mortality rate of these fish is way higher than indicated due to it not being a 1 for 1 kill ratio on a pre spawn fish due to the fact of the amount of eggs she is carrying at the time of death and possibility of all those young of the year into the population that are dead at that time also. If those fish have made the yearly gauntlet they should atleast be able to spawn without being harassed.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:05:06 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kyle Mcconnell
Email
kmgymfreak2@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I vote no for Addendum III and no to a 12% reduction.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:42:36 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jesse Haas
Email
tuckdog@ymail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am for opening the April catch and release. I'm also all for limiting shorter votes to one trip per day. It is very disgusting to see the same charter to go out two or three times a day and harvest 20 TFish each trip and then they get on here and wine and cry about restrictions to the fishery. As a recreational on anger that is only allowed to keep one fish. It is my opinion that the commercial charter fleet is a true problem.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:29:41 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Richard Piniecki
Email
rpiniecki@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
Has the rockfish population declined because of over fishing or invasive species? I am agreeable to size limits and or tagging. However, reduction in seasonal fishing dates will have a drastic effect on the livelihood of many/most captains.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:25:49 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Matt Marceron
Email
matt_marceron@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please consider not harassing pregnant females.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:18:03 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Jeff Hankins

Email

jeffha@zoominternet.net

State

Maryland

Comment

From an individual observer, you are correct that the Stripped Bass population is dwindling. Also correct is that the management philosophy being pursued is not working. The plan needs to include some drastic measures. Some commonsense actions that should be part of any plan would include:
1) Stop ALL Spring fish and release targeting of Stripped Bass. I know that has been in place at times, but it needs to continue in the full bay, through Va too. Large fish that are hooked and full of roe even if returned unharmed are subject to that roe becoming non-viable. Significant fines and penalties for those that violate.
2) No commercial take of striped bass should be allowed during that same period, and NO bycatch stripers allowed to be marketed, of any size. Spotters/monitors should be required on every vessel, commercially fishing to monitor for compliance. Significant fines and penalties for those that violate.
3) Stop the Menhaden reduction fishery in the VA portion of the Chesapeake Bay at any time during the year. If a creature has nothing to eat it will leave or die and that is happening to the striped bass as well as other species. It is unconscionable to allow food sources for one of the most prized fish be eliminated by a few. The economic benefit of the menhaden lies with the species that forage upon them, not the few hundred jobs of the menhaden fleet. On September 19, 2025, there were 8 reduction fishery boats out of Reedville VA just below Tangier Island with 4 to 6 spotter planes and that's not a onetime occurrence. Their intent was to get every last forage fish; how does any species survive this level of food reduction?

Stop following the science promulgated by money and start following the science of common sense. Time is wasting folks, bold action is needed.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:57:29 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=GuMtG2XqKKnnw9LoC6ybnv0OBx-8NeecAxTVHecqytY.TzzC5W
Name
Jonathan Bolt
Email
jonathanbolt@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean Rockfish is and should continue to be part of the Maryland waterman lifestyle.

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: MURRAY DEMUTH
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] ADDENDUM III - OPTION A
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:50:06 AM

Additional Comments
Systemic and Long Term Problems Affecting the Health and Prosperity of the Chesapeake Bay. Food Supply and Clean Water are the two most obvious problems and the most controversial items based upon cost and politics. Fix both of these issues and the Bay is self sustaining. Tough decisions need to be made on Omega's menhaden fishery and the Aging infrastructure of the Cities in the Bay's 6 state watershed.

- Omega's IMPACT - A Starving Population cannot effectively reproduce. NO FOOD = NO FISH. Biology 101 - During Times of Famine fertility rates plummet due to the bio feed back mechanism to protect only the exiting population. During times of Plenty (NO STARVATION) Reproduction rates Increase because the bio feedback mechanism recognizes the opportunity to support an expanding population.
- 6 STATE WATERSHED - Clean Water = More Fish. Fish are just like humans. If the environment is safe to live in they will stay. The metrics for fish is a plentiful food supply and clean oxygenated water.

The Biggest Short Term Impact to improve the fishery is focusing on Omega. It is unrealistic to demand shutting down Omega. However, It is not unreasonable to close the Bay to Menhaden Harvest and push their activities outside the 3 Mile Limit. This will go a long way toward solving for the Localized Depletion of Menhaden.
The Biggest Long Term Impact is to improve the fishery is to focus on Clean Water. Clean Water requires Big Government Financial Support and Intervention to enforce the Clean Water Act for financing upgrades to solve for water treatment plant upgrades, controlled nutrient runoff and no point source pollution.
The point being is any proposal to reduce mortality or landings to save a fishery must be supplemented by giving the fish a fighting chance by providing food and clean water for its survival.
Respectfully
Capt. Murray deMuth
TWT Fishing Charters, LLC
Captain Murray R. P. deMuth
US Coast Guard Licensed Master 50 Ton & Assistance Towing
Licensed Maryland Resident Fishing Guide
410-952-7389
demuth4@comcast.net
https://twtfishingcharters.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:37:42 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=G98NhAhNrpzfWUkwN2aR1NEuqUMlOS8bcMJKwOqsZd8.TzzC5W
Name
Michael Mattia
Email
mmmattia2013@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Stop the menhadden fleet that is killing the food source of the Stripped Bass and bi- catch in the Chesapeake Bay. Hold the poachers accountable. Start going after the " Cooler Crew" who keep everything that comes out of the water no matter what species or how small the fish and crabs are! Size and limited are no good if you don't have enough Game Wardens to enforce the game laws. Increase the funding for Game Wardens so they can recruit more to protect our Fish and Game!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:21:51 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

MURRAY DEMUTH

Email

demuth4@comcast.net

State

Maryland

Comment

As the Sole Owner & Operator for TWT Fishing Charters. I support OPTION A - Retain the Status Quo Regulations for Maryland. Any additional action to extend closing the fishery during the summer months to 30 or more days will effectively kill the Charter Fishing Sector. Based upon the current regulations my business is down 85% when the regulations were changed to a creel limit of 1 Striped Bass per customer with a slot size limit of 19"-24". Despite all the talk about Invasive Species (Blue Catfish & Northern Snakeheads) the typical charter is not equipped to pursue these species in the shallower fresher water of the Chesapeake Bay Tidal Rivers. Over the last 2 years I have landed less than 5 Blue Catfish and zero Snakeheads. Our regulators are telling us to go catch and kill these fish with no creel or size limits. They make it sound like these fish are so plentiful that we can walk across the bay on the backs of these fish. From my experience this is not even close to the truth. Next is retraining your customer base to accept Catfish as the new gold star standard for fishing the Chesapeake Bay. Needless to say this is a unrealistic objective. My customers don't want to pay to go Catfishing. in the interest of maintaining my business I have only 1 choice I make and that is to support OPTION A.
Respectfully
Capt. Murray deMuth
TWT Fishing Charters

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 2:51:20 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David Weber
Email
softballweb63@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 12:35:43 PM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
James Favret
Email
jimfavret@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I'm an angler and an environmentalist and believe that maintaining the health of the stripped bass fishery is more important than recreational or commercial activities. There are already other environmental pressures such as water quality and impacts to the trophic cascade with menhaden and Omega acting on the fishery that the Commission should endeavor to implement as much as possible to reduce overfishing. These restrictions will undoubtedly affect watermen in the commercial industry and while I love catching and consuming stripped bass myself, we must act now to protect them for future generations and maintain balance within the Atlantic ecosystem. Thank you for your consideration.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 12:12:27 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Andrew Hagan
Email
andyhagan54@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support option A , and status quote with no change in the season. Size limits need to be redefined

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 10:09:53 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kevin Nestor
Email
nestorkevin60@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Option A

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 8:00:21 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kevin Burns
Email
kevin.burns@whitecap.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I'm in favor of option A.....the best way to increase the striped bass population is to put in place a one-year ban on commercial fishing that has been done in previous years. Commercial fishing does more damage than recreational fishing.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 7:56:01 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Richard Hess
Email
brian.hess555@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025 12:15:49 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Amy Decker
Email
adecker813@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals. Thank you!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 9:56:13 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Bryan Sponheimer
Email
bryanspon1@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I'm in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland Recreational season baseline, and also Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 9:37:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Christine Mouring
Email
cmouring@verizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
As an angler who enjoys fishing for and eating Striped Bass, I support increased efforts to protect and increase their population by whatever means necessary. I also support increased regulation of commercial fisheries to restrict and monitor their impact on Striped Bass populations.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 9:17:52 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Larry Tuers
Email
lt1317@hotmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I think 2 fish makes more sense and raise the max to 30 inches

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 9:09:18 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Krausman
Email
gallowaycharters@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
As a charter fishing business I am in favor of option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and option A status quo for fishery removals. Galloway Charters

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 8:05:35 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
C Rossi
Email
bucknbirdie@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Option A. I believe the size limit that we are allowed to keep is crazy. Fishing today, there were so many smaller fish floating that anglers caught that had to be released. They die!! How is that helping.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 7:33:25 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
steven moyer
Email
Moyersteven5@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
can’t close it that’s people livelihoods

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:59:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
brian harmon
Email
brianharmon356@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
We all know the baitfish are being decimated by the commercial fleet that virginia allows to fish down there. We need to bring a lawsuit against the state or the people allowing this to happen. Also going back to the way it was in the 90s where you would get a few of those colored tags and once you used all the tags you were done. A few fish kept per person per season I think is reasonable. Another thing I notice is the high amount of dead and dying released fish, we have to look into some sort of way to police and fine people that continually do that.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:43:27 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Cathleen White
Email
cathwhit.cw@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please keep the current use for Maryland . Option A

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:13:31 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Fair
Email
bobfair2@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:07:10 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Melissa Brown
Email
brownmelissa1211@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am in favor of Option A status quo for Maryland Recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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: Michael Pohuski
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:06:29 PM

Hello ASMF,

Here are my comments:

I am a recreational fisherman, with my own boat, in the mid Chesapeake area. I am also a member of CCA Maryland.

When I watched the recorded presentation on the 2026 proposed Striped Bass regulations it felt like I was listening to a MIT lecture in advanced quantum physics theory. From what I could understand - it was a clumsy set of cumbersome options that are not going to please anyone.

If the fish stocks are so greatly reduced - **just close the season** for Recreational and Commercial fishing. And **also close** the commercial Menhaden season.

The narrow slots are just too frustrating. Nobody wants to gear up & get out there for just one fish – on certain days - in certain months. Too Complicated.

Let the Striped Bass fishery return. Let them eat Menheden.

Sell the Idea of Catch & Release. Allow a catch & release season with barbless hooks in the colder months for **both** recreational fishermen & boats for hire.

Develop a fund to enable a bounty system for Blue Catfish and Snakeheads. Like the old west bounty on predators.

Redirect the netters to catfish and snakeheads, or invent jobs for their skill set - like tagging and releasing live fish to better track the fishery. Teach them and pay them to track Dolphin in the Chesapeake.

I remember several years of **not fishing** for Striped Bass when I was a child. Everyone just delt with it.

Michael

Michael Pohuski
396 North Shore Rd
Pasadena, MD 21122
443 506 3467
michaelpohuski@verizon.net

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:05:26 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Donald Cocnavitch
Email
cocnavitch@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Keep option A .

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:00:06 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Vincent Grande
Email
vgvincegrande@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please choose option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:54:01 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Karen Grande
Email
kargrande@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
TO ALL OF MY CUSTOMERS AND FISHING FRIENDS: While I understand the importance of fish conservation and Bay health, I am in favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals. Thank you for requesting feedback of those who enjoy our water resources.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:42:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Crites
Email
b_critical@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
In favor of Option A status quo for the Maryland recreational season baseline and Option A status quo for fishery removals.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:25:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Max Bychkov
Email
arshaveli@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am for Option A

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 2:00:50 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kurt Tribble
Email
kurttribble@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am all for a reduction.But I do hate to see it.I think the spring catch and release fishing in the Chesapeake Bay should be eliminated.I have bee n around a long time and I canyou that pulling a 40 pound fish out of the water for pictures is not a good thing.Some of thes guides brag about catching one hundred big fish in a day.This has to stop.If the fish ever do come back this practice should be eliminated.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 1:48:06 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Timothy Deane
Email
tim_deane13@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support the 100% closure to any keeping of fish. Would like to see catch and release stay open.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:48:38 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jack Whisted
Email
jackwhisted@hotmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Moratorium , moratorium , moratorium on all spawning areas cut menhaden/alewife fishing creels in half No foreign boat fishing licenses at all. protect our resources and we will have them forever Ignore the stewardship of our resources and they will defiantly disappear. Human history dictates!!! Be in charge and do something now please, the charter guys lining politicians pockets can switch to catfish !

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 6:54:17 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
James MacDonald
Email
jfmacdo@carrollk12.org
State
Maryland
Comment
To improve the striped bass population, prohibit commercial and recreational fishing in Maryland July1 to September 1. Reduce or eliminate commercial menhaden fishing in Virginia' portion of the 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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:43:18 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jim MacDonald
Email
glyndon1029@verison.net
State
Maryland
Comment
To reduce mortality. Close the Maryland recreation and commercial fishery July 15-August 31. Ban commercial menhaden fishing in the 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] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:49:11 PM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Henry Brady
Email
bradyseafood@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Will we get are quota back if striped bass come back because I as a commercial fishing man I will lose money. 2 you are letting recreational fish men catch and release in late December and the fish are big putting to much stress on this fish and killing fish.3 If you cut the size limit you only let us use gill net in December,January and February and fish are around 5 pounds that means fish are around 25 to 28 inch's so that means more fish kill if we can only catch 20 to24 inches 12 % is a lot.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 8:35:52 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Theresa Kurtz
Email
teekurtz@icloud.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I choose “NO!”

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 8:00:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Rick Trumbetas
Email
Reeladdiction2@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I Want option A

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:51:27 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Frank Carver
Email
loosenupcharters@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Vote no on adm 3

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 1:18:08 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Steven durante
Email
durante.steve@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please note my support of Draft Addendum III. Thank you.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 6:35:51 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

mark Galasso

Email

capmarco@atlanticbb.net

State

Maryland

Comment

Just so you know where I'm coming from you need a little background. I've Fished for Striped Bass for over 60 years, as a kid growing up on the Jersey Shore and as an adult working on the Chesapeake Bay. I am a former NOAA, NMFS researcher of almost 10 years. I was a founder of CCA Maryland and a founder of the Chesapeake Guides Association. We started CCA to address opportunities to help protect recreational fisheries and we started the Guides Association to create opportunities for new light tackle guides entering the fishery after the moratorium of the early nineties. I worked with the Maryland DNR on the Catch and Release Study up on the Susquehanna Flats, a study that is still referred to today when talk turns to cold water versus warm water catch and release fishing mortality. That study and fishery which was not popular with the Maryland Charterboat Association literally opened up opportunities for light tackle anglers and guides in the Northern Chesapeake Bay resulting in a boon for hotels, restaurants and tackle stores in the area. Based on my experiences I find the current proposals incredible. There seems to be no thought about the fish only a few vocal fisherman. The silent majority of fisherman I know don't understand where this is going and I for one as a traditional charter boat operator at this point only see a business evaporating as we debate. By the technical committees own numbers FACTS has shown for hire trips in Chesapeake Bay down over 40 percent last season. Based on what I've seen and heard it will be the same this season. And the ironic thing is the small number of catch and release for hire boats are actually up in business though they don't use the FACTS program for reporting. It would seem that the current proposal is rewarding one group and helping to extinguish the other. Are we heading toward Rockfish/Gamefish like was proposed 40 years ago? Interestingly enough Jersey went to that and now there is no commercial fishery and recreational anglers can get a special permit to keep an extra fish. How is this fair? I can right a book about what is going on and what I think is fair and what isn't but the bottom line is what is BEST for the fish!!! Do we need more summer closures? Maybe. But do we need more winter Catch and Release? Absolutely not! There shouldn't be ANY catch and release in March and April. No Catch and Kill either. No nets and no Rods until we can honestly can say gravid fish will still spawn after being hooked and fought while carrying eggs. Everyone I talked to agrees except a few die hard catch and release guides. The biggest problem is not everyone handles fish like an experienced guide. If April is opened up to Catch and Release I already know tons of people who will

take advantage. Next MDNR will have to have gear restrictions to keep all the Trollers at Bay. I'll bet my boat a gravid female dragged behind the boat for 10 minutes won't spawn successfully. We saw it on the Flats. Lots of people came down and fished with live Herring when the season opened up there. I cringed every time I heard a big Cow Striper bouncing around in an Aluminum boat while someone tried to find the camera. I still cringe every time I see a picture of the Jiggers on the Head Boats up in North Jersey. Twenty Stripers floundering on the deck while the Mates try frantically to measure and release the overs. How many of them die? How many of them go up the Hudson and actually spawn. Before destroying the traditional Charter Boat Industry lets see how we can all work together and save these fish. Vote NO on the proposal. Lets really look at what goes on out there before trying to make rules of convenience.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:49:46 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ty Davidson
Email
tyrdavi@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose Amendment III and the Maryland Baseline Proposal. The main reason that I oppose is because it doesn't make sense to me that we are trying to save the striped bass fishery but then allow anglers to target/catch and release spawning female striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland waters during April. These fish are easily catchable during this month as they transit these water to and from the spawning grounds. If the striped bass population is in bad shape the last thing we should do is target the mothers carrying the future of this fishery.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 1:14:34 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David Bell
Email
dinger00a@hotmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I'm asking for status quo regulations in 2026. I am against opening catch and release fishing in MD in April in favor of protecting the spawning females. I do not support additional summer closures, and believe that reductions can be made during the summer months if catch and release fishing is prohibited.

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] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 11:18:29 AM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii/

Name

Sewell Frey

Email

tobyfrey42@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

Ladies & Gentleman of the ASMFC and State Fishery Managers

Management of our fish populations can not succeed through reactive management. Time has proven that. If we look at other areas, particularly the Gulf states, they have not only stopped the decline of their fisheries, but thru spawning in hatcheries and released fished have increased their populations. I saw in a recent publication that Texas had just released it's 1 billionth fish....Yes, that's with a "B".

In addition, the Gulf states have proven that NOAA's MRIP Program is useless as an effective fish population measure...MRIP was designed in '74 and started use in '76 I believe...Look at what computer technology has changed in the last 5 or so years...AI, it's time to invest in a NEW SYSTEM...

I thinks ASMFC represents 15 states, what impact could those 15 states have if every year each state was REQUIRED to release "x" number of hatchery striped bass....That's PRO-ACTIVE!

During the '85-'90 moratorium. I raised Striped Bass in Salt Water Ponds, we had our own spawn/fingerling program, did a FINGERLING mitigation program for Delmarva Vienna MD Power Plant that had around a 15% return rate to the Nanticoke River ...Spawning Fingerlings in a hatchery is not rocket science. It's time to change our thought process.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:16:45 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brian Hardman
Email
blhtaxfree@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I vote no on all aspects of Addendum III and it should not be approved

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2025 6:44:06 PM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
John C Tubman
Email
tubmanconstruction@rocketmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Why is there a catch and release season? The stress that is put on the fish for people to say I landed a 40inch fish.The fish has hole in its lip and possibly swallow the lure.I feel eliminating the catch and release season would go a long way in helping the species to rebound. I fish the Chesapeake for last 23years and miss the spring and fall trophy seasons.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2025 9:30:36 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Marc Mancini

Email

mancinim063@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I am strongly against addendum three. There has already been a significant reduction in the numbers of fish being caught. Charter businesses are suffering because of the regulations. The resulting economic hardship is causing significant heartache to many Maryland residents.

Striped bass are the only game species I know that we allow people to harass while the season is closed. By rationale, I should be able to sit in the park with a paintball gun and shoot Canada geese while the seasons are closed. I'm not trying to kill them. I'm just being amused.If we need to do anything, we need to end all kitchen and release Fishing during the closed seasons. Let people fish for blue cat or perch.

Would like to see charter boots be given the same size consideration as commercial fishery. The 19 to 24 inch slot limit has resulted in many slightly larger fish becoming casualties of fishing. For the charter boots the same 18 to 36 inch size limit.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 7:20:01 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Doug Widlake
Email
lakmfg@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Back in 2016-2018, most every stripped bass was parked in one location in the Chesapeake Bay. Every day for 8 weeks there were large quantity of boats fishing this pod of fish. I'm not sure how to address the massive amount of fish removed from the Chesapeake but it needs conversation to properly address the issue. Additionally, for the past several years, the dolphin have been pushing the fish around and out of the Chesapeake. Can it be that the dolphin are removing too many resident fish?

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 5:21:28 PM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
James Knepp
Email
jmknepp@berizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
It is critical you listen to and accept the input of both recreational and commercial fishermen as these are the ones closest to the situation and present empirical evidence based on real world fishing experience about the condition of the striped bass fishing conditions. Too many times fishing regulations have been unduly influenced by so called “scientific” methods which have not been supported by facts. While these methods can be a valuable input they cannot be the sole determining factor in developing fishing regulations.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 6:16:31 AM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Fred Reynolds
Email
freynolds@epix.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I support addendum 3. It is well past bandaid measures. It's time to shut the season down until stocks have recovered to very healthy numbers.

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: Murphy, Joseph (MMA)
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Rockfishing in the Chesapeake Bay
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 2:05:13 PM
Attachments: image001.png

I am an avid fisherman and have been rock fishing on the Chesapeake for over 40 years. I am not sure why you believe that the numbers are down. This year I have seen more rock fish than year's past. In the 40 year's I have fished for them I have never not found schools of them. Limiting our catch to one per person is so wrong in so many ways. It destroyed the businesses of the charter captains we used. My main charter captain had to close up due to your tight regulations. I have been using him for over 15 years. He recently sold his boat and all of his gear. All because of you people. He was a great Marylander and American and its shameful what you people did to his business.

I would like to request that you have a longer season and allow us to keep two fish per person. Please think about us tax payers that pay your salaries. And you should go fishing with live spot and see how many Rock Fish there truly are in our waters. You would be shocked.

Joseph P Murphy
Producer
HMS Insurance Associates, Inc.
Office: 410-337-9755 **Cell:** 410-365-6200/800-320-8986
Fax: 443-632-3494
Joseph.Murphy@marshmma.com
Street Address: 20 Wight Ave. Suite 300, Hunt Valley, MD 21030
Mailing Address: PO Box 1750, Cockeysville, MD 21030

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Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC

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Please note that coverage cannot be bound or altered by sending an email. You must speak with or receive written confirmation from a licensed representative of our firm to put coverage in force or make changes to your existing program. Thank you.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:32:19 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Capt. Steve Barko
Email
luckystrikecharters@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
To Whom It May Concern, I am against Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Allowing targeting of egg filled female Striped Bass while they are traveling to and from their spawning areas only benefits special interest groups. There is no benefit to the fish! In fact it is harmful to them and their ability to safely spawn and drop their eggs. Catching these fish, bringing them in the boat, dropping them on the floor prior to taking a picture and releasing them will cause harm to the very fish we are trying to protect. I am against catch and release of female Striped Bass SSB in Chesapeake Bay from January to May. Allowing catch and release of the large spawning fish, full of millions of eggs, can only do harm to the very fish we need to be protecting. Thank You, Lucky Strike Fishing Charters Solomons, Maryland

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:32:12 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Steve Douglas
Email
steve.paxrenoinc@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Hello and thank you for allowing me to address to you my concerns for the catch, kill and release of Striped Bass in the state of Maryland. I am against Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Allowing targeting of egg filled female Striped Bass while they are traveling to and from their spawning areas only benefits special interest groups. There is no benefit to the fish! Catching these fish, bringing them in the boat, dropping them on the floor prior to taking a picture and releasing them will cause harm to the very fish we are trying to protect. I am against catch and release of female Striped Bass SSB in Chesapeake Bay from January to May. Allowing catch and release of the large spawning fish, full of millions of eggs, can only do harm to the very fish we need to be protecting.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:27:35 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
James Albert
Email
jb50@comcast.net
State
Maryland
Comment
Good Morning, I am against Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III Allowing targeting of egg filled female Striped Bass while they are traveling to and from their spawning areas only benefits special interest groups. There is no benefit to the fish! Catching these fish, bringing them in the boat, dropping them on the floor prior to taking a picture and releasing them will cause harm to the very fish we are trying to protect. I am against catch and release of female Striped Bass SSB in Chesapeake Bay from January to May. Allowing catch and release of the large spawning fish, full of millions of eggs, can only do harm to the very fish we need to be protecting. Regards, Jim Albert

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 9:16:14 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Andrew Carroll
Email
baysidemarket@outlook.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose addendum III as a local grocery store owner in Rock Hall. As a small Bay-town we have no thru traffic. I am reliant on tourism to be able to survive. Our local economy is already suffering from the current fishing regulations, as less and less people are booking charter trips. Stricter regulations will only make it worse.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 11:57:28 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Lacey Nordhoff
Email
lucymae1983kck@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose add3 as it limits my fishing I oppose add3 as it strains local economy I oppose add3 its destroying waterman's livelihood

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:23:21 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
CJ Morales
Email
chiefmvfc2@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please do not pass addendum III.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 3:14:43 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Randall Tyrie
Email
randalltyrie201364@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I I oppose the addendum as it affects commercial waterman

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 1:16:46 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Brian Haas
Email
haasbrian66@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Waterman depend on this fish to survive and they are very plentiful and are not in danger at all!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 1:06:01 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jake Chek
Email
jakechek@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose addendum 3-it limits fishing AND it’s destroying waterman’s livelihood.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 12:46:57 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jennifer Rowe
Email
jjrowe21@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose addendum 3 as it weakens the livelihood of the Waterman..

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 12:07:19 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Paul Wallace
Email
paul.wallace@jthoover.com
State
Maryland
Comment
This effects the lives of many people.from recreational to commercial fishermen to restaurants and communities.please oppose this.the surveys taken are absolutely a disgrace.look at the winter crab survey.so misleading who can we believe.oppose oppose.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 12:05:25 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Bill Poore
Email
wpoore@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I appreciate all the data and information in the report. I also appreciate the amount of effort to rebuild our stocks to a healthy level. I agree with the closure during August and highly recommend July closure as well. The by-catch and survival during these hot low oxygen months kill far more fish than are harvested. Maryland needs to implement a buy back of commercial hook and line and gill-net licenses. No-sale and no-lease of licenses is lonnnnnggggggg overdue. The waterman can keep the license for the next 5 years or sell them back to the state during this time. Licenses can't be publicly sold, leased or handed down after 2026. It's time to end the commercial harvesting everywhere and make it a sport fish.

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] New public comment for MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:33:47 AM

MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/ma-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Frank Porter
Email
63frankiep@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose addendum 3 it will ruin the livelihood for a lot of people

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:	Glenn Hughes
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:20:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I've lived in Annapolis for 11 years and watched the striped bass fishery decline every year. We are at the point where so many fewer anglers are fishing and we aren't catching anywhere near the number of fish we used to catch a decade ago.

Retailers, captains and guides in the state of Maryland are getting crushed and its time to provide them support, not more reductions.

Therefore, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals because it is not necessary to cut deeper.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hughes

2701 Windswept Ln

Annapolis, MD 21401

gbchughes@hotmail.com

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:30:14 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Dillon Dorsey
Email
dorsey.dillon95@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Overfishing is not the issue. We are experiencing more and more catfish in the bay. We are now catching catfish on top water lures as far out as spring island--the outer part of the tangier sound. 10 years ago, someone would say you're full of it if you told them that. The catfish are detrimental to the blue crab and rockfish populations. Especially considering the abundance of catfish in our estuaries--if they're bad in the bay, they're even worse in the rivers. And it's not just rockfish, other species are being affected too. I remember catching white perch by the dozen as a kid. Now, I go to the same spots and I won't catch one. Restricting recreational fishing is only a bandaid to your real problem here. If you don't create some program or incentive for catfish removal, you're not addressing the actual problem.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:29:28 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Conolly
Email
salty.rhguy@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Trophy season on the Chesapeake was closed some years ago in an attempt to rebuild the stocks. Keep it that way to include no targeting. The fish need a chance to reproduce over multiple years to rebuild the stocks. The poor spawns over the last few years indicates a need to continue the closure and no targeting. It also suggests that there are other factors, such as water quality, that may be a factor. Until these other factors are known, the one thing we can do is keep the season closed through mid May. I'm not in favor of opening April catch and release and I don't support keeping 28-31" fish during the first half of May.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:00:19 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Seth Powell
Email
sl8ter67@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose addendum #3 as it limits my fishing, it strains local economy and its destroying watermans livelihood. Get your act together people - level the playing field for all.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:36:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kimberly Wiley
Email
kimwiley830@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I vehemently oppose Addendum III. Not only does this have a personal impact on my fishing, but it will have a devastating financial impact on our local economy in Rock Hall as well as other small fishing communities around the state. Fishing is a large part of our tourism. Our small businesses depend on tourism to stay open. Our watermen rely on their charter businesses to pay their mortgages. This will have a detrimental trickle down effect on our entire town.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:11:45 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Derick Thrappas
Email
derickwt@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose add3 as it strains local economy putting charters waterment and Tackle shops out of business

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 6:40:54 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Thomas Kendall Je
Email
hubbardkendallslawncare@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I Oppose addendum 3 – These surveys are not completed by an Waterman! A waterman knows the actual statistics of the fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. -I don't approve because IT IS AFFECTING THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE WATERMAN. WE DO NOT HAVE MANY LEFT.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 5:50:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Doug West
Email
dougdwest@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Every time there are quota reductions, the Waterman suffer the most, not because they don't obey the law, but because they are an easy target for the "Conservation" groups that want to starve them out of existence. Maryland Watermans are especially hard hit by these restrictions. Livelihoods are at stake and need to be considered before new restrictions are implemented.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 4:56:44 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Lloyd
Email
striper410@msn.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I am opposed to addendum three as it will affect my fishing and many others and I feel it is not necessary. thank you for your time.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 10:05:24 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Pres Tucker
Email
tuckerpres4@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Just because it's bulshit

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 9:21:57 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Wiley Bill
Email
chiefwiley391@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose addendum III as it is detrimental to the livelihood of watermen and puts a strain on local economy.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 9:17:54 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Robert Stoops
Email
tucken_20s@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose add3 !!!!!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 8:56:37 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ben Manley
Email
manleyncheelsben@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I do not agree with Addendum 3 because of the lack of science properly done, the continued slashing of people’s livelihoods and amount of striped bass we know and see in the 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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 8:33:29 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Anthony Colache
Email
nautibluecharters@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose Addendum III because will further destroy my livelihood and the livelihood of my fellow watermen!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 8:27:15 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Sylvester Armstrong
Email
warlord69@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose addendum 3 as it limits my days of fishing as well as limits my fathers income from reducing his quota

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 8:24:26 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kathy Armstrong
Email
kathyarmy@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I oppose addendum three as it will cause more loss of income to my business due to lack of fisherman coming to our town.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 7:36:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Scott Armstrong
Email
scott33690@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
This addendum 3 will adversely effect my local economy and my limited income from lack of tourists and customers

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 4:04:18 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Thomas Guarino
Email
thomas.guarino@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I support Option B for Section 3.4 for a 12% reduction for both the recreation and commercial fisheries. The 12% reduction should apply to EVERYONE, recreational, commercial, and for-hire, and no one should get a pass! I only support ocean option O1 (28-31" slot) but explicitly and vehemently oppose option O2, and support either Bay options CB1 (19-23" slot, same seasons) or CB3 (same size, 12% reduction in season length) while specifically opposing option CB2. It's only fair that everyone make an equal contribution to rebuilding, if they want an equal share of the benefits. It's notable that, in 2024, the for-hire fleet only accounted for 1.42% of all fishing trips primarily targeting striped bass, while already being responsible for over 9% of recreational landings. I support Option C for Section 3.3. I support a new season structure and a 10% buffer to account for the uncertainty in the changes' effect

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 3:59:59 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
John Reilly
Email
reilsflash@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I've been fishing for striped bass in the Chesapeake for about 15 years. There have been ups and downs, but the fishery in the last 4 years has been terrible. The fish are fun to catch! It's very disappointing that they aren't nearly as plentiful anymore. Harvesting of bunker in the Bay, especially in VA, needs to be curtailed. Whatever limits on catches that are scientifically proven to help should be instituted. We need to do everything possible to revive this fishery, if possible

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 8:08:42 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David M Butler
Email
davebutler63@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Please make stripped bass a game fish. Allow a creel limit of more than 1/ day. Reduce days if necessary. Thank you

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 8:00:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Wayne Gatling
Email
wcg3@berizon.net
State
Maryland
Comment
I strongly oppose the restrictions you are proposing. Being a full time charter boat captain on the Chesapeake bay for 51 years, I think I can say without a doubt I have seen the ups and downs of the striped bass population. And what I am seeing now in no way warrants this. You are also decimating an entire industry I am at the near end of my career, but what you are doing to the younger generation of charterboat c captains is unconscionable. I also have been around long enough to know you will pay absolutely no regard to my comment. You have already made up your mind, and my comment is basically a waste of of time. Shame on you!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 5:11:42 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Daniel Weber
Email
drweber@outlook.com
State
Maryland
Comment
The Stripped Bass population has deteriorated over time due to rape and plunder of this valuable resource. The commercial fishery side has taken away what was a nice fishery in my youth. The fishery did recover a bit after the previous moratorium but the population is now such that it is not worth even trying to go fishing for Stripped Bass. This is coming from a lifelong sports fisherman of the upper Chesapeake Bay - the largest natural hatchery for the Striped Bass population in the world. If you want to save this precious natural resource for the future implement a moratorium now and permanently ban any future gill net commercial operations to catch any and all fish within the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay including Alewives a primary food for the growing Striped Bass population. Otherwise the species of Striped Bass is doomed for the future.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 3:46:47 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Troy Anderson

Email

tca.ecology@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

-Eliminate any catch and release season for Striped bass.
-Eliminate any trophy season for Striped bass.
-Reduce or restructure the commercial harvest of bait fish. In particular Manhaden. There is no mention of this in the report. It only mentions bait fish as another target on Striped bass fishing trips (If I understand this correctly).
-Implement a more robust Blue Catfish reduction program. Commercial contracts offered that put strict penalties on any by-catch.
-Designate sanctuary areas where no fishing is allowed to promote numbers.
-Restrict / reduce / re-evaluate commercial harvest practices and limits (I know this is mentioned in the report).
-Invest in non-point pollution reduction.
-lifetime ban on repeat offenders of over harvesting.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 2:36:39 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Bill Schafer
Email
wmschafer@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Your slut decision is terrible you're making people fish longer and killed a lot of larger fish it was disaster last year I can't believe you did it again this year

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 2:32:11 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Cornelius Aben
Email
jerryaben@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Simple solution designate as a Gamefish so it stops the Commercial Harvest and there' will be a big recovery. Stop Winter catch and release.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 2:11:23 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Kenneth Ducker
Email
kenneth.d.ducker@icloud.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I'm in favor of a moratorium as was required in the past so the Bay population can have a robust recovery. Thank You, Ken Ducker

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 1:56:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Buddy Nicosia
Email
user711756@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Rubber nets should be used to land Striped Bass to reduce injury to slime coat. Buddy Nicosia

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 12:02:00 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

George Haddaway

Email

herman.haddaway@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have been fishing the Chesapeake Bay and it's tributaries for 50 + years. As much as the 1 fish limit hurt my business, I understand and support the rebuilding of the stock. However I absolutely Do Not support Adendam III. Common sense management would not allow our breeding stock to be touched. We gave up catching these fish until 2029. All of a sudden it's okay to trash the rebuilding plan? Is it because there the biologist were wrong and no shortage in fish ? Or is this Maryland Department of Natural Resources giving in to special interest groups such the CCA. If these special interest groups really cared about the stock numbers, they surly would not want to catch and release, destroying or future fish. I beg you all in the name of common sense management. Strike down this destructive Adendam III.

Capt. Herman Haddaway
Screaming Eagle Charters

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 9:15:11 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Edmund Keating
Email
pkeating@djkrcpa.com
State
Maryland
Comment
There are no examples of catch and release fisheries that have failed! Catch and release is sustainable!! Striped Bass should be catch and release allowed at all times when water temperature is below eighty degrees!!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 7:26:40 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Michelle Popp
Email
mlpvista@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Hello, thank you for the opportunity to comment. We are from Baltimore/Hartford county. The Susquehanna flats doesn't open till June 1st. (The only place in the bay a real study has been completed) . So much for research and facts. This change to close six weeks in the summer to give mid bay fisherman more opportunity in the spring when again we in Harford county can not fish is unacceptable. No to this proposal

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 10:58:13 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Donald Cocnavitch
Email
cocnavitch@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
I fish just about every day.You need to stop catch and release fishing in Jan to May.Reducing the catch and keep fishing will put to many people out of business.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 10:10:58 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

George Haddaway

Email

herman.haddaway@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I have been fishing the Chesapeake Bay and it's tributaries for 50 year's. I am firmly opposed to Adendam III. I agree with rebuilding the stock and protecting our breeding age fish. So common sense would allow these fish to be untouched in the Spring!! Allow them free passage into the spawning grounds and back to the Atlantic Ocean. Targeting these breeding fish would be defeating the purpose of rebuilding. I am a charter boat captain and many year's ago I took a charter on catch and release trip. The couple fish caught that day discharged their eggs in the water and on the deck. That was the first and last trip I ever did in the spring catch and release. I can not see how a catch and release this spring is going to benefit the rebuilding of stock !! I can only imagine how many boats will engage with this catch and release and the amount of eggs and fish mortality !! All of the charter boats are going to be forced into this unwanted practice because of loosing the entire month of August. If you truly want to save this Fishery, I beg that you vote against this Ademdom III !!

Thank you,
Capt. Herman Haddaway
Screaming Eagle charters

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 9:46:54 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Jeff Popp
Email
captjeffpopp@yahoo.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Do not agree . Maryland rearranging fishing seasons to allow fishing January through April and closing our summer season for Striped Bass. Family do not fish in the cold.This will take away the time of year when family's can participate in Rockfishing. There is no shortage of rockfish

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 7:17:37 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Michael Lipski
Email
imlipper@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
This is horrible once again you want to take take take. Once you do you never give back. You can not even make a living and support a family anymore being a watermen You are going to eventually make the people who try to earn a living on the water extinct.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 11:49:05 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Cecil Jones

Email

ceciljones60@gmail.com

State

Maryland

Comment

I absolutely disagree with the terminology overfished/overfishing at this point. There's no way to accurately measure or account for the amount of striped bass which are migrating towards the poles or cooler waters. This simply means that with our fisheries in such a state of flux from well documented marine heat waves, and then writing regulations which are very likely destined to fail from a magnitude of external forces that are decimating other East Coast fisheries such as the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery. A warming ocean has been wiping out our Atlantic Sea Scallop beds from south to north and from inshore to offshore. This has been happening since the very early two thousands from the North Carolina and Virginia border and moving northward at at rate of approximately ten to fifteen miles per year and has now reached Long Island off the New York coastline. A fishery only recently praised as a model of the future for fisheries management, now a shell of its former glory days from only a couple of years ago with record landings and profits to fishery in a crisis that it likely will not survive. A new form of management or strategy must be adopted and instead of punishing the user groups that has epically failed time after time try to focus instead on the marine environment from its origin sources to the oceans which will give all marine species a chance to reproduce and adapt to the changing environment and continue life's eternal cycle of Migration due to changing climate from the beginnings and endings of ice ages of varying degrees of temperature change that we now have a chance to record in human history. Thx Captain Cecil Jones/ 47 years offshore, 45 of them in the wheelhouse.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 6:10:04 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Daniel Foltz
Email
levi13015@gmail.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Iam on board to protect this fisheries rebuild of striper stocks. Its critical to accomplish any positive increase of all marine stocks in need of protection.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 5:41:54 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Henry Hutton
Email
henry_hutton@aol.com
State
Maryland
Comment
Establish a 3 to 5 year moratorium banning all commercial and recreational fishing of striped bass for the entire Atlantic coast. Also establish a 7 year moratorium banning all commercial fishing of menhaden for the entire Atlantic coast.

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 9:22:51 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/

Name

Micah Dammeyer

Email

micahpdammeyer@gmail.com

State

District of Columbia

Comment

To the ASMFC,

The current data showing perilously low recruitment levels of striped bass proves that action must be taken immediately.

I joined the September 25th web-based conference call for the Potomac River Fisheries Commission & District of Columbia Dept. of Energy and Environment, and I spoke up. I voiced my opinion that: we need to take action on the big picture - the fish and their forage – and take action now.

The data presented in the “Atlantic Striped Bass Female Spawning Stock Biomass and Recruitment” charts clearly shows poor recruitment numbers. I’ve watched the issues around striped bass management for 35 years and heard commercial anglers and head-boat captains argue that there are plenty of big striped bass around and that they should be allowed to continue harvesting them. I stopped harvesting striped bass long ago as I saw the impacts that catch and release could make.

I am in favor of all efforts to lower the striped bass harvests.
- I support proposed reductions of 12% or MORE across all sectors as all regions must play a part in saving striped bass.
- I support proposals for tagging commercially harvested striped bass at the point of harvest.
- I support proposals for standardized measurement methods
- I support the proposal of a change to the Maryland baseline if there is a 10% buffer along with a 12% reduction.

That said, if all states aren’t going to do their part in reducing harvests equally, I am fully in favor of shutting down harvesting as we did during the moratorium decades ago.

I travel as far north as Cape Cod and Marthas Vineyard in Massachusetts, and as far south as the

beaches of Virginia, to chase striped bass with family and friends. I can honestly say that I've never had licenses or coolers checked while striper fishing so I understand that enforcement is, practically, non existent and that recreational angler data is speculative and reliant on honest angler survey responses and assumptions by our hard working data scientists. I also know that the impact to the local economies, from tackle shops to mom-and-pop hotels and restaurants, where angler like myself travel, rely on our business to stay in business. Without striped bass, those families will suffer.

I'd like to make a second point about the recent September 25th call:
Robert T Brown, a MEMBER of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, was on the call and spoke TWICE so he could have a last word. His comments were contradictory to the data - that there are plenty of large breeding sized female bass around and there is no need to reduce harvests. He made comments accusing recreational anglers of harvesting more bass than commercial anglers - though we don't keep all the fish we catch like a net does – it was a cheep shot on his second time on the microphone. This was a shameful representation of the PRFC. I've been listening to charter captains and commercial anglers give the same "I don't care what the data says, I know better" arguments for years (I formerly sat on the Maryland Sportfish Advisory Commission) and it's time we listen to the science and vote to save striped bass if we genuinely care about the future. Please work to vet your commission vet your commissioners carefully and hold them to a high standard.

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ASMFC
Chairman Joe Cimino

Twin River Waterman's Association met with Senator Richard Stuart in august of 2025. We asked him to introduce a bill to the General assembly to have Virginia withdraw from the ASMFC.

The Chesapeak Bay and the Virginia rivers are Virginia territory and should not be regulated by the northern States. Virginia waters should be controled and regulated by VMRC not the ASMFC which is a federal agency that should regulate federal waters that are miles off shore from the Chesapeak Bay.

The ASMFC was supposed to be an advisory committee, not a regulatory agency like it is now. The northern states with their block vote advantage changed that so they could control the striped bass fishery up and down the coast. They don't even abide by their own charter which states: Any management plan must include the social and economic impact on all user groups. They have not considered the social and economic impact on Virginia's commercial fishermen.

Our quota has been cut over ½ of what it originally was, and we aren't the problem with the decline in the striped bass fishery. It's the northern states recreational fishery that is causing the decline.

ASMFC knows that, yet they continue to vote to cut our quota. It's time that both Virginia recreational and commercial fishermen band together and take back what belongs to them.

Virginia loses millions of small crabs every year feeding small rock fish that we can't harvest It's time for Virginia to manage it's own natural resources and take back what was taken away from us by managing our own fishery.

Ed Arnest, President
Virginia Twin River Waterman's Association

Save Our Virginia Crabs by Catching More Rockfish

Virginia's crab population continues to be threatened by millions of Rockfish that eat millions of small crabs. This picture shows a rockfish with many small crabs in its stomach. By promoting increases in commercial and recreational Rockfish limits, we can do something that will help increase our crab population.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission considers the Chesapeake Bay to be the primary hatchery for the Atlantic Rockfish. They continue to increase other states limits but not Virginia's. In fact, Virginia may receive further cuts (now at 40%).

Please contact your elected officials to ask them for support to lobby VRMC and ASFMC

Sponsored by Twin Rivers Watermans and Virginia Watermans Associations.

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025 10:22:40 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Dunn
Email
dunnsville@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Until you stop the menhaden reduction company Omega/Ocean Harvesters from killing the Chesapeake Bay menhaden biomass any changes you make are worthless.

From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:31:23 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Aaron Brown
Email
abrown383@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Commercial fishing fleets are unequivocally destroying the Chesapeake Bay fishery. Over harvesting, concealing harvests outside of season, and doing the same thing to menhaden and other bait fish. Do something about that!

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:	Chad Parkening
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 8:00:18 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Seems odd that iindividual anglers are punished for following strict regulations and big Pharma can catch millions of pounds of fish including striped bass in gill nets without any oversight.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Chad Parkening

212 Purgold Rd

Seaford, VA 23696

chadparkening@hotmail.com

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: paulh7891@gmail.com
To: Comments
Cc: stripercomments@gmail.com
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Amendment III
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 7:35:00 PM

ASMFC,
Regarding Amendment III, after reading the amendment, hearing the arguments delivered by various interested communities, and being an avid striped bass angler myself (about ten trips per year where I often travel, stay in hotels, hire charters, buy tackle, and eat out, etc) my comments and recommended options are -

Total length definition- option B, defined elements. Need good measurements to help figure out which year class the fish comes from.

Commercial tagging point of tagging -option B, at point of harvest. Way too much room for shenanigans with other options.

Chesapeake Bay baseline - Option A, stay the same. No option is perfect, but I think the current baseline helps protect the biggest fish, with the biggest spawning potential.

Reduction in fish removal - option B, even reductions across sectors. It seems like the most fair approach.

The striped bass fishery must be protected and rebuilt. I believe this can be done while continuing to enjoy fishing for them responsibly.

Best Regards,

Paul Heinold
Alexandria, VA

(703)585-9885

Sent from my iPhone
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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 7:05:02 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
frank w blake III
Email
krabber2@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
something has to be done with respect to taking vast amounts of commercial fishing quota. I, along with most waterman, have purchased our quota with our hard earned money. it cost me over 5,000 dollars last year and if 12% is taken this year that will be almost 14,000 dollars that i will lose and never get back. it is not right to be just taking our money with no compensation for what we have lost when we have paid around 14 doolars a pound to buy it. And also has anyone looked at what Canada has done with there stripe bass fishing. they allow 4 per person for recreational fishing and have increased the quota from what i read from 50,000 fish to 175,000 fish. so isn't it probable that some of our fish migrate that far up the coast and that means fewer coming back down. i just think there needs to be a more sensible way to go about this without trying to bankrupt the commercial fisherman or at least have a guarantee to get all our quota back when the fishery rebounds.

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:	Wayne MacMasters
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:39:28 PM

Dear ASM,
Re: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

As a professional fly fishing guide serving the lower Chesapeake Bay who specializes in striped bass, red drum, speckled trout and cobia on fly, I support the most aggressive conservation plan proposed, including a commercial and recreational moratorium for the harvest of striped bass. We are living through a severe depletion in the number of stripers but based on my angler's production and a review of the science, the worse is yet to come. A moratorium can't come soon enough. I support Addendum III IF that is the best we can do, but I am in favor of more aggressive action to save the striper.

Respectfully,

Captain Wayne MacMasters
Tidewater on the Fly, LLC
757-775-7034

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:31:09 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Ken Lankey
Email
ken.lankey@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
As long as you let the commercial fishermen take rockfish during the spawning season, which you allow now, nothing will change. Compounded by allowing devastation of their main food source-menhaden. You need to make some serious changes!

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] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:54:49 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
David Johnson
Email
DAVID.JOHNSON2@COX.NET
State
Virginia
Comment
The problem with the striped bass population is directly Associated with the recreational sector. Not only do they go over their quotas, but the discard and mortality rates are the problem. The commercial sector never goes over their limit and is regulated and monitored closely. Do not make the commercial guys pay for the recreational blunders.

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] New public comment for MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:53:20 PM

MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
MD Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/md-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
William Healy
Email
wbbthj@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
If you really want to have the best chance for a successful spawn each year no commercial or recreational harvest should take place until after most of the striped bass have spawned. Therefore I propose the striped bass season not start for recreational or commercial until after May 15th.

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] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:50:32 PM

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nh-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
William Healy
Email
wbbthj@yahoo.com
State
Virginia
Comment
If you truly want to have a chance at a more successful spawn each year. Striped bass season should not start each year until most of the fish have spawned. Therefore I propose a May 15th start date for recreational and commercial fishing.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 2:29:34 PM

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nh-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Douglas Lipp
Email
delipp_42@msn.com
State
Virginia
Comment
If the ASMFC was serious about improving the quality of the stripped bass fishery and other finfish stocks in the Chesapeake Bay the ASMFC would ban all commercial netting of all species allowing only single hook and line commercial harvesting. My father witnessed the commercial overfishing of Stripped Bass in the James River in the 1950's. Commercial "fisherman" netted hundreds of tons of Stripped Bass, brought them to dock flooding the market causing demand/price for the fish to plummet. But the commercial "fisherman" kept fishing. Eventually the buyers wouldn't buy Stripped Bass at all. So the commercial "fisherman" left many, many box cars worth of fish to rot. The fox is guarding the henhouse.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 12:14:48 PM

VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
VA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/events/nh-public-hearing-on-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2/
Name
Michael Barnes
Email
mikesb0702@gmail.com
State
Virginia
Comment
Everyone knows we need to reduce the menhaden harvest,no food no striped bass

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:	Zach Roeder
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 12:10:12 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Fishing is a way of life and for some of us all we have to get away from the struggles and terrors of this world. We continually talk about fighting for the people but then allow companies like Omega, from Canada, to come and destroy our oceans and estuaries. This has gone on for far too long and now is affecting our commercial and recreational striped bass fisherman. Men who rely on this for their livelihood as well as a method of peace and tranquility in this ever changing county. It would be a large disservice to constituents across the country if these regulations were put in place for recreational fisherman instead of looking at the larger issue.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Zach Roeder

9708 Meadowmere Dr

Vienna, VA 22182

ztroeder13@gmail.com

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From: info@asmfc.org
To: Info (ASMFC)
Subject: [External] [New] New website contact submission from Contact Us
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 7:21:16 PM

Name

Aubrey Perry

Email

Ahperry72@hotmail.com

Get in Touch

I live in Norfolk Va. I fish the Chesapeake bay all summer, particularly for Cobia. I am very concerned about the omega/menhaden boats. This year I saw a huge decline in the amount of menhaden in the bay. Which in turn has caused a huge decrease in the amount of cobia that we saw this year. I am not the only one who noticed this. All the local guides and other recreational fisherman saw the same thing. As a 3rd generation recreational fisherman I am highly concerned about what I have seen in the Lower Chesapeake Bay. These omega/menhaden boats are destroying our beautiful natural resources.

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From: Emilie Franke
To: Comments
Subject: FW: [External] [New] Fwd: Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Amendment III
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 4:06:02 PM

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ray Newton** <waterman044@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Sep 3, 2025 at 3:54 PM
Subject: Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Amendment III
To: <comment@asmfc.org>

I am a Virginia Commercial Waterman who also works the Potomac River tributaries and have a few comments, concerns, and recommendations with the Amendment III.

1) In regards to the statement "While the 2024 Stock Assessment Update indicates the resource is no longer experiencing overfishing, it remains overfished."

- How can a resource both no longer experience overfishing, but yet still be overfished; this a contradictory statement.

2) In regards to "The Board has put more restrictive measures in place since 2019 to address overfishing and contribute to stock rebuilding based on the assessment and projections.

- Striped bass migrate along the Atlantic coast and its tributaries, how is data collection accurate if the fish doesn't have to return to the same place to spawn each year, but only to the waters that suit its need at the time of spawn? Adding more restrictions is adding to the mortality rate by both the recreational fisherman and the commercial fisherman.

3) Short-term projections in the assessment estimate the probability of rebuilding by 2029 is less than 50%, with an estimated increase in fishing mortality in 2025 due to the above-average 2018 year-class entering the current recreational ocean slot limit combined with the lack of strong year-classes behind it.

- Any restrictions should be aimed at the estimated probability of a higher mortality range. I.E. If any additional restrictions are made, they should be aimed only at the size/age of the fish estimated to be from the 2018 - 2020 classes.

4) In response to the 2024 Stock Assessment Update and the updated projections, the Board initiated Draft Addendum III to consider recreational and commercial

management measures for implementation in 2026 to support rebuilding the stock by 2029. This action is intended to increase the probability of rebuilding the stock by reducing fishery removals by -12% with management measures implemented in 2026.

- Instead of reducing fishery removals, the Board needs to look at the environmental impact in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to address the rebuilding. Not catching a fish doesn't guarantee a successful spawn. A deduction of 12% puts the commercial waterman in a hardship during the limited seasons each state has currently implemented and over a 3 year period, that cuts our income by 36%.

5) For the commercial fishery, this action proposes a commercial quota reduction. For the recreational fishery, this action considers season closures and/or size limit changes.

- The commercial fishery should not have any additional quota reductions. The buyers should have the ability to semi-regulate the size of the fish and expand the processing plants, letting the market regulate the fisherman's catch. If the market won't accept a fish of a particular size, then fisherman wouldn't catch that size.
- The recreational fishery should have a broader size range to reduce the impact on the catch/release mortality. If the sports fisherman can keep a broader range, they would be less likely to catch/release as many trying to reach the perfect fish.

6) This action also considers requirements for commercial tagging programs, a coastwide definition of total length for size limit regulations, and changes to the Maryland recreational season baseline.

- I would agree to an action for possible coastwide requirements for defining total length for Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery, to assist with compliance and enforcement, and to re-align.
- For commercial tagging, I believe all states should require all commercially harvested fish to be tagged at the point of harvest but to allow fish harvested in separate jurisdictions of water to in the licensed waterman's procession; i.e. Maryland/Virginia can be in the boat at the same time so long as fish is of legal size in both states at that time.

7) There is also concern that inconsistent methods of measuring the total length of striped bass for compliance with size limits undermines the intended conservation, consistency, and enforceability of the coastwide size limits.

- All striped bass should be measured on a flat surface (board) with a "stop block" at one end where the nose is to be placed against with measured marks for the range

of size/length appropriate and a stipulation to whether the tail of striped bass is to be flat and measured "fanned open" or to tip of the tail.

Dennis R. Newton, II
Commercial Waterman

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From:	George Harkness
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 5:10:11 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation census but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged is inconsistent in estimates of the recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 —is statistically insignificant.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already! What is needed is a serious overhaul with regard to the Council's management of forage fish - perhaps then we would have gamefish.

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

George Harkness

152 Brakewood Rd

Manteo, NC 27954

gh17@outlook.com

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From:	John Messina
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 24, 2025 7:50:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

North Carolina in Northeastern Sector inc.Currituck Sound closed the whole season for recreational fishing.Not even 1 fish of any size allowed.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland’s striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III’s proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Messina

124 Redhead Dr

Currituck, NC 27929

currituckus@yahoo.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 8:56:46 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=4UlwwEIZRw_tvYwtvC8MgSTnU6SKjBh7KJFkNXAhYqs.TzzC5W
Name
Scott Doty
Email
scott@aol.com
State
North Carolina
Comment
I live in NC, but fish in MA and RI often. I support the following: 3.1: Option B 3.2: Option B 3.3: Option C 3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean. I would urge ASMFC to make it's best efforts toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort.

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:10:44 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
William Yingst
Email
wyingst3@gmail.com
State
North Carolina
Comment
I am writing to comment on management proposals for Atlantic Striped Bass. I recognize the need for better management of this species to provide for future fish populations. However, I believe that a no targeting effort regulation would cause more harm than good. Removing fishing for striped bass altogether would cause grave economic harm to local businesses that rely on the seasonal fishing effort for Striped Bass. We travel from NC to NJ each year to participate in fishing during the fall run and contribute to the local economy at a time when other sources of income are not available to those businesses (off season for hotels, restaurants, etc). We only use catch and release and use proper techniques to insure a better survival rate for the fish we catch. It is my belief that a catch and release fishery with no harvest is a better option to assist with the management of striped bass and their future. Better education for catch and release would aid anglers in helping stripers.

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From:	Bradley Thorson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:00:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

This another attempt to cut out sport fishermen from a small harvest rate, just to leave more for the commercial people.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling communit

Sincerely,

Bradley Thorson

233 Country Dr

Statesville, NC 28625

bradleythorson@yahoo.com

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From:	Gary M Lavorgna
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 5:00:14 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Management decisions based upon data that are acknowledged as being flawed is bad management. Why not hold off on changes until there are new data that support the decisions being made?

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Gary M Lavorgna

1943 Sparkling Stream Dr

Belmont, NC 28012

1garylav1@gmail.com

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:	Shelley Tubaugh
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 9:10:14 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I am fortunate to be a boat owner and to enjoy casual recreational fishing. I also work in the marine industry and have the opportunity to visit fisheries around the U.S. I strongly believe and support practices that help maintain healthy fisheries and ecosystems. I also believe that the decisions made in the name of conservation need to be made on sound scientific data. The current proposal is not based on such data.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Shelley Tubaugh

2280 Corsica Rd

Washington, NC 27889

ncblondie63@gmail.com

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To Whom it May Concern:

Regarding the Striped Bass, I don't believe the Commercial Fishermen should be restricted in any way, because we are not responsible for the decline in the fishery in any way, we shouldn't have to bear the burden of having to take a 12 percent cut. When we overharvest one lb. we must repay one lb. There are repercussions for everything that happens on our side except for when we under harvest that we have been doing for the last 20 of 25 years.

Second, we have a side (recreational fishery) that doesn't have to pay back. There are no control restraints, it's allowed to grow at whatever rate it wants. And they should have to bear the burden because they are the problem.

If a party boat goes out and takes 700 trips per year with 140 passengers at a time, he can take a large number of fish out of the resource in one year. The party and head boats are full. The commercial is stuck at a restricted level and now you are talking about more and more cuts when we are not responsible at all.

You have a whole group of people who fish who don't abide by any rules and they are selling their fish and they don't have licenses. I have a friend who is a landscaper and his workers go out and fish all night and keep all the fish they catch, and they are not eating all they catch they are selling them.

And lastly you have all the marine mammals, dolphins, seals that are growing at a tremendous rate and are eating the fish. I saw a gray seal one time, I thought he was eating fish out of the net, but we didn't have any fish in the net, I watched him go down and get a fish out of the water and he did that 3 or 4 times in the little while I watched him. Now take that one animal that weighs almost 800 lbs. and multiply that by the population of those seals and they are eating an abundant amount of the resource.

And lastly, nothing has been done to protect the habitat. Every estuary, every river, every bay is being built on. It doesn't matter where you go if you live on this side of the continental divide the water runs into the Atlantic or the Gulf. The habitat that is productive is getting reduced every minute of every day.

Maybe the resolution is to have the recreational fishery tag every fish and then they will know exactly how many fish they are taking, just like the commercial fishery. They can't have one or be in possession of one unless they have a tag on it. Then there will be no more speculation or extrapolating and no statistical formulas needed. It can't be harvested if it doesn't have a tag. And I would bet it is at least 5 or 10 times the amount of what they are supposed to be taking out of the ocean.

An analogy would be if someone were saving their money for the future all their life to then have someone else robbing the piggy bank. -Timothy Froelich

From: Will Trout
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striper 2026
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:15:34 PM

Please continue with status quo for the 2026 striper season
Sent from my iPhone
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:	Aaron Scripps
To:	Comments
Cc:	Jason E. Mcnamee
Subject:	[External] [New] 2026 striped bass regs
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 7:09:26 PM

Good Evening,
In regards to 2026 striped bass proposed regulations, I suggest the quota remains status quo until a full benchmark stock assesment has been completed in 2027. Thank's for your time.
Vr/Aaron Scripps

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

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From:	Paul Wagner
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Comments on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 7:05:09 PM

Hello,

I want to begin by thank you all for the opportunity to submit these comments once again and taking your time to read them. Unfortunately, It seems I find myself writing these emails pretty frequently without seeing an improvement in the data representing the striped bass biomass, spawning success, and my own personal (recreational) fishing along the Atlantic coast. I won't get into the many years I've spent fishing for striped bass in many Atlantic states nor the deterioration in the fishery that I've seen, aside from what matters most here, which is simply doing everything that's necessary to rebuild the stock successfully. If things continue on the current path of failure, I'm in full support of a moratorium and making the sacrifices within my own life to do what's necessary

3.1 Option B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

3.2 Option B: (Tagging) at point of harvest.

3.3 Option C: New Baseline with 10% uncertainty buffer, to account for effort shifts.

3.4 Option B and Sub-option 01: 12% reduction for both sector, with sub-option 01, uniform, no for-hire exemption.

I'd like to also include that I'm in opposition to for-hire exemptions entirely.

I appreciate your consideration,

Paul Wagner

Sent from my iPhone

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From:	levi opsatnic
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Comments on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 7:01:49 PM

Hi,

I want to begin by thank you all for the opportunity to submit these comments once again and taking your time to read them.Unfortunately, It seems I find myself writing these emails pretty frequently without seeing an improvement in the data representing the striped bass biomass, spawning success, and my own personal (recreational) fishing along the Atlantic coast. I won't get into the many years I've spent fishing for striped bass in many Atlantic states nor the deterioration in the fishery that I've seen, aside from what matters most here, which is simply doing everything that's necessary to rebuild the stock successfully. If things continue on the current path of failure, I'm in full support of a moratorium and making the sacrifices within my own life to do what's necessary

3.1 Option B: Mandatory straight-line measurement with mouth closed, tail pinched.

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3.3 Option C: New Baseline with 10% uncertainty buffer, to account for effort shifts.

3.4 Option B and Sub-option 01: 12% reduction for both sector, with sub-option 01, uniform, no for-hire exemption.

I'd like to also include that I'm in opposition to for-hire exemptions entirely.

Thank you all,

Levi Opsatnic

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:	Rich Strzepek
To:	Comments
Cc:	Barry, Bob; Borgi, Frank; Cantelmo,Craig; Charron, Andrew; Cheng, Alyssa; Cheng, Tony; Comando, Dave; Contrelli, Ron; DeVito, Joe ; Ennis, Gary; Fasolino, Umberto ; Feldman, Steven ; Ficken, Dave; arden.gardell@gmail.com; Gobel, Leif; Heller, Bruce; Hetterich, Joe; Ingenito, Joe ; Kellner, Steve; Killen, Brian; Kneski, Ed; Lanzotti, Augie; Lisowy, Mike; Marchand, patrick ; Martinez, Orlando; Mazza, Joe; McCleery 1, Arty; McCleery 2, Arty ; Melly,Peter; Meola, Don; Minton, Dwight; Monahan, Mike; Mowdy, Jim; Napolitano, Blaise; Normoyle, Ray; "Nugent, John"; Rosen, Scott ; Rudolph,Rob; Scherer,Jimmy; Schlecht, Frank; Syms,Stephen; Thiergartner, Paul; Tomici, John; Torrento, Lynnie; VanSaun, Phil ; Welcome, Larry; Young, Allyn; Zory, Frank ; Dougherty-Johnson, Bran; Andruszkiewicz, Tim; Bernat, Joe; Borowsky, Dennis; Broderick, Matt; Bushell, Jim ; Caruana, Andrea; Citerella, John; Coniglio, Tony; Davey, Paul; Dolney, Ken; Dougherty, Frazer; "Ernst,Peter"; Gilvarry, Jim; Harbes, David ; Kaelin, Patrick; LaPiana, Gasper; Mangiamele, Tom; Manos, Charles & Robert ; McCarthy, Robert; McDonald, Ed; Morreale, Dominick; Normoyle, Don; Peragallo, Luis; "Perry, Joshua"; Ravenhall, Al; "Russell, Brian"; Seifert, John; Sorbara, Joe; Telley, Ramzy; Thorp, Craig; Walz, Ken
Subject:	[External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Friday, October 3, 2025 6:44:18 PM
Importance:	High

Dear ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board,

Thank you for the work you are doing to support the Striped Bass population. I am writing to submit my comments on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

I strongly support the No Harvest option for seasonal moratoriums. Implementing this strategy is crucial for the protection and recovery of striped bass stocks. Given the current challenges facing these stocks, it is essential that we take every available action to rebuild their populations and ensure their long-term sustainability.

In addition to the No Harvest option, I urge you to consider all viable measures that can enhance the recovery process for striped bass as soon as possible. This includes stricter regulations on commercial and recreational fishing, habitat restoration efforts, and continued monitoring of stock health.

It is imperative that we prioritize the health of our fisheries for future generations. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important plan.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Strzepek <{{{><

Virus-free.www.avast.com

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From: AckFish Charters
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 6:16:03 PM

To whom this may concern,

I am sending this email to request that we keep the striped bass quota the same for 2026. While I am a catch and release charter business, this greatly affects our industry and places unnecessary pressures on an already very regulated industry.

Thank you,

Capt. Tyler Schulz
508-332-8117

Sent from Outlook for iOS

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From: raymond decosta
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass 2026
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 6:06:34 PM

Hi,

I’d like to keep striped bass status quo for the 2026 season.

Thank you,
Ray DeCosta

Sent from my iPhone
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From: Jeffrey Amorello
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:58:42 PM

Dear Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board,

I am writing to provide comments on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.

I strongly support the following actions in Draft Addendum III:

- Option B-01: 12% uniform reductions applied equally to commercial and recreational sectors, with no carve-outs or exemptions.
- Reject “no-targeting” closures on the open coast—they are unenforceable, unrealistic, and not measurable.
- Require commercial tagging at the point of harvest to improve accountability and deter illegal harvest.
- Adopt uniform total length measurement standards across all states to close loopholes and improve enforcement.
- Support Maryland’s revised Chesapeake Bay baseline season (Option C) with at least a 10% uncertainty buffer to account for effort shifts.

These measures will improve enforceability, equity, and scientific credibility while giving the Atlantic striped bass stock its best chance to rebuild. I also believe a moratorium is not warranted at this time, but if poor recruitment continues in future years, more drastic action may be necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations, which align with the American Saltwater Guides Association’s science-based approach to striped bass conservation.

Sincerely,

Jeff Amorello

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From: Jerry Audet
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Addendum III Comments
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:18:57 PM

To whom it concerns

My name is Jerry Audet and I am the co-owner of Surfcaster's Journal, The Surfcast Podcast, and owner of In Deep Outdoors Writing and Photography. However, I am speaking only on behalf of myself and no other organizations or companies.

First, I want to mention how dismayed I am at what I consider to be the continued failings of the ASMFC when it is related to the striper. Year after year we continue to spiral downwards- for 20-years now- with no sign of any meaningful end. Yes, SSB may be out of free-fall, and some mathematical models show that striped bass could be "recovered" in a few years, but this does not account for the lack of recruitment and very small spawns. Nor does it account for climate change, droughts, blue catfish, mycobacterium, poaching, future advanced technology (saltwater FFS), etc. The ASMFC needs to be more aggressive in its actions to rebuild the stock. We need better thresholds, statistics, and measures. Their needs to be more urgency. So many of the anglers I interact with daily are jaded and simply not bothering to comment or engage because they feel the ASMFC will 1) do whatever it wants anyways 2) give in to the tiny minority 3) not act fast enough to help. Stop this trend. Prove them wrong!

Second, I want to address something I've seen repeated many times by some for-hire and commercial anglers. They have asked "what are the recreational catch and release angler really giving up? What are they sacrificing?" This is in relation to the fact that these anglers will have to keep less fish, while recreational anglers will for the most part continue to be able to fish as they have been. To that I say: we already gave up keeping fish. Prior to the last moratorium, all anglers kept their fish and sold them. Virtually everyone, and virtually ever fish. With the population collapse and the last moratorium, collectively "we" have decided we no longer believe (as a group) that that is what we want or what is best for the fishery. We gave up a huge- essential all- of our ability to keep and sell fish decades ago. I say instead, it is time for the for-hire and comm anglers to do THEIR part, as they have been repeatedly escaping any regulation changes in the fishery.

With that said, I'll comment on each point.

That said, to the specific points.
3.1 Option B
3.2 Option B
3.3 Option C- and I would support 20% or even 25% instead of 15%
3.4 Option B, suboption 01.

I also stand in very strong opposition to no-target closures. This is not because I do not think they would work, but rather they are unenforceable. Choosing no target closures instead of other meaningful measures is just continuing to do nothing. However, if the best available data suggests that no-harvest closures will help rebuild the fishery, I am very strongly in favor of them.

Finally, I want to note that it's time to consider new tackle requirements/regulations. The use

of single hooks (single treble or single inline) was demonstrably shown to decrease release mortality in the latest study by the Massachusetts DEM. If release mortality is indeed one of the top-issues right now, then why not implement something that is so easy to police? Circle hooks were very effective- and many thought enforcement and use would be low, and yet now they are the status quo.

Thank you
Jerry Audet

--
Jerry Audet
Freelance Writer, Photographer, and Editor
Author, *Hooked: Legendary Fresh and Saltwater Fish To Catch in a Lifetime*
Managing Editor & Co-Owner, *Surfcaster's Journal*
Owner and Host, *The Surfcast Podcast*
Columnist, *Fishing Tackle Retailer*
indeepoutdoorsmedia@gmail.com
///
www.indeepoutdoors.com
www.surfcastpodcast.com
www.surfcastersjournal.com

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From: CaptRichT1@aol.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Add III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:03:26 PM

I will keep this short.
Please leave the current Striped bass regulations as is. The science doesn't warrant any further restrictions.
Thank you for your consideration.
Capt. Rich Templeton

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From: Marion Kaufman
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 2:25:34 PM

Status Quo

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From: Harry Michelakis
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 2:21:14 PM

If we truly want the fishery to recover why not pause commercial and recreational for a couple of years? seems like a logical solution to me, i a recreational fisherman released a few fish over 40” this year only so a commercial fisherman can kill them? doesn’t seem like a good way for rebuilding the stock, thank you

Sent from my iPhone
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From: Fred Betz
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 2:15:54 PM

Striped bass are the backbone of salt water angling and I would like to express my opinions on the Striped Bass Addendum III

I fully support no targeted closures and completely reject any attempt at any type of closure
As far as the Addendum goes I support the following

3.1 - I support option B
3.2- I support option B
3.3- I support option C
3.4- I support option B-01 of equal reduction with no commercial favoritism

The Massachusetts recent study shows that a change in gear reduces mortality from 9% to under 3%. Please consider the latest scientific studies

I have been fishing for striped bass my entire life and I am now almost 70 years old and am introducing my grandson to this wonderful fishery. We release almost every fish we catch and we took part in the Massachusetts study by filling out logs and recording our results
Let's work together to rebuild the stocks while letting us continue to take part in this important sport
Thank you
Fred Betz, Jr

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From: John
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:04:19 PM

For 3.1 I support option A,
For 3.2 I support option B,
For 3.3 I support option B,
For 3.4 I support option A

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From: Scott Lundberg
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] striped bass add lll
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:52:53 AM

I would support status Quo. The science does not support a closure. If you were serious about saving fish, you would ban live bait. If there is a closure, my charter business of 33 years will be out of business. sincerely Capt. Scott Lundberg

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

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From: greatruncharters
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:33:58 AM

Hello, I would like to see the striped bass stay at status quo. The science does not support the data
Charlie Julian
Great Run Charters

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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From: Paul B. Johnson Sr.
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Status quo
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:09:26 AM

Please do not change the current regulations in striped bass. The science does not support a change, and the 2027 data will give a more clear view of striper population health. Leave it alone.

Capt

Paul B Johnson Sr
Carol J Charters

Sent from my iPhone
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From: Vigmostad Ralph
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass draft addendum 3
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:25:39 AM

Sent from my iPad I recommend sect3.1 option B, sect3.2 option B, sect3.3 option A, sect 3.4 option B 01 status quo, sect 3.4 option cb1 status quo. I support no harvest closures.
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From: Joseph Covello
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Comments
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:27:47 AM

To whom it may concern. Please keep the regulations the same 28-31 slot one fish BUT please get rid of the tag program to keep one small fish. This program is being grossly abused, in my opinion. People are using the same tag for multiple fish. It's a free Licence to keep everything below 28 inches (and that is the age fish I'm most worried about). Thank You. Joe 201-240-4517
Sent from my iPhone
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From: Justin Lerner
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Protect the bait
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:01:50 AM

To whom it may concern,

Please protect the bunker / menhaden. Too many of the bait fish are taken from the sea that feed and support the sport fish that drives so much annual fishing revenue. Cut back on the commercial fishing of bunker and stripped bass numbers will improve.

Thank you,

Justin Lerner

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From: Nathan Skerritt
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:03:08 AM

Please for the love of everything holy….keep the status quo for striped bass fishing….there are people that not only financially depend on that season….but also mentally depend on it….you will be taking away our “therapist” and leaving us with nothing to do but drugs for those months…genuinely….

We have seen incredible numbers of all sizes here in the rips around nantucket….the slot rules and regulations appear to be working just fine. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Stay tight.
-Nathan

Sent from my iPhone
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From: John Galvin
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass 2026
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:01:21 AM

Please keep Striped Bass Status Quo. Your proposed changes will do more harm than good.

Capt.John Galvin
(781)603-2247
capt.galvin@gmail.com
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From: Norm Staunton
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Draft Addendum III Comments
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:52:54 AM

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Striped Bass Board:

I am writing as both a member and supporter of Stripers Forever and the American Saltwater Guides Association. I want to recognize the important work both organizations have done to give the striped bass a voice and to ensure anglers like me can participate in this process.

This year alone I fished from Watch Hill, Rhode Island to Boothbay, Maine, and I did not catch or even see a striped bass. That experience is not only personally heartbreaking, it speaks volumes about the current condition of this fishery. The striped bass is an iconic species with immense ecological, social, and economic value—but only if it is alive in the water. Guides, small businesses, communities, and future generations all stand to lose if the fishery collapses.

The ASMFC has a legal obligation under its own rules to rebuild the spawning stock biomass to target by 2029. With six consecutive years of failed recruitment in the Chesapeake Bay, the Board is not living up to that obligation. Instead of taking proactive, preventative action, the Commission has delayed, ignored science, and pandered to short-term commercial interests and “blood on the decks” thinking. This path will not save the fishery.

The only scientifically proven method to rebuild the stock is a coast-wide harvest moratorium. While this option is not included in Draft Addendum III, I urge the Board to recognize it as the only path forward and take action accordingly. Had the Board acted earlier, the moratorium could have been shorter. Delay has only deepened the crisis and lengthened the recovery required.

Of the options actually included in Draft Addendum III, I support the

strongest available conservation measures:

- 3.1 – Option B: Mandatory elements for total length definition
- 3.2 – Option B: Commercial tagging at the point of harvest
- 3.3 – Option C: New Chesapeake Bay recreational season baseline plus a 10% uncertainty buffer
- 3.4 – Option B: Even sector reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12% (Sub-options 01 & CB1)

Additional comments:

- Only support full no-harvest closures
- Do not support any for-hire exemptions
- NY, CT, and RI must all be included in the New England region
- Support Wave 4 closures for New England and Wave 6 closures for the Mid-Atlantic
- Strong preventative action must be taken immediately in the face of repeated Chesapeake spawning failure

The striped bass is more than a fish. It is a heritage, a resource, and a living symbol of our coastal waters. Please act now with courage and foresight. Save this fish. Save its value for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Staunton

Splash More. Bark Less.

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From: Christopher Barsamian
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:11:58 PM

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the proposed no-target rule. While I support responsible fisheries management, this rule would shift an undue burden onto recreational anglers who are not targeting regulated species but may encounter them incidentally.

Such a policy risks discouraging participation in our coastal fisheries without meaningfully advancing conservation goats. I urge the Commission to pursue strategies that protect stocks while preserving fair access for the recreational anglers.

No harvest will be what saves the bass stock.
And no special treatment for the commercial/for-hire sector! They are worth more alive rather than dead.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christopher Barsamian

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From: Brendan Mackinson
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] ADDENDUM III Striped Bass
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:41:33 PM

Hello,

I am writing to support the protection of the striped bass fishery for future generations.

I support Option B for 3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of Striped Bass, Option B for 3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging, Option C for 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline, and Option B for 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding.

In addition, I STRONGLY support an equitable, coast-wide harvest moratorium, with no exemptions for for-hire fishing. I believe this is the best and most effective way to rebuild the stock and ensure a viable recreational and commercial striped bass fishery for the future. I urge you to recognize how dire the current situation is and take strong action.

Sincerely,
Brendan Mackinson

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From: Todd Coleman
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:14:11 PM

The current in place Atlantic Striped Bass regulations are restrictive enough. The recreational angler is not depleting the stock. Striped bass have been abundant in the past few years at levels that were not seen in several decades. Leave the regulations as they are.
The economic loss to the recreational fishing industry would be catastrophic if it is shut down. Many small businesses rely on the recreational season.
Respectfully,
Todd Coleman
Tjc289@gmail.com
Sent from my iPhone
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From: Emilie Franke
To: Comments
Subject: FW: [External] Thank You * No Harvest 2026
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 6:15:06 PM

From: HeyJoe <jpvegasdc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:49 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Thank You * No Harvest 2026

Ms. Franke,

I simply wanted to send you a quick note of appreciation for all of the hard work you have put in to helping all of the fishermen and women who cherish their time on the water fishing for memories made from such a majestic fish.
I felt compelled to Email you after listening in via zoom on several meetings that were had. Why you may ask? Tough crowd.
On my behalf there is an apology warranted for my fellow fishermen. I understand the passion had but not the decorum at times. It's difficult to for many to truly understand what is really at stake.
As you can see my position is for No harvest next season. I hope that it is plausible? Certainly a season or two of no harvest could help the overall population sustain and survive for many more years to come.

Again, thank you for your efforts and patience and due diligence.

Sincerely,
Joe

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From: Paul Lamonte
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum lll
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:16:30 PM

Sent from my iPad. The following coments represent my opinions for the Addendum lll. Sec. 3.1. I choose Opt B.

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From: john broadbent
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped bass future
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 3:40:19 PM

Sent from my iPhone I wish you seriously consider closing all commercial fishing and penalties be enforced for non-compliance and make this happen along the entire migratory route of the Atlantic striped bass! Al so please take into consideration of making all charter vessels or guided charters comply with recreational guidelines! To do a closure or no target ruling is absolutely not going to accomplish anything except cause environmental law enforcement agencies to work extra hard and they will not be able to enforce the rules and regulations they already have to enforce short handed. Ty very much

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From: Art Boyd
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Re: Thank you for your striped bass comments
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:37:27 PM

I also support no in season closures.

> On Oct 2, 2025, at 1:33 PM, Comments <comments@asmfc.org> wrote:
>
> Thank you for providing input on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board for consideration at its next Board meeting, which will occur in October. Upon considering public input, the Board will select final management measures and consider final approval of the Addendum.
>
> Emilie Franke | Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
> Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
> 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
> Arlington, VA 22201
> Phone: 703.842.0716 | Fax: 703.842.0741
> efranke@asmfc.org | www.asmfc.org

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From: Art Boyd
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum 3
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:32:52 PM

My name is Art Boyd and I am a surfcaster for 40 years. I've lived through many years of management changes and have been involved since the 1st moratorium. My preferences for the addendum are : 3.1 -option B 3.2 - and option B. 3.3 - option A 3.4 option B-01 and 3.5 option CB1. Thank you.
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From: tbbwbg@gmail.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass fishery
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:08:45 AM

I'm reaching out in regards to Striped Bass management for your upcoming discussions. Anyone who has been bass fishing in the ocean in the past decade has seen vast improvements of availability of this sport fish. This fish should remain available to harvest for recreational fishermen. Many businesses count on this and poor science is creating unnecessary burdens on too many people by limiting the harvest any further than it already has been.
Please consider finding a better way to account for rebuilt stocks that can account for regions outside of the Chesapeake

Thanks for your consideration

Ted Breitowich

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From:	Brian R
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped bass addendum III
Date:	Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:50:58 AM

Hello my name is Brian Roycroft I have been fishing for striped bass avidly as a recreational angler for the last 5 years and this has became my true passion in life. I believe that this is a magical fishery & am a firm believer in a no harvest closures to bring back the stock of fish. A striped bass is worth a lot more than to be caught just one time. No harvest & I would limit the amount of days and pounds the commercial guys can harvest. I would like to see people still fish for striped bass on a recreational level but not harvest the fish, handle properly, limit commercial netting & keep these fish alive. If you catch and release there is a chance the fish will survive. When you put it in your cooler there is zero percent chance. Thank you

Brian Roycroft
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From: capt.tom02
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:42:28 AM

For over 70 years I have fished for Striped Bass along the ofcoasts of Maine, New York, New Jersey and Chesapeake Bay areas.

During those years I enjoyed catching the greatest game fish on the East coast. There were years that I Tag over 600 hundred Bass.

Unfortunately during those years came the Moratorium of the 70's. This decision of closing the Striped Bass fishing for 10 years worked to bring back the bass population in a few years so that we could Start harvesting again.

Now we are back to the 70's again due too us not learning from our previous mistakes.

GENTLEMAN is time to get your heads out of you asses. You need to lesson to the people Who have been walking the beaches and fishing from their boats for the Great Striped Bass and catching very little.

ITS TIME TOO IMPOSE AN EQUITABLE COAST WIDE 5 YEAR MORATORIUM, to safe the great fish the Striped Bass.

Sent from my Galaxy

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From: Sean Layton
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 10:53:35 PM

To the ASMFC:

As a 38 year old recreational angler heavily invested in the future of the Striped Bass fishery, **I urge the ASMFC to maintain status quo regulations to allow the harvest of Stripers** across Atlantic Ocean waters & key tributaries of the Hudson and Chesapeake Rivers.

Specific proofpoints show that a no target or no harvest closure is unreasonable:

1) Mortality rates continue to reach all-time lows as a result of (absurdly) small slot regulatory measures and new tackle limitations

2) Key portions of the season are dominated by catch & release fishing of big, breeding size fish that are released to fight another day

3) Rebuilding targets are based on unreasonable metrics that have only been reached a couple times in 20+ years

4) Admissions that there are massive flaws in third-party mortality data, and that the process to collect & gauge population health are antiquated

On top of science, a decision to close this fishery during peak migration will absolutely DESTROY recreational fishing as we know it from Maine to Virginia. It will force party boat captains, charter boat skippers, bait & tackle shop owners and other small businessmen to abandon their livelihoods. Regulations have made it tough for these businesses to survive the past decade as it is, and shutting out a big portion of the Striped Bass season will be the final death knell. It may not be the ASMFC's intention to do so, but this decision has multi-million dollar implications in the fishing & tourism industry for towns like Point Pleasant, Montauk, Cape Charles, Atlantic Highlands and others who rely on Striper anglers & the money they spend in Spring, Summer and Fall.

I implore this committee to see the gravity of this moment to maintain a healthy recreational fishery, keep people employed and vote to keep regulations status quo.

Thank you,
Sean

Sean Layton
732.300.7271
seanrlayton@gmail.com

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From: Old Line State Fishing
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:42:16 PM

For 3.1 I support option A,
For 3.2 I support option B,
For 3.3 I support option B,
For 3.4 I support option A.

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From: Brian O"Mara
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:19:51 PM

Your proposed additional restrictions on striped bass is not well-supported by your data. In addition to being an avid recreational saltwater fisherman, I am a medical device product design engineer. If I was to design a medical device that was based on data that was only 60 to 70% reliable the FDA would never allow the device on the market as it would likely result in harming many people. These added restrictions do not just present a hardship to fishermen. Your admission that your model could be off the mark by 30 to 40 percent risks putting tackle shops, charter boats, tackle manufacturers, and others that make a living from fishing out of business.

You note that under the present regulations there is a 50% probability that the rebuilding target will get accomplished, but I am not aware that the reduction in mortality in striped bass due to the required use of circle hooks has thoroughly been assessed. Another aspect of fisheries management that appears to have been overlooked is how the abundance of one fish species affects the others. Stiped bass are predators as much as bluefish, fluke, and weakfish. Over my many years fishing I have experienced the interplay of one abundant predator species causing other fish populations to be in significant decline. I do not believe any one fish species can be managed in a vacuum in such a complex ecosystem.

Before implementing further striped bass restrictions I believe there needs to be a focus on collecting more reliable data. Fishermen are a great source for harvest data if NOAA can find a better way to partner with us. At this point the only added regulation I would support is a requirement for fishermen to keep a fishing log (if they do not already). In New Jersey such a fishing log is already required if you participate in the Bonus Bass Program.

Please do not impose the further restrictions on striped bass as outlined in Draft Addendum III but maintain the status quo and focus on implementing improved methods of collecting data. Thank you.

Best Regards

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From: Caleb Green
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:47:58 PM

Hi there,

I'd like to include my opinions on how I think the 4 points in consideration for Striped Bass management should be handled.

3.1 - Option B

3.2 - Option B

3.3 - Option C, with request to increase the buffer to 15% or higher

3.4 - Option B.01, with the specific request to enact "harvest closures" instead of "targeting closures". It's obvious that catch and release targeting of striped bass has a much lower effect on mortality than targeting for harvest. I spent time working with the state of Massachusetts on the catch and release mortality study, and there are better ways to manage this option than a full closure to targeting striped bass.

Thank you for your consideration to these points,

Caleb Green
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From: Ronald Enright
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New]
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 12:29:35 PM

Sent from my iPhone I would like to see status quo until full stock. Assessment takes place in 2027.
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From:	Joe Webster
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Addendum III Public Comment
Date:	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:10:40 AM

Dear ASMFC,

My recommendations are as follows:

3.1: Option B: Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.
3.2: Option B: Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.
3.3: Option C: New baseline with 10% buffer; suggest increasing to 15% for precaution
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean

There should be no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. It should also be noted that you continue to not give the public the options they are looking for. More effort should be made to rebuild the stock. We should not be harvesting any fish at this point. Recreational catch and release fishing is the only way to move forward.

The well being of this fishery is in your hands. It is tanking hard. Stop being idiots.

Joe Webster
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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 10:57:09 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/
Name
Scott Davis
Email
scottydalaska@yahoo.com
State
South Carolina
Comment
Thank you for your continued efforts to save Stripers. Im a retired fishing guide and fly shop owner from SC where Striped Bass are our state fish. I currently travel the entire Atlantic coast fishing and am thankful to get the chance to have my comments recorded to protect this most iconic fish. 3.1 option B 3.2 option B 3.3 option C 3.4 option B-01 12% reduction- commercial needs to contribute. I also oppose "for hire exemptions" thank you again. Respectably, Scott Davis

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From: Pierrepont, Stuyve
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Regulations.
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 10:43:28 AM

ASMFC Commissioners,

With all due respect , the majority of the key species you manage are overfished or overfishing is occurring. It is time you take a firm stance and protect the remainder of the species that are under pressure. Striped Bass and probably bluefish need protection from angles because most can't or don't release fish appropriately. Release losses are just too high especially if bait is involved. I would be ok with single hook artificial only fall fishing but suggest all bait and multi hook lures be dis allowed. The future of or fisheries are in your hands! Stuyve Pierrepont

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From: Joseph Criscuolo
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Stripper Bass
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:07:36 PM

I’m in favor of maintaining the status quo until stock. Assessment has been completed in 2027 thank you.
Sent from my iPhone
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:	Charlie Levine
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 10:00:16 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The striped bass is the most important game fish in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. By taking drastic measures relying on bad science this fishery is at danger. As the editor of a national fishing magazine, I urge you to use sound science and stick with a tight slot to manage the fishery. And close commercial before going after catch and release fishing.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Charlie Levine

4225 Fallwood Cir

Orlando, FL 32812

charlie.levine@firecrown.com

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From:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: Ridiculous, this no targeting crap , more stripers Inshore than ever. Offshore numbers are above your targets. Something fishy going on!!!
Date:	Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:19:13 AM

From: tim murray <t.s.murray@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:01 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] Ridiculous, this no targeting crap , more stripers Inshore than ever. Offshore numbers are above your targets. Something fishy going on!!!

Get realistic numbers both recreational and commercial.

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get Outlook for Android

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From: rich beneduci
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New]
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:29:27 AM

Regarding striped bass restrictions, I would I offer a suggestion.
Since we are all concerned about future biomass, it is critical to make sure that egg producing fish population are available every year. For the past few years we (in NJ), have had the same slot size to keep a fish. In the future this age group of fish will be significantly reduced and thus egg production will be less.

We should consider changing the slot size every so often inorder to keep egg producing constant every year.
I understand that smaller fish tend to be males however, there are females mixed in this size.

My last comment is that states have different regulations and that party boats are given tags which are given out to everyone on the boat allowing everyone 2 fish. People with their own tags should be the only ones taking 2 fish. Party boats need to come up with other incentives to attract fishermen.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns. Also let me know if my comments are off base.

Best Regards
Richard Beneduci
201 658 0271
Rlb6233@gmail.com

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From:	Christopher Bishop
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] No target closures are not the answer!
Date:	Monday, September 29, 2025 8:50:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

No target closures are not sustainable or enforceable. They will put shops, companies and guide services out of business.
If you want to make a difference, move Striped Bass to gamefish status and make them catch and release only.

Sincerely,

Christopher Bishop

600 NW Enterprise Dr

Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986

Chris@yo-zuri.com

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From: Rich Lazar
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Bass fishing regulations
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:33:08 AM

Good morning. I am strictly a catch and release sports fisherman. I fish the western sound bays. I catch fewer bass every year for the past 15 years. Recreational anglers and party boat captains need to wake up and listen to the scientists,or there will be no fish for our kids and grandchildren to enjoy. More regulation and enforcement is essential.
Sent from my iPhone
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From: John Giannini
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Amendment III
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 5:27:58 PM

Gentlemen:
Regarding measures to be taken to bolster striped bass stocks, I believe that rather than laying this problem at the feet of recreational anglers only addresses a small part of the problem. If bolstering Striped Bass stocks is the purpose of this amendment, maybe the entire problem should be looked at. Striped Bass are in trouble because of a number of factors, all of which contribute to the problem:

1. Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing for striped bass along with bicatch from other commercial fishing kills far more striped bass than recreational anglers who take them one at a time. Realistic commercial quotas and size limits need to be set so that these stocks are protected from the mass harvest practices that commercial interests employ.

2. Recreational Fishing: If a limit of 1 fish per person with no bonus were maintained this would help limit catches to acceptable levels on the recreational side.

3 Water Quality: Young of year index is one of the criteria that is used to determine the status of striped bass stocks. Breeding success is closely tied to water quality. If striped bass fry are expected to survive they need to be able to develop in clean water.

4. Protection of Forage Species: One of the forage species that striped bass depend on for their survival is the menhaden. Stocks of menhaden are under attack by large fishing trawlers that target them within a couple miles of the coast. If Striped Bass are to survive, their main food source needs to survive. I believe that commercial menhaden fishing should be limited to areas more than ten miles from the coast and that enforceable quotas should be imposed to protect this critical food source.

Only by addressing the entire problem will the issue of declining striped bass stocks be solved.
All players involved with the issue should contribute to its solution, not just recreational fishermen.
I believe that a moratorium or non target solutions will only inflict undue pain on not only recreational fishermen, but on all the other industries that benefit from a healthy striped bass fishery such as the tackle industry, party and charter boat operators, hotel and restaurant establishments in coastal areas along with the other businesses that benefit from this great resource.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

John P. Giannini, PE

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From: kimvillanova630
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striper regulations
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025 8:36:47 AM

As a woman who loves to fish, I want to keep the status quo. To catch a striper from shore is such a win. The feeling that you get is incomparable to anything else. How many times have I driven almost 2 hours to get down to IBSP without even catching 1? Many. The daily catch limit is already just 1. To not even allow us to target stripers is inconceivable. If the state were willing to give out tags to anglers to collect solid data, that would be one thing, but they're not. Maybe there needs to be stricter consequences for people who are not following regulations, and for those of us who take it very seriously, please allow us to have something to look forward to. For some people, fall is about pumpkin spice and flannels at the apple orchard, for me it's the fall run.

On a side note, for the love of Grumpys, The Tackle Box, Betty and Nick's, and everyone else who supports our passion as much as we like to support their livelihoods, FISH ON.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S25+, an AT&T 5G smartphone

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From: STEPHEN DESISTO
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM 111)
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 11:13:38 AM

Att. ASMFC I vote to have no !!! changes in all the drafted addendums

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From: mark pantle
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] addendum 3
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 8:19:03 PM

I don't support "no targeting" stripers in the fall. I do support "catch and release" year-round with the estuaries being closed till after they spawn.

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From:	Pete Hottois
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:50:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Stripe Bass fishing has come a long way since the Chesapeake Bay Moratorium in the 90s.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Pete Hottois

17050 Munn Rd

Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

phottois@exeterholdingsllc.com

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From: Paul Spadavecchia
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Proposed Striped Bass Season Closure
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:28:42 PM

As a recreational fisherman I urge you to reject the proposed possible closure of the Striped Bass season in 2026. And leave it as status quo. I see plentiful Striped Bass numbers in my coastal waters every year.
Thank you
Paul
Sent from my iPhone
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:	Steve Musso
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:37:31 PM

To the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,

As a full-time member of the fishing tackle industry who has witnessed the fluctuations of this fishery over 50 years, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding any proposed moratorium. Such a measure would be catastrophic for small businesses like mine and for the broader recreational fishing economy.

Last year, our business saw a 9.2% decline in sales, and this year we are already down 12.4% year-to-date. These figures reflect a troubling trend, and a moratorium would only compound the economic strain on tackle manufacturers, retailers, and the many local communities that depend on this fishery.

As a fishing lure manufacturer we are committed to conservation and responsible angling. In 2020, we voluntarily switched out rear treble hooks to single hooks on all our lures to reduce fish mortality. We actively promote catch-and-release practices, encourage anglers to crush barbs on hooks, and educate our customers on minimizing air exposure for fish. One simple guideline we share is: “Begin holding your breath when the fish comes out of the water—when you need air, assume the fish does too.” It’s a powerful reminder to return fish to the water swiftly and safely.

We believe that sustainable fisheries and a healthy tackle industry can—and must—coexist. Rather than imposing a moratorium, we respectfully urge the Commission to encourage closures in the season to be "harvest-closure" only. I do not support "no target" closures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

My position on Striped Bass Addendum III

3.1) Option B

3.2) Option B

3.3) Option C, with a request to increase the buffer to 15% or more

3.4) OPTION b-01.

Sincerely,
Steve Musso
Super Strike Lures, Inc
631-392-0771
stevemusso@superstrikelures.com

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From: mickeyjs05@aol.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:10:46 PM

I am against any more restrictive regulations to an already restrictive Striped bass fishing season. I am a sport fisherman that occasionally charters a boat for family and friends etc. It has become very difficult to find people willing to pay the NEEDED fees by the boat captain. As we all know fuel, food, transportation costs all continue to increase at a rate higher than our wages increase. If you continue to increase restrictions on size and time available to fish you are taking away a sport that brings friends and family together to enjoy the outdoor sports of Maryland and in the bigger picture making nearly impossible for a charter boat captain to remain in business to feed his family keep his already dwindling clientele.
So in closing I vote NO to addendum III and any changes to the existing restrictions.

A concerned outdoorsman
Scott Mickey

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:08:33 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=79TS6PI2NOTRO614OHOEQ9HT4S&trk_sid=1O9O0HSL1NHVT5S05LTATMV3B4&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO
Name
Bryan Doyle
Email
bryandoyle2014@gmail.com
State
Florida
Comment
I am a Florida resident but a Rhode Island recreational, catch and release angler of Striped Bass. I am against no-target closures but not opposed to no-harvest closures.

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From: Dunning, Robert
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass for the future
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:54:56 AM

We have been delaying good conservative action to preserve this fishery for over 14 years. It's time for a moratorium! Stop all harvest of striped bass so this fishery can make another come back. Once back at sustainable levels, we must ensure the future by maintaining strict harvest regulations. Thank you, Rob Dunning

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From: Stefano Vassilaros
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:43:55 AM

3.1: Measuring Striped Bass Option B - Mandatory uniform total length for consistency and to close loopholes.
3.2: Commercial Tagging Option
B - Tagging at harvest to curb illegal sales; B preferred for stricter control.
3.3: Chesapeake Bay Option C - New baseline with 10% buffe
3.4: Option B-01 for Ocean - 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism

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From: Greg Fairbend
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 9:14:34 AM

Do not create a no Target fishery. How would it even be enforced?

Thanks

GREGORY FAIRBEND

P.M.

C: 516-790-3132 O:516-644-2222

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From: Chris Modica
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:06:57 AM

3.1) Option B
3.2) Option C, too much gray area with ‘time of harvest’
3.3) Option C with 15-20% buffer
3.4) Option B-01, no harvest overall. Should never have gotten to this point.
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: David Bier
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:41:00 PM

Sent from my iPhone
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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:18:07 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?trk_msg=KIBVBC9AO0K4FD14GTDR63L1A8&trk_contact=OIJNK8RS4B4N79TC7U3QI6T0JS&trk_sid=3Q29VT7L2KG6AD9KDR83NT8PV0&trk_link=O0II150ON4QKD7VBLP6RGB7GTO

Name

Douglas Emerson

Email

dkemerson65@gmail.com

State

South Carolina

Comment

I just gotten back from fishing down in Edisto beach. Sorry guys, I really think we need restrictions on all fish. This is the worst trip I've taken yet. Saturday, the boat ramp was full. Not a spot to be had. And game wardens checking on boaters and limits, not a one. I've been to hunting island, Edisto beach, Charleston, folly beach, mcleniville Buck Hall. In the last three yrs, met up with zep (0) game wardens. I personally, think are game fish are depleting. Just how I feel.
Thanks.

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From: Chris Imbro
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:07:12 PM

---

fuck you libs and your non science, feeling based bullshit closures. who do you think you are? youre nobody, thats who. take your wind farm and shove it up your ass. euro wannabe faggots. in closing GO FUCK YOUR MOTHERS.

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: Alan Martin
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] No target closure
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:34:20 PM

This is my comment to say "no" to a "no target" closure for next season for striped bass.

Alan Martin

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From:	Reginald Thors
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Rex Thors ASMFC striped bass comment
Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:40:59 PM

Hi ASMFC,

My comment is simple. Please enact a moratorium. Please enact legislation that shuts down commercial gill netting for striped bass in the Chesapeake. Please enact legislation/lobby for legislation that curbs the gill netting fisheries specifically for menhaden. I think it's ridiculous that there are fisheries companies/conglomerates from other countries that are disrupting our entire marine/fishing economy so that people can have more Fish oil. I'll end my comment with one last point that a moratorium for an extended amount of time 5-7 years or even more would give the fish a fighting chance. Currently it feels like they don't have a chance because of the brown shark predation, lack of menhaden and gill netting.

Thanks for reading my comment,
Rex Thors
781-690-5794

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From: Tony Freeman
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:15:20 AM

Another year has passed and the over stepping of government agencies continues!

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed regulations that allow commercial fishing for striped bass while severely restricting recreational fishing. This discrepancy represents a clear double standard and a fundamental injustice to recreational anglers.

Recreational anglers are the backbone of the fishing industry, contributing significantly to local economies through the purchase of fishing licenses, permits, and equipment. Their tax dollars directly fund conservation efforts and fisheries management programs. It is hypocritical to allow commercial interests to deplete fish stocks while recreational anglers, who contribute financially to conservation, are denied access to the resource they help to sustain.

The fishing tackle industry, a vital sector of the economy, relies heavily on recreational anglers. Job creation, innovation, and economic growth are all dependent on the continued health of recreational fishing. By restricting access to striped bass, we are inadvertently harming this industry and the livelihoods of countless individuals.

The right to enjoy the great outdoors, including fishing, is a fundamental right enshrined in our Constitution. It is a right that should be protected for all citizens, regardless of whether they fish for recreation or profit. The current regulations that favor commercial interests over recreational anglers undermine this fundamental right and create a sense of unfairness and resentment among the recreational fishing community.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed regulations and implement a more balanced approach that recognizes the contributions of recreational anglers and ensures equitable access to our shared resources. By doing so, we can protect the environment, support the economy, and uphold the constitutional rights of all citizens.

Sincerely,

Anthony Freeman- A concerned outdoorsman and taxpayer

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From: MURRAY DEMUTH
To: Comments
Cc: MURRAY DEMUTH
Subject: [External] Re: ADDENDUM III - OPTION A
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 6:31:40 PM

More thoughts based upon actual in the field observation's.

On the majority of my fishing trips/effort I consistently observe the following. As we are constrained to a slot 19” to 24” it is very common to catch fish over the maximum slot Measurements. This is the equivalent of catching fish to be released and need to continue effort to fill the slot. I see more large fish floating dead most likely due to poor release techniques which I observe on a regular basis. This problem is mostly isolated to the non professional recreational angler that doesn’t know or doesn’t care. It makes me think let’s eliminate a maximum size limit. This means putting fish in the box sooner a results in less effort and eliminating the mortality risks of released over the slot limit fish.
Thank you for your attention to this matter
Respectfully
Capt. Murray deMuth
.

> On 09/21/2025 9:49 AM EDT MURRAY DEMUTH <demuth4@comcast.net> wrote:
> Additional Comments
> Systemic and Long Term Problems Affecting the Health and Prosperity of the Chesapeake Bay. Food Supply and Clean Water are the two most obvious problems and the most controversial items based upon cost and politics. Fix both of these issues and the Bay is self sustaining. Tough decisions need to be made on Omega's menhaden fishery and the Aging infrastructure of the Cities in the Bay's 6 state watershed.
>
> - Omega's IMPACT - A Starving Population cannot effectively reproduce. NO FOOD = NO FISH. Biology 101 - During Times of Famine fertility rates plummet due to the bio feed back mechanism to protect only the exiting population. During times of Plenty (NO STARVATION) Reproduction rates Increase because the bio feedback mechanism recognizes the opportunity to support an expanding population.
> - 6 STATE WATERSHED - Clean Water = More Fish. Fish are just like humans. If the environment is safe to live in they will stay. The metrics for fish is a plentiful food supply and clean oxygenated water.
>
> The Biggest Short Term Impact to improve the fishery is focusing on Omega. It is unrealistic to demand shutting down Omega. However, It is not unreasonable to close the Bay to Menhaden Harvest and push their activities outside the 3 Mile Limit. This will go a long way toward solving for the Localized Depletion of Menhaden.
> The Biggest Long Term Impact is to improve the fishery is to focus on Clean Water. Clean Water requires Big Government Financial Support

and Intervention to enforce the Clean Water Act for financing upgrades to solve for water treatment plant upgrades, controlled nutrient runoff and no point source pollution.
The point being is any proposal to reduce mortality or landings to save a fishery must be supplemented by giving the fish a fighting chance by providing food and clean water for its survival.
Respectfully
Capt. Murray deMuth
TWT Fishing Charters, LLC
Captain Murray R. P. deMuth
US Coast Guard Licensed Master 50 Ton & Assistance Towing
Licensed Maryland Resident Fishing Guide
410-952-7389
demuth4@comcast.net
https://twtfishingcharters.com

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From:	Charles Stuart, jr
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Monday, September 22, 2025 6:20:15 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

The days of fishing wherever you want are over, landowners being sued, property damage. We need PUBLIC ACCESS places to fish

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Charles Stuart

207 W Johnson Ave

West Terre Haute, IN 47885

stuartcharlesr@yahoo.com

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From: ASMFC
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] New public comment for Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 8:51:02 AM

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Action Title
Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Action URL
https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/?_kx=BRBWAFpMfbGNDdwXNlC1-_2kadusraxPb9mjw7y4MoY.TzzC5W
Name
Andy Grosso
Email
andy@fortrasearch.com
State
Florida
Comment
Striped bass populations have collapsed before, and without sensible regulations to protect breeding stock, we risk repeating history. Smart limits ensure healthy fisheries that sustain the ecosystem and the billions in economic value striped bass generate for coastal communities.

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From:	Mohamed Shata
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Closure
Date:	Sunday, September 21, 2025 10:39:21 PM

Good evening,

It is tragic news to hear the potential for closure of Striped Bass fishing for 2026. Striped Bass is such an amazing species that myself, friends, and family greatly enjoy fishing for. Some of the best memories are from targeting striped bass. The majority of the time, my circle practices catch and release. A lot of people around me seem to be the same. One observation is last year we saw the commercial fishing boats way too close off the coast of New York and New Jersey absolutely slaughtering the Bunker/Menhaden. When going out on fishing trips we are having a much harder time finding bunker which is leading to the decline of striped bass. Recreational fishermen are getting the short end of the stick while it seems like commercial boats are doing as they please, destroying the populations of bunker which in turn has clearly negatively affected populations of Striped Bass and other similar species. We don't need a ban on Striped Bass, we need tighter regulations on Commercial Fishing! Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Concerned Recreational Fisherman

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From: Emilie Franke
To: Comments
Subject: FW: [External] [New] Comments on Striped Bass fishery
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025 8:50:47 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: t n <trinitrav@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:53 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Comments on Striped Bass fishery

Shut it down.
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From:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] [New] addendum 3
Date:	Sunday, September 21, 2025 8:50:31 PM

From: Paul Niederauer <fvcannonball@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 7:45 AM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] addendum 3

please register my vote as
Standard measurements with fork length being most accurate and easiest

commercial tagging at point of landing

and
Status quo - no changes in size or season

Thanks
Capt Paul

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From: Mark E Benanchietti
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Re: Thank you for your striped bass comments
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 4:44:22 PM

Good afternoon we need to van commercial Fishing for strike bass.
That is where the problem is.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 19, 2025, at 4:20 PM, Comments <comments@asmfc.org> wrote:
>
> Thank you for providing input on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Your comments will be shared with the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board for consideration at its next Board meeting, which will occur in October. Upon considering public input, the Board will select final management measures and consider final approval of the Addendum.
>
> Emilie Franke | Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
> Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
> 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N
> Arlington, VA 22201
> Phone: 703.842.0716 | Fax: 703.842.0741
> efranke@asmfc.org | www.asmfc.org

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From:	Benjamin Brewer
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III Input: CT Recreational Angler
Date:	Friday, September 19, 2025 3:19:31 PM

Hi ASMFC

Ive written many emails and attended several meetings in the last several years and here we are again. Please accept this email as my plea to help with the conservation of the striped bass. I know you've heard from a lot of commercial anglers saying that the stocks are fine, or even the best they've ever been. It is easy to understand why they would say that, but we all know its not the case. They are out much more than the average angler and have lots of technology, both of which helps them get on the fish that are around. I dont argue they arent catching lots of fish, i agrue they are catching some of the ONLY fish that are in our areas but of course that doesnt mean there are a lot of fish. They are only thinking short term, not realizing only by thinking long term can they save their own livelihoods. Theyll then also turn around and blame other things for the stocks problems (when in the last breath they just said there wasnt a problem!).

As a recreational angler for the last 30 years ive seen the ebbs and flows and i can say the last few years have been frighteningly bad from a numbers perspective. We need to do more to build back the stocks by 2029 and we urge you for you help. Below please see my recommendations.

3.1: i suggest option B

3.2: i suggest option B

3.3: i suggest option C

3.4: i suggest option B and O1 for recreational ocean, i would suggest CT and NY should be included in northern region

Thank you for your consideration.
Ben Brewer

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From: Ken Vera
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 1:35:07 PM

To keep it short and sweet, why would we not try a No Harvest before a moratorium? I believe No Harvest will give the best chance of survival for the striped bass fishery without damaging another one.

If there were to be a no target, the amount of anglers that would decimate the population of tautog and fluke would be astronomical.

As a recreational shore angler, a no target would suck but I can only image to all the charter businesses, tackle shops etc.

Having a NO Harvest instead, this would still hurt small businesses but they could still put food on their tables.

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From: Ben Martinez
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft addendum 3
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:53:57 PM

I like Striped Bass, I like fishing for Striped Bass. If you take away fishing for Striped Bass, I will continue to fish for Striped Bass. I think I speak for many fishermen, when I say this. Target the Giant ships in the bays and the ocean that troll for fish and destroy the habitats they breed and thrive in. Not the Anglers that might take home a slot Striped bass. (might take home)

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From: Joe Gray
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:32:21 PM

I DO NOT support “No Target” regulations. I do, however support “No Harvest” regulations. I do not want to see a No-Target regulation put forth for recreational anglers.
Sent from my iPhone
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From:	Joseph
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date:	Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:33:42 PM

I strongly oppose the subject addendum. As an avid fisherman and conservationist, these decisions must be arrived at with solid science and due diligence. Not with a broad stroke. I have more fish in recent years than I have over the last 40 years combined. Fisherman are the best stewards of the ocean's resources and we know more than anyone first hand that the striped bass population is thriving.

NO to Addendum III

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From: sje63
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Stripe bass opinion
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:26:46 PM

I believe we should stop the harvest and practice catch and release. We need to secure the future of bass fishing for our children and grand children.

Thank you
Scott Erickson

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From: Phillip G Tompkins
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] No Harvest vs No Target
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 2:13:02 PM

The strategies by which to catch striped bass off the surf during their migration are the same strategies by which to catch multiple other species in the same area at the same time (i.e. Bluefish and Weakfish). Therefore, unless the other species are also mandated to not be targeted, a ‘non-target’ mandate on striped bass along the jersey shore in fall (or spring) is illogical, unenforceable, and even immoral because it would solely rely on the assumption of the warden about the angler’s intent, and not on any objective measure.

In addition to all the above, a no-target mandate would surely hurt, if not permanently close many businesses (i.e. tackle shops , headboats, etc)

Phillip G Tompkins, CFP
908-461-7785

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From: Noah Skyta
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striper comments
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:29:29 PM

I’m against a closed striper. season. Has any of your research looked into the Omega Protein processing ships taking all the bait fish. If there is no food the bass populations will decrease. Before there is any closure to the recreational fisherman , ban the over fishing of Mendhaden.

Noah Skyta
Sent from my iPhone
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From: Kent Napp
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:27:28 PM

Good afternoon,

I do believe the striped bass fishery is at stake and the population is not good and will continue to decline if more strict regulations are not put in place. I do not agree with “No Targeting” but other alternatives should be put in place. My ideas are as follows:

1. No Harvest, Catch and Release Only - this will have the most positive impact
2. Lures and Plugs should be outfitted for catch and release (ex. No trebles, single hook lures, inline single hooks, tournament inline circles, crushed barbs)
3. They should not be allowed to be removed from the water if possible (Florida has this rule for tarpon).
4. We desperately need more of a Fish and Wild Life Officer presence patrolling the beaches and water ways, checking for illegal actions and fishing license.
5. There needs to be better education on catch and release methods.
   Too many fishermen do not know what they are doing. The amount of dead stripers I see released due to lack of handling is staggering and it is very frustrating to see. Fish are kept too long out of water for measuring and pictures, treble hooks are used without crushing barbs taking too long to remove hooks, internal bleeding, and fish are not revived properly.
6. There needs to be more strict regulations on obtaining a fishing license. Placing a significant cost in order to obtain a fishing license to target striped bass (example $100) will also prevent non serious anglers from fishing, which is a good idea. Those funds can be used for research for the fishery.

(Keep the slot limit or make the threshold smaller in the later future; Keep the weighted treble snag and drop illegal)

A lot of these rules are similar but different to the fishery in Florida for Snook and Tarpon. As you can see, the FL fish population is phenomenal, and the fishing business is always doing well. I believe this will have the most beneficial impact on increasing the population but yet still keep charter captains and tackle shops in business. The fishery desperately needs these rule set. Without a change, the fishery may not be available for future generations. The Atlantic coast fishery cannot afford to lose this game fish.

I look forward to hearing back from your organization.

Kent Napoliello

(732) 814-8769

Sent from Gmail Mobile

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From: Stephan Lodziuk
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Recreational fishing
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:50:17 AM

Good afternoon, I am commenting amount the fishing regulations trying to put in place. I have been surf fishing as well as fishing from boats for the past 8 years. I have seen a huge spike in the amount of stripers we have been catching. Fish have been in the 30lb plus range and every fish has swam away safely. We want the future generations to be able to catch these fish so everyone I fish with is extremely careful on how we release these fish. Thank you for listening to my voice.
Sent from my iPhone
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From: Michael Whisman
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:16:11 AM

Good morning!
I wanted to voice my opinion on the pending Striped Bass closure. Many small businesses, including Grumpy's Bait and Tackle and Riptide Bait and Tackle, depend on Striped Bass fishing to keep their store operating. Last fall and this spring produced the most striped bass I have ever witnessed in my entire life. With that being said, I believe there is no reason for this closures. I look forward to hearing updates!

Have a great day, Michael Whisman.

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From: Ethan Diamond
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Support for Striped Bass as a Game Fish
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:38:10 AM

Dear ASMFC,

I am writing to express my belief that striped bass should be recognized and managed as a game fish. These fish deserve to be targeted for the incredible sport they provide, but not harvested.

Striped bass anglers contribute significantly to local economies, especially in the spring and fall shoulder seasons when other sources of revenue are limited. From bait and tackle shops to charter captains, marinas, and local restaurants, countless small businesses rely on the activity generated by striped bass fishing. A complete shutdown of the fishery would remove this essential stimulus and put unnecessary strain on businesses that already operate on thin margins.

By maintaining striped bass as a catch-and-release game fish, we can strike the balance of conserving the species while also supporting coastal communities that depend on them. I encourage the Commission to strongly consider this approach in future management decisions.

Thank you for your time and commitment to sustainable fisheries.

Sincerely,

Ethan Diamond

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From: Declan Hoverter
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] A Call for Catch-and-Release Policy
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:37:33 AM

Dear Members of the ASMFC,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed potential closure of the striped bass fishery in November as part of efforts to help sustain the population. While I understand the importance of protecting this iconic species, I believe a more balanced approach, such as implementing a mandatory catch-and-release policy, would better serve the long-term health of the fishery and the communities that depend on it.

Striped bass are a vital game fish, not only in terms of their ecological importance but also as a cultural and economic backbone for many of us who call the Northeast home. For countless fishermen, recreational anglers, and coastal communities, striped bass fishing is a cherished tradition that supports local economies and promotes environmental stewardship.

Closing the fishery outright for a portion of the year could have significant negative impacts on these communities. Instead, I urge the ASMFC to consider a mandatory catch-and-release policy. This approach would allow recreational fishing to continue while minimizing the impact on the striped bass population. Research shows that striped bass are resilient and have a strong potential for recovery when managed responsibly, and a catch-and-release mandate would help ensure that anglers can continue to enjoy fishing for these incredible fish without compromising their survival.

I trust that the ASMFC will carefully consider the balance between conservation and the interests of local communities. I believe that a catch-and-release policy is a reasonable compromise that can help both preserve the striped bass population and protect the livelihoods of those who rely on it.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do to protect our fisheries. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Declan Hoverter

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From: Tony Moutinho
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:55:21 AM

I am very concerned about the trend in the recreational/
6-pack/party boat striped bass fishing regulations!

The current regulation of 28'-31" 1 fish/angler is basically "don't keep any fish". (and probably causes many anglers to ignore the regulations)

Yet, we have seen the striped bass stocks in our area grow year after year. The evidence is clear in both the spring and fall runs of striped bass.

You have gone from letting anglers keep the "cows" "breeders" a few years ago to, now, forcing anglers to catch and release and high mortality rate of fish.

Can we please go back to an "under/over" type fishery? Let each angler keep 2 fish between 28"-40" or some reasonable range.

The current regulation is hurting 6 pack, party boat and recreational fishing and tackle shops.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tony Moutinho
201 248 3993

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From: Sea Nft
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Public Comment – Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:49:24 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I am deeply concerned about the proposal to close striped bass to targeting. This fishery is the backbone of our coast, supporting small businesses, charter captains, local shops, and entire communities that depend on it. A closure would put good, hardworking people out of business and take away a tradition that has been passed down for generations.

From time spent on the water, it's clear that striped bass are present in strong numbers. Anglers see them consistently throughout the season, which shows that the stock is far from collapsed. It is impossible to truly count every striped bass in the ocean or rivers, and relying solely on models and projections ignores the reality that fishermen witness daily.

I urge you not to move forward with this closure. Instead, work toward balanced management that protects the resource while still allowing people to make a living and enjoy this important fishery.

Respectfully,

Sean Neaft

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From: Philip Krieg
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Re: Keep striped bass fishing open!
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:45:33 AM

I strongly oppose any closure on targeting striped bass. Such action would devastate small businesses, charter captains, tackle shops, and many hardworking people who depend on this fishery.

From my time on the water, the striped bass population is clearly healthy catching 20–30 fish in a night is common. Models and projections cannot fully reflect real-world abundance, and relying on them risks harming both the economy and the culture built around striped bass.

Please reject closures and instead work with fishermen, businesses, and conservationists on balanced measures that protect the resource while sustaining the communities who depend on it.

Philip Krieg
Founder & Owner, iVyne LLC, KriegWorks LLC
+1 267-992-5908

On Thu, Sep 18, 2025 at 12:42 AM Philip Krieg <kriegphilip@gmail.com> wrote:

> Please! Me and my family and friends want it to stay open please.
> Very important to all of us.
>
> Thanks.
>
> **---**
> *Philip Krieg*
> *Founder & Owner, iVyne LLC, KriegWorks LLC*
> *+1 267-992-5908*

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From: Philip Krieg
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Keep striped bass fishing open!
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:42:59 AM

Please! Me and my family and friends want it to stay open please.
Very important to all of us.

Thanks.

Philip Krieg
Founder & Owner, iVyne LLC, KriegWorks LLC
+1 267-992-5908

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From: Seth Wakefield
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Please try catch and release
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:04:07 AM

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the proposed non-target rule. While I support responsible fisheries management, this rule would shift an undue burden onto recreational anglers who are not targeting regulated species but may encounter them incidentally.

Such a policy risks discouraging participation in our coastal fisheries without meaningfully advancing conservation goals. I urge the Commission to pursue strategies that protect stocks while preserving fair access for recreational anglers. I feel before it goes to no target a catch and release option should be tried first.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks,

Seth Wakefield

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From: Jeff Rocco
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:03:18 PM

To whom it may concern,

I support maintaining the status quo. A 12% reduction will not fix the underlying issue of poor recruitment and would only add unnecessary economic strain to businesses already impacted by previous cuts. Management should focus on equitable solutions, especially given that release practices contribute to nearly half of total mortality.

Respectfully,

Capt Jeff rocco

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From: gary kozlowski
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:25:26 PM

I’m writing to let you know I OPPOSE the new rules and regulations that are planned for striped bass recreational fishing. As someone who just got back into saltwater water fishing and use the proper technique for catch and release, these planned rules and regulations are not something I agree with.
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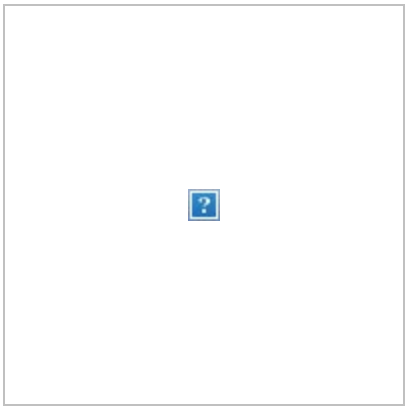
From:	Derek McKenna
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New]
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 7:42:15 PM

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the proposed non-target rule. While I support responsible fisheries management, this rule would shift an undue burden onto recreational anglers who are not targeting regulated species but may encounter them incidentally.

Such a policy risks discouraging participation in our coastal fisheries without meaningfully advancing conservation goals. I urge the Commission to pursue strategies that protect stocks while preserving fair access for recreational anglers. This will also affect countless small businesses that depend on that striped bass business for the holiday season and spring!

Thank you for your consideration



Derek McKenna
Owner/Artist
ADRIFT Creative Studio
adriftcreativestudio.com
732-773-5485

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From:	Austin Aronsson
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bassssssssss
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 7:11:36 PM

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the proposed non-target rule. While I support responsible fisheries management, this rule would shift an undue burden onto recreational anglers who are not targeting regulated species but may encounter them incidentally.

Such a policy risks discouraging participation in our coastal fisheries without meaningfully advancing conservation goals. I urge the Commission to pursue strategies that protect stocks while preserving fair access for recreational anglers. As always the problem most likely lies with large scale commercial fishing.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Austin

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From: Karsten Marshall-Otto
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Comment
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:15:51 PM

It is clear at this point that we need to take steps to help recover the striped bass population. It seems characteristically american to allow people without a science degree to weigh in on population management. Don't get me wrong. I think people deserve to share their stories and how different regulations might affect them. But at the end of the day I think fishery regulators should be doing what the scientific evidence requires.

Starting with recreational, it seems like a good first step may be catch and release only, and a closed fishery during inappropriate times of the season (heat, spawning, etc.). It also seems sensible to standardize regulations across the eastern seaboard, but at the same time that might not make sense given the wide geographical and behavioral range of the animal. It is a difficult task, because ultimately American psychology is to first believe that something is being 'taken away' from us if regulations are introduced. Even if it's in the anglers interest to have a stronger fishery.

The commercial sector must be an even more complex question. That involves livelihoods, people with capital tied up in boats, gear, etc. If it were me, I would make whatever decisions seems right for recreational angling- if people are mad, they're mad, it's a hobby- and focus energy and time to the discussion surrounding the commercial sector. That should be done with a more delicate hand as to hurt people who rely on the fishery for their income.

Karsten Marshall-Otto

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From: ryanjsumption@yahoo.com
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Status quo
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:21:55 PM

“Status quo”

I’m not sure what science is used to determine the closures but from my personal experience last November and this June was the best striped bass fishing I’ve seen in the 31 years I have been alive and I have been fishing since the day I could remember. It’s a shame how recreational fishermen are treated on the east coast when commercial fishermen are allowed to keep 50 plus inch Striper with no problem in the world. Guess recreational fishermen don’t line the pockets of you so called “rule makers” like the commercial industry does. And I worked on a commercial boat for 6 years so I can see it from a first hand bassis.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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From:	Rey Caparros
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped bass recreational fishing
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 5:10:08 PM

Hi. I finally started participating in the fall run last year and it was very disheartening. As a saltwater angler turned bass fisherman, i think our biggest problem is people do not know to handle the fish.

I can imagine how much mishandling striped bass adds to the mortality. I think we should also stop targeting the cows during spawn. Let them reach their spawning grounds to reproduce.

Reynaldo P. Caparros lll MT(ASCP)cm

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From: Matthew Patterson
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Regulation Comment
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:34:36 PM

Afternoon,

I have been an avid striped Bass fisherman for years now. Not once have I kept a bass. Everyone has been safely released. I would hope that even if slot regulations are no longer they we are able to still target and fish for striped Bass.

I am all for keeping fisheries alive but it does not seem like regulating your average recreational fisherman will make much of a difference.

Please keep striped bass fishing available.

Thank you. Kind regards

Matt

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From: Kevin Burns
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] STRIPED BASS
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:33:10 PM

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please, stop the nonsense! All of your criteria for analysis, data, etc., are out of date and obsolete.

YOU, yes you, are destroying our fishing venues.

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From: dylan ayars
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:14:37 PM

Recreational fisherman are not hurting the population ban fishing boats from netting and keeping any size and amount of fish they want too and that will keep the population going. If you want to keep striper to eat go catch them yourself

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From:	Richard
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Don't
Date:	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:57:44 PM

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the proposed non-target rule. While I support responsible fisheries management, this rule would shift an undue burden onto recreational anglers who are not targeting regulated species but may encounter them incidentally.

Such a policy risks discouraging participation in our coastal fisheries without meaningfully advancing conservation goals. I urge the Commission to pursue strategies that protect stocks while preserving fair access for recreational anglers. This would also cripple local business's and community's.

Thank you for your consideration.

Richard Baiata

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From: Ralph Zaccaria
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass regs
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:25:04 PM

Please keep regulations status quo !

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From: Connor Brown
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Keep striped bass fishing!
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 1:22:13 PM

Hello. Making voice heard for the continuing of fishing for striped bass! I believe in conservation and agree with current regulations and would like those regulations to continue. I've been fishing for striped bass for 15 of my 25 years of life and the last 3 falls the fishing for striped bass has been absolutely incredible!!

Thanks Capt Connor Brown
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From: Larry Schmidt
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 12:42:53 PM

Can we just rethink this one. It’s one thing to regulate the fishery, but catch and release should not be taken away.

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From: Cindy Flanagan
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 12:22:49 PM

Hello to the members of the committee.
My name is Cindy Flanagan and I am a recreational angler who would like to make a few comments regarding what I have seen and heard. Striped bass fishing is what I look forward to since I moved down the shore six years ago. When I fish crush barbs, I swap trebles for single hooks and I keep one slot size (if I can even get one) which, more often than not, does not usually happen but once or twice during my fishing time. Striped bass catch and release of the very large sized fish is not something that I feel is good because those big fish get damaged a lot more with the boat guys than those who fish the shoreline. Most of the really big ones don't seem to get caught off the beaches. If a moratorium is enacted it will really hurt the charter boats. Why shouldn't recreational sizes and times be universal? I get the sense, based on the data, that working with old data to make current decisions is not wise. I will respect whatever is decided but I will also make sure I get my fair share this season so I do not lose out on one last hurrah on my favorite fish.
Best regards,
Cindy

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From: Garrett Servis
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass Regulation
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 12:16:04 PM

Do not make the season no targeting, it is unenforceable.
How would that even be an option after not trying to close the harvest season for rec people and adjust commercial limits

Status Quo.

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From: Lou Neumann, O.D.
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] striped bass
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:04:07 AM

I oppose changing any regulations on recreational striped bass limits. There are so many striped bass there and the current slot limit is so small, an angler can hardly get a legal one to eat if they desire. Your studies about a "crisis" appear to be inaccurate. Why dont you talk to the people who acutally fish

Louis Neumann

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From: Brian Szymanski
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped bass reg
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:33:22 AM

Status “QUO”

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From:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] [New] New website contact submission from Contact Us
Date:	Monday, September 15, 2025 11:52:49 AM

From: Info (ASMFC) <info@ASMFC.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 3:47 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: FW: [External] [New] New website contact submission from Contact Us

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From: info@asmfc.org <info@asmfc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 7:32 PM
To: Info (ASMFC) <info@ASMFC.ORG>
Subject: [External] [New] New website contact submission from Contact Us

Name

Rich Mason

Email

pacobells79@gmail.com

Get in Touch

I just finished ready Striper Wars by Dick Russell. It is painfully apparent that humans are terrible at fisheries and ecosytem management. If you haven't read the book, I suggest all the commissioners to read it and learn how we have been mis managing stripers and for 100 years and this continues. I have been fishing on Chesapeake Bay and its rivers since the mid 70's and the fishing is so poor it is hardly worth going out. The recent decision to delay action on menhaden conservation is terrible. You are not doing your job. ASMFC is a sham.

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: Steve Samlal
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Bass
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 7:00:00 PM

This is a very easy solution, shut down Omega protein in Virginia, creating a greater food source. also fire everyone on the ASMFC. Do these two things and I guarantee that the fish population will increase.

Thanks,
Steve Samlal.
Sent from my iPhone
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:	Emilie Franke
To:	Comments
Subject:	FW: [External] [New] Striped Base Regulation changes to reduce catch by 12%
Date:	Friday, September 12, 2025 11:50:30 AM

From: Ralph Anger <ralph.anger@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 8:23 PM
To: Emilie Franke <EFranke@ASMFC.org>
Subject: [External] [New] Striped Base Regulation changes to reduce catch by 12%

One way to reduce catch, which I have yet to see mentioned, is to reduce the number of fishing rods a boat can use to catch striped bass while trolling. I've seen boats in Chesapeake Bay with planer boards having upwards of 16 to 20 rods dragging lures through the water. They cut a huge swath in the water. Fish don't have a chance. Prior to the use of planer boards, 6 to 8 rods was the norm. Establishing a max of 8 rods will have a significant impact on the number of fish caught and may achieve your objective without any other changes to the current regs.

Ralph Anger

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From:	Surfcaster"s Journal
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] [New] Striped Bass Addendum III
Date:	Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:10:14 PM

Hello

Before we give our formal responses to the proposed issues, we would like to press the ASMFC to consider the real economic impact of the striped bass. There is simply no argument that the value of the striped bass lies primarily or majority in commercial or for-hire sectors. The economic value in the recreational sector outstrips these other sectors- no one can deny this. And therefore, management action should be conducted with this in mind- consistently and consciously.

We are one of those small businesses that relies on the striped bass, and represent a group that is often neglected or left out of the discussions of the value of striped bass. We are not commercial or charter, but yet we are not a recreational angler either- but without the latter, we would not exist. And that is true of so many other small and large businesses that rely entirely on the recreational sector. From tackle and boats, to gas and lodging, to sunglasses and apparel, the "recreational web" is immense. The ASMFC should be taking this into account every time it takes management action!

That said, to the specific points.
3.1 Option B
3.2 Option B
3.3 Option C- and we would support 20% or more instead of 15%
3.4 Option B, suboption 01.

We also stand in ardant opposition to no-target closures. However, if the best available data suggests that no-harvest closures will help rebuild the fishery, we are strongly in favor of them.

Thank you
Surfcaster's Journal
Jerry Audet and Thomas Corrigan

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From:	Micaela Spatola
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 5:30:16 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

Our family uses this for our small business. Please do not take our income away.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Micaela Spatola

719 Oak Park Pl

Brandon, FL 33511

micaela00338@gmail.com

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From:	Justin Salsano
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Wednesday, September 10, 2025 1:40:22 PM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

I grew up fishing out of the Highlands and plan to make similar memories with my kids. Reduction in a fishery that is already over regulated will destroy the recreational industry. Why don't you go after the commercial menhaden boats from Canada devastating the feed for all of our sport fish.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

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Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Justin Salsano

W8793 Morse Rd W

Poynette, WI 53955

justin.salsano@yahoo.com

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From:	Patrick Waite
To:	Comments
Subject:	[External] Support Status Quo Management for Striped Bass & Adopt Option B for MD Recreational Season Baseline
Date:	Tuesday, September 9, 2025 9:30:11 AM

Dear FMP Coordinator Franke,

As an avid sportfisher for all species, I greatly support restrictions and species quotates. To that end, we support ASMF consideration of quota shares among commercial and sport fisheries. Share the pain and conservation.

As a recreational angler, I urge you to maintain status quo seasons for striped bass and reject the proposed 12% reduction in fishing removals.

Fishing mortality is at a 30-year low, well below the mortality target and threshold, thanks to the slot limit and strict rules already in place.

The proposed reductions are not based on meaningful conservation concerns but on short-term swings in MRIP data, which NOAA has acknowledged consistently overestimates recreational fishing effort. The difference being used to justify new closures—0.01 in fishing mortality—is statistically insignificant and scientifically indistinguishable from the status quo.

Forcing additional restrictions on recreational anglers would cause unnecessary economic harm to coastal businesses. The seasonal closure options considered force anglers into a lose-lose choice: accept closures that ban fishing completely or unfairly burden anglers who prefer to legally harvest fish. These measures create unnecessary division in the angling community. Enough already!

Additionally, I support Option B to the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline. This option provides a reasonable path forward by simplifying Maryland's striped bass regulations, aligning management more closely with actual conservation risk, and reopening access during the cold water spring months when release mortality risk is low, avoiding the economic harm that past closures caused.

Please reject Draft Addendum III's proposed 12% reduction. Status quo is the most effective, equitable, and science-based option moving forward.

Sincerely,

Patrick Waite

198 SW Dalton Cir

Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953

Pwaite198@gmail.com

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From: mvsuds
To: Comments
Subject: [External] striped bass
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 4:36:06 PM

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close commercial and recreational totally. 5 year closure like the 80's.

Matthew Sudarsky

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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: Kevin Register
To: Comments
Subject: [External] [New] Atlantic Striped Bass population decline
Date: Saturday, August 9, 2025 6:01:28 AM

To whom it may concern; One of the main problems with the Striped Bass fishery is caused by an indigenous species that devours anything in fresh a brackish water that's swims. The Snakehead fish is one key problem that thrive in fresh water and brackish water where juvenile Striped Bass are hatched and mature in their early stages of life. Their survival rate is cut down significantly with these predatory species. Eradicate the a snakehead species and the Striped bass juvenile population will rebound. // signed// Kevin Register. Recreational fisherman.
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Open-Ended Responses from Comment Form (sorted by state)

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Jeff Fowler	CT	Private rec.	Most importantly: 3.4 - support option B-01. 12% reduction harvest split equally across all sectors. I do not support mode splits meaning no carve outs for charter boats keeping more fish. Lastly, I DO NOT SUPPORT NO TARGETING, supporting no harvest closures. It is the only enforcable, quantifiable method to reduce recreational harevest without damaging businesses.		

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
John Blake Ollweiler	CT	Private rec.	A no-targeting closure is both entirely unenforceable and extremely harmful to the businesses that support recreational striped bass fishing, while providing only marginal benefit to the health of the fishery over limiting recreational and commercial harvest. How can you tell if someone is fishing for striped bass when they just as easily could be targeting bluefish, false albacore, or any number of other species that are found in the Atlantic? How could you tell if someone was actually trying to catch a striped bass, but claimed to be targeting bluefish? As a catch and release angler that regularly travels to Connecticut from the western United States to fish for striped bass, a no targeting closure would force me to cancel my trips out east. CONTINUED	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: This would directly harm the local businesses that I shop and dine at during my visits. The fishing guides that I hire on these trip could also very well be forced into a different line of work due to a no-targeting closure, making trips when the fishery isn't closed more difficult and perhaps less likely to happen. The division between the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions should happen at the Hudson river. The Long Island sound fishery is intrinsically linked to the fishery of the waters off of Rhode Island, and therefore they should be managed together. CHESAPEAKE BAY: Cannot comment on the Chesapeake fishery.	The Striped Bass fishery is on the brink of collapse, and needs to be protected. Recreational catch-and-release Striped Bass fishing, especially when done with a single hook, has an extremely low mortality rate. Why should responsible conservation minded anglers be punished for the damage done by commercial harvest? A no-targeting closure is a senseless option to consider before increased limits on recreational, and more importantly commercial harvest.
Craig jeppesen	CT	Private rec.	Better form of management. Very difficult to regulate no target		

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Roger Drenga	CT	Private rec.	Catch and release in all regions.	No Harvest.	Need to eliminate the 1 fish limit if we want to rebuild the stock.
Bruce	CT	Private rec.	Catch and release only for all states	No target during spawning season	Catch and release only for all states
Justin Quigley	CT	Private rec.	Closure to commercial harvest of any kind.	Full year no target.	
Clifford Jackson	CT	Private rec.	Commercial need to be reduced, not recreational fishing. Commercial does the most damage to the striper population,and environment.	Commercial needs to be reduced,not recreational fishing.	
Michael Roy	CT	For-hire	December to March		

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Nicholas Hutchinson	CT	Private rec.	From my perspective in the CT reason, I don't see there to be a reason to have an open harvest season during the winter months. We have a generous population of resident striped bass in the Housatonic who are overly pressured throughout the winter months. A no harvest moratorium during those months may be beneficial as it could reduce the number of anglers targeting the species at that time (December-February).	I'm not familiar with this fishery but I believe that any no targeting closures would be unenforceable and therefore, inappropriate and ineffective.	I am very concerned about the state of this fishery. I've been fishing for striped bass over 20 years and have never experienced such a reduction in fish from places that used to produce. I am staunchly against any no targeting measures but would be open to any no harvest closures. And considering the 6-7 years of poor spawns, I would also be in support of a full no harvest moratorium until the population shows a resurgence.

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Michael Pirri	CT	For-hire	Harvest is at historic lows For-hire and private recreational anglers targeting harvest have already made deep sacrifices (through size/bag limits, seasons, etc.). They've contributed significantly to the rebuilding goals for striped bass. Catch-and-release mortality is a major problem Despite high post-release mortality, that user group has taken no regulatory or voluntary action in over 6 years. This is perceived as unfair, especially when harvesters are continually hit with new restrictions. Further cuts to harvest aren't sustainable For-hire businesses are reaching a breaking point—losing clients and income. Private rec anglers may begin ignoring rules they believe are out of touch with the actual health of the fishery. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: The science doesn't reflect what's being seen on the water Many feel that striped bass populations, especially in certain areas, look healthier than the data suggests. This disconnect breeds distrust in management and undermines compliance. Status Quo till 2029 let the fish do the work, stop over regulate those who want to eat fish.	

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Zachary P Hintz	CT	Shore-side support	Hello, My name is Zachary Hintz and I own and operate Zah's Bait and Tackle / Zah's Grateful Guide Service here in Connecticut. I just wanted to reach out and make it known that we DO NOT support the no target option being explored for striped bass. It would likely close our businesses along with many other tackle shops and charter fishing services. Please keep us in mind when making your decisions, along with all the other businesses that depend on anglers targeting striped bass, such as plug builders, tackle shops, charter captains, and more! Thank you for your time and have a great afternoon. Zachary P Hintz Zah's Bait & Tackle / Zah's Grateful Guide Service 204 Main St, Portland, CT 06480 860-331-3684 Zahsbaitandtackle@gmail.com		

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Douglas Wells	CT	Shore-side support	I believe the No Harvest Closure is the most reasonable option for ALL parties involved in the striped bass industry. As a recreational angler and tackle shop owner, I want my customers to be able to fish for these wonderful species for generations. If they chose, they could also board charters and party boats and still enjoy catching and releasing these fish. The ocean region splits should likely be based upon shared waters among states where applicable. An example is CT/RI/NY that should be part of the Northern region. The closures should be implemented when the most at-risk size bass will be in the respective waters, as way to protect those critical fish for the future spawns.	GENERAL COMMENT: The striped bass spawning numbers continue to hint that the actions that have been taken over the last several years are not enough. There is clear data that there is not a strong enough population of smaller fish to offset what has been harvested over the last decade. Striped Bass is a middle piece of the food chain. The ASMFC also needs to take more action for other species intertwined with Striped Bass. This includes River Herring, American Eel, MENHADEN, Bluefish, among others. There has been a clear decline of menhaden in the LI Sound waters in 2025, a critical baitfish that these predatory fish rely on. Protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed is also proven critical to the spawn success of Striped Bass. CONTINUED	I believe that this process has become too complicated, too bureaucratic, and that years have now slipped by where strong action could have turned this tide quicker. Simplifying the protection of critical species should make the recovery period quicker, reducing the duration of pain that recreational fishermen, tackle shops, for hires, commercial fishermen, and charters ALL endure together. Please consider the criticality of the numbers in making a decision that considers the long term health and robustness of this fishery.

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Rick Ziegler	CT	Private rec.	I do not support any closure or non targeting. We really need to focus on the water viability in the Chesapeake Bay as well as the harvesting of so many Menhaden that the Omega fleet is doing. Along the shores of Ct where I fish at least 3-4 times a week, the adult size bunker have been MIA for several years.		I strongly oppose any seasonal closures and no targeting of striped bass.
Matthew Butcka	CT	Private rec.	I do not support no target closures. NY and CT especially should be included in the New England Region. I support wave 4 for New England and wave 6 for the mid Atlantic.		

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Louis DeFelice	CT	For-hire	I don't believe any closures are necessary but If a closure happens I would support no target closures for equity across all modes and shortest duration. There is no way to separate waters and make a closure fair to everyone. Only way would be to give the states back the power to make their own regulations. Mode 6 closure in CT would hurt my charter business as that is when people come for the "fall run" and their last chance to put some fish in the freezer.	No target	I don't think any reduction in harvest is necessary and think a liberalization of regulation is needed to support the for hire fleet. It's hard to sell a trip for 1 fish that has to fall into a 3" slot.
Edward Briganti	CT	Private rec.	I strongly oppose no target closures because they are unenforceable and better management options exist	I strongly oppose no target closures because they are unenforceable and better management options exist	I strongly oppose no target closures because they are unenforceable and better management options exist
Thomas Entwistle	CT	Private rec.	I support a closed season. No harvesting.		
Jocelyn Moscato	CT	Private rec.	I support full no harvest, both commercial and recreational for all states along the east coast	No harvest, clean up the Chesapeake and that will help with the spawn numbers	Save the bunker, striped bass should become a game fish with no harvest rules

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Tom Sikes	CT	Private rec.	I support No harvest as often as possible, everywhere possible. Ultimately I believe the striped bass should be protected with gamefish status.		
Joe Dalsey	CT	Private rec.	I support no harvest closures for the entire coast for the entire year.	I support the existing recreational season and closures in the cheasapeake bay.	Reduce the commercial harvest for striper bass. Reduce the commercial harvest for menhaden!!!!!!
Gianfranco Zaffina	CT	Private rec.	I support no harvest closures, I feel no targeting closures would be too difficult to enforce especially with limited resources for state agencies. No harvest well help reduce the removal of important size classes much quicker.		

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Patrick Huban	CT	For-hire	I support no Harvest closures. No targeting is unenforceable. As stated, law enforcement ranks it as the 27th out of 27 options for regulations. Furthermore, it does damage to businesses like my own who are already catch and release based. It is known that NOAA overestimated recreational effort, combine this with the likelihood that catch and release mortality is lower than 9% - no targeting closures would have little measurable impact but cause irreparable economic damage. New York, RI and CT all share waters, these states should be pushed to the Northern region. No harvest closures should take place in Wave 6.		What disappoints me the most is that the commission is now attempting to manage to only a 50% probability of an agreed upon goal. Commercial has taken little to no reductions in the past 10 years and it is operating in ways that have minimal accountability guardrails. Commercial interest supporting no targeting closure is a punitive reaction and there is no place for personal vendettas in fisheries policy. Creating a carve out which allows for hire charters to keep more fish is a completely unfair when for hire charters take 1.9% of the trips but kill 9% of the fish. Allowing them to kill more creates more burden for the vast majority of the angling public. I am a for hire Captain and I oppose carve outs that would allow me to take more fish if I chose to do so.

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Evan lang	CT	Private rec.	I support no harvest for as long as it takes to get a healthy population and consistent spawns out of the Chesapeake. I believe the fish are much more valuable as a catch and release only species for the time being if nothing is done the stocks will be further depleted and the fish will have no value for catch and release or for commercial and recreational harvest because there will be none left	I believe it should be a no targeting closure in the Chesapeake bay for as long as the striped bass are spawning and in a vulnerable state not only will that help with successful spawns but catching one while they are up there doing their thing is almost cheating and should be frowned upon	
Galen Donovan	CT	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closure, consistent across all states, from January 1st to May 15th, and again from November 1st to December 31st	I support no-harvest closure consistent with all other states, from January 1st to May 15th, and again from November 1st to December 31st.	
Rowan Lytle	CT	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures in January through March of the year, for both New England and Mid-Atlantic regions		

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Kyle Douglass	CT	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures. No-targeting closures are hard to enforce. In addition, they would either still result in incidental catches, often with equipment insufficient to handle striped bass, which leads to higher release mortality risk, or, they would drastically reduce angling effort, which would reduce the economic benefits of fishing for years to come.	I support no harvest for the reasons above. I would also recommend a comprehensive catch and release education campaign to promote proper techniques and awareness.	There is a lot of discussion about uncertainty of current status and accuracy of many of the input variables in the models. With that in mind, a key principle in decision making should be to err on the side of being conservative to protect/rebuild stocks. The consequences of not doing enough and allowing a collapse are too great.

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David Nguyen	CT	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures. I believe that no-targeting closures would be impossible to support. I also support CT, RI, and NY to be considered in the New England region. We all share the same waters.	I support no-harvest closures for as long as is necessary to rebuild the striped bass population	I would like to thank the ASMFC for taking my comments into consideration. It is my opinion that aiming for a 50% chance of rebuilding the striper population is insufficient and we should be shooting for at least an 80% chance to rebuild the population. I would support a coastwide no-harvest moratorium for striped bass. Although that measures is not an option, I do believe it is the only way to rebuild. However, I also feel that recreational fishermen are not the main problem. The main problem regarding striped bass population is commercial fishing and commercial trawling. Trawling in local waters decimates the entire ocean population from the top to the bottom of the food chain. Banning trawling in our waters would be the fastest way to rebuild the striped bass population and all other fish fish for that matter.
Joseph Puchalski	CT	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures. No target enforceability is a fantasy. NY, CT, RI, and MA should be treated together and included in the same region.	No harvest again has my support as the only enforceable option.	Measures should be calculated to provide a higher than 50% probability of restoring the SB biomass - I was around for striped bass Armageddon in the 70s/80s and don't want to see it again. Thank you.

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Rick Hunter	CT	Private rec.	I would support no harvest !	No harvest	I would like RI,NY and CT to all have the same regs as we all fish the same waters.
Taylor Chelstowski	CT	Private rec.	I'm in support of no targeting and full closure in order to rebuild populations.	I'm in support of no targeting closures especially in the spring time.	

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Thomas	CT	Private rec.	My preference is for no-harvest closures. I'm well aware this would result in longer duration closures than no-targeting, and that release mortality would still be occurring during a no-harvest closure, but at least there is still fishing opportunity there for everyone, including the people that normally prefer to harvest fish. Harvest focused fishermen can still catch and release fish during the no-harvest closures... something they already do now, 90% of the time anyway due to the narrow slot. Meanwhile there is significant economic benefit to allowing people to continue to fish during the no-harvest closure.	No-targeting closures are already used in the Bay during the hottest month. I feel that any additional closures to achieve the 12% reduction should be no-harvest to allow some access to the fishery during closure periods that are not driven by warm water.	I can't help but feel that the push for no-targeting closures is simply an effort by the for-hire fleet to get back to harvesting fish sooner, because no-targeting closures would be shorter in duration than no-harvest. I also feel it is a punitive measure driven by the mindset that if we can't harvest fish then no one else should be allowed to fish either. Instead of making some temporary adjustments to their harvest-focused efforts by switching to lighter gear, and focusing on C&R, they'd rather make it so that no one can fish.

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Seth Megargle	CT	For-hire	No closures, status quo. For hire sector separation.	Status quo	According to the data provided in figure one, we have an adequate spawning stock biomass to completely restore the striped bass stock. Harvest reductions will have 0 impact on recruitment. The fish are not spawning adequately, which has nothing to do with fisheries harvest. Measures need to be taken to increase spawning if we want to see the recruitment increase. Further restricting the fishery just puts additional, unnecessary, financial burden on the recreational, specifically the for hire sector. The data needs to be more closely scrutinized and measures taken to increase recruitment from the SSB that we are already protecting with the current slot limit.

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Mark Lentine	CT	Private rec.	No harvest	How about no harvest in he months of April to July.	It's time we take a stance on the rebuilding of the fishery. Implement a moratorium on the fishery. C&R only no harvesting rec or commercial for 5 years. Times are changing there are a lot of people fishing for bass and the pressure is to high. Here in CT we need a lot I mean a lot more enforcement of the beaches. Too many poachers just taking and let enforcement earn those salaries and hand out some real tickets to violators. Too much time is wasted on lakes and streams and not enough on beaches/boat docks. If we don't take action now there is no future for these fish. Let the commercial, for hire and party boat guys find another job. They've had their fill and their wallets are full. They say the rec guy is the problem not so much most who fish them for a sport leave the fish alive in the water, commercial guys just kill. Illegals take what they can hide and steal. It's time to wake the f..k up and do the right thing.
Michael McNiff	CT	Private rec.	No Harvest	No Harvest	This has been the worst season for striped bass fishing in recent memory. Please act before its too late.

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John Betar	CT	Private rec.	No harvest		No bait fishing No photographs No barbs on hooks
James Murray	CT	Private rec.	No Harvest	Can’t enforce no target	
Ben hung	CT	Private rec.	No harvest	no harvest	2 years o no harvest. Commercial and recreational
Taylor prattson	CT	Private rec.	No harvest	No target no harvest	
Michael Price	CT	Private rec.	No harvest closure as it would be impossible to enforce with all the people fishing for bluefish. A catch and release on striped bass seems more practical and enforceable.	No harvest closures as stripers could be caught by accident just catch and release them.	I wish I’ll be able to see the fishery my grandpa tells me stories of one day.
Greg mendell	CT	Private rec.	No harvest is okay		

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Elliot Thomas	CT	Shore-side support	'No harvest' is the only option that makes any sense to me. A 'no target' option is completely unenforceable and laughable. "No officer, I was fishing in the middle of the night, in my wetsuit, with live eels but I was targeting black sea bass" Additionally a "no target" option completely shuts down the entire economy circulating around striped bass, which is exactly the side effect we're fight to avoid!	Again, no harvest option is easily enforced. Either the angler has a striped bass in their possession or they don't. No target options are completely unenforceable - as made very obvious by the law enforcement interactions with Alan Battista in recent past. He was fishing for catfish, allegedly, but cited for catching striped bass. There's little way to prove one direction or the other	I am a husband, father, angler, fishing guide, and lure maker. My business 247 Fishing LLC represents my full-time employment and all of my income. Building lures for striped bass is what I do, day in and day out. I've got roughly $150,000 invested into my home workshop and inventory. Not to mention a decade of hard work. If the striped bass fishery collapses, so does my business, my income, my family's stability. And this story rings true for hundreds - maybe thousands- of small business owners just like me
Albert Hamon	CT	Private rec.	no harvest no closure	no harvest same closure season	
Drew Seils	CT	Private rec.	No Harvest November through end of May.	No harvest between November through end of May	I would love a no-target closure in May or earlier to protect gravid females, but seems hard to enforce. A No harvest is easier and although they may be harassed and mishandled, at least those fish go back in the water.
Matthew Martinello	CT	Private rec.	No harvest, all regions and make striped bass a game fish. C&R only.	No harvest	Make striped bass a protected species. They are worth more alive than dead.

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Sean Hughes	CT	Private rec.	No harvest, coastwide, for the whole year. Something drastic has to happen. Have the commercial Chesapeake switch to killing blue catfish.	No harvest. Especially during the spawn season. I would like to see the whole year no harvest.	I understand there will be huge pressure from the for hire charter guys to not have a closure to harvest. They have to understand that if we wipe out the stock, they will be unemployed when no one hires them if the reports are terrible.
Timothy Lasusa	CT	Private rec.	No Harvest. All regions. Banning treble hooks	No Harvest.	
Peter Schwartz	CT	Private rec.	No harvest. I realize there will be mortality, however if we have an 85% survival rate… that's better than a 100% dead.		
Sean Hughes	CT	Private rec.	No harvest. Please shut it down.	No harvest. During the spawning periods especially.	Please do the reduction in harvest. I have never caught so many larger fish. I had such a massive reduction in small fish I caught this year. This fishery will collapse in a few years at this rate, and all the charter and commercial guys will really be upset when there is nothing to catch and people don't hire them anymore.
Mark Philippe	CT	Private rec.	No harvesting. Closed during the entire season.	No harvesting for the season.	
Bob Burger	CT	Private rec.	No harvesting/closed seasons for striped bass		

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Lou	CT	For-hire	No target closures for shortest duration RI-me Ct-Va		I don't support any reduction or closures. I do support mode splits for for hire
PAT VOGT	CT	Private rec.	No target closures would have greatest effect during times of the year when the inshore biomass is composed of mostly small, school fish (e.g. early spring). During this period, catch & release fishing takes place along the shore and in river mouths. A no target closure during the early spring season (perhaps March 1 - May 1) would help to reduce mortality associated with high-rate catch and release fishing.	GENERAL COMMENT: It is my personal opinion, as a long-time striper fisherman, that we are beyond the point of any of the measures listed in this draft. I feel fairly strongly that the state of the fishery is such that a moratorium is well warranted. This tool was used to rebuild the fishery previously, and should be strongly considered again. Spawning and recruitment are so poor that even a moratorium might not be enough to save this stock. Management teams would be wise to consider the fact that other environmental conditions (temperature, hypoxia/anoxia, eutrophication, etc.) will make it even harder for this stock to rebuild than was the case in the 1980's. To put things into perspective - I have been striper fishing avidly, primarily from shore for 20 years.	I have extensive understanding of striped bass in my local waters, using both my personal anecdotal fishing log information, and my degrees in marine biology & environmental ecology. During previous seasons, I have been able to land hundreds of stripers, of varying size classes during each season, although effort has increased steadily for less and less landings. In the 2025 season, I have YET to land a striped bass in Connecticut.... The fishery is in dire trouble, and requires the most serious of management action to rebuild.

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Peter Brsvo	CT	Private rec.	No target is completely unenforceable. The only option should be no harvest.		
Carson Coyle	CT	Private rec.	No target RI is a New England state unquestionably	Spring closure	Please err on the side of caution here. I would rather experience a drastic change now to achieve a quicker return to a healthy spawning biomass than drag this out for years to come. Thank you.
David Kirby	CT	Private rec.	No targeting or splitting		During Open season, gamefish only. No harvests.
Daniel Bruton	CT	Private rec.	No targeting or harvesting of striped bass at all. Make them a protected species.		Striped bass are fewer and fewer this year. I'm worried about them. Look what the party boats have done to Blue fish. I haven't caught a blue fish in 4 years. There are not more Bass than ever before. The party boats make lots of money from clients. Their claim of abundance is false. The truth is, Striped Bass numbers are depleted.
James Zarra	CT	Private rec.	No-harvest (New England: May-Oct; Mid Atlantic; Nov-April)	No harvest, March-June; Nov-March	

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Andrew McDonald	CT	Private rec.	No-harvest closure is the way to go. No-target closure seems impossible to enforce for like 99% of recreational fisheries. People who poach fish now will continue to poach fish, no matter what the regulations are, i would much rather have our extremely underresourced environmental officers/DFW police poachers than police catch and relase anglers based on what kind of fish they think they *might* be targetting. I think it makes sense for a closure in the northeast to run March 1 - June 1.	I dont know enough about the fishery to comment. As long as commercial fishermen can use nets to catch striped bass in estuaries/rivers, breeding fish are going to suffer. Get rid of the nets.	I really believe there is no need for a commercial striped bass market in the US. It is not a staple food anywhere, and any place its sold commercially it's extremely expensive. If we are depleting the striped bass stock with commercial fishing for the sole purpose of wealthy people being able to buy striped bass at expensive fish markets and restaurants, I say do away with it entirely. There are, as they say, many fish in the sea--most of them are delicious.
John Kuderka	CT	For-hire	No-harvest for the entirety of the season. You should allow catch and release for the entirety of the season though.	You should allow catch and release on the Chesapeake bay.	No target closures will destroy our business in CT. Please don’t allow this to happen. Catch and release works should be allowed coast wide.

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L. Robert Pitman	CT	Private rec.	No-Harvest, coastwide and year round until the stock is rebuilt and sustainable.	No-Harvest, entire Chesapeake Bay and year round until stock is rebuilt and sustainable.	No-Targeting closures are a poor choice. Interpretation of “targeting” is highly subjective and given that enforcement is noticeably absent (I have never been approached by a CT DEEP officer in over twenty years), it hardly seems to be an effective approach. A No-Target ruling will not deter those anglers that already refuse to comply with current regulations yet punishes those who abide the law. Furthermore, how the concept of Conservation Equivalency ever came to pass is beyond me. It is asinine to think that a coastwide species can be effectively managed under differing, self-written sets of rules and I think that is certainly an important component that has put this species in the current predicament. It is EXTREMELY disappointing that managers have not done a better job PARTICULARLY after experiencing the previous collapse.
B perkins	CT	Private rec.	Option B. No targeting	Option B	Strict enforcement is needed in all states involved. Rules mean nothing without it. Fines/ penalties need to be increased, names of those involved need to be published.

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Kenneth Ward	CT	Private rec.	Reduce bunker harvest commercially. Eliminate netting stripers commercially	Reduce commercial bunker harvest and eliminate striped bass netting commercially	Reduce bunker harvest and eliminate striped bass netting commercially
Rich Strolis	CT	Private rec.	Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York should be in the northern region as they all share the same waters.	No Harvest, the only way we can rebuild the stock is to stop the harvest of the fish we have left.	Overall the Striped Bass are the true victims in this situation. We need to learn from history that we nearly lost these fish due to poor management once before. At one time these fish were the greatest conservation success story, but we did nothing to ensure that it wouldn't happen again. There needs to be accountability for lack of meaningful and impactful conservation to ensure that these fish are available for all to enjoy. The delays by the ASMFC are not in the best interest of the fishery and in order to rebuild the stock by 2029 after the last 6 years of abysmal recruitment there needs to be some accountability. If the stock cannot meet the requirements that ensure it is rebuilt, then there is no other solution but to issue a moratorium on the species.
Stephen Chafee	CT	Private rec.	RI, NY, CT. No targeting July - August. Minimize bait fishing and shark encounters.	NT Spawn season	

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Benjamin Burdine	CT	For-hire	Stop commercial Menhaden purse sein netting until July 1st off VA and NJ	Stop commercial Menhaden purse sein netting until July 1st off VA and NJ	I am a catch and release for-hire charter boat captain and believe a no-harvest or no-target regulation will devastate the for-hire fleet, including catch and release charter operations. Commercial menhaden purse sein netting and overfishing off Virginia and New Jersey is a far larger contributing factor to the plight of the striped bass than stricter recreational bass regulations, and also a leading factor to the proliferation of sharks and seals inshore. These larger predators are predominately preying on regulated species such as striped bass. Stop avoiding the elephant in the room and address the over industrialization of our fishery that is the commercial menhaden fleet. A striped bass mortatorium will not solve lack of recruitment in the Chesapeake. In order to rebuild a healthy sustainable stock, it will require an abundant forage for all midshore and inshore predator fish and mammals alike. Stop commercial purse sein netting off Virginia and New Jersey until July 1st
Paul Scarangella	CT	Private rec.	Strict no harvest rules including keeping in water for catch and release.	N/A	

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Theodore zabawa	CT	Private rec.	The season should never be shut down we only got one consistent sport fish from shore that is anglers can target year round as catch and release so it would put a huge affect on the whole area as a whole	Don't fish so don't have comments but same as the main ocean should be no harvest not shutdown	The amount of strippers in the areas are still super high giant schools of bass and probably the most strippers I've caught in a year so far so putting a non target in seems pointless when catch and release has the same effects
Jeff Gilbert	CT	Private rec.	The seasons should be closed during peak run times in respective states. The slaughters that happen from shore and charter boat from NJ to NY/Long Island is disgusting.		While there are a number of issues at play, seals and sharks, bunker draggers, changing environmental conditions etc., you need to focus on the variables that you can control. Charter boats that slaughter these fish at the same rips and reefs 3x a day, 7days a week for months on end, keeping a boat limit and throwing several boat limits back over the rail to most likely die, are a major problem that needs to be addressed. A no target closure would have zero effect as there would suddenly be a whole bunch of "bluefish" charters. However a no kill would solve the problem because no one is paying to go on those charters if they can't keep fish.

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Michael Thomas	CT	Private rec.	The Strippers are in trouble, imo! I have seen the fishing decline severely over the last 5 +years, and by the way the Bluefish are also in trouble! Please take EXTREME measures to increase the %chance on rebuilding this miraculous fishery. STOP pussyfooting, and do what must be done! I fully support BOTH, no targeting closures, and no harvest closures. By the way, no targeting is difficult to enforce, but Combined with other measures it can't hurt and may help. I'll let the ictheolologists decide the dates, as they should be the experts. The fish migrate though most of the states, and pain must be felt by all states, but again, I recommend Exteeme measures! MORE aggressive closures than are in the current draft to increase the chance of success. Thank You!	I support BOTH types of closures COMBINED. And more aggressive measures to ensure a greater chance of success I want the scientists to decide WHEN. Thank you	Please do the right thing and take more ACTION to save this fishery. The way it has been managed has not been restrictive enough to ensure hiting 2029 targets, imo Please take the painful road of more restrictions! 50-60% chance of success on the planned path!?!? Please reconsider, and let's tilt the odds in our favor MORE! Please save this wonderful fishery!!! Thank You!

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Christopher Parzych	CT	Private rec.	The very concept of "no-targeting" closures is a joke as it is COMPLETELY UNENFORCEABLE and will achieve nothing with respect to the future health of the species which should be the ONLY criteria around which regulations should be defined. A law that can't be enforced is cosmetic and impotent. Moreover, no-targeting will cripple "commercial conservation-based" catch and release ONLY fishing businesses (i.e. local light tackle guides) AND the average catch and release angler ability to enjoy the 'sport' of striped bass fishing.	See above, no-targeting is NON-SENSICAL	Plain and simple, the commercial harvest is out of control, totally unaccountable and destroying striped bass stock for all stakeholders. It is long past time for simple, science-based regulation that will actually pay dividends down the road. As a simple catch and release angler, it's mind blowing how much the commercial lobby is succeeding in destroying the resource it depends on.
Mike Baikey	CT	Private rec.			Keep the restrictions as is.
Matt	CT	Private rec.			Please make the right decision
Scott Bracale	CT	Private rec.			Recreational fishermen can’t afford any more regulations they are already too strict I fish on charter boats to get some fish to eat i won’t go if I can’t take a fish home to eat

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Steve Collins	CT	Private rec.			Truly, I am not sure which method is best to further protect the species, as I am not a marine biologist. However, we must do SOMETHING to further protect this very special species. Please do not maintain the status quo.

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John	CT / NH / MA	Private rec.	Implementing no target would have a devastating economic impact on food sales, bait sales, rod and reel sales and the revenue that comes from such. However to all C&R there must be significantly increased enforcement which does not seem possible. I support no target closures in breeding grounds. Hudson and Chesapeake bays.	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: I support no target closures in breeding grounds. GENERAL COMMENT: Despite claims made by some that the bass fishing has improved, I keep seasonal journals and put in 500+ hrs seasonally multi species fishing. There has been a significant decrease in bass population coast wide from Maine to CT. I fish CT, RI, NH, NY, an MA every season. The 2011 class of fish is all but extinct. In long island sound we have landed 1 (one) bass all season (june-present). I have not witnessed one top water feed or blitz in the 22 square mile area i have been fishing this year. CONTINUED	I have 250 hrs on my boat this year. Additionally, the one fish was over slot. I have landed 1 (one) schoolie bass from shore in CT this year, that is it. The MA commercial season harvested 600,000lbs of bass all which must be over 35 inches this season. The commercial industry is killing all the breeders. Birth rate is low and mortality is high. Recreational poaching has been occurring unchecked up and down the coast. Something has to change or we will loose this very important species. I support no target in breeding grounds and C and R for places like funnels and restricted migratory paths such as the cape cod canal. Places such as the cape cod canal should be protected as a "restricted migratory path" very similar to the mouth of cold tributaries in summer for trout fishing. Let them breed, let them migrate. All east coast states should have the same regs wether it's no target or c and r or a slot harvest. Enough BS!

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Kenneth	CT / RI / NY / MA	Private rec.	All states no harvest at all no slot limit nothing strictly catch and re lease only and ban all treble hooks	No harvest ever close it down, catch and re lease only and ban all treble hooks	All stripers should be catch and re lease only, no harvest at all. Ban all treble hooks for all species. We need to slow the roll on black fish. We know what happens when we over fish. I never heard of these fish as a kid in the 90s now everyone targets them hard in spring and fall. We are going to be having these same discussions as striped bass with blackfish in 20 years if we dont start now. Sorry captains, gill netters and commercial guys but striped bass needs to stop being harvested now!! Catch and re lease recreation only. A no target will never work because bluefish and stripers are fished for using same methods you will never be able to enforce or prove someone is targeting stripers intentionally when all someone has to say is im fishing for bluefish or i meant to catch a bluefish. Shut it down for no harvest now!!!

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Nick Miller	DE	Private rec.	I feel the recreational closures should remain the same with a no harvest designation for all states. Commercial fishing for striped bass should be reduced significantly more than recreational fishing due to the larger impact on fish populations.	No harvest closure for six months in each state from December 1-June 1.	The emphasis seems to be on reducing recreational fishing impact on striped bass populations, when in reality commercial fishing has a much larger impact on striped bass populations and a reduction of commercial fishing would serve a much better purpose towards achieving the restocking goal.
Michael Whiteman	DE	Private rec.	I fully support no-harvest	For Chesapeake bay I fully support no harvest	Save the bass
Dayton Gray	DE	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures only.	I support no-harvest closures only.	
Michael Scott	DE	Private rec.	no harvest	no harvest	I like to fish and i like to catch striper plz no ban
Zach Somers	DE	Private rec.	No harvest season in all mid-Atlantic regions, and same closures as last year. Closures during spawning seasons and seasons where the fish may be sensitive	No harvest closure. Closures during spawning should be implemented any time the fish are spawning or preparing to spawn	
Matt Brough	DE	Private rec.	No-Harvest CAtch and release only with circle hooks No “snag and drop”		

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RICH WONG	DE	Private rec.	RI should be in the New England region	No preference	
Jacob	DE	Private rec.			Don't close the fishery.
Thomas R Couture	MA	Private rec.	No Harvest Closure for all regions May 1- to December 31, No Recreational harvest for Striped Bass . Catch and Release only. No commercial season.	No Harvest Closures for the entire year. Catch and Release only.	No Harvest Closures for everything. No commercial season. Everything is catch and release at least give it 3 years before a harvest is allowed. Catch and Release is the best way to go
John Foster	MA	Private rec.	100% no harvesting anywhere any way until stock rebuilds.		recruitment is down. water quality in Chesapeake Bay is a primary factor. This needs to also be addressed if we want our beloved striped bass to rebound.
Jim Fee	MA	Private rec.	A no target closure would be hugely detrimental to the businesses that depend on access to the striped bass fishery, and minimally beneficial to the striped bass population. As long as there is a commercial fishery for striped bass in any form, no target should not even be up for discussion.		Given the continued poor recruitment of the striped bass population, it would seem essential to reduce removals to maintain a healthy SSB for when conditions favor spawning in the rivers again and maintain a productive recreational fishery for the species.
Kevin Touhey	MA	Private rec.	All no harvest.		

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Brad Curtin	MA	Private rec.	Any closures should be a no-harvest closure	Any closures should be no harvest closure.	
Jackson Stocks	MA	Shore-side support / private rec.	Any fish in spawning areas should be untouchable. No harvest across the board.	Vulnerable breeding fish so why let dudes trophy hunt and kill them for no reason.	NO HARVEST!!!
doug brown	MA	For-hire	charter boat s stay stat	no charter head boat cuts , statusquo	clean up waters !! fight the problem where it starts . focus on young larva survival
Peter	MA	Private rec.	Close shoulder seasons and breeding seasons no target in all areas. Close longer in longer season areas.	Extend no target from spawning through initial migration as well as end of season	
Tyler Waitt	MA	Private rec.	Coast wide no harvest	No harvest	Save the bass, please implement a no harvest for COMMERCIAL and REC
Cole Willett	MA	Private rec.	Commercial No Harvesting		
Charlie	MA	Private rec.	Everyone knows no target is not viable. No harvest is. Striped bass are worth more alive.		

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Kevin LaCroix	MA	For-hire	First off, we should not be considering no targeting. Its too damaging to the economy and will not be the solution to rebuilding the striped bass stock. The no harvest closure is a better option and all of the start should be held accountable up and down the eastern seaboard. The whole coast is responsible for the rebuilding the stock not a certain section.	No harvest is the only way we have a chance to meet the rebuilding of the stock. The no target closure will only hurt ALL industries and wont allow the stock to rebuild. We have seen a moratorium work to rebuild the stock in the 90's. Why cant we learn from the past? The idea of a no target closure is just a bandaid that wont work.	As a lifelong angler, business owner, and admirer of striped bass its a horrific to see what has happened to the population over the past few years. There are no small fish in my fishery of Cape Cod. Its beyond obvious we are having MAJOR recruitment issues. This will not be solved by no targeting closures. More aggressive management measures need to be taken. Its obvious the ASMFC is kicking the can down the road again by ignoring the public comments. Please consider a moriatorium and do what is right by the striped bass population and its stakeholders. Prolonging this process only makes ASMFC look dysfunctional and unable to get the job done. Please help striped bass and its stakeholder. Listen to the public comments. Kevin LaCroix Solstice Fly Fishing - Cape Cod 508-367-8871
Ed Dewitt	MA	Private rec.	Fishing for stripers should be a sport fishing. Harvest as few as possible and keep as many alive as possible	Same as above	Plenty of fish taste good that we can sustain. Stripers need to be kept alive so we can catch them forever

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Graham	MA	Private rec.	Full year closure on harvesting or possessing a striped bass. Would not be opposed to no targeting as well, in order to save the population	No targeting, because the Chesapeake is a major spawning ground for striped bass	If nothing changes the striped bass population will be destroyed
Joe Susi	MA	Private rec.	Having a no target on striped bass would be devastating to all from the guides who feed their families off of their business chasing these fish and the recreational guys that follow the rules and love the sport. Shut down or lower the commercial quota. Please let people continue to fish for bass		

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Patrick Handrahan	MA	Private rec.	I am a life long MA resident and a nesr 35 year striped bass fishing fanatic. I support a no harvest closure across all modes. I enjoy catching and eating striped bass however, I have personally seen a significant reduction in the abundance of striped bass in coastal MA waters in the near 120 hours per season spent on the water actively pursuing this species. This has been especially true over the past two years and is a particular problem as it pertains to the abundance of smaller, school sized fish (<20"). Not harvesting the fish simply keeps more fish in the water, allows them to grow, and hopefully, spawn. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: I feel strongly that current estimates on the time frame for rebuilding the stock are flawed and continued inaction to significantly reduce the amount of fish removed from the stock will do irreparable harm to the fishery. Poor YOY (recruitment) numbers, status quo harvest of commercial size fish, and the 2018 class aging into and past the slot limit will only further harm the stock and put all modes (rec, commercial, and for hire) into a position where NOBODY will be able to fish for the species we all love so much. CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: No harvest for the same reasons as referenced in #12.	Please choose no harvest closures across all modes and all seasons.

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Tyler McPherson	MA	Private rec.	I am in favor of no-harvest closures. MA should be a considered to be in the New England region. The most effective closure time (greatest harvest reduction) would be the month of June. I strongly support equal reductions to recreational and commercial sectors. I am in favor of a coast wide no-harvest closures for the entire calendar year 2026 due to the fact that the fishery has suffered 6 straight failed spawns in the Chesapeake. It is clear that the fishery needs a break from harvest to jump start rebuilding.	No harvest closures. Equal reductions to commercial and recreational.	

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Julian Wong	MA	Private rec.	I believe that a No-harvest closure should be implemented during the peak of both spring and fall runs as that is the time most fish are harvested due to ease of access. A no-target closure seems to challenging to enforce and is likely to be met with extreme backlash from anglers.	The Chesapeake bay is a critical place for the striped bass as that is the spawning grounds for the fish. Because of this, no targeting makes sense as the fish should be protected around their spawning grounds.	
Jeff Amberson	MA	Private rec.	I believe the "pain" should be shared across the board. What ever track is taken (no harvest vs no targeting) should be implemented equally between rec, comm, and for hire.	The Chesapeake region is a crucial spawning ground and should be protected until stocks return to sustainable levels.	Please take _meaningful_ action. The best time to mitigate a problem was yesterday, the next best time is today.
conor duffy	MA	Private rec.	I believe there should be a moratorium!	moratorium is needed	The stock is being depleted and we need to remove the commercial fishery and even close down the recreational one to allow the fish to rebound !
SARAH WHITMARSH	MA	Private rec.	I DO NOT SUPPORT change to recreational bag limit in Massachusetts.		I do support change to tagging of commercially caught fish to point of catch or before offloading

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Matthew Comerford	MA	Private rec.	I do not support season closures	I do not support season closures	
Daniel Parma	MA	For-hire	I dont agree with closures		
John Illingworth	MA	Private rec.	I feel that that no target closures would be unmanageable and difficult to enforce. I understand catch and release is not ideal either but many species will hit the same bait/lures, so how would you enforce that?	I feel that that no target closures would be unmanageable and difficult to enforce. I understand catch and release is not ideal either but many species will hit the same bait/lures, so how would you enforce that?	With the last large class of fish now entering the current slot, why not go back to the one fish at a larger size? Like 33" the would give the last large young of year class more time to spawn and still allow for the public and commercial fisherman to retain fish.
Al Williams	MA	Commercial	I only support the no-harvest closure option at this time Beyond the enforceability issue, This still leaves no-targeting as a final option available at a later date if needed. Rhode Island would go with the New England states. Closure in waves 3 & 5 for the New England States. No comment on closure waves for mid-Atlantic. Not knowledgeable concerning effort and catch rates by wave for the mid-Atlantic states.	No comment. Not knowledgeable concerning release mortality risk during different waves	I support status quo on removals because: Even if SSB falls short of the rebuild target in 2029, the science supports that favorable conditions in the Chesapeake can still produce a dominant year class with minimal numbers of females. Better direction for next steps will come after the YOY for 2025 and 2026 is out and after the 2027 stock assessment is complete.

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Thomas Peterson	MA	Private rec.	I personally think there should be no commercial fishing during any kind of rebuilding effort we are doing. They are harvesting the larger breeding fish. I realize his problems with the recreational Fishing too, but I believe that we should stop commercial harvest while we're trying to rebuild.		
Brian Potvin	MA	Private rec.	I propose a moratorium on harvesting striped bass commercially or recreationally for the next four years.		The decline in the fishery has been dramatic over the last several years. It has been very frustrating to see such little action taken in response to this impending disaster. No one wants to be the last Buffalo Hunter. Let's give them a break and let them recover.
Matthew Warren	MA	Private rec.	I strongly disagree with no targeting and support no harvest because no target closures are unenforceable and better management options exist.	I support no harvest closures from Oct-June in MA.	
Zachary Panaro	MA	Private rec.	I strongly oppose no-target closures. It is unenforceable and would not work.		

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Bryan Cordeiro	MA	Private rec.	I strongly support no-harvest closures even though it means I will need to give up my privilege of keeping the occasional slot bass during certain times of the year. I would have supported no-target closures, but we heard from the ASMFC's Law Enforcement Committee that no-target closures will be nearly impossible to enforce. I believe that unenforceable regulations will fail to achieve the desired outcome. During my review of Table 10 in Addendum III, it appears that a 41 day no-harvest closure during Wave 4 is the most efficient for the New England States ME-MA. Even though this is the time of year that I catch the most amount of slot bass to enjoy, I am willing to give up this privilege for simple, predictable, and easier to enforce regulations. CONTINUED RIGHT	For the southern states RI-NC, the 36 day no-harvest closure during Wave 6 appears to also be the simplest, most predictable, and easiest to enforce closure.Therefore, I support the Wave 4 no-harvest closure for ME-MA and the Wave 6 no-harvest closure for RI-NC. My second choice is the 31 day Wave 3 & Wave 6 All Ocean no-harvest closure. CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: I support no-harvest closures because they are easier to enforce according to the ASMFC's Law Enforcement Committee. I am not knowledgeable on the existing closures in place for these states so the only thing I will say is that I support the no-harvest closures that are closest to the existing closures in place because I believe that will be the simplest, most predictable, and easiest to enforce closure.	I am extremely concerned for the health of this incredible fishery - there are very clear and troubling signs of decline. I urge the ASMFC to take immediate and effective action to reduce fishing mortality mortality before more drastic measures are needed.

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Capt. Diogo Godoi	MA	For-hire	I support a no harvest closer vs non targeting. I would also like to see a charter boat excemption for closed season as clients could be effected by closures and some families could miss their only opportunities at fishing and harvesting striped bass.	I would say anglers and captains from this region should have a say and I fully support no harvest vs no targeting.	I believe that the state of Massachusetts could do a much better job at managing our commercial season to help reach some of these goals. First off start by making it resident only and eliminate out of state pressure. As indicated by your own data the striped bass stocks are on an incline and as a charter boat captain we are doing everything we can to contribute to this. I support status quo and see if stocks rebuild on their own to target numbers. Cutting our season short with closures will push a lot of us out of business.
Drew Jefski	MA	Private rec.	I support a no harvest closure including commercial.	Chesapeake should be no harvest except in breeding months where it should be no target.	

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John Thomas McAward	MA	Private rec.	I support a no harvest closure. If you want to bring the striped bass population back stop allowing harvesting. The commercial fleat decimates thousands of big breeding fish every year. With new electronics they can follow these fish until the biomass is gone. The fish that used to hangout in specific areas year after year are no longer around. These rec slot regulations are put in place to protect breeding fish. The commercial fleet should not be able to keep large breeding fish like they do. Our striped bass fishery is declining rapidly I don't understand why we feel the need to continue to economically benefit from a species that is being fished to extinction. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: Commercial fisherman chose to make a living on the water, that means they have to be versatile. Meaning that they target other species that aren't in rapid decline, charter fish, or shellfish. Just becaue someone's grandfather and father made a living killing stripes bass does not mean the next generation has to be grandfathered into the business. We have any abundant fishery of countless species with economic value. It is time the striped bass get a break and are protected. A no target closure is not Realistic. Massachusetts and many other states on the east coast simply don't have the man power to implement this. If we want these fish to bounce back it's time to stop killing hundreds of thousands of bass a year.	I do a lot of rec surfcasting in Montauk, NY. I am always taken back by the gill nets that are being used in the area. They kill everything living organism swimming down the beach. This includes striped bass, seals, dolphins, whales, and all other species of marine life. Their is no possible way to regulate a slot or keeper size with these nets. They are destroying the New England marine ecosystem. They kill everything in their path. Just becaue a persons family has been doing something for generations does not mean they should be able to commit serious marine crimes until the end of their days. These nets are one of the worst things going on in the east coast for our striped bass and other species. Thank you for hearing what I have to say.

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Capt. Raymond Jarvis	MA	For-hire	I support a no harvest closure. Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. As a guide I fish throughout the region, from CT to NH; CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. I would like to see CT and NY included in the New England region, as the migration relates more to the NE than it does the mid atlantic for these states. It would be silly to include these states in the mid atlantic region. I would like to see Wave 4 for the Northern no harvest closure and Wave 6 for the Southern no harvest closure	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: I support a no harvest closure for this region and believe the closure should be during all waves. Opening this region to harvest is ill advised at this point. GENERAL COMMENT: In general I would support no harvest closures for the entire coast for the entire year, all waves. To allow a commercial fishery and to allow harvest of any kind is not responsible and only further decreases the chances of the stock actually rebuilding. In its current state and with the recent failures in recruitment, this fishery can not afford to have less fish in the water. CONTINUED RIGHT	More fish in the water is an absolute necessity. Further more, the fact that we are again in this situation over 20 years after the stock was considered rebuilt, is a failure in management and should have never happened. The proposed measures are not enough as they stand, but I am choosing the best of those lack luster options. I know that these fish are far more valuable to the economy in the water, rather than on a plate, and continuing to allow harvest in the face of such decline is irresponsible. I also oppose for-hire exemptions, it is an unfair burden on 98% of anglers and for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% landings from 1.4% trips). I am a fire hire guide and my business model does not include the harvest of Striped Bass, others can make this change if they wish to have a fishery in the future.

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Pietro treviso	MA	Private rec.	I support a No harvest. we can not have a no target.	I support no harvest. We need to be able to target striped bass.	I grew up fishing with my father. I love to fish. I have a son I'd like to fish with one day when he is old enough. Please have a no harvest so then numbers will improve. We can not have a no target. Too many people and businesses rely on the stripped bass fishery. I feel as it will be difficult to enforce anyhow many different fish species will eat the same lure.
Matt Foley	MA	Private rec.	I support a no-harvest closure across all states for the entire season.	I support a no harvest.	This fishery is dying. These fish have been poorly managed by you guys. The state of this fishery will not survive if nothing changes in the commercial fleet. Please consider a no harvest season while shutting down commercial fishing. Stripers deserve to be a gamefish. There is no more schoolies around in abundant numbers. The state of this fishery is terrifying. In MA the fishery is overcrowded with commercial boats parked over the same schools of fish, and they slaughter them all season long. It is extremely disturbing that the ASMFC lets this happen.

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Bill Gellman	MA	Private rec.	I Support No Harvest and making the striped bass a 'gamefish' until stocks can sustain themselves again for all regions and seasons.	No Harvest and closure during spawning season.	
John Yemma	MA	Private rec.	I support no harvest closures for all regions and sectors until the stock is sufficiently rebuilt. Use conservative buffers if necessary to account for increase in technology and to combat uncertainty in achieiving stock rebuild.	No harvest for all sectors at all times in all regions is what I support.	I beg the ASMFC to put the health of the stock ahead of the interests of the pro-harvest user groups. Please take immediate action so that the next generation can enjoy a healthy fishery before it's too late to make meaningful changes and rebuild in a timely manner. And if it's all about dollars, then the recreational community should be given even more credence than it currently is because they are the user group which efforts contributes the most direct economic benefit to the local economies.

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Stephen P Huban	MA	Private rec.	I support no harvest closures to create an enforceable fairness approach		I am strongly opposed to no targeting closures…this will take away from fishing with my son and grandsons. I don't want to risk getting a ticket even if we are truly trying to fish for something else. Additionally, carve outs for hire vessels keeping more fish place an extra burden on the vast majority of anglers to reach conservation goals.

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Bradford Lumb	MA	Private rec.	I support no harvest ocean wide from MA - NC, no target can not be an option because of how dependent local economies are on this fish especially here in my home state of Massachusetts. Inshore for hire options north of the cape are incredibly limited and no target would destroy not just charters but tackle shops and bait suppliers and local lure makers and more. I have no opinion on when during the year no harvest should be implemented. For all I care it could be all year. I have no opinion on division of the region.	Same as above	I have doubts on keeping the same slot active in Massachusetts as I believe we are putting too much trust into the 2015 class of fish. A small slot is effective, but not when 85% of the fish you catch are within that slot. The SSB is increasing but it's obvious recruitment is not. What we are seeing is the 2015 class growing larger and not a an increase in fish. We are overfishing the 2015 class that was supposed to help save the fishery. It's also important to note how influential the conditions in the Chesapeake play during spawning season so I would like to see more research done on water quality temp turbidity flow anything and everything that might correlate to the poor recruitment. No target cannot be an option as it would be a massive economic disaster for countless small businesses that rely on striped bass. Not to mention no target is unenforceable and unrealistic.
David Slater	MA	Private rec.	I support no harvest. The closures should occur during the fall and spawning period.	No harvest during spawning and post spawn period.	Please manage for abundance. Please take action now to ensure the vitality of the stock. Finally, no for hire exemptions - it's unfair.

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Diane Huban	MA	Private rec.	I support no harvestclosures to create an enforceable fairness approach.		I'm totally against no targeting closures. This will impact and take away fishing with my family. I don't want to risk getting a ticket even if we are truly trying to fish for something else. Additionally care outs for hire vessels keeping more fish place an extra burden on the vast majority of anglers to reach conservation goals.
Nathan G Caldwell	MA	Private rec.	i support no harvesting	no harvest is better than no target	none
Kevin kalahan	MA	Private rec.	I support no target closer for recreational and commercial fishers year round..	I support no target year round.	
Bryan Cleary	MA	Private rec.	I support no-harvest	No-targeting is appropriate when fish are spawning or getting ready to spawn	Live fish are more economically valuable than dead fish. Manage for abundance
Vinicius Ludovico	MA	Private rec.	I support no-harvest and I'm strongly opposed to no-target closures. There is no feasible way to enforce it and there are better management options.	I support no-harvest and I'm strongly opposed to no target closures. There is no feasible way to enforce it and there are better management options.	
Richard Hickox	MA	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures but am against no-targeting closures.		I strongly support no-harvest closures but am against no-targeting closures. Ultimately, I think the Striped Bass should be designated a gamefish.

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Jackson Murphy	MA	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures for any ocean recreational season closures. Rhode Island, New York, and CT should be included in Northern/New England regions. Wave 4 is optimal for North region and Wave 6 is best for Southern.	No-harvest closures	On section 3.3 Chesapeake Bay recreational baseline season, the uncertainty buffer should increase to 15% as a precaution. As a recreational angler who regularly contributes to our local fishing economies, I urge ASMFC to swiftly and decisively act on these recommended measures to protect our coastwide striped bass fishery. If rebuilding efforts fail by the stated 2029 spawning stock biomass goal, a harvest moratorium along the coast will be our only path forward.
Ryan Turcotte	MA	Private rec.	I support no-harvest which would have less impact on for-hire and local businesses (tackle shops) that rely on fishing. New England/NY regional closure should be June-August when fish are settled into their summer residence and are most vulnerable. THIS SEASONAL CLOSURE MUST ALSO APPLY TO ALL COMMERCIAL FISHING. Mid-Atlantic (NJ and south) closures should be April/May	No-Harvest due to economic impact a no target would have on local business	

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Nate Holmes	MA	Private rec. / guide	I support no-harvest, I do not support no-targeting coast wide.	I support no harvest	
Ryan Cavanaugh	MA	Private rec.	I support No-Harvest; It is easier to enforce and does not close the fishery. I believe the entire fishery should consider being no-harvest.	I support no harvest for the major coastline; it is easier to enforce and allows anglers to fish still. I support No-Targeting in the Chesapeake where the fish are the most vulnerable pre and post spawn based on my understanding. Additionally the Bay's Commercial quota matches the entire eastern seaboards and needs to be limited. I also support reductions being equal between recreational, Charter (For Hire), and Commercial Fisherman. I think No-Harvest closures should be implemented in the same baseline (Option A) and then include No Harvest in March, and May, and then No Harvest November and December as the fish return	Please do the right thing for this fishery and add further restrictions onto recreational anglers, commercial, and charter fisherman. The fishery needs our help and now is the time. a 50% chance of rebuilding is no sufficient enough. Would you leave this fishery up to a coin toss?

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Matt McRae	MA	Private rec.	I support statues quo. But if had to pick poison from above no harvest catch and realize only	No target	Massachusetts charter captains can not survive a no target no harvest I believe the status quo is what we need
Ivan Kuraev	MA	Private rec.	I support the longest possible no-harvest closures for as many states as possible throughout the north and mid-atlantic. No-targeting closures seem impossible to enforce. No-harvest closures may be easier to enforce, and pave the way to making striped bass a game fish, with no recreational or commercial harvest of the species.	Given the poor spawning, we need to maintain the overall biomass of striped bass. Therefore, harvesting striped bass should be off the table. No targeting seems difficult to enforce.	Please consider a harvest moratorium on striped bass throughout its breeding and migration range, and work to make striped bass a game fish. The population is crashing, and we are not doing enough to save this species. Limited harvest closures and/or targeting closures, as well as slight modification on the keeper size, seem like very small steps in the face of a cataclysm.

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David Surdel	MA	Private rec.	I support the most aggressive no-harvest closures possible. Strong preventative actions need to be taken now if there's any possibility of restoring an abundant fishery. The can has been kicked down the road for too long already.	I support a no target closure for Chesapeake Bay. We have now been through 6 straight years of failed spawning and asmfc needs to take every step possible to ensure successful future spawns ASAP	Asmfc has failed to take meaningful action to protect the future of striped bass stocks over the last 10 years. It's doubtful the 2029 benchmark will be achieved unless action is taken immediately. This fishery has been managed into the ground for commercial interests over the last decade and that needs to stop. The science is clear: unless we give the striped bass a break (all sectors), they will be gone.
Pat Twombly	MA	Private rec.	I support the NO-HARVEST		No Harvest is the only option!!
Joe Daly	MA	Private rec.	I support zero closure. I do not support no harvest or no target. If asmfc supports a closure it should be equal across recreation and commercial with no favoritism to either group. If applied it should be applied to everyone equally.	I support zero closure. I do not support no harvest or no target. If asmfc supports a closure it should be equal across recreation and commercial with no favoritism to either group. If applied it should be applied to everyone equally	I support zero closure. I do not support no harvest or no target. If asmfc supports a closure it should be equal across recreation and commercial with no favoritism to either group. If applied it should be applied to everyone equally

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Colin Mansfield	MA	Private rec.	I think no targeting is necessary. I see too many people carelessly releasing fish that "no harvest" still ends in the killing of many fish.	I support no-target because "no harvest" ends up killing a lot of fish anyways.	All of this is a moot point when there's hardly any enforcement. Go to deer Island (Boston) any night of the week, there's guys fishing bait with 10 rods keeping everything they catch. Kayakers under the cover of dark on the mystic river keeping everything they catch.
Charlie Millard	MA	Commer cial	I think that not letting us harvest fish should be unconstitutional		
Will Converse	MA	Private rec.	I think that the no-harvest closure is the most ideal for the striper population as well as a the striper fishing community. Not only will it limit the amount of stripers killed but will also provide the striper fisherman with fish to catch for sport only.	I don’t live around the Chesapeake Bay Area but I believe a major killer of striped bass is the unprotected spawning grounds in the Chesapeake.	

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John Harvey	MA	For-hire	I want to do what is best for the fishery which I believe is to fix the spawning/survival success. The fishery for me on Cape Cod has been improving for me with catch rate each of the last 7 years, 2025 being the best, However I have noticed a lesser amount of below 28" class fish in my area which is the outer Cape COD. My opinion is that warming water temperatures in Chesapeake Bay has been the primary reason of the spawning/ survival-ability has been unsuccessful. But also the Blue catfish is a contributor, maybe a commercial season for these fish should be introduced. I understand from last night's meeting that prior efforts to build a Hatchery were not affective. New methods need to be researched and then introduced. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: The fishery for me is currently very good, but unless the Spawning/survive-ability is fixed, then the proposed reduction rates won't help the inevitable, but only delay it. I think we should keep addendum 11 applicable for 2026, and get proactive now on developing new technologies for spawning/survive-ability for this all important fishery. CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: See section 12	The economic impact will be enormous and put a lot of people out of business if we don't focus our efforts on how to fix the Spawning/survive-ability rate.

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Alex Shukis	MA	Private rec.	I would go so far as to support a harvest moratorium as these fish really need our help. We can't keep abusing this fishery and stock and expect them to bounce back. A few years off for a lifetime of fishing is worth it.		We need to protect these fish which impact so many. Non harvest moratorium or even a non targeting for all anglers if that's what it takes to rebuild the stock. We need these fish.
Nigel Horsman	MA	Private rec.	I would NOT support no-targeting but I would support no-harvest		I am a UK angler who comes over to Massachusetts every year in May/June to fly fish for Stripers with my friends. We spend a lot locally when we are in the USA. We wouldn't come if there is a no targeting closure but would still come if any closure is a no harvest closure (we fish C&R anyway)

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James Howard	MA	Private rec.	I would strongly support no-harvest closures for both recreational and commercial fishing in all regions.	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: Given the importance of the region to stock replenishment and significant recruitment issues in the Chesapeake, I would support no-targeting closures. GENERAL COMMENT: I think there should be significantly greater restrictions on commercial fishing. I understand that recruitment issues and recreational harvesting and release mortality are significant drivers in population decline, but removing the stock of 35-inch-plus fish in the manner that commercial fishing does has to be a primary driver in reducing the breeding population. These larger fish are disproportionately valuable to the health of the stock, as they are the most productive spawners and contribute disproportionately to long-term stability.	When commercial regulations allow for consistent harvest of these prime breeders, the reproductive base is weakened, making it more difficult for striped bass to rebound even in years of strong recruitment. While recreational anglers must also be part of the solution, tighter commercial restrictions—through reduced quotas, more limited open days, AND stricter size protections—would help ensure that the most important segment of the striped bass population is protected. I will add that -- I understand there is an element to commercial fisherman livelihood that needs to be considered. However, anecdotally, I know that dozens of 48-inch+ were taken in my main fishing area by local high school students with commercial licenses. Not sure that is a livelihood that needs to be supported to the detriment of the species. Finally -- I think there should be an education element for recreational fisherman that includes proper handling release/revival (and limiting time out of water), limiting treble hooks, and how to remove gut hooks using long-nose hemastat tools. CONTINUED BELOW

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James Howard	MA	Private rec.			I have helped multiple live-bait anglers this year remove hooks from the stomach or esophagus of a striped bass -- without bleeding, within seconds. Youtube tutorials on quick landing/release, changing trebles to single-inline (or at least a single in-line as a tail hook) and removing gut hooks would be most welcome as a means to reduce recreational release mortality.
Chris Hiney	MA	Private rec.	I would support a “no harvest” closure until stocks are deemed “recovered”		

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John Lefeber	MA	Private rec.	I would support a coast wide harvest moratorium. Any closure must be split by impact the region has on the fishery. For example, New Jersey should have a much larger closure than Maine, due to the relative impact those areas have on the ocean population.	FULL TARGETING CLOSURE	The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has been far too slow to respond to the glaring crisis facing striped bass populations along the coast. Despite years of clear scientific evidence showing overfishing and population decline, the ASMFC has dragged its feet—favoring weak, incremental measures instead of decisive action. They are the ones who allowed the situation to deteriorate to this point, and they must be held accountable. A coastwide striped bass moratorium is not just necessary—it's overdue. The sooner we implement a moratorium, the sooner we can begin rebuilding this iconic fishery. If current rebuilding efforts fail, the ASMFC must act swiftly and decisively—no more delays, no more excuses.
Steve	MA	Private rec.	I would support a full season of no harvesting of striped bass and limiting the harvest quota for commercial fishermen.		I think for whatever decisions are made on conserving the striped bass population need to be equal for both parties. That it simply cannot be one sided. I do hope there is change before it gets worse and we can restore the population to a greater level.

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Zak swain	MA	Private rec.	I would support a no harvest closure season long. Harvesting for commercial or recreational purposes at this point is not sustainable. But economically closing the fishery to targeting bass would be more detrimental to local tackle, boat dealers and marinas.	The problem lies with the commercial harvest not recreational. Especially if the Chesapeake is the epicenter or the bass spawn. Forcing folks to hang up their rods while netter are decimating the breeding population make little to no sense regardless of the spin…	

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Ken Russell	MA	Private rec.	I would support a no-harvest closure for the ocean recreational striped bass fishery, as it allows for catch-and-release fishing while still protecting the stock from overharvest. Region Splits: - New England Region: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut - Mid-Atlantic Region: New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia Recommended Closure Timing: - New England Region: Implement closures during late spring to early summer (May–June) to protect striped bass during their peak migration and spawning movements into northern waters. - Mid-Atlantic Region: Implement closures during late summer to early fall (August–September) to protect fish during high recreational effort and before they migrate south. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: This approach balances conservation needs with recreational opportunities and helps preserve the striped bass fishery for the long term. CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: To preserve the striped bass fishery in Chesapeake Bay, I would support a no-targeting closure during the peak spawning months, which generally occur from mid-March through mid-May. This would reduce stress on spawning fish while still allowing for catch-and-release opportunities outside this window. For a more protective approach, a no-harvest closure could be implemented during the summer months, typically July and August, when high water temperatures increase post-release mortality. CONTINUED RIGHT	This would help protect adult striped bass during the most vulnerable period. Suggested closures for each Bay state: - Maryland: - No-targeting: Mid-March – Mid-May in spawning rivers. - No-harvest: July – August in main Bay areas. - Virginia: - No-targeting: March – April in James, York, and Rappahannock Rivers. - No-harvest: July – August in lower Bay. - Delaware: - No-targeting: Mid-March – April in upper Bay and tributaries. - No-harvest: July – August in Delaware Bay portions. This seasonal approach balances protection during spawning and high-stress periods while still allowing for responsible recreational fishing throughout the year.

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James Broderick	MA	Private rec.	I would support harvest closures for certain times of the year. Then back to the regular 2024 regulations for other parts of the year in Massachusetts		
Robert P Huddy	MA	Private rec.	I would support no targeting closures but only for pre-spawn periods. i would primarily support no harvest for periods shown on the graphs as peak harvest periods for each state and would prefer this be state by state versus grouped state regions.	I would support no targeting closure for pre-spawn periods and no harvest for periods post spawn.	I believe the greatest impact is shown to be from the recreational fishing pressure on Striped Bass and this should be the focus of actions to be taken. I also believe that the 12 percent reduction to achieve a 50 percent probability of restoration is the minimum action option and would prefer the target be a 60 percent probability of restoration or greater. My personal preference given the lack of performance of measures taken to date and state of fishery would be a 75 percent probability of restoration and consideration given to numbers of fish as equally as biomass given the latest YOY results.

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Connor Quigley	MA	Private rec.	I would support no-harvest closures. NY to Maine = New England NJ and south = Mid Atlantic The closure should be implemented from January through April , and August through December for Mid Atlantic region. For New England, the closure should run from January through May, and September through December.	No Harvest.	
Matt McRae	MA	Private rec.	I'd like to see a no target closure with a planned progression to no harvest closure then to limited harvest if population allows for it. Short term sacrifice to allow for longer term stability.		I want my 19 month old to be able to enjoy this incredible fishery in the future. In order for that to happen I believe a short term closure may be necessary. I would like to see more consistent regulations and enforcement or said regulations.

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Antone Moniz	MA	Private rec.	If the post release mortality is as big of an issue as people claim then I don't see how killing 1 less bass per day is going to make a big enough difference.	Negatively effecting the spawning grounds is going to hurt the population more than just about any other aspect in discussion.	
Jake Brown	MA	Commercial	In support of no harvest closures to rebuild stock but not in support of no target. Would be costly and ineffective to oversee. Certain regions would be more affected where there are less species to Target and therefore boats would be profiled and stopped or searched in gulf of Maine as opposed RI and south.	No comment.	Recreational no target would have devastating impact on coastal economies for an iconic fishery. Let's look at scientific data that has yielded stock rebuilds without a no harvest closure.
Juan Carlos barrera	MA	Private rec.	It might not make sense but . I think if you lower the commercial fishing on a boat from 15 fish per day to 7 or 8 fish will be good because the boats catch the big fish with eggs. Just my suggestion. Thank you.		Lower the commercial fishing on a boat in Massachusetts from 15 fish per day. To half like 7 or 8 fish because the boats catch all the big fish with eggs .

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Paul	MA	Private rec.	It should be no harvest for at least a 5 year period	No targeting april - may	I think another moratorium needs to take place with a no harvest along the entire east coast for at least 5 years
Tom Bolinder	MA	Private rec.	Let’s save our fish. Have a season		
Charles	MA	Private rec.	Make them a game fish 0nly - barbless hook only		Striped Bass recovered once a long time ago 1980s and since they had some good years they increased the harvest in the 1990s and 2000's to 2020 - too many fish are killed and now you cannot find a small fish because there aren't any! Close it all for 5 years. Bring them back Make it ALL Catch and Release with barbless hooks for 5 years.
Jaime Boyle	MA	For-hire	No Harvest		I oppose any for hire exemptions, we all need to share the burden of rebuilding the stock. Also ASMF has taken to long to address the stock rebuilding and should be accountable if rebuilding fails.
noah Petitt	MA	Private rec.	no closure		

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Craig McLaughlin	MA	For-hire	No closure manage as game fish. Protection at commercial level	Let breeding be understood and undisturbed	Please follow common sense management across the board each state. Hold people accountable for law breaking Create an easy reporting system of violations
Alan Petit	MA	Private rec.	no Closures		
William shine	MA	Private rec.	No closures		
Rick Fencer	MA	Private rec.	No commercial fishing at all		Stop all commercial fishing, striped Bass should be a sport fish
Paul Roycroft	MA	Private rec.	no direct fishing, no catch and release, and no commercial fishing	no direct fishing, no catch and release, and no commercial fishing	
James Brennan	MA	For-hire	No easy answer for this as our charter season is busiest from June through September…any closures would have economic impact		
Aaron Smart	MA	Private rec.	no harverst catch and release single hooks all season		

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Will Santiago	MA	For-hire	No harvest	No harvest	Hi I'd like to just say I'm a catch and release charter captain and wouldn't mind it being enforced. But taking days and weeks away from us would ruin my small business I just started and I'm sure it would affect captains all around. I would agree on stricter limits on commercial fishing if anything. They fish 2 days a week and can keep 30 fish total in 2 days. 1 recreational fisherman fishing for 2 days can keep 2 fish total. Doesn't sound right. I'm not a guy that usually tries to be heard but fishing these fish is Life and hope my 2 cents helps us stay on the water fishing stripers.
Robert Scanlon Jr	MA	Private rec.	No Harvest	No Harvest	If needed restrict the length of the fishing season
Mark Bannon	MA	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	Now or never...stick is in trouble!
Chase Gallagher	MA	Private rec.	No harvest	No target	Make it a game fish, before it's too late!
Michael Schraffa	MA	Private rec.	No harvest	No target	Commercial season needs to be cut down dramatically and recreation should be no harvest. There needs to be more checks on licensing and fines given.

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Dominic Piccuito	MA	Commercial	No harvest	No targeting	Nothing will happen unless a good sense of enforcement if established. The lack of enforcement in at least Massachusetts needs to change. I have reported numerous encounters of violators with no repercussions. Just last week someone lugged off a bag of 15 bass all which were over slot, this was directly reported to the Massachusetts environmental police with a license plate. Was told I would receive a call back about the situation no one called! There will always be people who will violate the law no matter if there is a harvest or targeting closure if there is no one to enforce it….
Scott Larson	MA	Private rec. / plug builder	No Harvest		Designate the Striped Bass as a game fish and get rid of commercial fishing
Tony Audet	MA	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	We need to save our fish
James Jewkes	MA	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest at all season	We need no harvest right now no kicking the can down the road striped bass are in huge trouble and we need them

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Noe Eraklis	MA	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest closure from august 1- may 10	
David Caggainello	MA	Private rec.	No Harvest	No Target No Harvest	Make the right choice for the future of our fishery, no harvest
Alexander Frazier	MA	Private rec.	No Harvest		An angler education class should come with the application for license.
Robert Stanton	MA	Private rec.	No harvest		No targeting is entirely unenforceable and useless.
Andrew Gray	MA	Private rec.	No Harvest - Catch & Release. Both New England & Mid-Atlantic. The entire season.	No Harvest - Catch & Release. Both New England & Mid-Atlantic. The entire season.	I've been catch & release since 2019. I routinely drive 2 hours (one way) to get to the shore. I make this trip 1-2 times a week from April - November and even plan 2 week long vacations to the shore every year. Let me continue to catch & release so I can support local business; tackle shops, charters, campgrounds & restaurants.
John Taylor	MA	Private rec.	No Harvest - I never take striped bass anyway.	No Harvest but during spawning they should be targeting at all	I come to the US to fish for stripers every year. All fish are revived and returned. I would be happy with no harvest whilst spawning.

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Jacob	MA	Private rec.	No harvest 247 365 days a year across all states	No harvest 247 365 days a year across all states	We simply can not have more fish if we keep killing them. We need a no harvest closure coast wide for striped bass.
Brandon Roche	MA	Private rec. / Comm.	No harvest across all regions		Need to address the poor spawns past 6 seasons. Reducing harvest by 12% won't move the needle. Either do nothing and leave status quo or shut down harvest across board. If looking to reduce MA comm pressure eliminate out of state permits or use the limited entry dates established to remove permit holders.
Kevin Andrew	MA	Private rec.	No harvest all year	I would prefer no target during spawn, especially in waters deemed fresh or brackish.	I support a full no harvest, season wide, coast wide
Dana evans	MA	Private rec.	No harvest all year for all Atlantic regions. Moratorium.	No harvest all year for all Atlantic regions. Moratorium.	
Andrew Tenney	MA	Private rec. / lure maker	No harvest all year in all regions would be my recommendation		I have gone from being able to catch at least some striped bass from shore in ma and ri on at least 3/4 outings to catching none around 60 percent of the time. This has all occurred within the last 6 years. Something has to be done to save Americas gamefish.

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Jeff Eastman	MA	Private rec.	No harvest closure	No harvest closure	Reduce the commercial guys catches stop the draggers

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Mike Wheeler	MA	Private rec.	No harvest closure for every state along the East coast in which striped bass migrate, spawn in, or holdover during the winter months in, for every single month of the year	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: No harvest closure for all months of the year. Striped bass spawn here in massive numbers. You don't have to be a genius to realize that killing fish in an area where the majority of the species goes to spawn is going to be bad for them as a species and effect their overall population. GENERAL COMMENT: If you actually love striped bass you need to do anything you possibly can to protect them. It should be a no harvest closure for every state all year long. Businesses and the tackle industry rely on these fish being alive and possible to catch. Anyone who fishes for striped bass commercially can get a different job like most of us have. Industry's change and for some that means finding different means of employment. CONTINUED RIGHT	For-hire vessels should be promoting catch and release as they are just killing off the species that their business model is reliant on. For-hire vessels should promote a fun and sportsman like experience, not train people to consider striped bass as just another "food" fish. The recovery of the striped bass stocks after the moratorium in the 80's was one of the best wildlife recovery efforts every done along the East coast and now that achievement is being dismantled and destroyed by greed and an unwillingness to sacrifice for the sake of the fish that we all love. I also believe that environmental impacts are not considered enough when looking into the total depletion of striped bass stocks. Poor water quality in key spawning areas, a booming seal and shark population in many states, and a lack of hard winters which effects the salinity in spawning rivers as it's mostly rain instead of a slow snow melt, all impact these fish and need to be considered when assessing the survival rate and fertility of this species.
Brian Cloutier	MA	Private rec.	No Harvest Closure is the only equitable option.		

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James Ferguson	MA	For-hire	No harvest closure please	No harvest closure	The time is now for serious conservation action. Close the fishery to harvest please.
Christopher bumpus	MA	Private rec.	No harvest closure to ensure more bass are staying in the water. Death is going to happen when fighting the fish, but by having a no harvest time it would create more fish staying to grow larger and help our stocks grow.		
Alexander Cameron	MA	Private rec.	No harvest closure. Rhode Island is in with New England. ME-RI Waves 3 & 5. CT-NC wave 2 & 3.	No harvest, MD bay new base line wave 3. And VA bay wave 3.	
hanna haidar	MA	Private rec.	no harvest closures are the only realistically enforceable wayof reducing harvest. No target closures target recreational anglers, fishing industry businesses and are very difficult to enforce with limited proven impact.		I support no harvest closures as they are the only realistically enforceable and measurably impactful way of reducing harvest.

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John Breen	MA	Private rec.	No harvest closures should be implemented during spawning activity in areas identified by biologists as key spawning locations	No harvest closures should be implemented during spawning activity in areas identified by biologists as key spawning locations	
Michael casto	MA	Private rec.	No harvest closures Temporary full closures throughout the season. Make the closures fair per the amount of time people have to fish for striped. (Southern end of range has far more opportunity to catch striped than northern New England)	No targeting. This is like pulling fish off beds. Let them be and replenish the struggling populations.	Fix the environmental issues in the spawning grounds. And stop letting the forage be decimated
Nick Lombardi	MA	Private rec.	No harvest closures with fish over 40” not allowed to be removed from the water. Similar to the tarpon fishery in Florida…	No harvest closures with fish over 40” not allowed to be removed from the water. Similar to the tarpon fishery in Florida…	Larger fish, 40” and up, are more acceptable to injury when being removed from the water. There should be more emphasis on better handling within the recreational sector. That should be explored before no target closures are implemented.
Jason	MA	Private rec.	No harvest during peak runs	No targeting	No harvest is the best option for everyone
Zach Faucher	MA	Private rec.	No Harvest during summer months.	No targeting during spawning and warm water months.	

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Andrew	MA	Private rec.	No harvest everywhere	No harvest everywhere	
Walsh Jack	MA	Private rec.	No harvest fine. Catch and release.		I support no harvest. Let people fish, catch, and release until stock com s back for a number of years.
Jake Handrahan	MA	Private rec.	No harvest for all states	No harvest	I have seen this fishery in a continuous decline for the past 5 years significantly. The can has been kicked one to many times, it is at a critical point and no action will have devastating consequences on rebuilding the stock.

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Kevin	MA	Private rec.	NO HARVEST for all states all seasons.	No harvest all season	The proper time for your committee to take action in the obvious decline of striped bass was years ago. Through years of mismanagement and denial of the clear decline of the fishery we have reached a critical breaking point. There is no more time for half measures (I.e. no targeting, menial harvest reductions, etc.). Protect all fish especially large breeders and use the one card you may have to save the fishery, moratorium. This committee has long pandered to the commercial fisherman that lines your pockets and continuing to do so will result in stripers ending up like cod or haddock. The striped bass is worth far more alive than in a fish market. It's time to do your job, make the unpopular decision and take immediate and significant action to stop the crash of this fishery. Unfortunately all of us recreational anglers are reliant on you. I implore you to make the difficult but correct choice in this matter. Stop allowing the killing of striped bass.
Steven Binckes	MA	Private rec.	No harvest for commercial fishing for striped bass.		
Victor Kurylovich	MA	Private rec.	No harvest for EVERYONE	No harvest for EVERYONE	

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Jonathan Hyett	MA	Private rec.	No harvest in August only.	No target July & August.	
Mike Joy	MA	Private rec.	No harvest is my choice to help decrease the mortality.	No harvest	
Eric Harrison	MA	Private rec.	No harvest is the only enforceable approach	No targeting is unenforceable. It's an admission that fisheries management has failed. No Targeting closures should come only with resignations from all fisheries managers so a better regime can be followed	
Corey McIntyre	MA	Private rec.	No harvest is the only option		
Dennis Plaster	MA	Private rec.	No harvest limit the number of hooks to two and require barbless hooks		
Justin Mercugliano	MA	For-hire	No harvest or harvest of 32+ inch fish due to avg size of stripers growing and lack of presence of new, younger striper population in cape cod bay.		No harvest is the way to go right now-we are seeing plenty of striped bass of adequate breeding size but no young so let’s preserve what we have in order to promote breeding
Edmund Cyr	MA	Private rec.	No harvest or targeting, all states	No harvest and no targeting, all states	
John Foster	MA	Private rec.	no harvest period until stock rebounds		

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Gary Cole	MA	Private rec.	No harvest seems most practical without destroying businesses like tackle shops and charter services while still giving the fish a chance to replenish. 100% of fish harvested die full stop.	No targeting	I feel as a 30 plus year recreational fisherman that the fishery is in dire shape and need to act now or I fear a total collapse as I witnessed as a youth. It is up to you to act now and increase your efforts to explain to the public how important careful handling and practicing catch and release is. Thank you for your time and I beg you to do what's within your grap to do.
John Tombros	MA	Private rec.	No harvest Should be implemented during the spring migration for both regions	During spawning no harvest should be implemented. The spawning has been horrible the last 6 seasons	Immediate action needs to happen cannot kick the can down the road this is the worst season that I've accounted in over a decade. There are no class of fish really replacing the ones being lost due to spawning being so bad. A no harvest policy needs to be implemented up and down the Seaboard so that this amazing resource doesn't completely collapse

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Francis Smith	MA	Private rec.	No harvest should be the bare minimum, I cannot believe this is up for debate. No harvest should be implemented for recreational fisheries entirely, no exceptions except native peoples. I'd include commercial fishermen if there was a reduction in the number of them, but there are too many.	No harvest and no targeting, but during different times. This is the MOST critical area for the return of striped bass. There should be no targeting or harvesting with no exception during spawn and at least a few weeks before and after it when the fish are still vulnerable. Targeting could begin after spawn but harvesting should still be restricted.	Do better.
Andrew Drake	MA	Private rec.	no harvest spring and fall runs, must apply to commercial too		reduce comercial fishing by making them a sport fish, also, make tighter limits down south

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Joseph LeClair	MA	For-hire	No harvest til 2029. Non targetting is crazy and punishes the people who have been interested in conservation for the last 25 years. The fish that need protection the most are the largest fish. If you do not protect large striped bass, the stock will not survive.		I know and understand my comments are not in line with the science. I have been fishing Striped Bass in Rhode Island sound, Buzzards Bay, Vineyard Sound, Cape Cod Bay. I have observed the decline of schools of mature fish (25-50 lbs) from many different areas. These large Striped Bass (25-50 lbs) have not rebounded after being wiped out in each spot. If you track the schools of large fish as I have you will see the connection between the low numbers in young of the year and the dissappearing large groups of large Striped Bass (25-50 lbs). The amount of fishing pressure has also exploded in the last 10 years and we are now dealing with a new problem that will stress the fish and reduce the chances of succeeding in reproduction. Each unique group of large Striped Bass will soon be gone if we continue with the current regulations. Close down all harvest til 2029 !
Tom Schutz	MA	Private rec.	No harvest to continue to allow rec anglers looking to strictly cast and release participate in the fishery		
Brendan Murray	MA	Private rec.	No harvest to rebuild the stock.		We should make the sacrifice of no harvest to rebuild the stock.

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Jack Hillary	MA	Private rec.	No harvest would allow anglers to continue fishing.	Breeding.	
Jed Zaborowski	MA	Private rec.	No harvest year round	No harvest march-June during spawn	
Tim	MA	Private rec.	No harvest year round No targeting either spring or fall	No targeting before spawn	Please take action to save population
Phil chin	MA	Private rec.	No harvest year round, every state		Please
Jim Simms	MA	Private rec.	No harvest,	No harvest	A moratorium is the preferred action I recommend since a 12 percent harvest reduction among all stakeholders has only a 50 per cent chance of success, Thank you for the chance to respond,
lucas haines	MA	Private rec.	No Harvest, all states, all season	no harvest, all year	
Caleb Simms	MA	Private rec.	No harvest, all states, closed in a staggered fashion as fish move up the coast to protect migrating fish	Closures around the spawning season are absolutely mandatory. I am unsure of t he economic impact of a no target period in this region. I suspect it might be significant so I think not harvest is probably better with strict restrictions on handling of fish and or acceptable methods for targeting fish. IE casting only	The economic impact of recreational fishing for striped bass is massive and it is mostly driven by anglers who are far more interested in catching fish than killing fish. The best way to protect the population remains limiting/ending commercial and recreational harvesting of fish while protecting the ability of anglers to target these fish.
Rick Fraelick	MA	Private rec.	No harvest, catch and release only for recreation and commercial.		

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Anthony Romano	MA	Private rec.	No harvest, ME-MA, Wave 4		
Gary George	MA	Private rec.	No harvest, New England, August. September.		
Michael Ronconi	MA	Private rec.	No harvest, no closure		
Nicholas Kathmann	MA	For-hire	No harvest, no target unenforceable		
Chad Anderson	MA	Private rec.	No harvest, no targeting is impossible to enforce.		Consideration should be made for a no harvest period. I fish on the north shore of Massachusetts and the majority of our fish this season were over slot sized. The boat traffic pressuring the schools was still quite high even on closed commercial days. This shows that the majority of anglers will still fish for stripers in a catch and release fashion.
Craig Arms	MA	Private rec.	NO HARVEST, period. All year, everywhere. Plenty of other fish to eat.	NO HARVEST, period. All year, everywhere. Plenty of other fish to eat.	PROTECT STRIPED BASS BEFORE THEY ARE GONE FOR GOOD.
Jonah Olsen	MA	Private rec.	No harvest, there's zero ability to enforce no targeting.		

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Bruce Ripley	MA	Private rec.	No harvest,entire coast year tound	No harvest,all year	The population of Stripers has crashed…I no longer target stripers. A mismanaged fishery at best. I speak with people who circumnavigate restrictions easily with no consequences.
Charles Fortier	MA	Private rec.	No harvest,spring	No harvest,spring	Make stripers a gamefish.
Stephen Madden	MA	Private rec.	No harvest.	No harvest.	I urge ASMFC to make more of an effort toward accomplishing their rebuilding goals. I would also like to see no for-hire exemptions in the latest addendum. Rebuilding is a team effort. I would also urge the Striped Bass become a Sport only catch and release fishery.
Kelvis Perez	MA	Private rec.	No harvest.	No harvest.	Respect anglers who practice catch and release.
Dennis Foley	MA	Private rec.	No harvest. Period. Year round for all regions.	No harvest.	
Josh Atherton	MA	For-hire	No harvest. Should be implemented early summer	No harvest and should be implemented early summer	A no target closure would be catastrophic to many people as it would instantly close thousands of small family businesses and workers trying to provide for their families

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William Hoyerman	MA	Private rec.	No harvest. Your data is severely flawed most Commercial guys kill but never document tag their kills.	Stop all harvest	Please your data is severely flawed. In mass why do you think many commercial permits have 0 to small harvests. They do it to kill fish not to sell them for $. I ve been asked to fish with commercial guys that tell me “we can kill a few cows and you can take them home to friends and family- when asked if I dont do it somebody else will” all have been millionaires in $100,000 boats.
Nick Perfetuo	MA	Private rec.	No harvest. All year.	No harvest. All year.	As a rec guy who is out 5+ days a week from may thru August bass fishing. I see a lot. There are not a lot of small fish around. I caught 1 slot fish and 5 unders all season. There are a lot of big fish around yes, but that’s not the problem. Too many breeding fish are getting killed between commercial fishing and inexperienced rec fisherman. I believe a no harvest on rec and a limited number of commercial licenses along with a considerable commercial reduction.

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Jacob Jaskiel	MA	Private rec.	No harvest. I support the ability for people to fish recreationally for striped bass and responsibly practice catch and release. No targeting closures are unenforceable and the way things are headed, we will be back to a harvest moratorium coastwide anyways.	While I think it is harmful to target spawning aggregations of the largest bass when they are experiencing the stress of spawning, my reasoning above still applies. Catch and release fishing should be allowed but harvest of spawning fish in the Bay is absurd given the poor spawning conditions and waning older fish populations. Make no mistake, just because female SSB is modestly increasing as older fish grow, there's nothing to replace them	As a catch and release recreational surfcaster in Massachusetts, I am in support of a full harvest moratorium of striped bass given the repeated failures of spawning within the Chesapeake and the repeated failures of the board to act aggressively to protect the remaining fish. While commercial interests and "fill the cooler" charter captains complain about incremental, but ultimately ineffective reductions to their quotas and future potential harvest, what is not said aloud in these meetings is what their businesses will look like when there are no more bass to be reliably caught to sustain their livelihoods. Instead, we should be laser-focused on how to ensure as many opportunities for successful spawns for the remaining large fish leveraging what we can control, which comes down to harvest. Please act in accordance with your mandate, adopt the Precautionary Principle of conservation management, and protect what is left of the striped bass population before another collapse is imminent. Yours respectfully, Jacob Jaskiel

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Glenn	MA	Private rec.	No harvest. New England=Ct, RI, Ma, NH, Me, Vt. Mid-Atlantic= NY, NJ, Md, De, Va, NC. New England/Mid Atlantic= Close both in November.	No harvest in November.	N/A
Justin Sorbo	MA	Private rec.	No harvest. No targeting would be devastating for the recreational sector, including tackle shops and the for hire fleet. I release almost all of my fish since I love catching them so much, and want the next generation to be able to experience the joy of striped bass. The closure should be implemented during spawning season in the Chesapeake and Hudson, and for the summer in MA/NH/ME.	No harvest, during spawning season.	
Chase	MA	Private rec.	No harvest. We gotta be able to go bassn come on		

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Jayce	MA	Private rec.	No harvesting what so ever	Similar to salmon in the west where one year you can harvest and couple years to leave them alone	
Cole Gouveia	MA	Private rec.	No harvesting whole region		Commercial needs stricter regulations. Poachers need to be stopped
Matthew Donovan	MA	Private rec.	No harvesting, during the month(s) with the highest rate of catch and release mortality.	No targeting, during the month(s) with the highest rate of catch and release mortality.	

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Ryan McLaughlin	MA	Private rec.	No harvesting, no targeting would have a bad impact on tackle shops and industry. No harvesting from July 1st to OCT 1st, from mass down due to high water temps and increased release mortality,	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: No targeting from June-October. Water temps in the bay get too high and there is plenty of other species to fish for. GENERAL COMMENT: The party boats need to be checked more often for keeping overages of fish, and they may need to go to a day fishery such as with bluefin tuna. Party boats can only fish for striped bass on (tuesdays and saturdays) for example. A part boat with 20-50 anglers catching a limit twice a day every day is undeniably taking a toll. Commercial fishing for striped bass if it isn't already shall be hook and line and have reduced quotas. CONTINUED RIGHT	Taking the big breeders for a few bucks cash does more harm than good. This all coupled with a no targeting/no harvesting options for times of the year will help. Public education during all the winter fishing shows should be a thing. Positively impact the fishing community by putting on a "seminar" of the importance of striped bass and how to properly handle and release them should be a thing. Also not just for striped bass but the insane menhaden rape and pillage of the waters needs to be regulated. From killing off a food supply, destroying full schools of bull reds/tarpon/cobia and the bycatch of sharks and many other species including striped bass that end up dead, something needs to be done.
Ed O'Hear	MA	Private rec.	No moratorium	No moratorium	No moratorium

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Ken Webber	MA	Private rec.	No target closures are not enforceable. No harvest closures can be enforced and although I support this I would prefer to see a no harvest closure until the stock is rebuilt rather than trying to guess how long and when a closure should occur.	Stepped up enforcement is needed to ensure that no harvesting is occurring.	There has been far too much time wasted trying to study and model various degrees of management methods. I believe this is largely a delay tactic of commercial fishing interests. It is time to take drastic actions and issue a moratorium on harvesting striped bass! States should also take action to do so even without an official recommendation from the ASMFC.
Timothy Mugherini	MA	Private rec.	No target is not enforceable. RI should be in Northern region imo. Wave 4 for northern region	No targeting is not enforceable	Please be aggressive - we are out of time. Thank you for your consideration .
Alexander Monteiro	MA	For-hire	No Target will kill thousands of small businesses both on and off the water. This isn't even recalling all of the tourism our areas receive from the striped bsss fishery.		
Ryan Norton	MA	Private rec.	No target would not be enforceable and would devestate local economies	Na	No
Brendan Holden	MA	Private rec.	No Target/No Harvest will be the fastest way for recovery for our Striped Bass.	No Target/No Harvest will be the fastest way for recovery for our Striped Bass.	Shut Down Commercial Harvesting.

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John	MA	Private rec.	No targeting	No harvest	Close season to spawning bass
Jeff Campbell	MA	Private rec.	No targeting	No targeting during the sawn and months water is warmest	Something needs to be done and soon, there are no small young fish. It is a big part of the seasonal economy along the coast.
Owen Ward	MA	Private rec.	No targeting	No targeting	Save striped bass now before it’s too late!
Macgregor	MA	Private rec.	No targeting creates an excuse for people targeting them saying "im trying to catch bluefish"	No harvest	
John Hollenberg	MA	Private rec.	No targeting during the spring breeding season in the Chesapeake, Delaware, and Hudson Water Sheds Special enforcement measures need to be put in place	No targeting during the peak breeding season with special enforcement measures put in place	Special more stringent enforcement measures need to be put in place since 1990. I have been fishing 3 to 4 days a week may through October both recreationally and commercially. I have only once been checked by Massachusetts law-enforcement
Ken Luce	MA	Private rec.	No targeting for commercial period., Recreational no harvest coast wide.		In my lifetime of fishing, I have witnessed multiple biomass disappear. Martha Vinyard, Chatham, CCB. Boston will be next .

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Joseph	MA	Private rec.	No targeting.		Designate the Cape Cod Canal as a sanctuary. Ban fishing in the canal. I live near the canal and witness fishermen there daily from spring to fall doing catch and release for hours each day catching dozens if not hundreds every season. Striped bass are being slaughtered in the canal. It is a fish funnel. Like the old saying "shooting fish in a barrel" it`s ridiculous.
Matthew Elia	MA	Private rec.	NO to no-targeting, the concept is ridiculous and would not result in a reduction. The idea is literally insane, baseless and would have far-reaching economic impacts beyond the scope of the fishery.		It has become clearly evident that the board has no actual understanding of the state of the fishery and no good data upon which to effectively manage it. We've been reading addendums, attending meetings and commenting for years and yet the state of the fishery hasn't improved. Real action just gets kicked down the road. If no-targeting closures are implemented, it will be a travesty with unimaginable impacts. Make the striped bass a game fish, with no harvesting year round by any angler - problem solved.

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Lucas Hilker	MA	Private rec.	No-harvest closure for New England, which should also include NY, CT, and RI. Wave 4 closures for New England and Wave 6 closures for the mid-Atlantic.	No-harvesting closure with absolutely no for-hire exemptions.	This fishery needs a coast-wide, equitable no-harvest closure to have any chance at serious rebuilding.
Anthony Poirier	MA	Private rec.	No-harvest for all states all year until recovery is achieved	No harvest closure all year	
Kyle White	MA	Private rec.	No-harvest only. No targeting would be devastating to the fishing industries economy.		
Joseph Doucot	MA	Private rec.	No-harvest with strong enforcement. Required education programs for new anglers. With proper education, you can release a fish without killing it.	No-harvest with strong enforcement. Required education programs for new anglers. With proper education, you can release a fish without killing it.	
Keith	MA	Private rec.	No-harvest would provide the sport of striper fishing to continue to thrive thus also supporting the knowledge of a fragile fishery like the striped bass to be more obtainable and common knowledge to the public.	No-harvesting of a fragile fishery	Was a pleasure filling this form out! GOODLUCK!
Kyle Kennedy	MA	Private rec.	No-harvest, all waters, year round closure.	No-target, January 1st-May 31st	

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Kenneth Lee	MA	Private rec.	no-harvest, and implement harvest closures during the most impactful times	no-harvest, and implement harvest closures during the most impactful times	Make striped bass a game fish or implement a season wide tag system like deer hunting - no harvest until the stocks have rebounded and recruitment improves.
Josh Smith	MA	Private rec.	No-harvest, Massachusetts, year round	No-target year round	Better to act dramatically earlier than wait for things to get even worse
Scott Edwards	MA	For-hire	NO-HARVEST. I support ME-Ma and RI_NC. I would equally divided the 44 days no-harvest; 22 in the beginning of the season and 22 days at the end.	No- harvest.	I an totally against a No-target closure for the following reasons: - the economic consequents are too severe to the many stakeholders who depend on income form this public resource. (tackle shops, boat dealers, marinas, boat yards, for-hire captains and crew to name a few.....) - No-targeting is unenforceable and will lead to recreational fisherman to be dishonest about what they are targeting. - No-targeting will severely and disproportionally harm the for-hire business. - No-harvest will achieve similar goals without the onerous economic impacts and enforcement issues with the no-target closure.

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Bob McCarthy	MA	Private rec.	No-Harvest: All states	No-target: 4 weeks pre spawn, 2 weeks post spawn No harvest: 3-4 weeks post spawn	Second consecutive year of poor fishing. Very, very few 14-24” around. Going to need some real change or history will repeat itself as it has already begun.
Geoffrey Klane	MA	Shore-side support	No-target	No-target	As a small business owner who at one point relied on the business provided by the striper fishery, I am already working to move in-land as that side of the business has totally tanked. I have not been able to lead a shore-fly trip for bass for 5+ years, this year I sold ONE custom surf rod. I fear we may already be too late, lemmings falling to the canyon floor figuring out how not to jump. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE make Striped Bass a no-target species before they’re all gone.
John Moy	MA	Private rec.	NY, CT and RI should be part of the New England region. Support Wave 4 closures for New England and Wave 6 closures for Mid-Atlantic.		I know it's not on the table, but I think at this point that a coast-wide harvest moratorium is the only thing that might bring back the stripers.
Hunter Dodge	MA	Private rec.	Oppose all closures for recreational fisherman	Oppose all recreational closures	Oppose all recreational closures

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David Langan	MA	Private rec.	Option which achieves maximizing stock rebuilding	Best method for stock rebuilding assumed to be no targeting	I'm on cape cod. In shore numbers are dramatically down relative to say 20 years ago. Juvenile menhaden are also of lesser abundance. Menhaden mgmt should be factored in. Thank you

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Joseph	MA	Private rec.	Party boats as well as entire fleets of said boats that entails the entire eastern seaboard targeting striped bass. Should be limited to 4 trips weekly once per day total, during season based on migration pattern of the striped bass. For example from New York-Maine may through September these restrictions would be enforced.	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: Striped bass should have every opportunity to spawn safely without harm or pressure from any and all types of fishing. GENERAL COMMENT: We are at a remarkably dangerous and pivotal moment again in which drastic yet a balanced way to protect and ensure the survival of the striped bass. Someone or organization has to take the lead in this effort in which the entire recreational and commercial community will adhere to and support the tough decisions made. Fundamentally we are indirectly discussing freedom and liberty to fish. CONTINUED RIGHT	Not everyone is going to be happy for the next several years….. continue as we are and continue to harm the remaining stock as is….or protect what we love. Catch and release only for 3 full seasons all states. Lastly id like to address the bait issue. We are commercially decimating the manhadden population. That is a whole other issue. I suggest for recreational and small boat commercial no live bait fishing for striped bass. Artificial lures only single hook per lure. Circle hooks have mostly worked but they also gut hook fish inevitably and unintentionally killing the fish. Thank you for reading this. I do realize that my ideas are drastic And suggestions are drastic, but for someone who fishes 6 nights a week we are in trouble. The fishery is in trouble and we all need to play our part in saving what we love and need.

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Kurt Doherty	MA	Private rec.	Regional closure , Mid-Atlantic defined as CT-NC, closure no target, of wave 4,6. New England defined ME-MA, closure no target wave 4	CB3 no target closure.	Please consider my comments for conservation . I'm a recreational angler traveling from western MA to fish RI and north shore MA. This resource needs immediate conservation measures to retain hope of a future fishery.
Joshua Parker	MA	Private rec.	Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. NY and CT should also be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.		if we continue to experience recruitment failure, there will be no other option to conserve this fishery but a moratorium.
John Domings	MA	For-hire	Should still be aloud to fish catch and release.		
Riccardo Buzzanga	MA	For-hire	Status Quo	Status Quo	

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Brett Mills	MA	For-hire	Status quo however if any closure is needed it should be a no harvest		Status quo. Maintain course and reassess with 27 data. Establish uniform measurement. Commercial tagging at harvest point established in a few years when administration is possible. No target closures would cripple and bankrupt the charter/headboat economy along with the local bait and tackle shops.
Jay Ponte	MA	For-hire	Status quo. No closures of any kind	Status quo. No closures of any kind.	From the data we have, we dont have a SSB issue, we have a recruitment issue. We need to see why, including the conditions of Chesapeake Bay, pollution, predators and other factors. Shutting down or restricting harvest at the hope it will correct this issue will affect millions of families, businesses and industries when the data is no good. Need better data, need more data on why recruitment is so poor. With that said, my vote is status quo across the board.
Reed cressy	MA	Private rec.	Stop killing bass!!! For Christ sake! Stop letting commercial and rec guys kill our bass!!!!!!!		
Will Campbell	MA	Private rec.	Striped bass should receive gamefish status. No recreational or commercial harvest		

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Frank P Goncalves	MA	Private rec.	Strongly suggest AGAINST no targeting closures	Strongly suggest AGAINST no targeting closures	Strongly suggest AGAINST no targeting closures
Christopher Newhall	MA	Private rec.	Support no harvest closure coast wide during whatever season is necessary to achieve mortality reductions.	Support no harvest closure coast wide during whatever season is necessary to achieve mortality reductions.	
Peter Parady	MA	Private rec.	Support no-harvest closure only. No-target closure is not enforceable and would eliminate the fishery.	Support no-harvest closure only. No-target closure is not enforceable and would eliminate the fishery.	
bryce budrow	MA	Private rec.	support no-harvest year round for everyone (commercial, recreational and charter boats)	support no-harvest year round for everyone (commercial, recreational and charter boats)	support no-harvest year round for everyone (commercial, recreational and charter boats)
Harry Mink	MA	Private rec.	Take strong preventative actions now, especially since we face 6 straight years of failed spawning in the Chesapeake Bay	I support wave 4 closures for New England ans wave 6 for Mid-Atlantic regions	NY, CT and RI should all be included in the New England regions

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Graham Stephens	MA	Private rec.	The striped bass fishery in Massachusetts is a shadow of what it once was. I am a recreational fisherman, and I would support a complete no-harvest closure for striped bass. These fish are worth more alive then they are dead.	The Chesapeake Bay is the spawning ground for the majority of our striped bass in Massachusetts. These fish are already facing environmental pressure and need to be able to spawn in the Chesapeake without any commercial or recreational harvest.	The striped bass fishing in Massachusetts gets worse and worse every year. Yes, there are fish around at times, but the lack of smaller bass is apparent (and alarming). If we don't reduce harvest numbers across the Atlantic coast immediately, Massachusetts is going to lose a ton of revenue in terms of tackle shops, tourism, marinas, etc. I would personally like to see a moratorium on all harvest of striped bass, whether commercial or recreational, for at least 3 years, in order to have some hope that my children will be fishing for them when they are my age.
Johnny McIntyre	MA	Private rec.	The Striped Bass is worth infinitely more in the water, than on the fillet table. The fishery has been decimated, and these fish need a chance to recover. No harvest.	Fish get slaughtered in the Chesapeake like nowhere else on the coast. close the fishery, its the most important spawning ground.	
Liam O'Neill	MA	Private rec.	There should be a no-harvest this allows the charter, tackle, and media business to still be in business.		

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Max	MA	Private rec.	There should be no season closure. Further narrow the size requirements allowed to keep them. Or lessen it to 1 fish per week per person recreationally	If there spawning... no targeting. Otherwise it's perfectly okay and actually our right in moderation.	
Steven Robichaud	MA	Private rec.	Timing of no harvest closures should intersect with when there are enviromental factors that heavily weigh on release mortality. For example in ME-MA no harvest around wave 4 where high ocean tempuratures would increase mortaility rate of released basss when people are searching for a slot fish to harvest.	Timing of no harvest closures should intersect with when there are enviromental factors that heavily weigh on release mortality.	
Thomas C. Webster III	MA	Private rec.	Total moratorium	Total moratorium	Please save the striped bass fishery.

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John Van Norman	MA	Private rec.	Type of Closure Supported I support a no-harvest closure rather than a full no-targeting closure. Allowing catch-and-release during the closure ensures that anglers may continue to engage recreationally with the fishery, while protecting spawning stock biomass by prohibiting harvest. This balances conservation goals with continued access, education, and stakeholder engagement. Scientific literature shows that well-managed catch-and-release fisheries can maintain recreational value while reducing pressure on vulnerable populations. --- Ocean Region Split The proposed split of regions is appropriate and should remain as follows: New England Region: Maine through Connecticut Mid-Atlantic Region: New York through North Carolina CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: This delineation reflects existing council jurisdictions and recognizes ecological and fishery differences between the two areas. --- Timing of Closures New England (ME–CT): A closure should be implemented during July–August, when warm-water stress and increased effort elevate discard mortality risks. This period also aligns with peak coastal tourism, so prohibiting harvest while allowing catch-and-release reduces stock impacts while maintaining public access. Mid-Atlantic (NY–NC): A closure should be implemented during September–October, coinciding with key migration periods and when larger breeding-age red drum and striped bass are most vulnerable to harvest. A fall no-harvest closure provides strong stock protection during critical life-history phases. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED--- Summary Recommendation Closure type: No-harvest (catch-and-release permitted). Regional split: New England = ME–CT; Mid-Atlantic = NY–NC. Timing: July–August (New England), September–October (Mid-Atlantic). This approach provides biologically meaningful protection during periods of highest vulnerability while preserving angler participation and supporting the fishery's cultural and economic value.

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John Van Norman	MA	Private rec.	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: I support a no-harvest closure (catch-and-release allowed) rather than a full no-targeting closure. This option maintains the social and economic value of recreational angling in the Bay, while still protecting spawning and migratory stocks from direct harvest pressure. Scientific data from ASMFC stock assessments indicate that harvest reductions are the most impactful management lever, whereas well-regulated catch-and-release can allow continued access with minimal stock impacts, provided best practices (circle hooks, limited handling, rapid release) are emphasized. CONTINUED RIGHT	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT CONTINUED: Timing by Bay State Maryland: A no-harvest closure should be implemented during April–May, when spawning striped bass and other estuarine species are concentrated in upper Bay tributaries. Protecting these fish during peak spawning aggregation maximizes recruitment potential. Virginia: A no-harvest closure should be applied in June–July, when water temperatures rise significantly in the lower Bay. Elevated thermal stress magnifies discard mortality, so prohibiting harvest during this period helps reduce total removals while still allowing catch-and-release fishing under best practices. CONTINUED RIGHT	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT CONTINUED: --- Summary Recommendation Closure type: No-harvest (catch-and-release permitted). Maryland: April–May closure (spawning protection). Virginia: June–July closure (high-temperature discard mortality protection). This approach provides targeted protection when fish are most vulnerable in each Bay jurisdiction, balances conservation with access, and strengthens the long-term sustainability of Chesapeake Bay's recreational fishery.
Craig cantin	MA	Commer cial	Unenforceable	No target is unenforceable	Still nothing is mentioned about what the seal population is doing to bass numbers

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Jimmy Durney	MA	Private rec.	Whatever timeframe that is best for the striped bass stock	Whatever timeframe that is best for the striped bass stock	I would like to see striped bass eventually be only a game fish with no commercial harvest, or in the least, a very small harvest comparted to what it is now.
Travis ricciarelli	MA	Private rec.	With the steady decline and apparent lack of fish over the last few years becoming more scarce i support a strictly catch and release fishery in hopes that we can allow them to repopulate. I would also suggest if this does not work to then impose a no target/ moratorium.		These rules need to be implemented towards the commercial fishery. Its allowing them to harvest and kill the fish that rec anglers are trying to keep alive in turn diminishing the stocks and breeding fish soon enough striped bass fishing wont be a thing which my son looks forward to enjoying as well but I dont feel hopeful that he will be able to with how things are going
Michael berry	MA	Private rec.	You should not close anything plenty of fish out there	You shouldn’t close anything this plenty of fish out there	

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Ryan Schott	MA	Private rec.	You should really just look at which classes of fish have the best spawn, if there is a year with a ton of bass, change the slot to that. The slot should move every year based on the different fish classes. No harvest in MA 9/1-3/31 would be fine. No target will take MILLIONS AND MILLIONS from the industry and destroy so many lives in MA. Please don't do it.		
Gary Morrissette	MA	Private rec.	Zero harvest for the entire eastern seaboard. This is for recreational and commercial sectors.	No harvesting. For 5 years, period. Make Striped Bass a Gamefish after that.	
Ryan Pina	MA	Private rec.		No harvest closures in this area to protect the breeders during a crucial time period and maximize the chances of successful spawning.	
Connor Duffy	MA	Private rec.		No target	No harvest across the board. No target during spawning in most important spawn regions.

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Dennis Morris	MA	Private rec.		No targeting is too difficult to enforce	In recent years I have seen a marked drop off in the number of small fish(schoolies) being caught by me and fellow anglers. This is worrisome for the future. The only way to correct this is a moratorium along all coastal states by recreational, for hire and commercial taking. Although we cannot control environmental conditions at important breeding sites we can protect those fish that the fishery depends on.
Joseph allia	MA	Private rec.		No. Targeting	I think we need to shut down all harvesting of sn for three years
Jay Watson	MA	Private rec.			Closing of commercial fishing and an over 36" limit seemed to work before.
Michael Kelleher	MA	Private rec.			Commercial harvest should end. That was the only intervention which saved the snook and redfish populations in Florida. Bass over 35 inches are most efficient breeders, need to be preserved

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Alex Glenn	MA	Private rec.			Honestly all of these questions are asked in a pretty confusing way. After not understanding exactly what I was answering 5 questions in, I just came here. Stop harvesting striped bass for commercial and recreational fishing. Let the population come back. Close the fishery. Dont allow targeting. We van catch haddock or something else for a year or two
Matthew Fender	MA	Private rec.			I am a regular visitor from the UK and have been visiting Cape Cod on an almost annual basis since 2003 to fly fish for striped bass from the shore. We release all of our fish with very few exceptions. Obviously I would not visit if there was a no-targeting closure. Note that we typically visit end May through June which I am told by our hosts is particularly valuable "shoulder" period for them in terms of motel occupancy.
Theodore Nesius	MA	Private rec.			I am and have been extremely concerned with the future of striped bass. I have been quietly and patiently submitting public comments, and participating in person as well as zoom. I'm pleading with you to please do more.

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Allan Hughes	MA	Private rec.			I'll continue to visit USA MA / Cape Cod each May and June as long as I can fish from the shore (fly fish). Happy with no harvest (C&R) and equal % share of reduction between rec and commercial.
Chris Rabias	MA	Private rec.			Let the stocks recover, no harvest for recreational no harvest for commercial
Jeremy Sittnick	MA	Private rec.			Let's get this species to Gamefish status ASAP.
Adam stankiewicz	MA	Private rec.			Limit commercial more closer to 50%
Chuck Dumas	MA	Private rec.			Make this a game fish only no taking of fish at all, only circle hooks
William Crotty	MA	Private rec.			No-targeting closures are unenforceable and should be avoided at all cost. I fully support any and all no-harvest closures, including a moratorium on harvest.
Bruce Spiegelman	MA	Private rec.			Please close striped bass fishing commercially. They kill many more fish than reported to get their commercial catch, numbers and sizes!

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Andrew	MA	Private rec.			Please stop harvesting stripped bass from their spawning grounds. We need to look into why the stripped bass are not spawning.
Robert Parker	MA	Private rec.			Private fishing should have a tag for one fish larger than 32 inches !!
Paul Aquipel	MA	Private rec.			Recreational anglers will bring in more money for the state while protecting these amazing fish. I want my grand kids to have stripers around to fish for.
Alan Montello	MA	Private rec.			STOP COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF STRIPED BASS EVERYWHERE!!! Killing the prime breeding stock will guarantee no dominate year classes in the future!! The biomass of mature females is too low… Lastly, 90% of the “commercial “ striped bass fishermen are NOT commercial fishermen, weekends warriors at best
Liam McDonald	MA	Private rec.			Thanks for doing this!

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John rogers	MA	Private rec.			The state of the fisheries requires catch and release. Including fishing for hire. Closure would destroy communities and careers. Let's rebuild this stock back to the way it used to be! And all work together for it!
Thomas J Borsari	MA	Private rec.			With the way the laws are now I believe the stripper morality rate is vary high due to the size and measurement regulations! A one and done regulation would be a better solution!
Robert Moss	MA	Commer cial			You have crucified the commercial industry you have cut us "every year looking at your chart. You've only made your target four times at all last 40 years. The graph show that there is improvement every year if we do nothing the target will be reached by 2032 I believe Leave it alone. Let nature do its course. Thanks for your time.
Nick Eliopoulos	MA / NH / ME	Private rec.			I fish recreationally but please for the love of god close or limit the commercial season and for a spike in populations

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Liam Brouillette	MA / NY	Private rec.	No targeting of stripe bass allowed	No targeting	The striped bass population must be protected especially in the vulnerable spawning areas like the Chesapeake bay. Forage species such as menhaden must also be protected above their current level. The reduction fishing for omega three must be limited and held to their quotas.
Joe Gaetani	MA / VT	Private rec.	The only effective and enforceable way to reduce harvest is through no-harvest closures. By contrast, a no-target rule is impossible to enforce, has little proven impact, and unfairly harms recreational anglers and fishing businesses. Closures deliver clear, measurable results, while no-targeting fails to achieve conservation goals and instead causes unnecessary damage to both the fishing community and the industry. No harvest closures deliver clear measurable results		No-targeting is a false solution—it will not deliver the conservation outcomes intended and will only impose needless harm on anglers and the industry. Alternatively, no harvest closures deliver clear measurable results

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Grant DePhillips	MD	Private rec.	All states. Moratorium all year.	Moratorium. All year.	It's time to make a real difference and impact. It's a shame how long these conversations continue with very little results to show for it. The commercial and recreational segments should embrace change and understand that growth and adaptation will help long term.
Greg Ferenschak	MD	Private rec.	Catch and release allowed	Non Harvest April and May and late July early August, catch and release allowed	
Michael Griffiths	MD	Private rec.	Catch and release only	Catch and release only	
Brandon Davis	MD	Private rec.	Catch and release should be allowed. I support no harvest closures	Catch and release should be allowed. I support no harvest closures In the summer	None
David Stewart	MD	Private rec.	Catch and release.	I support catch and release, I believe the closure should be during the July and August months.	
Capt. Richard Phippin	MD	For-hire	Close during the hottest month of the year	No harvest January thru April. Move our current closure for targeting to August when the water and air temps are the highest and survival is low.	Close all harvest to spawning sized fish for the whole coast . A dead fish can't help rebuild the stock. Stop allowing no target closures during cold weather to meet the reductions. Cold weather catch and release doesn't kill fish.

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Jack Bauer	MD	Private rec.	Closures to align with what is noted in option B of question 7.	Closures to align with what is noted in option B of question 7.	
Nate Choinski	MD	Private rec.	During the spring run from the Chesapeake, around April.	I support no harvesting.	Let us fish for the striped bass.

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Timothy Elliott	MD	Private rec. / For-hire	For ocean recreational season closures, I support no-harvest closures. I also support having the ocean region split into New England and Mid-Atlantic regions. As for when the no-harvest closures should be implemented, I think it should be when the large migratory fish are making their way to the spawning grounds.	I support no-harvest closures for the Chesapeake Bay recreational season closures. I agree with shifting the summer closure from the last two weeks of July (16 days) to August (31 days). Water temperatures are high during that timeframe and low oxygen tends to be prevalent. Given the small slot and creel, striped bass are more prone to catch-and-release mortality during that time. I would love to see the month of April open to catch-and-release but remain closed to harvest. Despite the month of April remaining closed for the past two years, we have had six consecutive years of poor striped bass spawning success. Therefore, I believe that catch-and-release during colder months has very little effect on the success of spawning striped bass.	The Law Enforcement Committee at ASMFC has gone on record multiple times stating that no-target closures are unenforceable. The current, no-target closure of April in the State of Maryland has not shown no benefit spawning success in a measurable way. The new baseline of Option B for Section 3.3 would create a simpler, more enforceable season for recreational anglers, promote access to the striped bass fishery, support the local economy and local businesses, and safeguard the striped bass population. It is also important to note that the current safeguards will remain in effect; the historical spawning grounds of the rivers and tributaries, in the Chesapeake Bay, will remain closed to targeting as they have for the past 40 or so years. And the existing restrictions that limit the number of rods, hook configurations, and live bait restrictions that are in place, will remain in place during the Spring.

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Kevin Wright	MD	Private rec.	I believe in no targeting during warm water conditions, regardless of the state.	I support no-targeting closures during the warmest months (mid-summer) when release mortality is highest, combined with full closures of active spawning areas in spring to protect fish reproduction. Cold-water months should remain open for catch-and-release, as survival rates are significantly higher then. During open periods, only artificial lures with barbless single hooks should be allowed to reduce handling stress and mortality.	I believe striped bass are in serious trouble and need bold, conservation-first measures. Management should not discourage responsible catch-and-release in favor of harvest opportunities. I also encourage the adoption of trophy fish protections similar to Florida's tarpon and goliath grouper rules, making it illegal to remove large breeder striped bass from the water. These fish are essential for stock rebuilding. By focusing on seasonal closures, safe handling, and breeder protections, we can give the species the best chance to recover by 2029 and beyond.
Mike Pepin	MD	Private rec.	I fish solely in the Maryland region of the Chesapeake and have no comment regarding the ocean closure	I support no-targeting in the hot summer months. In the cooler months when mortality rates are lower, I support no-harvest fishing.	

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Evan Dintaman	MD	Private rec.	I only support the use of no-harvest closures. No-targeting should NOT be considered. I support ME-RI and CT-NC. No-Harvest closures should occur during the wave(s) that have the highest effort.	I only support no-harvest closures. No-targeting closures should NOT be considered. Harvest closures should occur during the wave(s) that have the highest effort.	The maximum reduction included in the addendum (12%) should be selected for BOTH the recreational and commercial sectors. The ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board continues to fail this species. The public has lost trust in the board. While there are certain members of the board who do act in the best interest of the species, largely the board continues to serve special interests, including the commercial sector. The species has suffered as a result of the board's failures.
Kurt Tribble	MD	Private rec.	I support a no targeting closure.Catch and release kills fish.	I support closing the month of August for both harvest and targeting.I also support a no targeting/harvest for the months of March and April.	At this point I also support a complete closure similar to 1985.If you want to solve the problem completely.Shut down the purse seine fishery for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay.

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J.T. BRASE	MD	Private rec.	I support NO HARVEST closures	I support NO HARVEST closures.	The commerical industry and large capacity charter boat industry has caused the most damage to the population within our Chesapeake Bay fishing community. Large capacity charter boats use methods have remained the same for decades, and their inability to adapt to a profitable catch and release style of fishing is their own demise. Commercial fishing boats have never been truthful with their quotas. The system by which they are regulated is corrupt and their over harvesting directly correlates to the decline in young of the year fish and the overall population. Recreational anglers and light tackle charters should not be punished for their sins.

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Ross Clubb	MD	Private rec.	I support no-harvest over no-targeting as that allows angles to still continue fishing and supporting local businesses. I believe a no-target closure would result in many less trips (not changed to target other species) and much worse economic repercussions. I support closures that implement a longer closure during the slower season as there are typically other species to target during that time.	I support no-harvest over no-targeting as that allows angles to still continue fishing and supporting local businesses. I believe a no-target closure would result in many less trips (not changed to target other species) and much worse economic repercussions. I support closures that implement a longer closure during the slower season as there are typically other species to target during that time.	
Jason Anderson	MD	Private rec.	I think that when the striped bass are traveling in the ocean, they are not spawning and typically the water temps are much cooler and stable. Seems much safer to catch and release in the ocean year round. But we should not need or be allowed to harvest fish year round, there needs to be periods of time where they get a break	I think that the only time catch and release should not be allowed in the bay is August. The water just gets too warm and catch and release could be killing fish. With that said catch and release is still a huge industry money maker for everyone. If the season is completely shut down and the fish can't be targeted at all, that would really hurt a ton of businesses.	

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Kole haas	MD	For-hire / Comm.	If you can't keep them you should not be catching them catch and release is not good at all	If you can't keep them you should not be catching them catch and release is not good at all	
justin mcgovern	MD	Private rec.	its bad	stil bad	
Joe Rivenburg	MD	Private rec.	MORATORIUM EVERYWHERE FOR EVERYONE (COMMERCIAL & RECREATIONAL). STOP FOOLING AROUND, IT IS PROVEN TO WORK.	MORATORIUM EVERYWHERE FOR EVERYONE (COMMERCIAL & RECREATIONAL). STOP FOOLING AROUND, IT IS PROVEN TO WORK.	MORATORIUM EVERYWHERE FOR EVERYONE (COMMERCIAL & RECREATIONAL). STOP FOOLING AROUND, IT IS PROVEN TO WORK.
Ryan Crist	MD	Private rec.	NA	No harvest through winter/spring and no target through July/August	
Frank Lanigan	MD	Private rec.	No harvest	Depends on time of year/water temp, colder water months, no harvest. Summer closures, no targeting.	
Trevor Lewis	MD	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	No fishery on the planet has been destroyed by catch and release.

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Alan Battista	MD	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest. Closures in the summer when water temps are high.	
Andrew Trostle	MD	Private rec.	No harvest closures. During the hottest months of the summer during which mortality is the highest (July and August).	No harvest closures. During the hottest months of the summer during which mortality is the highest (July and August).	I would like to see equal reductions for both the commercial and recreational sectors. Increasing conservation and slot limits on recreational anglers to allow for the rebuilding of the stock is completely negated when those same fish are allowed to be commercially harvested. Additionally, it's disturbing to see the extremely low and underreported dead discards and size of fish being harvested that are currently being reported by the Maryland commercial sector. This needs to be examined further and addressed based on those findings. This resource is something all of us cherish and need to find common ground to restore so that our kids and future grandchildren can enjoy the way we once did.
Austin Purnell	MD	Private rec.	No harvest on the entire east coast all year long. Make it a game fish for a few years.	No harvest all year long everywhere.	

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Dylan McGovern	MD	Private rec.	No harvest seasons allow anglers to still engage in there pastime without causing damage to the fishery. Additionally local business can still be supported by the target of striped bass without the harvest aspect.	Fishing for Striped bass are essential to local culture and business. Keeping striped bass to eat is not essential. Closing the season except for during the hottest parts of the year to prevent poor release rate is barring a local tradition with minimal impact on the fishery stock from being continued.	As someone who has fished for striped bass my whole life on the Chesapeake bay. I have noticed a larger population of anglers who enjoy the sport of catch and release. These anglers spend more money on local businesses and as a result cause more revenue for the area than any other form of fishing. I also have noticed a decline in stripers every single spring. It is maddening to watch 15 person charter boats kill 30 20” fish that are wasted by there clients and then be told by the ASFMC that the catch and release anglers are the issue, and have the season closed. Please do not shut down target, but please more closely regulate harvest.
David C Teetor	MD	Private rec.	No harvest, July and August closure	No harvest, closure during July and August	Don't punish the recreational angler when the commercial fisherman are the reason for the declining numbers

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Jayce Yale	MD	Private rec.	No harvest, mid Atlantic, spring	No harvest, no harvest trophy season, close during peak summer temps	I support no harvest seasons vs no target because it is difficult to define targeting when lures and bait will attract many different species of fish and accidental catches will happen. I support no harvest vs no targeting so that Rec and charter fishermen can enjoy the sport of fishing but still reduce harvest. As both use traditional fishing methods, I think charter and Rec anglers should play by the same rules. Charters take many more trips than rec anglers and will harvest more fish by default so they should not be able to harvest more fish per angler than a rec angler. I support a no harvest trophy season in the Chesapeake bay so the migratory breeders are protected and can increase spawning success.
Patrick Sutch	MD	Private rec.	No harvest. Be able to target		
Capt Bradley Foxwell	MD	For-hire	No Harvest. In the history of everything, Catch & Release Fishing has NEVER decimated a species.	No Harvest. In the history of everything, Catch & Release Fishing has NEVER decimated a species.	CATCH & RELEASE Fishing is NOT THE PROBLEM.

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James clough	MD	For-hire	No harvest... No targeting has O effect on these fish	I would support no harvest... Catch and release has never destroyed a fishery	No one wants to address the white elephant in the room... Commercial fishing and over harvest of striped bass is destroying our Chesapeake Bay
Jackson Talbott	MD	For-hire	No target	During August I think there should be a no target closure for striped bass when the water temps are high and the rate of survival is lower when fish are release.	
Spencer Hopkins	MD	Private rec.	No Target	No targeting, late July	

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Jason Seman	MD	For-hire	OCEAN COMMENTS: No Targeting CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENTS: No Targeting GENERAL COMMENTS: On behalf of the Maryland Fishing and Hunting, we are in Opposition to Draft Addendum III to Amendment VII of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass and Support Status Quo. We are also in Opposition to the change in Maryland's Seasonal Baseline and support maintaining Maryland's baseline reverting back to the 2022 Recreational Season and Support Status Quo. Opposition to Draft Addendum III to Amendment VII of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass and Support Status Quo: CONTINUED RIGHT	The Charter Boat Captains, Watermen, and Recreational Fishermen of Maryland have suffered from the most recent Fishery Management decisions. The Draft Addendum proposes an additional 12% reduction to Commercial and Recreational Harvest. This objective is to solely reproduce the Striped Bass Spawning Stock to record numbers by 2029. The spawning stock is projected to be rebuilt in a short duration thereafter and it still has a thirty percent chance of being rebuilt based on the current data collected. This is a deadline that is merely a line in the sand, that will create an insufferable burden to the Atlantic Coasts Fishing Community. CONTINUED RIGHT	Since the adoption of the last Addendum, Fifty Four Charter Boats have been listed or sold and Five Tackle Stores have closed in the State of Maryland due to economic hardships. For perspective, last season the Maryland Charter Boats harvested 34,985 Striped Bass (2024), down from 100,997 the prior year (2023). As of September 15, 2025 from Public Information Request the Charter Boats of Maryland had harvested via the FACTS Reporting System 26,566 Striped Bass. The number of anglers on Maryland Charter Boats also declined from 78,839 (2023) to 50,955 (2024) by the end of 2024. Year to date (9/15/2025) in 2025 the reporting Charter Fleet has only hosted 35,117 passengers in Maryland. Opposition to the change in Maryland's Seasonal Baseline and support maintaining Maryland's baseline reverting back to the 2022 Recreational Season and Support Status Quo: CONTINUED NEXT ROW

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Jason Seman	MD	For-hire	Representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources continue to be a conduit for special interest and continue to push the restructuring of Maryland's Striped Bass Fishing Season. Special interests including the Maryland Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation desire to take access of the Striped Bass Fishery away from Maryland Anglers during the Summer months which is unnecessary. It is statistically supported through MRIP and the FACTS Reporting System that the Summer Months are when fishing effort on Maryland waters are at its peak. CONTINUED RIGHT	Sacrificing the opportunity for anglers to harvest the State Fish of Maryland during Summer months to merely reopen the April Catch and Release Fishery at a cost to the Spawning Stock is irresponsible and requires additional reductions to do so. The caveat that the season would begin May 1-15 by adding the slot limit sized fish (19-24") is an unnecessary cost to Maryland anglers when the Coastal Slot limit (28-31") can be re instituted by maintaining the 2022 baseline by fishing on a post spawn biomass that is currently accessed by the majority of the Atlantic Coast and Commercial Fishery of Maryland. There is no justification for the restructuring of Maryland Season other than to negatively affect the Fishing Community in Maryland and the Atlantic Striped Bass Spawning Stock. CONTINUED RIGHT	Supporting Status Quo and maintaining the 2022 Seasonal Baseline will add two weeks of access to the fishery. Starting the season May 1st that was taken from the Fishermen of Maryland in 2023 will also help keep Maryland businesses open when Fishing effort is statistically supported through MRIP and the FACTS Electronic Reporting System during the months of July and August. Supporting the 2022 Baseline will provide more access without cost to the Fishing Community of Maryland. It should be recognized that the two weeks of the 2022 baseline option (May 1- 15) was intentionally left out of the graphical presentation at the ASMFC's Public Comment hearings and was only displayed in text on the back of the Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III: Excerpt of Options (see page 2). CONTINUED NEXT ROW

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Jason Seman	MD	For-hire	During the months of March and April the Striped Bass Spawning stock are at their most pivotal point of reproduction. The thought of creating additional fishing mortality to the biomass is a concept that is inappropriate at this time. Over the past several years, catch and release has been prohibited during the month of April to protect the Atlantic Spawning Stock, this is the time when the Female Striped Bass are most fecund. They are of the utmost importance for the future of our fishery and promoting this activity during this time period has numerous consequences. To further support our opposition to Addendum III, the majority of the audience that attended the past two Maryland ASMFC Public Comment Meetings voices were heard. CONTINUED RIGHT	At the first meeting 187 attendees unanimously voted in Opposition to the Addendum and the baseline change suggested by the State of Maryland and the majority did as well at the second meeting. The Fishermen of Maryland have been devastated by the Fishery Management Decisions and cannot endure further reductions. Depriving families, school children, and all walks of life, the opportunity to experience the State Fish of Maryland in the Summer Months would be tragic. Especially to the boating industry, restaurants, hotels, boat sales, state fishing licenses, and other related businesses. CONTINUED RIGHT	There is also no statistical information that supports there will be an economic increase and/or an economic impact study that has been conducted pertaining to the restructuring of Maryland's Fishing effort from the months of July & August to April and partially May. We cannot recommend business owners change their business models dramatically or choose an option that is statistically unproven. From January 2024- April 2024 & January 2025- March 2025 only 47 For Hire trips were documented through the FACTS Reporting system (PIA Request 040725). It's impossible to justify such a change in policy or business operations based on this alone. Recruitment of the Striped Bass Spawning Stock Biomass and Accessibility to one of the Atlantic's greatest resources is of the utmost importance. It is the greatest concern to the Charter Boat Captains and Watermen of the Chesapeake Bay. We appreciate your support and willingness to help the Fishing Community of Maryland and the Atlantic.

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Justina Seman	MD	Private rec.	No Targeting	No Targeting	We support the 2022 Baseline for the State of Maryland.
Andrew Aus	MD	For-hire	No targeting	No targeting during the winter and spring fishery as it negatively affects the fish's ability to spawn successfully	I do not support addendum III, unnecessary reductions are not needed as they would limit access to the fishery, changing season dates in states (such as Maryland) create confusion for the general public and would provide unnecessary stress on the female spawning stock weeks or even days before they spawn. It also limits access to the fishery and creates negative economic impact on multiple small businesses in the states from hotels, tackle shops, local restaurants and guides. The summer is when people like to get outdoors and want to be able to go fishing and enjoy the resource. We do not need summer closures. I do not support this addendum
Gregory Doda	MD	Private rec.	NO TARGETING	No Targeting Mar 1-Aug 15	This fishery is in dire straits, lowest numbers ive ever seen in 30 years of fishing the chesapeake
Christopher Lednum	MD	Commer cial	No targeting	No targeting	quit taking and taking from us enough is enough

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Adam Greenberg	MD	Private rec.	No targeting closure while the fish are spawning.	No targeting when the fish are spawning and when mortality rates are predicted to by highest	
Donald cater	MD	Private rec.	No targeting or harvesting in either state	I whould like to see no targeting bass and no hook and liners for stripers at all	Cut back on charters boat on how many strippers they can keep per day they make 2 to 3 trips a day that's a lot of rock fish they take out to compare us private boaters
Robert Jeter	MD	Private rec.	No targeting. It makes no sense, fish will die if they are being targeted. Most recreational anglers do not handle fish correctly to reduce mortality.	See above. Recreational anglers in the Chesapeake are even worse.	There should be a striped bass moratorium, full stop. I hope I'm not answering this survey in a few years saying we told you so. End this nonsense and rebuild the fishery.
David Engelhardt	MD	Private rec.	No-harvest	No-harvest	No harvest is the way to go. No targeting is a mess. I feel like I can't fish for shad during the run in Maryland or else I'll be ticketed by DNR because there's too much grey area.

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Vincent Grey	MD	Private rec.	No-harvest and restricted to artificial lures and flies, similar to catch and return trout areas.	No harvest. There is rarely studies for catch and return that specify lures and flies, or even barbless hooks. They are lumped in with people live lining or fishing other bait. With catch and return and artificial lures, when the water is cold, you would be hard to convince me that fish are significantly impacted.	
Dan Sanstrom	MD	Private rec.	No-harvest closure-As migratory fish make the turn into the Chesapeake Bay. Jan-March.	No-targeting. From May 1- September 1.	
Sandy Shute	MD	Private rec.	No-harvest is more enforceable. All sectors should have the same regulations. Shore fishermen, private boats, and people fishing from charters should all have the same regulations	No havest is more enforceable and effective. Access to fishing should not be denied.	
Matt Brown	MD	Private rec.	No-Harvest Mid Atlantic	No-Harvest	

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Silas Finnegan	MD	Private rec.	No-harvesting closures for the mid-Atlantic April-June and November-February and for New England May-July and September-November	No harvest for both Maryland and Virginia: All of May and no Targeting July 20-August 30th.	We need to drastically reduce harvesting everywhere and in all categories while maintaining access to catch and release when possible.
Rob Hardy	MD	Shore-side support	Not educated enough to comment	No harvest in August for all Bay states	Considering the lack of supporting science or enforceability as well as impact to Recreational Fishery related businesses, I do not support "no target" closures.
Chris Constantine	MD	Private rec.	Shut it all down. No targeting in the ocean. It is to hard to police and manage	No harvest in the spring. No target in the summer.	This is all good. However it will do nothing until omega protein harvests of menhaden are greatly reduced.
Noah Farmer	MD	Private rec.	Strongly Oppose to no target closures they are unenforceable. Not enough management.		

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Mike Zsak	MD	Private rec.		(1) I DO NOT support changing no-targeting to catch and release during the month of April. Given there is some level of mortality during catch and release, at whatever level, it makes no sense to allow the increase in mortality level from zero, due to no-targeting, to some level that data indicates kill fish. (2) I DO NOT support changing May 1-15 from no-targeting to allowing harvest. The objective should be to increase the population. Allowing harvesting May 1-15 will not increase the population, it will DECREASE the population! CONTINUED RIGHT	(3) I support shifting the summer no-targeting closure from July to August but DO NOT support extending the closure from 16 days to 31 days. Due to water temperature levels any accidental catch and release mortality levels in August should be higher than in July, so it make sense to move the summer no-targeting closure to August. Moving the no-targeting to August without extending the closure will help increase the population as a first step. (4) I DO NOT support closing the harvest fishery five days earlier in December. The closure date has already been moved up in the past and since pressure on the fishery is already reduced due to unpredictable or unacceptable weather conditions in December, moving the closure date up will not have a significant impact on the fishery.
Jeremiah Stellfox	MD	Private rec.		Allow catch and release all winter, during summer closure no targeting. And enforcer this more.	Bigger closure during warm water is great even for a lure manufacturer like myself. The winter closure is not doing anything.

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Brian Smack	MD	Private rec.		Allow Catch and Release through April 30. Have a limited catch and keep season from May 1-June 30 and then a complete shutdown until Sept 15	
drew Stroter	MD	Private rec.		catch and release fishing does not and will not cause overfishing	
Tommy hallock	MD	For-hire		Close any striped bass targeting or harvest before May 16th	
Steven Kroll	MD	Private rec.		Closure should be when the fish are 1) most vulnerable and 2) in prime spawning.	This is an extremely important topic for the Bay. As one of several anglers that frequently enjoy fishing for all types of species, but especially Striped Bass this season has been notably disappointing and quite disheartening. It seems the population is in collapse. We have not caught any Striped Bass in the Patuxent River and its tributaries despite many attempts. Please help the Striped Bass population!
Brett Schrader	MD	Private rec.		Closures during the hottest days of the year make the most sense, fish are very strong and healthy during the colder months and thrive well during catch and release seasons.	

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Christmas Diehl	MD	Private rec.		I am opposed to targeting pre spawn striped bass for catch and release.	
Thomas Adrian, MD	MD	Private rec.		I strongly support the no-harvest closure of the chesapeake bay from mid-december through the end of april, with slot limits for harvest season starting in May. This is due to a combination of extremely low catch and release mortality during the cold winter months as well as highly limited available fishing days during this period. The data is rather simple, the interactions of anglers from January -May 1 with spawning stock female striped bass is EXTREMELY small relative to the entire biomass. I strongly support a no-target closure in the summer months when both catch and release as well as catch and harvest result in a high rate of fish mortality (100% of harvested slot fish and and estimated 47% of hooked and released over/under slot fish). CONTINUED RIGHT	I support continuing the restrictions on rod numbers, barbed hooks, and stinger hooks during the months of January-May that currently exist. In short, Catch and Release fishing during the winter and spring months have a negligible impact on the total striped bass biomass and especially the SSB, while allowing for access to the fishery in a reasonable manner. Continuing to allow for relatively unfettered access to the biomass in the summer months, during periods where live bait is used, with a narrow slot resulting in significant mortality of caught and released out of slot fish is counterproductive to rebuilding and adding to the SSB and overall striped bass population in the Chesapeake Bay and Coastwide.

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John Edwards	MD	Private rec.		I support no harvest no target is stupid	
Nicholas Smith	MD	Private rec.		I support no target during August to hopefully help with dead discards during the warmest water temperature month of the year.	
Ty Davidson	MD	For-hire		I support no targeting in April.	
JD Haschert	MD	Private rec.		I support Section 3.1 Option B, no targeting during August	
Camron Priest	MD	Private rec.		I support year round no harvest for recreational season in the Chesapeake bay, catch and release fishing only.	
Michael Castle	MD	Private rec.		I would support a no harvesting closure for the month of august in Maryland and Virginia	I think that striped bass needs to be accessible to people because it is a public resource so no targeting closures should be out of the picture and instead we should have no harvesting closures and catch and release mortality is very low and allows people to enjoy the fishery and support business without damaging the population of striped bass.

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Brad Hendrickson	MD	Private rec.		Im terrified to fish during the no target season. People are being fined while trying to catch, drum, trout and even smallmouth.	No targeting rule is unfair and abused by the DNR. Stop it now.
Brian Hardman	MD	For-hire		Jan1- May1 to preotect female spawning stock	MD asking to open catch and release in April when 80 % of female rockfish spawn is ridiculous and a step backwards

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Jerry Dewese	MD	Private rec.		CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: July and August GENERAL COMMENT: I'm an avid fisherman in the Chesapeake. I donate regularly to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the CCA of Maryland. The last 2-3 years I know first hand that Striped Bass is in big trouble. There are very few juvenile fish in the upper bay. I travel yesterday over 70 miles in search of Striped Bass from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge north to Tolechester. All the lumps and reefs where fish should be this time of year, was absent of fish! CONTINUED RIGHT	Only fish that could be found were at the Bay Bridge. All of the state agencies worry more about the economics than the natural resource. We need to stop commercial fisheries for harvesting mature breeding stripped bass. Also In the Chesapeake stop summer time fishing(July & August)when water temperature is high. Require single barbless hooks when fishing the catch and release season, stop slot regulations. Maybe look at the mortality rate fishing with live bait (ells) Also limit Menhaden fisheries, stop spotter planes, and include drones from being involved in the harvesting Make and enforce stiffer penalties and fines on violators. I'm just a 73 year old fisherman who trying to saved Striped Bass for our next generation. Just remember wisdom comes with age. Respectfully Jerry Dewese
Ronald Flohr	MD	Private rec.		March through May no target. Continues closure durning the late July early August timeframe 2-3 weeks	

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Michael Eversmier	MD	Private rec.		MD No targeting during spawning season and from mid July to end of August. Water is too warm during this period for safe release of fish. I stop targeting stripers before water temps reach 80 degrees in early July and start again when temps drop below 80 degrees in early September. I have also switched to all single hooks on lures. Treble hooks cause more injuries and longer release times. Not a hard thing to do to ensure a healthier fishery.	Stop allowing commercial export of our striped bass out of Maryland so residents can enjoy our state fish! Make it so people need to travel to our state to enjoy our fish and crabs. Plus more education for fisher about catch and release fish safety.
Richard Forfa DVM	MD	Private rec.		No harvest allow catch and release and closed season during parts of July and August when water very warm	Do what is deemed best for all no favoritism to the commercials all accept rules equally
Michael DiRusso	MD	Private rec.		No harvest April 1-june 1.	

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Ben Abell	MD	Private rec.		No harvest closure for 31 days 7/1- 7/31 in MD for both charters and recreational	Make the bag limit in MD the same for charters as for recreational or increase the recreational to 2 per angler and reduce the charter to 1 per angler. Charters are killing up to 60 fish per day per boat and recreationals may keep 5-6.. do the math
Kyle Richards	MD	Private rec.		No harvest closures, catch and release should be fine unless water temps are above 90 degrees i can understand a August closure.	
Pete Jayne	MD	Private rec.		No harvest during August.	
Mason Hallock	MD	For-hire		No harvest or targeting before May 16th and close off days in November and December	
Jason Remines	MD	Private rec.		No harvest, entire months of July and August	
Thad Palmer	MD	Private rec.		No Target	Moratorium ASAP

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Josh Pasquariello	MD	For-hire		No target in August in Maryland. Catch and release Jan 1-Apr 30	
Charles Price	MD	For-hire		no targeting	We gave up thropy season to leave the fish to spawn and no stress to them
Ashton Hickman	MD	Private rec.		No targeting Closure March and April to protect the female spawning fish when they are about to spawn.	
Robert Shiflet	MD	Private rec.		No targeting for spring spawning	
Matt Bonzella	MD	Private rec.		No targeting in July and August	
Dylan Taillie	MD	Private rec.		No targetng, close all summer	
Carlyle E. Brown Jr.	MD	For-hire		no-targeting , CB2	The lower size limit should be reduced to 18'' in order to save more of the larger fish. The upper spot limit should be eliminated as too many injured fish are being thrown back.

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Herman Haddaway	MD	For-hire		No-Targeting Closures July 16-31	I am 100 percent against Addendum III ! Catch and release of our breeding fish would defeat the whole proposal of rebuilding the stock. Every fish caught would destroy thousands of potential young (losing eggs from stress of being caught). Plus the potential mortality rate of the fish your claiming to protect !!
Gilbert Dean	MD	Private rec.		No-targeting Jan 1 - May 15 No targeting July 15 - August 31	Any and all decisions should be based of the sustainably of the resource. No decisions should be influenced by politics and money.
David Bell	MD	For-hire		Protect the breeding female. No CR Mar and Apr	
Dan Tanna	MD	Private rec.		Seasons that allow harvesting. Closed seasons where C&R is NOT allowed and harvesting is NOT allowed. NO C&R January-May.	Do what is best for the fish. Don't let Maryland succumb to the pressures of CCA. Protect the spring spawning stock fish from January thru May.
Jereme Kolstrom	MD	Commercial		Target rockfish June 1st.	

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Zach Roeder	MD	Private rec.		There is no need for a closure to the season. We should be able to target and release these beautiful fish as no fishery has ever been decimated by catch and release.	
Charles R. Manley	MD	For-hire		We have adapted to the striped bass season being totally closed through May 15th. It must be continued as this is the best way to protect spawning fish.	Please put more representatives on the ASMFC who actually make their living from the water. I attended one of the hearings and Emilie Frank's responses were scripted and did not answer questions. Which one of you would like to have some non-elected bureaucratic commission cut your income by 50% over a few years? This is what the ASMFC has done to the for hire industry and the commercial waterman. Maryland declared the commercial waterman and endangered species several years ago, your suggestions will only make them become extinct! Or is that the goal?

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Captain Drew Payne	MD	For-hire	GENERAL COMMENT: 1) At what point do you stop annual reductions and wait to see the results from the last reduction? This annual reduction has to stop. 2) If you are given science-based data that shows handling female spawning fish is detrimental to their spawning successfully, will the Technical Committee report this to the commissioners and recommend MD baseline proposal not be adopted? Emilie will be asked Monday night. 3) Last year the MD charter boats kept 32,000 fish, down from 100,997 the year before. Total number of trips went from 11,362 to 5,412 and the numbers are worse for 2025. CONTINUED RIGHT	4) Since February 2024 when the dramatic reductions were forced on us, 54 charter boats have been sold or listed to be sold. Most every captain has been forced to seek additional employment. This downward trend has continued into 2025. 5) The MD charter boat industry in the smallest user group on the Chesapeake Bay and has suffered the most. 6) The FACTS system is capable of reporting the recreational data; however, MD DNR refuses to implement it. Excuses like budget, time, manpower are nonsense. They just don't want the data. CONTINUED RIGHT	7) ASMFC has admitted that the MRIP data they use to make decisions and projections is off by as high as 40%. If they are using this data to make recommendations then by extension their projections and recommendations are off by 40%. 8) MD's new Baseline proposal never mentions Female Spawning Stock and at the last ASMFC meeting MD DNR never mentioned Female Spawning Stock. They go out of their way to avoid the words. The northern states that are going to vote on this probably have no idea 80% of the female fish spawn in April. 9) MD's new Baseline proposal will allow catch and release on female spawning areas. When they were asked at the last ASMFC meeting, MD said the spawning areas that are closed will remain closed, which also means the areas that are open will remain open. CONTINUED BELOW

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Captain Drew Payne	MD	For-hire			CONTINUED FROM ABOVE: 10) The ASMFC Technical committee uses assumptions that have a constant static effort. We can prove for a fact that our effort has been greatly reduced and the recreational effort has also been greatly reduced. This also renders their projections inaccurate. 11) We all know these female fish will discharge their eggs when handled repeatedly and this creates a dead discard mortality. I have asked the Technical Committee to calculate this to understand the additive loss that catch and release in April will create.
Steve rakowski	MD	Private rec.			Catch and release fishing is not the devil … a fish that goes into a cooler has zero chance of survival.
Keith Griffith	MD	Private rec. / lure manufac turer			Catch and release has never decimated a species. We need to focus on why we are actually having poor spawning success year after year.

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Jeff Ruth	MD	For-hire			Do not want catch and release season that runs January till May catch and release kills more fish then the fishing season! Each area should have their own status quo not an entire east coast. Should be area by area!! Ask a waterman they can explain it all
Lauren Collins	MD	Commercial	GENERAL COMMENT: I strongly urge the Department to reconsider the direction of the proposed 2026 striped bass regulations. These small, piecemeal changes are not meaningful solutions, and frankly, they fail to address the real challenges facing this fishery. Instead of continuing down a path of minor adjustments, it's time to listen to the people who actually know these waters. The watermen, charter captains, and seasoned anglers who have worked the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for generations carry hundreds of years of collective experience. They understand the natural cycles, spawning patterns, and ecosystem shifts better than anyone sitting behind a desk ever could. The reality is this: livelihoods are on the line. CONTINUED RIGHT	Entire families and communities depend on the striped bass fishery, both commercially and recreationally. Every short-sighted change that ignores the expertise of those who live and work on this water threatens their ability to provide for their families, to continue traditions that have been handed down for generations, and to sustain a way of life that is uniquely tied to Maryland's history and culture. And let's be clear—allowing catch-and-release fishing while restricting harvest does nothing but create an even larger detriment to the fishery. Mortality from catch-and-release is real, and pretending otherwise is irresponsible. Even worse, allowing the catch-and-release of egg-bearing females is not only ineffective, it is flat-out reckless.	You cannot claim to be protecting the stock while turning a blind eye to the damage being done to the very fish you say you're trying to save. On top of that, the proposed July and August closures take away countless hours of family fishing time during the prime summer months, when children are out of school and families can enjoy the Bay together. Shifting opportunities into colder months, when water temperatures are dangerous and kids are in school, makes absolutely no sense and only drives more people away from the fishery. And another glaring inconsistency—why are commercial harvests allowed to remain open while recreational anglers face these closures? If conservation is truly the goal, then commercial harvest closures should match the recreational closures. CONTINUED BELOW

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Lauren Collins	MD	Commercial			CONTINUED FROM ABOVE: To do otherwise is contradictory, unfair, and undermines the credibility of the regulations. Why should one group be punished while another is left wide open? The fish don't distinguish between commercial and recreational—it's the same stock being impacted. If the Department truly wants sustainable management, then stop dismissing the people who know these waters best. Listen to those who are out there every single day, not just reviewing models and charts, but living the reality. Anything less is not only ineffective—it's a direct threat to the survival of the fishery, the economy it supports, and the communities and families built around it.

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Bruce Swartzwelder	MD	Private rec.			It seems that policy makers are still not seeing the problem for what it actually is. The problem for Rockfish is the same as it is for Osprey, NOT ENOUGH FOOD FOR THEM TO THRIVE!! Omega Protein Based in Reedville Va. is STRIPPING the Chesapeake Bay of Menhaden which are a critical food source for Rockfish. To remove the food from an ecosystem and expect it to work properly is simply crazy. Its not the Rockfish only that are impacted. Menhaden are filter feeders that clear the water, reduce algae blooms, aid sea grass growth that supports young of the year like crab and Rockfish. If you ACTUALLY want to increase Rockfish numbers and seriously help the entire Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem, get Canadian owned Omega Protein OUT OF THE CHESAPEAKE!
Calvin Kramer	MD	Private rec.			Make the slot 18”- 28” or more. Also make catch and release restricted to artificial lures

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Julie Mainello	MD	Private rec.			Please stop fishing for rockfish. Give them a fighting chance to repopulate. Instead fish all the snakehead fish you can handle. They're invasive and contributing to the rockfish population decline. On the other hand they're delicious and abundant. That should be a win-win!!!
Bob Munro	MD	For-hire			RE Chesapeake Bay, opening April to Catch and Release would lead to added stress-induced egg sterility and premature discharge of eggs, according to a synthesized report of the scientific literature on stress-induced egg sterility and discharge in fish. I attempted to add a copy below but it won't fit. I'll email a copy to EFRANKE@ASMFC.ORG .

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Kris J	MD	Private rec.			The problem is Omega, not recreational fisherman. Catch and release is safe and harvesting isn't needed during these times. It's ridiculous that for years either the menhaden have been depleted and/or the big breeding females were allowed to be targeted. The fish we catch are skinny, it's not even worth keeping them most of the time. Until Omega has pressure put on them, you can keep doing these surveys and keep trying to hurt recreational anglers but failing to address the large issue which is OMEGA because there's too much money involved.

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Jeff Geary	MD	For-hire			There has never been, nor will there ever be, evidence of catch and release with light tackle leading to a concerning amount of dead striped bass. The no targeting laws are impossible to enforce and do not serve any purpose in conservation. Over harvesting over the last few decades decimated our stock and your answer is to punish those who don't want to harvest them at all? What kind of message does that send? It's backwards thinking. You want to reduce the amount of rockfish harvested, but you don't allow the teaching of catch and release to the next generation? Come on, now. Any decision you make not to allow catch and release will be obviously void of any data, experience, or common sense. It's just that simple. It shouldn't even be a debate
Carlie DuLac	MD	Private rec.			We support the Maryland 2022 Season Baseline We support Status Quo-Opposition to Addendum III and Status Quo to the Chesapeake Bay Seasonal Baseline.
Linda Aus	MD	Private rec.			We support the Maryland 2022 season baseline.

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Jeff Hankins	MD / VA	Private rec.		) Stop ALL Spring fish and release targeting of Stripped Bass. I know that has been in place at times, but it needs to continue in the full bay, through VA too. Large fish that are hooked and full of roe even if returned unharmed are subject to that roe becoming non-viable. Significant fines and penalties for those that violate.	No commercial take of striped bass should be allowed during that same period, and NO bycatch stripers allowed to be marketed, of any size. Spotters/monitors should be required on every vessel, commercially fishing to monitor for compliance. Significant fines and penalties for those that violate. Stop the Menhaden reduction fishery in the VA portion of the Chesapeake Bay at any time during the year. If a creature has nothing to eat it will leave or die and that is happening to the striped bass as well as other species. It is unconscionable to allow food sources for one of the most prized fish be eliminated by a few. The economic benefit of the menhaden lies with the species that forage upon them, not the few hundred jobs of the menhaden fleet. On September 19, 2025, there were 8 reduction fishery boats out of Reedville VA just below Tangier Island with 4 to 6 spotter planes and that's not a onetime occurrence. Their intent was to get every last forage fish; how does any species survive this level of food reduction? Note: These comments were also submitted through the public comment forum.

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Nicholas Boudreau	ME	For-hire	Catch and release/no harvest year round. Slot size currently restricts our harvest anyways and as a guide most people tend to release the fish anyways. This will keep us in business as we have no other target game fish in Maine unless we have a hot summer and bluefish show up, they did not this year FYI. If the population is so dire, let's make it a 5 year no harvest and see where it takes us.	No harvest the whole coast.	Please listen to us that live and work the sea. There are lots of bass in federal waters where we can't target so there is a chance of a rebound that we could see. But as no harvest option for a few years is best for everyone who enjoys the catch and businesses that take care of that need. Thanks
Flynn Willsea	ME	Private rec.	Closures (no target) should be implemented in the mid Atlantic region during spawning.	No targeting closure during spawning in the Chesapeake bay/ Hudson Bay	
Peter slovinsky	ME	Private rec.	However, there needs to be educating of fisherman on properC&R techniques, otherwise this is moot. Also ban all treble hooks.		Ban treble hooks.

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Michael Baker	ME	For-hire	I 100% support the no harvest option closing them down completely is unfair for businesses all around. I know harvest rule should have been set in place five years ago if not longer.		Here we are again

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Norm Staunton	ME	Private rec.	I am a member of both Stripers Forever and the American Saltwater Guides Association, and I strongly support the most conservative management options in Draft Addendum III. •A coast-wide harvest moratorium remains the only proven way to rebuild the stock. While not included in Addendum III, I urge the Board to take this step now. •Of the options presented, I support: • 3.1 – Option B: Mandatory total length definition • 3.2 – Option B: Tagging at point of harvest • 3.3 – Option C: New MD recreational baseline +10% buffer • 3.4 – Option B: Even reductions –12% commercial & recreational (Sub-options 01 & CB1) CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: •Additional comments: • Only support full no-harvest closures • Do not support any for-hire exemptions • NY, CT, and RI must be included in the New England region • Support Wave 4 closures for New England and Wave 6 for Mid-Atlantic Striped bass are an iconic species with enormous social and economic value alive in the water. With six years of failed Chesapeake recruitment, ASMFC has a legal and moral obligation to act boldly and rebuild by 2029. Save this fish. Save its value for future generations.	

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Alex Tragakes	ME	Private rec.	I believe that a No Targeting closure is unenforceable. So I would like to see No Harvest closure implemented in portions of the season deemed most effective or preferably a coast wide season long No Harvest closure.		

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Michael R. Martin ESQ	ME	Private rec. / For-Hire	I do a lot of research and consulting with Carol Oscar in Maine on this matter. There are more striped bass than ever. Like when I talked to the NOAA head in Frederick Maryland about the ridiculous mackerel ban of 20 per boat, two years ago I lead a lot of of the leaderboard with 217 catches of striped bass over 16 inches. I catch and release. I get paid to every month go out and report and advise on regulations for striped bass fishing. The only new regulations needed are one people behind a desk that don't do this for sport and recreation and I do have my Charter license, need to understand that people that actually are involved are the best conservationist and two they need to START REGULATING SPEAR FISHING. CONTINUED BELOW	No regulations the bluefish are barely holding on compared to when I was a kid when they would be in Maine all the month of August not to mention that many larger striped bass or holdovers as then they don't migrate back like the 51 inch one I caught in November mid November last year in Maine.	Yes, why don't you listen to somebody that's done a lot of legal work on this topic like myself and especially the best measure you could put into Help striped bass is to finally start regulating spear fisherman because they take as many as they want and they cannot catch release it, but there are more striped bass and everybody knows it every year and every year we hear there's a dwindling population and you need to start listening to the people that actually Rely on conservation for recreation and their living rather than the people behind a cubicle .

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Michael R. Martin ESQ	ME	Private rec. / For-Hire	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: Because you cannot catch a release when you spearfish. Every single year they keep saying stripers population are going down and every year it seems to be going up and everybody knows that because the conservation measures the blue fish don't come up anymore because of their competition in the Chesepeake. I prepared if the regulators that don't know how to tie a fishing knot, but know how to come up with these ideas such as circle hooks, which are so much dangerous and I have a law school project. I even did on that I would like to present., because banning circle hooks would be the Best conservation measure rather than promoting them, along with regulating spearfishing. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: Striped bass population decline It's been a myth for the last five years. It's just like the whale that got caught in Nova Scotia lobster traps, and survived being a maine issue and a dead whale. I will challenges at the administrative level legally, and it will be overturned if it is put through so please hear my voice on this. Finally, there is no ground proof and because the constant rising catches each year reported, and the population increase is just so abound. If you're actually on the water it's I shouldn't even have to go into the legal aspect of administrative law. You need to let the people that actually do this for fun or for their living. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: Do the conservation and take their input and stop sending me on a cubicle and thinking this might be a good idea because that's how circle hooks came into being in there the most dangerous thing for striped bass in the one study that said otherwise, for Fish has never been replicated and disproven. But why there's no regulations when you cannot catch a release at when spearfishing and they can take as many as they want is beyond me..

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Ian Sawyer	ME	For-hire	I do not support no targeting closures as better management strategies are in the toolbox. Catch and release has not been tried yet and that should've been tried already before even considering a no target closure.	Close the Chesapeake to all fishing during spawning	STOP KICKING THE CAN DOWN THE ROAD AND GIVE US CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY. Should've already done this in 2022
Edward Grieg	ME	Private rec.	I don't think there should be a closure of fishing. I just think there should be a closure of keeping fish.		
Owen Wagner	ME	Private rec.	I fully support a no-harvest closure for the striped bass fishery up and down the east coast during the spawning season. No target closures are far too hard to enforce, and these fish need all the help they can get during the months of march-June. The science on proper catch and release is pretty clear, those fish will be fine if the masses can be educated properly.	I support a no target closure for the peak striper spawn, no harvest on the shoulder seasons.	Striped bass are the life-blood of the working man's world of sport fishing on the east coast. I can't fathom a world in which stripers wont be there. Not only does striped bass fishing provide a large boost to our economy, it provides a much needed release from the day to day life. Striped bass have taught me more about myself than anything else in this life-hell, they got me through the hardest part of it. My earliest memories are on the beach with my mom & dad; now that she's gone every time I'm out there I feel her with me. No harvest is fine, as long as I can be out there.

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Joseph Azzarelli	ME	Private rec.	I support a 100% no-harvest closure for the entire year. Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island should all be managed under a New England (North Zone) paradigm. For-hire exemptions should not be allowed and are completely unfair to vast majority of anglers.	The stock is in peril. The most fecund fish (I.e. the fish with the highest potential to rebuild the stock) are concentrated and the population is enriched during prespawn, spawn, and post-spawn in the Bay. If we seriously want to maximize success we should not harass these fish when they are vulnerable and concentrated. Therefore, I support “no-target” during time-bracketed season closures. Once the the fish have dispersed then it should go back to “no-harvest.”	Do the right thing. People don’t need to be able to harvest striped bass. No one is eating striped bass for sustenance (except maybe poachers?). If people want to eat fish there are plenty of sustainable options up and down the coast, both fresh and saltwater based meet that need. For the restaurant industry, the current dangerously low striper stock puts their future ability to offer this fish in peril. On the flip side, the economic impact of a no-target regulation to guides and shore-side support and other adjacent industries would be significant. Therefore, there is an ECONOMIC MANDATE for an implementing coast-wide catch-and-release, no-harvest regulation. To continue status quo regulations that allow striper harvest would be shameful and arguably an economic crime against the entire region, not just for the upcoming season but for all of the subsequent seasons that are adversely impacted. Do the right thing.
Michael Brangwynne	ME	Private rec.	I support no harvest closure in the ocean. I do not support no target closures in the ocean. RI, NY and CT should be included in the Northern Region.		We are tired of delays in taking necessary action to rebuild the striped bass stock.

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Brandon angell	ME	Private rec.	I support no harvest closure, no targeting seems entirely unenforceable. RI, NY, CT should all be included in the New England region. I believe wave 4 would be optimal for the New England region and wave 6 would be optimal for the mid Atlantic. 12% equal reductions; oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only	Again I support a no harvest closure as no targeting seems entirely unenforceable	I would just like to reiterate that I strongly support no harvest closures. I strongly oppose any for hire exemptions, the for hire sector already accounts for a disproportionately large percentage of harvest and should contribute to rebuilding in the same manner as the rest of the striped bass community. I would also like to remind the ASMFC of their duty to rebuild this fishery stock and have been deeply concerned by the continued delays. The longer we wait to rebuild the less chance a rebuild is successful. If rebuilding fails in the designated timeline I would push for a moratorium.

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Aaron Landry	ME	For-hire	I support no harvest closures region wide during the entire season - until the stock is improved to the point where it is not over fished.	I support a no harvesting closures region wide- with the exception of active spawning areas. In active spawning areas I support no targeting until the stock is not overfished.	This has been without a doubt the worst season since the mid 90s in Maine. I am a charter captain and we landed more fish over 40” than under 25”. This is so far out of whack in Casco bay that it cannot be understated. It is time to do something drastic because without a drastic change it will just get worse if that’s possible. Which it is - I grew up in the 80s and I remember.

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Benjamin Whalley	ME	For-hire	I support no-harvest closure and viamently oppose no-target as it is not enforceable. I support Option B-01 for Ocean – 12% equal reductions across all sectors. For ocean I support Sub-option O1; no-harvest closures; Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Since CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts, it would also make sense for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North group, no harvest closures ONLY!	Support No harvest closures. Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern; no harvest closures only.	I oppose any for-hire exemptions, it is an unfair burden to place on 98% of anglers as for-hires already harvest disproportionately (9.9% landings from 1.4% trips). I am disgusted with the inaction and ploys by a few bad actors of the board to delay any meaningful recovery of this fishery. Please take swift action and listen to what the public has clearly voiced, take no-target closures off the docket and implement no-harvest! Thank you. -Capt Ben Whalley

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Winslow Dresser	ME	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures as much as they are needed to save this fishery	No targeting should be limited to critical spawning locations and times	I find some of the board members approach to these questions extremely distasteful and short-sighted. We are not willing to compromise on the abundance we wish to see, just to support continued commercial harvest and irresponsible management. When people like Mr. Luisi make cynical suggestions like that, or that those of us fishing catch-and-release already should sacrifice more (though we are already CHOOSING to sacrifice our harvest opportunity), these people make clear who they cater to. The commercial sector continues to show disregard for this resource and disdain for recreational fisherman (who in states like mine have no other species to target). The spawning stock biomass may be growing in weight, but this fishery is collapsing around us as we see the 7 years of failed spawns and complete lack of smaller fish that would allow for general access to the resource. Significant changes are needed, and needed yesterday - far beyond the options outlined here.
Alex Dwight	ME	Private rec.	I support no-harvest. I am strongly opposed to no-target.	I support no-harvest. I am strongly opposed to no-target.	I support no-harvest. I am strongly opposed to no-target.

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William Emhiser	ME	Private rec.	I would strongly support a no harvest closure for NE (ME - MA) for wave 4 that would comprise 41 days in wave 4. My second preference would be a no harvest for the split wave 3&5.	N/A	Please strongly support no harvesting closures !!
Alexander Kaye	ME	Private rec.	I'd support no-harvest closures across all of New England and the mid Atlantic for the longest possible length of time considered by the board.		
Daniel Durgin	ME	For-hire	No harvest - in Maine we can't pivot to other species. Implementing a no target would cripple my business.		
Paul Conti	ME	Private rec.	No harvest all year. Open to closing target in breeding grounds during spring spawning months. No target in winter months. No treble hooks. Artificial lures only.		

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Stephen Hand	ME	For-hire	No harvest closure and commercial reductions		
Sadie Harvey	ME	Private rec.	No harvest closures are enforceable and what I support. No targeting is unenforceable. RI, NY and CT should be a part of the Northern Region as they fish the same waters as MA. For no harvest closures wave 4 for north and wave 6 for south.	No Harvest in spring spawn at very least.	

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Nick Prawer	ME	For-hire	No harvest closures are enforceable and what I support. No targeting is unenforceable. RI, NY and CT should be a part of the Northern Region as they fish the same waters as MA. For no harvest closures wave 4 for north and wave 6 for south.	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: No Harvest in spring spawn at very least. ADDITIONAL COMMMENT: Please no more delaying conservation, this has taken way too long and we are so close to collapse. The fishing here in Maine has been terrible this season. Aside from the one off days, guides, and recreational anglers alike have been hard pressed to catch more than 6-8 fish in a day this season. That is live bait, fly or artificial lures. Unless you are in a school, there just are not that many fish. Most all of them are slot or above, i have barely seen anything under 23", this fishery is top heavy, we have no real solid recruitment and nothing is being done about it. CONTINUED RIGHT	Maine is the canary in the coal mine, we are the end of this fishes northern migration and we are seeing that something is terribly wrong. This was one of the shortest seasons I can remember in the last 10+ years, they got here late, and left the midcoast early. If this continues without any real effort to save the species I have even considered moving my operations further south to MA or RI to get a more consistent portion of the migration and other sport species as our waters have been seeming extremely empty. As much as it pains me to say if you do not do what the asmfc was put together to do, and you do not save this fish, and the livelihoods and coastal economies that depend on them, if rebuilding fails, a moratorium needs to be pushed. Thats what it took last time to save them when we ruined this fishery. Maybe this time we can get it right. Stop delaying conservation and do something!
Brian Mcallister	ME	Private rec.	No harvest closures are the only enforceable method.		No target is unenforceable and hurts catch and release recreational fishermen and women who support a sustainable and healthy fishery.

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Germain Cloutier	ME	Private rec.	No Harvest Closures would be the best option, anything else is essentially unenforceable, best time would be peak season for migration	No harvest closure during the springtime	
Nick Carrellas	ME	Private rec.	No Harvest Closure---would support year round recreationally in addition to significant reduction in commercial quotas Ideally, striped bass would be designated as a protected gamefish and no recreational or commercial harvesting would be allowed	No targeting, given this is the most important breeding ground for these fish	
Nicholas Neforas	ME	Private rec.	No harvest coast wide. Artificial lures only.	No targeting	I am an avid recreational saltwater angler and hold a Maine guides license. This year it was very difficult to find striped bass and when I did they were in small numbers. The majority of fish I found were large fish with not many schoolies around. Additionally this fall run has been abysmal, I have been at the coast very morning and have not seen a single blitz. Most of the fish I'm fishing are in the shallows in small groups. These fish need to be protected prior to total collapse.

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Rocco Risbara	ME	Private rec.	No harvest coastwide entire season	No harvest coast wide entire season	No harvest should be implanted coast wide for the 2025 season and beyond until stocks rebound
michael pappalardo	ME	Lure builder	no harvest for all. catch and release only on all striped bass	no harvest on striped bass of all sizes	
Brian Genovesi	ME	Private rec.	No harvest in all states year round	No harvest year round	No harvest of striped bass should be implemented for every state, recreational, for hire and commercial year round
William nelson	ME	Private rec.	No harvest in maine in june		Consider changing harvest size to 50 inches and above.
Scott Burrill	ME	Private rec.	No harvest period.		This season was the worst season. I've seen in 25 years of fishing in Maine. For the last three or four years I've seen to study decline in <24" fish to the point where I've seen none this year. Something is clearly very wrong. And something very clearly needs to be done. Commercial harvesting should be eliminated at least temporarily to an allow the stock to build back.
Sam calagione	ME	Private rec.	No harvest season wide. No no-target closures.	No target during spawn. No harvest any other time.	

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Robert lopez	ME	Private rec.	No harvest should be implemented for majority of the season. Spring run to fall run	Also no harvest for majority of the striped bass “season”	
David Walker	ME	Private rec.	No harvest south of Maine closure should be all season but at least April-June		
Jack Kolben	ME	Private rec.	No harvest year-round		
George Norris	ME	Shore-side support	No harvest, Coast wide - including commercial fishing. This should be a year long closure - not in "periods or waves".	No harvest, Coast wide - including commercial fishing. This should be a year long closure - not in "periods or waves".	As a shop owner where the vast majority of my business revolves around the striped bass fishery, seeing the decline over the past few years is terrifying. We NEED a no harvest closure more than ever. If the action is not taken coast wide for ALL aspects of the fishery, Recreational, Charter, and Commercial, it will not be effective and the fishery will crash. This will have detrimental effects on my business and more importantly the fishery itself. All of us just want to catch fish, which has become increasingly difficult. This is not how it should be.
Daniel Boccuzzi	ME	Private rec.	No harvest, year round		

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Jonathan Mess	ME	Private rec.	No Harvest. Its time!	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: No Harvest! Make it a Game Fish! Please. GENERAL COMMENT: This year was sad, slow and full of skunkings in the Midcoast region of Maine. It was painful and everyone who fishes for striped bass around here noticed it Big Time. A real Drop Off like I have never seen. I love fishing for these beautiful fish and will do anything to help. I practice good fish handling, I try to educate all anglers I meet, I have gone to circle hooks and single inline hooks on all my lures. I decided not to harvest any fish the past few years and now I am ready to do whatever it takes. Maine is northern top of the run. We are the canary in the coal mine and It was dead up here this year! CONTINUED RIGHT	I cant believe guys are commercially harvesting these fish and selling them in grocery stores for some side cash. These Beloved Bass need to be protected. I hope we can do for stripers what they did for redfish and tarpon down south. Make it a gamefish, put a no harvest catch and release tag on them and Yes I would even go full no target for years if it would help. But we all have to be on board and ready to take a hit, rec and commercial. I still cant believe they are catching and selling these in restaurants down south of me while we just want to catch and release a fish or two on an outing with family and friends. I hope my kids get to experience the Joy of hooking into one of these beautiful bass someday. That's all I want. Lets together do the hard thing. I believe no one should be keeping any size of these fish for a while. Lets give it a shot? It will be tough, but aren't fisherman known to be tough? The reward on the other side is Priceless. -jMess

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Justin Gonsalves	ME	Private rec.	No harvest. NY, CT and RI should all be included in the New England Region. Support Wave 4 closures for New England and Wave 6 for Mid-Atlantic regions.	We should take strong preventative actions now. Especially as we face 6 straight years of failed spawning in the Chesapeake Bay.	I support an equitable coast-wide harvest moratorium as the best and only way to rebuild the stock.
Kobe	ME	Private rec.	No Harvest-Year round for 2 years both commercial and recreational	No Harvest - Year round closed	
Isaac Hendrickson	ME	Private rec.	No target is not enforceable and would lead to more issues and solutions		No target is the laziest solution to this issue that would hurt way more than it would help. Please do the right thing by the industry, the fisherman, and especially the fish.

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Reece Masters	ME	Private rec.	No target only if applying to everyone not just recreational fisherman. Catch and Release is a great option but must be enforced by law and proper fish handling should be defined and enforced.	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: No target!! Major spawning habitat should be left alone during spawning season. GENERAL COMMENT: There's no slot limit for recreational fisherman that currently makes sense given the population density and age of the fish out there compared to the amount of recreational fishing. It is currently unsustainable given the population of the fish and, pressure from anglers. Our best chance at rebuilding the fishery is to leave them alone. If we can't do that together, the only way forward is to close the slot and enforce proper fish handling from recreational fisherman. CONTINUED RIGHT	In order to do this: Proper Catch and Release needs to be clearly defined and rigorously enforced from beach's to rivers we need more people out there enforcing these regulations: #1 The fish needs to stay wet, swim off on his own will (squeeze the tail is ok). No fishing unless you can safely release the fish. This should be common sense but the fish pays the price in poor handling (being dragged on rocks, dry sand, being hoisted up bridges and held vertically out of the water are all common sights but should be avoided and blatant disregard for proper fish handling should enforced by law. Just like the Atlantic Salmon or an Atlantic Sturgeon. These fish need to be cared for and protected in every aspect that we interact with them.

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Eric Howe Jr	ME	Private rec.	No target will accomplish nothing, people will still target them, but claim they're fishing for bluefish of mackerel. we need a no harvest, and when somebody is caught with a dead striper in their possession(hidden, stashed, poached, etc) they should loose their fishing license for a lifetime, and all gear, lures, etc should be confiscated. No harvest, catch and release, mandatory barbless hooks(crushed/mutilated barbs), single treble only until we can see positive population growth.	Until spawning recovers, shut the keeping of fish down, allow the targeting, but do not allow harvest. Also, start giving local municipalities a hard time for allowing the pollution of our spawning estuaries, via raw sewage from treatment plants, agricultural waste, road salt run off, etc. clean up the rivers, spawn rates will increase.	
Owen Richards	ME	Private rec.	No targeting for oct-April and no-harvest for whole season	No target for one full season in Chesapeake bay	
Alex	ME	For-hire	No targeting is unfortunately the only option as this point to see the fishery bounce back. It is a short term loss for a long time gain to give the next generation a chance to enjoy fishing for this amazing species.	No targeting at all	

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Joshua Clement	ME	Private rec.	No targeting will put people out of business. Such as charters, and tackle shops. Also, fishing these amazing fish are peoples lively hoods, including me. It is something I look forward to all summer. People need to learn how to care, and handle the fish properly.		
Anthony Pizzella	ME	Private rec.	No-Harvest is the only sustainable way forward.		No-Harvest is the only sustainable way forward. Do what's right or you will be held accountable.

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Russell Grenon	ME	Private rec.	No-harvest, option B	No targeting, option B	I urge the Commission to adopt stronger conservation measures to protect and rebuild striped bass populations. Recent stock assessments show concerning trends that highlight the urgent need for action. Striped bass are a vital part of our coastal ecosystems and support both recreational and commercial fisheries, but continued overfishing, compounded by environmental pressures, threatens their long-term sustainability. I respectfully request that management decisions be guided by the best available science, including precautionary catch limits, seasonal closures where appropriate, and habitat restoration efforts. Enforcing accountability measures and prioritizing stock rebuilding timelines are essential to prevent further decline.

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Thomas	ME	Private rec.	No-targeting should be a non-starter. I'm fine with no-harvest, although I'd like to see an exception for Seniors. My 80 year-old father-in-law should be able to keep a fish if he wants. It was explained that putting Rhode Island in the Mid-Atlantic makes logistical sense, so that's fine. I suppose, for Maine, it makes sense to have some of the closures in the tourist season (June-Aug) and some outside of it.		
Frederick Bogue	ME	Private rec.	Save the fish with no harvest period	No harvest period	Time to change your approach from allocation to conservation

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Shane Fencer	ME	Private rec.	The striped bass needs to become a catch and release fishery only, too long as the stock been decreasing. Majority of fish harvested comes from the comercial section which has been given preferences since the last moratorium. How can the fishery survive when breeding class fish are being killed?		The striped bass is the backbone of the northeast fishery, if this fishery disappears think of all the $$ brought into the economy not just tackle stores but the surrounding community. It needs to become a game fish just like how Florida manages their tarpon. No fish being killed equals better spawns, more fish in the system equals more people fishing and more money going into the local economy. Haven't we learned from the past or is history going to repeat itself.
Jordan	ME	For-hire	Would be nice to see a closure to harvest formed and commerical up and down the coast. So just catch and release. Then go from there	If that's the only spot they're breeding, shut it down.	
Pierce Grieg	ME	Private rec.	You should be able to target striped bass but not able to keep them.	I support no targeting.	
Alison Prawer	ME	Private rec.		No Harvest in Spring Spawn at very least.	Plz. No more delaying conservation, this has taken way too long. We must act to save our fish population. Let's get this right.

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Jeffrey Filter	ME	Private rec.			Its only fair that everyone make an equal contribution to rebuilding of the stock This has been my worst season ever with the same amount of effort. I have seen the decline in the past 5 years every year worse it beyond me how with the last 7 spawns well below the historical average more action has not been taken.Honestly irresponsible to the future of this great fish. Stop kicking the can down the road and make the right decision for the fishery before it too late for everyone .
Fischer Bourassa	ME	Private rec.			MAKE IT NO HARVEST NOT NO TARGET!!! Shut down the commercial fishery!!!!
Tyler Harper	ME	Private rec.			This fishery has been egregiously mismanaged. Striped bass are one of the most economically and culturally important fish in the United States. They should be managed in the way tarpon or snook are and designated as a game fish. I strongly support a no harvest moratorium.

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Katie wibben	ME / VT	Private rec.	no harvest closures are the only enforceable method of reducing harvest. No target is detrimental to rec anglers, fishing industry businesses and completely unenforceable and has limited proven impact		no harvest closures. no targeting will not get the desired results and will damage the economic benefit of fishing.
Brooks Tingle	NH	Private rec.	Catch and release non-offset circle hooks only		The species is under more threat/pressure than people seem to release. Gamefish status should be strongly considered. Absent that, serious near term reductions needed to preserve long term viability

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Cole Michie	NH	Private rec.	I fish the New England region and would support a no harvest closure and slightly support the no target closure. For the no harvest I would say year round closure until numbers improve and for the the no target maybe the hottest parts of summer to give the fish a break from the pressure of the spring migration. We only have a short window or fish for stripers in New England so it's hard to justify a full on target closure.	I don't fish this area but I know it's a major spot for spawning and I would be for both no target and no harvest year round until the numbers improve.	I just hope we can come to an agreement on what's best for these fish. As they bring so much money to these areas and create life long memories, thing I hope I can show my kids when I have them. A day fishing beats a day inside on a screen any day of the week. I think we can all be properly educated on how to save these fish.
Thomas Brightman	NH	Private rec.	I support no-harvest, with no for-hire exemptions. New England Region should include Rhode Island, New York and Connecticut as well as Massachusetts, New Hampshire & Maine.	I support no-harvest all year for all Bay States.	If rebuilding fails, a moratorium would be the only answer to saving the striped bass fishery.

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James Adams	NH	Private rec.	I would not further hamper the recreational fishermen. Any reduction should be directly managed form the commercial sector since it accounts for the vast amount of catches.		I strongly urge you to focus on the commercial sector. We need to continue to appeal to and recruit recreational fishermen for the future.
David Askham	NH	Private rec.	Never ever have a no-target season. Start catching the losers keeping 100 fish a day hiding them in coolers in their van.		No-target is extremely stupid
David kiser	NH	Private rec.	No commercial fishing!	No commercial fishing!	No commercial fishing!
Maxwell Smith	NH	Private rec.	NO HARVEST		NO HARVEST OF STRIPED BASS IS THE ONLY ANSWER TO RESPOND TO POACHING AND COMMERCIAL PRESSURES
Ron	NH	Private rec.	No harvest and no commercial fishing whatsoever.	No harvest at all	No targeting is straight trash.

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Derek Cummings	NH	For-hire	No harvest closures. Make it coastwide for the entire summer, real charter captains don't care. Plenty of other better tasting fish to fill the freezer with. Not targeting closures are unenforceable & a waste of resources.	No-Target closures, no exceptions, no conservation equivalency bullshit during the spawn in the Spring. Maryland created the problem, Maryland needs to own it now.	Stop letting commercial & for hire interests negatively influence the future of this fishery. Most of the charters in New Hampshire & Maine are catch & release only. None of them are going out of business, there's more opening every day of the week. Commercial fishermen are only using bass to subsidize an expensive hobby, no one is putting food on their table. The last economic evaluation of the striped bass fishery in 2020, as cited by Cape Cod Today & validated by the ASMFC quantified the recreational fishery at 7.7 billion & commercial fishery at 103.2 million. You are prioritizing the wrong special interest group & making decisions for commercial fisherman with 70x less economic impact 50% chances of success are not enough. Do more, act faster, be decisive & stop kicking the can on the future of our fishery.

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Scot Calitri	NH	Private rec.	No harvest is our only real option as no target is unenforceable, just ask the law enforcement committee. Timing should be whenever the most fish can be saved. 12 percent reduction isn't nearly enough to save this situation. Get bold, do more!	No harvest, but still need to protect them when water temps are high.	We need to protect more fish. Stop killing breeding females in all locations and modes. Stop allowing over 1/2 of the removals to happen in the bay and on fish that haven't grown to breeding sized. Start real action to look into recruitment failures, invasive species and water quality. Do your job, stop stalling and save these fish so that we don't have a repeat of the early 1980s.
Ryan Hays	NH	Private rec.	No harvest, how could you prosecute anyone "targeting" striped bass when striped bass can be a by catch of targeting multiple other species. No target is not enforceable.		The penalties for breaking recreational striped bass regulations needs to be much steeper across all states. If you want to make a difference you need to set fines to make people wish they never held a fishing pole over the penalty for keeping one fish of any size during a multi year no harvest span
Berneen Bratt	NH	Private rec.	No harvest. ME-RI wave 4, 41 days. CT-NC waves 3and 6, 25 Days.	No harvest	Reduction should be the same for commercial and recreational, 12%.
Brett Martin	NH	Private rec.	No harvesting striped bass EVER commercial or recreational.		
Phil Sides	NH	Private rec.	no-harvest	no-harvest	Thank you for all of the hard work of everyone involved supporting and helping to manage this important fishery.

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James Rowe	NH	Private rec.	Recreational striper fishing should be enforced as catch and release only		
Ryan McCartney	NH / MA	Private rec.	I would love to see a no harvest season on these fish, as I love the fishery and dont want to close the season but see catch and release only. As well as rules for single trebel hooks on lures or inline single hooks to prevent post release mortality.	No harvest catch and release	I want to reiterate I want this to be a sport fish. We have so many fish that offer a better dining experience i think the fishery would benefit from catch and release only, or what florida did with snook where during seasons where you can keep your one fish make it only legal for anglers to keep these fish instead of the commercial fisher devastating the population every year.
Zachary Stefanick	NJ	Private rec.	- NO HARVEST closures in all cases - Ocean region split of ME-RI and CT-NC - ME-RI closure in Wave 4 - CT-NC closure in Wave 6	- NO HARVEST closures in all cases - MD closure in Wave 3 (MD Bay New Baseline + 10% buffer) - VA closure in Wave 3	
Patrick Klevinsky	NJ	Private rec.	Close March to mid April to all regions no-harvesting. Keep existing regulations as to catch sizes.	no harvesting	Close March to mid April to all regions no harvesting. Keep existing regulations as to catch sizes.

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Frank Zidziunas	NJ	Private rec.	status quo or no harvest closure are the only 2 ways that would not directly impact the economy for those who rely on income from fishing for striped bass. Tackle shops as well as for hire charters would be devastated if there is a No Target Closure.		
Angel camacho	NJ	Private rec.	100% catch and release striped bass fishing is allowed for 2 years to allow the current class of fish to mature	Full two years no harvest. Catch and release is allowed	Thankyou for your consideration I've been fishing for striped bass my whole life and can count on my hands the amount of fish I keep in a year. I totally support catch and release closures there's tons of other fish to target for food. I've dedicated years to mastering my craft and would hate to see that wasted
Alfred DiMartino	NJ	Private rec.	3 year no harvest for recreational and commercial fishing		3 year no harvest for all types of fishing and no targeting in estuary breeding bays and rivers.

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Joe Cermele	NJ	Private rec.	Absolutely no harvest. No Target won't work anyway because we'll never be able to police it properly. Stripers hit dozens of varieties of lures and baits that weakfish/bluefish etc eat. How can you possibly claim someone is only targeting stripers? That won't work. But that aside, how can you deny all the businesses that are funded by recreational fishing for stripers? I think there is already a strong catch and release ethic among many striper anglers, but to say no target would be devastating. I would close harvest EVERYWHERE in April and May. That won't be popular, but if we want to save future stocks it's a no brainer to not kill any fish while they're breeding!! Open to Harvest June to Dec 1 EVERYWHERE. Even though that's a long period, I believe going no kill during the spring spawn is most critical.	I don't fish in Chesapeake so I can't speak to the feelings of local anglers, but as an outsider knowing that bass winter there, a no harvest rule makes a lot of sense to me.	
Carl Mann	NJ	Private rec.	all closures - no harvest	no harvest	

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Zach Feaster	NJ	Private rec.	Allowed to fish for! Catch and Release	Allowed to fish for. Catch and Release	Surf Anglers ARE NOT THE PROBLEM. Allow us to fish for striped bass
Jonathan Rudnick	NJ	Private rec.	Big problem many fisherman cheat and take bass they should not. NO KEEPERS and enforcement should be better and easier. Bigger fines and more enforcement IN THE NIGHT!!!!! Not day time for bass cheaters!!		Big issue and also deal with NO Bunker. with no bunker maybe not much to do anyway. Provide a hotline number with real enforcement.
Todd Coleman	NJ	Private rec.	Catch & release	Catch & release	Do not shut down recreational fishing. This supports the economy of small businesses throughout the region.
Guillermo Figueroa	NJ	Private rec.	Catch and release	Catch and release	Catch and release
hope karlesses	NJ	Private rec.	catch and release	catch and release only	complete closure
Jacob Fisher	NJ	Private rec.	Catch and release	No harvest	Complete closures will send riots in the streets
Michael Campitelli	NJ	Private rec.	Catch and release but no harvest		Something needs to be done but catch and release is fine
Kevin Mckearnin	NJ	Private rec.	Close fishing pre spawn in nj. Charter captains run two trips a day limiting out	Catch and release	Why do you allow people to fish before the spawn

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Keith Allonardo	NJ	Private rec.	Closed for harvest all year until stocks are replenished. Allow catch and release fishing.	Closed for harvest all year until stocks are replenished. Allow catch and release fishing	There are striper fisheries THAT NO LONGER EXIST!!! Its BAD!!! Been fishing for striped bass since 1997. Please do something NOW!!!
Allen Lawrence Jr.	NJ	Private rec.	closure during Spring season only	No targeting or harvest during Spring season.	Here in Central New Jersey our best fishing is during the Fall during the month of November. Closure of Striper fishing during the Fall here in Monmouth County , Central New Jersey would destroy the livelihood of many Party and Charter Boats along with tackle shops and such. Many of us private fisherman enjoy taking home a fish to feed our families.
Christopher Saggese	NJ	Private rec.	Closure for targeting bass in rivers during breeding		

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Stelios melekos	NJ	Private rec.	Closure of striped bass is not an option! Harvest should not go away just keep it the same. There are so many striped bass and I can confirm the population is thriving. If I can go out in New Jersey literally any month of the year and see striped bass and catch striped bass every night that should say something.	Keep the season open for harvest!!!	If you close striped bass fishing for harvest and if you close it for targeting you will cause a civil war within the fishing industry. Also if you close the season for targeting, people are still going to fish for striped bass.
Alexander esposito	NJ	Private rec.	Do not know outside of my state, but no-harvest as it's been done in the past		
Gabe	NJ	Private rec.	Don't implement a no targeting closure! It'll impact too many people and I believe fisherman would over fish other species.		

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Andrew Schmucker	NJ	Private rec.	Fish retention during "prime time" fishing windows should be maintained, while "less prime time" windows can be reduced to no-harvest. In New Jersey for example, retention permitted April - May and October-November, no-harvest during the remaining months. Alternatively, place a time limit on when fish can be retained i.e. no fish in possession while in water after 2pm on M-F, but can retain fish all day Sat-Sun.	No opinion.	It is discouraging to see that the quotas and regulations are seemingly changed every year, or every other year. This does not give me much confidence in the science and decision-making practices. If the science and strategy was sound, I would expect fewer changes would be necessary. It feels like the regulators are making poorly informed, premature decisions that seem un-transparent, hasty, and are not being seen to completion. Make a solid plan and give it time to work.

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James Scallon	NJ	For-hire	Full closure of the fishery	Full closure of the fishery. These fish will not exists in 10 years from now if you do not take action. Please do something.	PLEASE DO SOMETHING. We cannot continue to allow organizations like the ASA, ASGA, and commercial fisherman lobbies to control the narrative. Industries fall and rise, business is cyclical. They continue to abuse the very resource their livelihoods depend on, and that will ultimately lead to a full closure of the fishery for everyone in 2029 when the ASMFC plan fails. 2024 was a critical year for the management of the species and the ASMFC voted to kick the can, once again. Your inaction is driving us to a full blow moratorium - please do something this year.
Steven Huresky	NJ	Private rec.	fully support no targeting	no targeting	Striped Bass fishing regulations should not be restricted any more than they already have been.
Terrance flynn	NJ	Private rec.	Gams fish status for striped bass . No retention		Please save these irresponsible people from themselves and make striped bass a gamefish . No kill !

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Paul Nugent	NJ	Private rec.	Get the bunker boats out. Problem solved. The Chesapeake is a case study in what not to do but now even more states are allowing Omega Protein into their waters to destroy the foundation of the ecosystem that is menhaden. This will also eliminate the massive dead loss of stripers, blues, red drum, etc. from by catch. Limit commercial striped bass operations as well instead of coming after the little guy that catches a few fish per season.		Get the bunker boats out. Problem solved. The Chesapeake is a case study in what not to do but now even more states are allowing Omega Protein into their waters to destroy the foundation of the ecosystem that is menhaden. This will also eliminate the massive dead loss of stripers, blues, red drum, etc. from by catch. Limit commercial striped bass operations as well instead of coming after the little guy that catches a few fish per season.
Kevin Mulholland	NJ	Private rec.	harvest allowed, april 30th to nov 30th no harvest, december 1st - april 29th	i lack knowledge on the chesapeake so i would assume it is the same on the deleware river. harvest allowed, april 30th to nov 30th no harvest, december 1st - april 29th	fishing is a fun sport and shouldn't be regulated in this type of way. Striped bass is one of the few big fish/good fighting fish you can catch off-shore year around.

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Lou E Bleiler	NJ	Private rec.	I am 100% in support of No Harvest. For New Jersey I feel May 2026 would be best, since there are other fish to harvest.	Early or late in the season for No-Harvest	I didn't see an Adult Menhaden/Bunker all year with over 50 trips this year.
Ryder	NJ	Private rec.	I am a local fisherman at the age of 15 years old. It was be criminal to take away a fishery like the striped bass from everyone that profits from it, and for the kids trying to have fun. I have had many memories fishing for stripers, and some of the best times in my life. I think the striper season should be closed in January or February for a few months while we wait for them to come back up from down south.		Let us fish for what us recreational anglers want to. We are lucky to get out 2 times a week. Let us fish!
Matthew	NJ	Private rec.	I believe no harvest is a fair option. To close the season would affect many people’s career and way of life.		Don’t close the season!!

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Luke	NJ	Private rec.	I believe something needs to be done and that no harvest is the perfect choice. You can implement other rules too such as barbless hooks and only one treble hook allowed on every lure anglers use to result in less damage caused to the bass. This would also mean closures for commercial fisheries which would immensely help the fishery. most of us recreational guys are catch and release anyway . it's more gratifying to have the respect, especially for the big ones to let them go. but completely closing fishing would ruin people and businesses, it is not the way.	same answer as question 12	striped bass means so much to so many people including me. A total targeting closure would upset so many people and destroy so many businesses. a catch and release only fishery needs to be instituted with guidelines to keep people happy and also help the striped bass rebuild their spawning numbers
Kevin McAdams	NJ	Private rec.	I do not support any changes. I do question your statics to support the reduction. Please make public a detailed report on how you come to your conclusions.		Please make your scientific studies widely available and public so we can see ow you arrive at the need to reduce the stock by 12%.

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Joseph Billups	NJ	Private rec.	I do not support any closure of this fishery as I believe that this would cause significant financial impacts locally across the state	I do not support any closure of this fishery as I believe that this would cause significant financial impacts locally across the state	This fishery is important to local economies supporting local tackle shops, eateries and other businesses that any closure would have long lasting effects.
Mary	NJ	Private rec.	I do not support any kind of no targeting rules on striped bass	I do not support any kind of no targeting rules on striped bass	I do not support any kind of no targeting rules on striped bass
Thomas M Nakonechny	NJ	Private rec.	I DO NOT SUPPORT ANY KIND OF NO TARGETING RULES ON STRIPED BASS	I DO NOT SUPPORT ANY KIND OF NO TARGETING RULES ON STRIPED BASS	I DO NOT SUPPORT ANY KIND OF NO TARGETING RULES ON STRIPED BASS
Brad Weil	NJ	Private rec.	I do not support any type of season closure for recreational anglers. If I was forced to pick a month to close the season it would be December for NJ. There are still lots of fish around and it would limit the impact on the economy.		
Gene Doebley	NJ	Private rec.	I do not support closures.	I do not support closures.	

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James	NJ	Private rec.	I do not support either.	I do not support either	
Bill Kempey	NJ	Private rec.	I do not support No Targeting closures under any circumstances, as they are unenforceable as a practical matter. I support a full-time, coast-wide, all sectors No Harvest closure for as long as it takes to rebuild the stock	I do not support No Targeting closures under any circumstances, as they are unenforceable as a practical matter. I support a full-time, coast-wide, all sectors No Harvest closure for as long as it takes to rebuild the stock	The time for action was several years ago. Please don't compound that error by continuing down the road of inadequate action.
Nick Handley	NJ	Private rec.	I do not want to be prevented from fishing for striped bass as I release 99% of the striped bass I catch. So a no-targeting closure is not an option.		More citizen science and updated professional scientific research on the striped bass fishery is desperately needed before considering any drastic changes to the regulations.
Harry Beals	NJ	Private rec.	I don't support a closure!!		Perhaps it's time to stop the draggers. Have the commercial boats use a hook and line, eliminate the bycatch.

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Robert Magyar	NJ	Private rec.	I don't support any type of closures Striper fishing is the best it's been in many many years. Keep the slot regulations and allow the catch and release.		
Ben Lucey	NJ	Private rec.	I much prefer no-harvest. I am 100% catch and release.	No-harvest.	
Joshua	NJ	Private rec.	I only intend to ever catch and really stripe bass. I don't know why anyone would want to keep one. But I haven't even caught my first one yet. I'm fully on board with helping to increase the fisheries population so I think regulation that reduces harvesting but still permits. Catch and release is a good way to ease into a reduction.		I only intend to ever catch and really stripe bass. I don't know why anyone would want to keep one. But I haven't even caught my first one yet. I'm fully on board with helping to increase the fisheries population so I think regulation that reduces harvesting but still permits. Catch and release is a good way to ease into a reduction to help rebuild a healthy population
Ervin Ray	NJ	Private rec.	I only support a no harvest closure! March - June	No harvest closures should be implemented March - May	3.3 please increase buffer from 10% to 15%!

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David Dzwonkowski	NJ	Private rec.	I only support no-harvest closures… as long as catch and release is allowed the timing is not critical.		
Stephanie Yin	NJ	Private rec.	I support a moratorium as has been previously demonstrated to aid recovery of striped bass population.	I support a moratorium as has been previously demonstrated to aid recovery of striped bass population.	
Kieran Alessi	NJ	Private rec.	I support a moratorium as has been previously demonstrated to aid recovery of striped bass population.	I support a moratorium as has been previously demonstrated to aid recovery of striped bass population.	
Keon cooper	NJ	Private rec.	I support a No harvest close because a no target isn't really enforceable I would like to see a closer for New Jersey in March-April		
Eric Warner	NJ	Private rec.	I support a no harvest closure as no targeting is impossible to enforce. No harvest closures should occur during spawning season obviously.	I support a no harvest closure for the same reason as above. No targeting is impossible to enforce. No harvesting closure should also be during spawning season.	Please don't fuck this up. I would like to target striped bass with my two sons in the future.

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Peter Walsifer	NJ	Private rec.	I support a no harvest closure. I would ask for this closure to span from Jan 1 until June 1 and October 1 until December 31 of 2025 New England - ME, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ mid Atlantic - DE, MD, VA, NC	Close the bay to all harvest - commercial and rec for 2026	
Evan Keller	NJ	Private rec.	I support a no harvest type of closure.	I support no target closure for Chesapeake Bay.	

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Paul Marzolla	NJ	Private rec.	I support a NO-HARVEST closure simply because a No-Target closure is unenforceable (anglers will say they're targeting "bluefish" to get around it). No-Harvest is the only enforceable action, which I fully support.	NO-TARGETING CLOSURE. Chesapeake Bay is a major spawning ground. When striped bass stage up and approaching spawning time they must be protected at all costs. With the lack of other species (aside from catfish) it's much harder for anglers to justify they were fishing for other specifies which is why a no-targeting closure would make sense.	Please do the right thing. We've gone through many consecutive years of poor spawns and recruitment. I understand there's socioeconomic factors, however, without action to actually rebuild we're only slowly decimating the current stock with no new fish to replenish it. These businesses will face will have a 10X loss if we continue to deplete the striped bass stock without real, meaningful action. Truth is, these business owners (for-hire, tackle shops, etc) are scared because of a possible slightly downturn in business without seeing the big picture — the inevitable downfall of the striped bass stock, unless immediate action is actually taken this time. You've delayed the hard truth for too long now, I get it, you were hoping for a good spawn but it's not happening. And that's not entirely due to overfishing, environmental factors definitely play a role. Change what you can, specifically enforcing regulations to protect this great species at all costs.
Max Kelly	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest across all anglers commercial and private	I believe there should be a no-targeting closer for striped bass in the Chesapeake during their peak spawn months	

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Seth Wakefield	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest as I believe no target would be too hard to enforce and there would be many that do not abide by it.	I support no harvest as I believe no target would be too hard to enforce and there would be many that do not abide by it.	I would like to see catch and release tried for a year to see if that has a favorable impact to the fishery be fore going directly to no target. A no target fishery will severely hurt hundreds of businesses.
Tom Browne	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest but targeting should be allowed.	No targeting for Chesapeake	
Neal Hafner	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest closure, and support Rhode Island being included as a New England region. I support no target only during spawning	I support no target during the spawn, and no harvest leading up to the spawn.	
Stephen Richter	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest closure. I do not support no targeting closure.	I support no harvest	No targeting should not be on the board, in my opinion. I also believe uniform/coastal regulations would better for the SSB. Not by each state.

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Nicholas Frank	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest closures over no targeting closures. No target closures are practically unenforceable and limit anglers rights to recreate outdoors. We here in New Jersey already have limited time to target striped bass from shore with consistency these days and making no target rules during peak season would cause more anglers to become disinterested in striped bass. This disinterest can lead to people no longer caring for the health of the population and decreased participation in the fishery.	For similar reasons to the previous answer No targeting rules can lead to disinterest and decreased participation in this vital fishery that supports local business.	Striped Bass are certainly in trouble and something needs to be done but creating no target rules will only lead to less business for local business that rely on striped bass fishing dollars when the summer vacation season ends to get through the year as well significant participation drops in the sport which in turn leads to less people that are willing to fight for striped bass. It's seen time and time again were the species of fish and wildlife that receive the most attention and conservation effort from people are the ones that people enjoy pursuing and not allowing them to pursue them, especially during the peak of the season to go after them, can cause species to be all but forgotten leading less conservation effort and losing age old knowledge on the practice of pursuing said species.
Joseph Matise	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest for NJ and mid - Atlantic regions during Spring and Summer.	No harvest for Spring and Fall runs, applicable to all bay states.	I support the elimination of the bonus tag program to achieve target reduction numbers.

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Daniel Termini	NJ	Shore-side support	I support no harvest regulations for the striped bass fishery. Any no target regulations are not acceptable.	I support no harvest regulations for the striped bass fishery. Any no target regulations are not acceptable.	Recreational fishing for striped bass is continuing to become safer for the fish. Case in point: my company Bluff lures sells striped bass plugs with ONE single hook, (not a treble) located on the upper belly of the lure that's held in by a magnet ment to hook a striped bass safely in the lip greatly reducing fish mortality. I would suggest limiting striped bass lures to only one single belly hook as a way to decrease fish mortality. This is not because I do it for my business, it's to save the fish. This is why I made these lures. As well a no target regulation would put me out of business as my primary source of income is from the striped bass fishery. This would most likely lead me into business and personal bankruptcy. I believe a no harvest regulation is the answer and hope it is considered and passed. Bluff lures founder - Dan Termini

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Kevin Moffitt	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest year round. If there needed to be a seasonal closure for harvest I would prefer it to be prior to and during spawn.		We are running out of time to get this right. For tackle shops and charter captains worried about their business, they should be aware that they can serve to educate people that you don't need to harvest fish to have a great and memorable day. The kill culture/hero shots at the dock don't drive business. Catching fish does and if we don't make changes there won't be fish to catch. Of particular concern is the lack of small fish as a result of ooor spawns for several years. We don't have fish coming in to replace those that are harvested. Hard decisions in the short term are needed to keep this fishery viable for future generations.
Fran Willett	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest.	I support no harvest.	The no targeting option would devastate the local fishing community and economy. We have had so many limitations on fishing (Stripers, Flounder, Sharks, Tuna) already, it has become less enjoyable to fish. The commercial fishery should have more restrictions put on them, not the recreational fisherman.

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Matthew Farrell	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvest. If the newest law regarding circle hooks does indeed reduce mortality, than the release mortality number should be lower than 9%. The issue with no targeting is that many will still do it and claim they are bluefishing or otherwise. No harvest during any areas spawning season would be most beneficial in my opinion. As well as wintering months where fish pile up and don't leave the area until spring.		
Mike Woodrow	NJ	Private rec.	I support no harvesting,,, Protecting the spring spawn should be a priorty with a no harvest policy		

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Szymon Saniewski	NJ	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures with the option to continue catch and release targeting of striped bass. If harvesting was to be permitted, it should only be done in the fall. Spawning striped bass should not be harvested. Additionally, these fish spawn in some of the most polluted waterways in the country. They might as well be the mascots of superfund sites. People should not be eating fish after they've spent considerable time in the lower Raritan and Hudson rivers. I will continue to catch and release striped bass, from land, kayak, and for hire vessels even if there is a no harvest closure. I rather perform catch and release, and I go above and beyond to ensure the fish I catch are released with minimal damage and stress. CONTINUED BELOW	I support no harvest, open to catch and release fishing. If harvest was to occur, it should only be permitted in the fall to avoid harvesting spawning fish.	I can appreciate that a no-targeting closure would help the striped bass recover, but I believe the economic and fishery impact would be too severe. The for-hire vessels that I frequent would absolutely take a hit, and I would like to keep them in business. Additionally, being from NJ, I believe that a majority of the recreational and for hire fleet of boats would continue to run trips with different target species if the striped bass closure would be enacted. For instance, all of the boat guys who were striper fishermen in the fall will look into pursuing black fish or blue fin tuna, which are both available in-shore. I do not believe the NJ black fish stock could handle the additional fishing pressure due to the slow growth of black fish. My opinion is that a no-targeting moratorium has already been implemented in the past, and we still have managed to mismanage the fishery to the same level that would require another moratorium. I believe stronger public education about catch and release practices should be made available. CONTINUED BELOW

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Szymon Saniewski	NJ	Private rec.	CONTINUED FROM ABOVE: I spend a considerable amount of money pursuing these fish between vehicle expense/travel, food, gear, and for hire trips. I love fishing for striped bass, and they are worth far more alive than dead. I have caught plenty of bass over the years that displayed clear signs of being caught and released previously.		CONTINUED FROM ABOVE: There are many ways to reduce catch mortality; one of the best in my opinion is to use a single belly hook on lures and remove the tail hook (plenty of info online about this, its called the one hook solution). I would support manufactures selling lures with only belly hook (when feasible). Unfortunately, in my experience this does not work too well with most of the larger top water lures (pencil poppers and spooks). Also, lifting striped bass by holding them vertically by the gill or lip should be banned. Anglers should be encouraged to release striped bass with out removing them from the water, when possible. I believe the fines for poaching are SIGNIFICANTLY too low. I'm sure that poaching would be less prevalent if the associated fines were similar to that of a DUI.
Ted Grob	NJ	Private rec.	I support status quo. But if that's not an option I support no harvest		

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Bryan Karl Lathrop	NJ	Private rec.	I support the no harvest option. Since I'm not a marine biologist it's hard for me to give an educated opinion on the region split and when it should happen. But I think that overall a no-harvest closure, even a prolonged one, would yield positive results.	I support no-harvest option, which should be implemented implemented during the spawn, and perhaps briefly (3-4 weeks) at some other point in the year.	Managing the striped bass fishery is a complicated issue; but I think the simplest, and perhaps most effective strategy would be to implement prolonged no-harvest closures, especially since I don't see how on earth a no-targeting closure would be enforceable.
Hunter Anfuso	NJ	Private rec.	I support the status quo, however if there were any closures, it would have to be a no harvest-closure. I am a strong advocate for catch and release, wet hands, and proper fish care and revival. A no target closure would be detrimental to a hobby I am super active in. This would reduce the fishing economy and several small businesses that are the foundation to our fishing communities.	I am not fishing in this area enough to have a comment as I fish NJ	

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David Glassberg	NJ	Private rec.	I think catch and release should be implemented accross the board for fairness. Breeders are in the south earlier and north later in the season. Catch and release in spring and fall make sense -	More information on bait management as well. Chasing bait commercially affects all.	
Chris Yoda	NJ	Private rec.	I think there should be no harvest coast wide recreational and commercial in order to completely rebuilding this stock which is obviously crumbling apart. There are very limited numbers of bass left and can see a complete crash if drastic measures aren't taken		
Brayden	NJ	Private rec.	I would highly support no-harvest, but I also highly oppose a no-target closure, I believe recreational anglers should be able to target striped bass (catch and release only).	I only support no-harvest and I believe that should happen in the Chesapeake Bay from March-July.	It would be absolutely devastating to have a no-target closure, I have high hopes the right decision will be made, and there will be a no-harvest closure for 2-3 years.

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Bobby wood	NJ	Private rec.	I would like to see no harvest implemented on the entire coast for recreational and commercial. Get rid of no targeting seasons and put the emphasis on effective catch and release education. Put a higher fine on people who keep striped bass if a no harvest is implemented.	No harvest.	No harvest seems to me the most obvious first step forward. Speaking as a recreational surf caster. We can all see the numbers of both small fish and bigger fish are dwindling. Spawners need protecting which the slot is good for but it is IRRELEVANT if commercial fishing kills these spawners up in Maryland and Massachusetts. No harvest across the board. Put money into educating anglers on proper catch and release. It's amazing to me how poorly even seasoned anglers handle fish sometimes. No targeting is worst case scenario as I think fishing is a healthy outlet for people but we need to learn how to protect and cherish the resource.
Brian B	NJ	Private rec.	I would only support a no-harvest closure between 12/31 and 2/29	I would only support a no-harvest closure between 12/31 and 2/29	Reduce the quota for commercial menhaden boats. Canadian fishermen like Omega have no business ruining our fisheries. NJ should not carry the same restrictions as states who allow COMMERCIAL striped bass fishing.

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Grant Johnson	NJ	Private rec.	I would support a no harvest closure. I believe this closure would be most beneficial in the months of October, November, December, April, and may, specifically for the state of NJ.	December through May should be a no-target closure for the Chesapeake bay, as well as the river systems connected to it. This would dramatically reduce the amount of stress and pressure placed on pre-spawned striped bass.	I strongly believe that we must put an end to targeting pre-spawn fish. Many of the river systems such as rivers that branch off of the Chesapeake bay, the Delaware River, and the Hudson River see a large amount of pressure during colder months before and after the oceanic migration of striped bass. This is a detrimental stage of life for the species, and pre spawned striped bass are more susceptible to release mortality when carrying eggs. Eliminating this pressure would likely produce greater spawn results, which has been a problem for years now.
Jonathan Turner	NJ	Private rec.	I would support a no harvest. It should apply to when the biggest population of bass in each sector. Ex: no harvest in New England in summer and no fall harvest for mid Atlantic		

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Bryan Carter	NJ	Private rec.	I would support any no harvest closure under either region split, but would prefer any of the options under either region split that avoid closures during wave 6. I would be against any no target closures. The only no target closure I would consider supporting is the wave 3 closure under the RI-NC region. I would be against any other no target closures, specifically any of the options that would result in no target periods during wave 2 or wave 6, which would significantly decrease how often I fish over the course of the season. I surfcast for striped bass 20-30 days per wave each in wave 2 and wave 6 annually. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: I would likely fish less than 5 days total per year during these two waves if no targeting of striped bass was allowed, due to a lack a viable alternative species available to target from shore in New Jersey during these waves. This would not only impact me personally, but also would have a negative impact economically since I would no longer be spending money at restaurants, bait and tackle shops, and hotels in shore communities during the off season. I already practice catch and release only for striped bass and fully support no harvest closures, even entire season no harvest closures if needed in the future. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: I would also be very supportive of additional initiatives to further reduce catch and release mortality of striped bass such as only allowing 1 hook per lure or requiring all hooks to be barbless. Overall, since the currently available data indicates that the striped bass stock can be rebuilt by no harvest closures only, I would fully support no harvest closures and do not see a need for no target closures.

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John Sokolov	NJ	Private rec.	I would support no- harvest, all states north of New York are New England, all states south of New Jersey are mid Atlantic, I would support closing the season January 1st- may 31st	No harvest, season closed January 1st- may 31st	I support no harvest across all states with closing the season completely during the spring run when the fish are all big breeders and actively spawning
Frank Breakell	NJ	For-hire	I would support no harvesting closures. How about no netting closures, especially of menhaden. I've watched Omega boats off the NJ coast pull up tons of bunker and then proceed to kick, sho El, and pitch fork striped bass off the boat by the hundreds. All were dead or dying. How is this allowed and not taken into consideration. Oh wait, I know, money.	No harvest during the spawn. Speaking of which, have you considered, with the warming of the water (not global warming bs, by the way, naturally occuring) the chance that may e the striped bass population is now spawning further north in the Ratitan Bay area where the water is a bit cooler and more in line with their breeding needs?	I stated them above.

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Kyle Wegeler	NJ	Private rec.	I would support the closure of no harvest because catch and release fishing shouldn't do any damage to the fishery. It keeps the opportunity of catching striped bass alive. This should be implemented from Massachusetts down to the Chesapeake. No harvest! The closure should be implemented only during the fall because that's when striped bass alive really targeted with their migration. Migratory fish deserve the best and there should be no harvest during the fall.	I support the no target closure for the Chesapeake because striped bass are then in a natural habitat for the winter months. This should be implemented during the fall/winter.	Natural resources and fisheries should be respected for their wildlife but also accessible for humans as fishing is a growing hobby. Striped bass are an amazing species to target and I highly highly suggest catch and release for ann upcoming closure.

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Frank Cucciniello	NJ	Private rec.	I would support the no harvest option. I also suggest that the no harvest take place during the height of migration in each state. This would only work if everyone followed the laws. I highly recommend more wild life officers to be hired and trained, this would encourage all to follow the rules. We have to save the bass population and protect our rights at the same time.	No harvest	I support the cause, but I feel the actions are a little extreme. With the lack of wildlife officers in the field, you're leaving it up to the people to police other anglers. Bad people are still gonna do bad things if no one is there to enforce the rules in laws. With that being said, I encourage a no harvest rule.
Richard Stanton	NJ	Private rec.	I'd like to see catch and release implemented in march - May is spawning staging areas eg Raritan and Delaware bay	Again, catch and release in prespawn period	
Mark Anthony DePrizio Jr	NJ	Private rec. / For-hire	I'd support no harvest because no target is going to hurt charter owners, tackle shop owners and overall loss for the entire industry in many aspects	Same deal	

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Rob	NJ	Private rec.	I'm fine with a catch and release, no harvest.	I'd support a no harvest.	I'd like to see the fishery remain open with no harvest. I also feel that better education on proper fish handling would benefit these fish greatly and lower the mortality rates dramatically. Similar to a hunters expedition class but based around striped bass and other species.
John	NJ	Private rec.	Just make it catch and release only. The surf anglers who catch and release aren't the problem. It's the head boats and charter boats who plunder the shoreline every fall trying to limit out on striped bass for their clients. It's on the charters to teach proper catch and release and make it known it's not all all about a meat run.		
Garrett Servis	NJ	Private rec.	May/ November - no harvest, for New Jersey and New York as those are peak seasons.		
Daniel Brady	NJ	Private rec.	Mid Atlantic Region - no harvest. Closed season - Dec, Jan, Feb.	No Harvest Closed - Dec, Jan, Feb	I would like to see some action on Reduction boats with no closed season or catch limits and protections for Menhaden coastwide.

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Joseph Gardner	NJ	Private rec.	Mid-Atlantic should have a closure of of a no harvest	No harvest	
Louis Van Bergen	NJ	For-hire	New England No Harvest with an emphasis on quicker releases during waves 3 and 4. Mid Atlantic No Harvest during the Wave 5 period when the largest and most fecund fish are migrating through the area to there winter spawning grounds.	NO Targeting during the Wave 3 and 4 due to the warmer air temperatures.	The largest spawning stock and area that shows a dismal success rate should be given the maximum amount of protection to allow for the slightest increase in successful reproduction.
Steve Merrill	NJ	Private rec.	No closure	No closure	
James Kearney	NJ	Private rec.	No closure to the private/ recreational fishing just an adjustment to the commercial fishing guys		Keeping the environment safe is the most important part but we have people the making a living off of this fish as well so we have to be as far as possible I just hope the right decision are made
Albert Rotunno	NJ	Private rec.	No closures!		
Michael Walewski	NJ	Private rec.	No harves closure. No targeting is impossible to enforce		Please stop the commercial harvest in the spring at the mouth of the estuary where the fish are returning to spawn. I'm eating thank you
Sebastian Marino	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest	No Harvest	No Harvest No Harvest No Harvest No Harvest

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Mason Warlick	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	Striped bass fishing is a huge industry across the coast. No target closures would affect local business in a way that might make it hard for them to recover. Catch and release only would be a good way to save these fish.l and help the local business at the same time!
Peter c	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	Striped bass should be classified as a gamefish with no commercial harvesting allowed
Lawrence Buckingham	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	The bunker boats need to be regulated more than what they are
Andrew Karp	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	This fishery NEEDS to stay open, period. Shut down harvest for a few years to collect some data and go from there. Thanks you
Ryan	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	Why do for hire vessels get a bigger slot window shouldn't I'd be the opposite or do they give too much money to political campaigns si they can keep more fish?

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Rob Wagner	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest	No target	I believe the problem is an overall migratory route issue. Climate in the maryland region can not be ignored just like the rest of the route. That is why I support a no target closure in the maryland region and a no harvest for all points north. Commercial fishing for hire fishing and anyone outside of recreational anglers need to he held to the same standards. If we focused our laws and rules the same as say tuna fisheries do maybe we fan see a good rebound. Each state needs better enforcement on all of this!
Taylor Van Cleef	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No targeting when water temperature is above 70 degrees No harvest March-April	Limit commercial fishing to hook and line only. Limit hook points to decrease release mortality
Conor O'Malley	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest		No targeting striped bass is an untenable solution. Anglers can say they're targeting bluefish. Catch and release is the way to go
Tom Peter	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest		With the catch and release of larger fish, recreationally on large party boats in NJ, I have seen fish miss-handled and die. So, there is still a lot of waste out there regardless of the regulations they set.

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Bill Milazzo	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest	No Harvest	Have stricter restrictions on Commercial Striper Fisherman
Jason Teixeira	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	Hire more game wardens to enforce the current size regulations. Any type of season closures will impact tackle shops, charters, recreational fishermen
Blake Cramsie	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	Make it fair. We can’t have rules in one state and no rules in another.
Robert Fitzsimmons’s	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	No harvest of bass for 3 years
Gary Clarke	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	No harvest will fix it
J. Denny	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	The governing body has done a terrible job in protecting fish stocks. You've failed to take in data of the warming of the oceans which effects fish migration, spawning and bait fish stocks. I can only hope you do the right thing and really act to benefit the striped bass stocks. No commercial harvest, one fish between 24"and 29" along the entire Atlantic coast.
Edward Smolar	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	The size limit has to change. 28”-31” is ridiculous.

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Vincent	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No target , no harvest	
Joseph M Nicosia	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest	No targeting, protect the spawn.	
Andrew Burby	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest		If a closure of striped bass does occur, more people will be fishing for other fish which would reduce those populations including blackfish which are slow growing and reach a mature age of spawning later in age
Christopher Wilson	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest		Please keep the staus quo regs from 2025. Many great small businesses will suffer if you don’t allow for a reasonable striped. bass fishery.
Patrick Perrotto	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest	No Harvest	I strongly support no harvest as no target would be difficult to enforce.
Anthony VP	NJ	Private rec.	NO HARVEST SHUT DOWN ALL COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR STRIPED BASS	No harvest	Shut down commercial fishing for striped bass
James Kearney	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest Jan/feb		

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Adam Aguiar	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest The strategies by which to catch striped bass off the surf during their migration are the same strategies by which to catch multiple other species in the same area at the same time (i.e. Bluefish and Weakfish). Therefore, unless the other species are also mandated to not be targeted, a 'non-target' mandate on striped bass along the jersey shore in fall (or spring) is illogical, unenforceable, and even immoral because it would solely rely on the assumption of the warden about the angler's intent, and not on any objective measure. In addition to all the above, a no-target mandate would surely hurt, if not permanently close many businesses (i.e. tackle shops , headboats, etc)	No harvest, though here a no-target rule is more sensible than off the front beaches during the migration. This is because the spawning bays and rivers have an unnaturally high concentration of striped bass at times of the year, and there's fewer species who strategies to catch them overlap with that striped bass.	The strategies by which to catch striped bass off the surf during their migration are the same strategies by which to catch multiple other species in the same area at the same time (i.e. Bluefish and Weakfish). Therefore, unless the other species are also mandated to not be targeted, a 'non-target' mandate on striped bass along the jersey shore in fall (or spring) is illogical, unenforceable, and even immoral because it would solely rely on the assumption of the warden about the angler's intent, and not on any objective measure. In addition to all the above, a no-target mandate would surely hurt, if not permanently close many businesses (i.e. tackle shops , headboats, etc)
Dwane Tracy	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest .....Catch and release only		

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Erik Dollman	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest across the board.	No harvest. Closures for spawning season.	
Eric Ullmann	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest all time. Target always allowed		The recreational fisherman are not the problem.
Josh Basket	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest closure for all regions, including the commercial anglers	No harvest for all year long	No harvest for every state and absolutely no harvest for commercial anglers!!!
Ryan Macey	NJ	Private rec.	no harvest closure in the spring	no harvest, spring	
Mohammad Raza	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest closure, please do not do no target closure		
Brendan stuk	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest closure, spring migration when fish are spawning.		Changing to no harvest during certain periods would be the best and even approach. Impacted stores, guides, and anglers would be lessened and still be able to protect the fishery. I think you would even possibly see a decline in anglers targeting striped bass if there was no harvesting allowed which would help in lowering the catch and release mortality.

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Joe Pheifer	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest closures only. No targeting is absurd and virtually unenforceable.	No harvest closures only. No targeting is absurd and virtually unenforceable.	I would be fine with no harvest for the entire year, or until stocks are rebuilt.
Michael Wright	NJ		No harvest closures through the summer months, July-August-September.		No targeting closures would be devastating to the marine industry here on Long Island. We have thousands of surf anglers and fly anglers who will gladly continue to fish and spend money in tackle shops but not care if they are not allowed to take home fish.
Greg Cudnik	NJ	Shore-side support	No harvest closures with the closures focused on spring when it's most important to help spawn in any way possible.	No harvest closures with the closures focused on spring when it's most important to help spawn in any way possible. Closures seem to already be this way.	The issues is recruitment and SSB. The board doesn't have much control over the many issues plaguing YOY however the board does have control over the direct harvesting of SSB. Action should have been taken long ago to close any allowable harvest of SB over slot. Close or alter the MA commercial hook and line fishery to best manage help SSB.
Colton sheffy	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest during november		
Nathan sirchio	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest entire year all states	No harvest	

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David Price	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest entire year.	No harvesting. Entire year.	No harvest. Recruitment at all time low. Almost nonexistent. Chesapeake bay is experiencing major water quality issues, so basics blue catfish, and adverse environmental conditions during spawning. We need as many fish in the system as possible to even have a chance of rebuilding.
Alex Hickey	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest for all areas in the foreseeable future would be the best case scenario.	No harvest for all areas in the foreseeable future would be the best case scenario.	One of the best parts about striped bass, is that big ones are often willing to come close to shore. A person could spend a day at beach, with no prior experience, and catch the fish of a lifetime. They taste no better than fluke, black sea bass, or even farm grown tilapia, and taste exponentially worse as they age. Keep striped bass as a game fish, at least until we have a stable reproducing population.
Kenneth Palmieri	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest for all states considered. No target from Jan 1, 2026 - May 1, 2026 for all states considered.	No target for Chesapeake Jan 2026-May2026.	
Jason Rostkowski	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest if it comes to that	No harvest	

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Vincent Boyle	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest in all regions	No targeting during the spawning months for the entire bay	
Brian M	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest in the summer season		
Joseph Passerella	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest is the obvious answer	No harvest is the obvious answer	No harvest is the obvious answer
Nicholas Petro	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest mid atlantic	No harvedt	

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Christopher Barsamian	NJ	Private rec.	NO HARVEST MUST BE THE ONLY DECISION	NO HARVEST	Dear ASMFC Commissioners, I am writing to oppose the proposed no-target rule. While I support responsible fisheries management, this rule would shift an undue burden onto recreational anglers who are not targeting regulated species but may encounter them incidentally. Such a policy risks discouraging participation in our coastal fisheries without meaningfully advancing conservation goats. I urge the Commission to pursue strategies that protect stocks while preserving fair access for the recreational anglers. No harvest is going to be what saves the bass. And no special treatment for the commercial/for-hire sector! Thank you for your consideration.
Michael Jeffers	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest New Jersey June-September		
Peter Morrison	NJ	Private rec.	no harvest period		
James Thomas	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest should be the only option.	No harvest should be the only option everywhere.	

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Paul Sowney	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest until stocks rebuild		We need to protect striped bass as well as menhaden populations.
Frank Flynn	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest up and down the coast	No harvest at all	There should be no harvest of this fish whatsoever, make it a gamefish
Christian Pair	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest would allow bass within slot limit to grow and potentially reproduce. Season closure should take place during spawning months for striped bass. This will allow spawning fish to complete their spawning stage safetly without being targeted.		
Matt	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest would decrease the amount of hooked fish by a substantial amount and that would help rebuild the stock.		
Scott Brockmeyer	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest, all year.	No harvest, all year	

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John Leshko	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest, as striped bass is one of the most targeted and love fisheries for surf fisherman as well as boat guys. To completely close it down would effect many.	No targeting would effect many negatively	No target is not the way, it would negatively effect thousands whether it been financially from a business stand point, or individuals who use surf fishing as their form to escape day to day burdens, it's their place of peace and separation, there is no good outcome from completely shutting down the fishery.
Richard Lasker	NJ	Private rec.	no harvest, catch and release	until such time as stocks rebound and review is possible.	Imperative that the states take the lead on protecting natural resources as the trump administration is worthless.
Thomas Kokalas	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest, coast wide during the spring spawn (March through April) and also during the end of the fall migration (December).		
Justin Elliott	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest, lots of small businesses would be greatly affected if no target was implemented	No-harvest	Closure will hurt many small businesses
Daniel McGrath	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest, not allowing people to target them will not stop them		

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Jason Sciullo	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest.	No harvest.	I'm in full support of no harvest closures, but in no way could ever support no targeting. I also think the government should look into the real cause of any game fish shortage, which is the allowance of bunker harvesting at the currently unsustainable levels. No bait means no fish.
Neil	NJ	Private rec.	NO HARVEST.	NO HARVEST FOR THREEYEARS	No target is unenforceable… “targeting bluefish” will never be more popular
Brian Keating	NJ	Shore-side support	No harvest. Shut down commercial. No one eats stripe bass anyways		
Phillip Tompkins	NJ	Private rec.	No Harvest. If you want to push for “no targeting”, it will hurt the tackle shops. Push for no harvest catch and release only. “No targeting” should only apply to commercial vessels, not recreational fisherman.		
Capt. Paul Eidman	NJ	For-hire	No Harvest. Implement a mandatory striped bass correct handling & release procedures program	No Harvest. No SB fishing over 75-degree water temps. Implement a mandatory striped bass correct handling & release procedures program	

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Nick Rocco	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest. Let people catch and release. The commercial boats are the ones ruining it for everyone get that in your head for once		
Jess Swaringen	NJ	Private rec.	No harvest. Split CT with MD, NY, NJ, DE into mid Atlantic. all states north starting with RI are New England	No targeting.	We have got to do something to reduce mortality, status quo cannot be an option.
Dwane Tracy	NJ	Private rec.	No seasonal closures for recreational fishing. Catch and release only No Harvest		
Larry Metzger	NJ	Private rec.	No target cannot be enforced		
Peter Mavraganis	NJ	Private rec.	No targeting		
James Marengo	NJ	Private rec.	No targeting because people kill striper by accident. New England starts with Rhode Island. During any kind of spawning.	No targeting and they should close it until they can get the bay clean	

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Nick Cornine	NJ	Private rec.	No targeting closures are entirely unenforceable and would devastate local fishing industries (tackle shops, for hire charters, etc.). A no harvest closure allows an enforceable regulation and fishing industries to make a living.	Same as question 12.	
Alan Koop	NJ	Private rec.	No targeting is unenforceable. No harvest is the best choice.		
Glen Zeeck	NJ	Private rec.	No targeting would be almost impossible to enforce	No targeting while the striper are spouning .	It seems as though that we're basing the data collected on inaccurate means. I think the this could be much better and it needs to change. Z
Christian Aiken	NJ	Private rec.	No targeting would never work, and it would shut down a major branch of the fishing industry. Catch and release needs to become more reliable for the average recreational angler. This could mean limiting hook points on lures and limiting barb use to reduce fatalities. Also limiting time out of water for the fish.		

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John Stone	NJ	Private rec.	No targeting. Mar thru Apr. & Aug.	No harvest - early spring and August	I do not understand why the recreational - surf fishing individuals have to take it on the chin all the time and a greater reduction would take place in the commercial sector.
Dominic Tanzi	NJ	Private rec.	No-harvest	No-harvest	●Decrease the allowance of the Bunker Omega ships to be taken ●Delay the start of season so the females can have a chance to drop their eggs
Andrew Zelinski	NJ	Private rec.	No-harvest	No-harvest	Trust the marine biologists
Jillian	NJ	Private rec.	No-harvest	No-targeting and no-harvest	Let's have a good year!
Matthew Olters	NJ	Private rec.	No-harvest		Gotta think term!
Jared politano	NJ	Private rec.	No-harvest	Should be no targeting during the spawn time in Chesapeake bay	Please make the fishery no harvest for both commercial, recreational , and for hire vessels for the entire east coast during the year of 2026.
Sean McCarthy	NJ	Private rec.	No-harvest all year		

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Craig Bocchino	NJ	Private rec.	No-harvest closure - No-targeting would devastate the fishing community and livelihood of many fishing or boating businesses. I am ok with region splits for harvesting. Commercial harvesting, especially in Chesapeake bay, should be reduced. Private and recreational fishing should not be targeted due to the overabundance of harvesting Striped Bass.	No-harvest closure - No-targeting would devastate the fishing community and livelihood of many fishing or boating businesses. I am ok with region splits for harvesting. Commercial harvesting, especially in Chesapeake bay, should be reduced. Private and recreational fishing should not be targeted due to the overabundance of harvesting Striped Bass	Closing any fishery to a "No-targeting" would devastate the fishing community and livelihood of many fishing or boating businesses. Too many coastal communities up and down the Eastern Seaboard rely on fishing to survive, especially when commercial over-harvesting is affecting the recreational closures.

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Anthony Barbosa	NJ	Private rec.	no-harvest closure, it is unenforceable for one as many anglers will still be targeting species such as bluefish and black drum both with can result in hooking a bass. It will also allow for tackle shops, for hire vessels, and general costal businesses to maintain their operations close to what they are now.	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: No harvest across the board. GENERAL COMMENT: Since there is clearly a problem with the striped bass biomass, a no-harvest rule should be put into effect across the board for both recreational and commercial anglers. This approach would allow people and businesses that rely on the spring and fall striped bass runs to maintain their normal operations while also enabling fish and game agencies to better enforce the regulations. In addition, action must be taken against the reduction fleet (Omega) harvesting large amounts of bunker off the striped bass coast. Since they began operating in New Jersey waters, there has been little to no adult bunker visible along the beaches. CONTINUED RIGHT	Around me, full-size bunker has become rare; tackle shops only carry medium-sized bunker for crabbing and fishing. I have not seen a single bunker pod along the surf this summer and saw only one day of adult bunker last year. There has also been an increase in shark activity in bays and inlets, which may be explained by bunker moving closer inshore due to offshore depletion. Bunker are a vital food source for many species, including striped bass. This directly affects striped bass survival and spawning success. Poor nutrition inevitably leads to poor spawning outcomes. Everything in the ecosystem is connected, and it is vital to consider the food sources below striped bass in the food chain, rather than focusing solely on the species itself. Thank you for taking the time to review my comments.

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Michael Lockhart	NJ	Private rec.	No-Harvest closure. New England States closure August 15th-December 1st Mid Atlantic States closure October 15th-December 31st		
Tom Kowalak	NJ	Private rec.	No-harvest during Spring run. Allow one for the table during Fall migration.	No targeting Spring striper run anywhere in the Chesapeake. Their fishery has been decimated. Protect NJ / NY striper dependent businesses. Don't punish us for MD VA abuse of resources.	Omega should be prohibited from harvesting bunker for the next 24 months at least. Let the stripers feed and let em grow and reproduce.
Mike Frezza	NJ	Private rec.	No-Harvest, as a Rec. Angler from New Jersey I don’t keep Striped Bass. I can say most people I fish with would rather No-Harvest than No-Target.	No Harvest	
Dennis DeMizio	NJ	Private rec.	No-Harvest, New York, New Jersey. To allow max potential growth, early spring (Beginning of March) thru and including mid-May should be implemented.		I support all efforts to protect and aid in the growth of Striped Bass stock based upon scientific and hands-on experiences. No decision will please everyone.

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Kevin Taylor	NJ	Private rec.	No-harvest; I believe the no-harvest closure should be for the entire year/for every region/for both commercial & recreational anglers. I believe this will simplify everything and keeps it fair for everyone across the board.	No-harvest; I believe the no-harvest closure should be for the entire year/for every region/for both commercial & recreational anglers. I believe this will simplify everything and keeps it fair for everyone across the board.	I believe the “no-target” option should not be considered. It is not fair in any regard and will do more harm than good, especially to our local economies (ie. tackle shops, guides & charters). This option would extremely difficult (if not impossible) for game wardens/conservation officers to enforce. This option would only add extra pressure on an already overly strained resource.
Scot Stickle	NJ	Private rec.	No-targeting improves mortality rates. I don't have enough knowledge of the subject to provide further comment.		We see a drastic drop in bait fish, specifically bunker. I hope we are considering the affect on Bass, if any. Stories prevail that commercial fishing, for the supplement industry, is to blame.
Rosemarie Frank	NJ	Private rec.	Nothing more than catch and release. No targeting can not be enforced, so why bother		

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Jesse Lawrence	NJ	Private rec.	See comments below	See comments below COMMENT: Comment for Draft Addendum III – Striped Bass I strongly support ASMFC's goal of rebuilding the striped bass stock by 2029 and agree with several proposed measures, including reducing the commercial quota, maintaining and tightening coastwide slot and bag limits, and strengthening tagging and accountability requirements. These steps are fair, enforceable, and biologically sound. However, I must oppose the proposed "no-targeting" closures. Such closures are unenforceable, place a disproportionate burden on recreational anglers and the for-hire industry, and penalize catch-and-release fishing that is already conducted with best practices to minimize mortality. CONTINUED RIGHT	The ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee has acknowledged that "no-targeting" rules are impractical to enforce, and they risk undermining angler confidence in fisheries management. Better alternatives exist — such as harvest-only seasonal closures, bag and slot adjustments, and continued education on responsible release practices — that will achieve meaningful reductions in removals without unnecessarily eliminating recreational access to the fishery. I urge the Board to reject the "no-targeting" option and instead adopt the more enforceable, equitable measures outlined above. Respectfully submitted, Jesse Lawrence Califon, NJ Recreational Angler

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Sean Cahalane	NJ	Private rec.	Spring closure		There is no shortage of striped bass in NJ in the Fall time ocean base was, but the spring bass fishing ocean based has declined massively with no fish migrating from down in the Chesapeake or Delaware River anymore. Thank you
Rebecca Dantschisch	NJ	Private rec.	Status quo or no harvest	Status quo	Status quo

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Fletcher Chayes	NJ	For-hire	Status Quo. I do not support any of the options except leave the fishery alone...status quo for the many reasons I stated in the public meeting in Manahawkin NJ.	Status quo...no changes And how can you choose when there are no specific dates on the closures. And you can't lump multiple states together to get a one option fixes all. Each state needs to decide for them selves as each fishery is different. Sure people may drive from state to state to fish in that open season but that's their right based on each states seasons. GENERAL COMMENT: The reasons for the 12 % reduction are guesses at best. Any further cuts in the season-closures or no harvest-will cost my family $1500 a day. Close the season in two waves for 22 days each will cost me $66000. Can you absorb a 36% cut in your pay? CONTINUED RIGHT	Loose about a third of the season (124 total days in two waves with a loss of 44 days= about a 36%loss) Already lost 30% of my business when we went to 1 fish.Charters are not going to come fish if they can't bring fish home to eat Not in favor of putting me-the for hires on the other side of the rec fence. I think that will cause problems. We need to be on the same side, fighting together for our fish. Closures or no targets are not going to guarantee a good YOY index or a successful spawn. NEED TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY ISSUES AND LACK OF FORAGE FOR YOY (zoo plankton not present for fry) Agricultural and lawn run off contaminants , sewage contaminating water due to aging broken sewage systems. Fix thise issues and bass will come back. We have enough SSB spawners to get the job done. Ohh blue cats consuming everything and Commercial take fish over 35" -very fish we want to protect- big spawners. STATUS QUO

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Robby fuggi	NJ	Private rec.	Stop harvesting. Catch and release only. Allow tackle shops to make sales and everyone wins.. the party boats who take 50-60 fish a day is the problem.		Please make this catch and release only. It's fair and saves the fish.
Andrew Brookman	NJ	Private rec.	Striped bass has become a main stay of our late fall early winter season. Being able to keep fish is not important but it is important to keep the ability to target. I primarily catch and release fish but keep a few fish each season. However if a closure is necessary it should be during the spawning periods in all jurisdictions.	Fish should be protected during the spawn.	I have been fishing for over 50 years and I did not catch my first striped bass until I was 16. I have watched the stock grow exponentially and the bass have replace many species that are all but gone from our south jersey waters (mackeral, weakfish, bluefish). If we lost access to this species during late fall and winter it would cause me great distress as we wait all fall to get on the fall run. I

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Michael Kaufmann	NJ	Private rec.	Support 1) the no-harvest option. 2)ME-RI…no harvest in Wave 4 3)CT-NC….Waves 3 & 6 no harvest option	Prefer no targeting during periods of warm water temps/lower dissolved oxygen conditions in the Chesapeake during July and/or August.	States should prohibit anglers from using the technique known as live-lining. When to tighten the line (using circle hooks) on a striped bass running with the bait is still a guessing game because of the bait's size and this encourages anglers to allow striped bass to swallow the bait. Despite circle hook usage, anecdotal reports I have received a few skilled anglers is that 40-50% of striped bass they're catching are being "gut" or esophagus hooked. As a lure angler, I can assure you that there is no need to fish with live or recently killed advanced juvenile or adult fish such as American eel, Menhaden, Spot, and White Perch. Additionally, given ASMFC's concerns regarding the American eel population, use of eels for striped bass bait represents unnecessary waste and should be prohibited.

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Matthew	NJ	Private rec.	The issues I've see as a shore angler from the jersey shores is that head boats have no way to revive the big fish and have seen multiple fish upside down due to it. No netting bunker commercially along the coast as the by catch all die. No harvest across the board on all east coast. The fact people think it's safe to harvest and eat these fish is the issue.	I would support a no harvest, across the board in all east coast states and bays, no netting as well.	If we want to truly safe the fish we have to target the individuals that are ruining the industry for everyone, a bigger presence in officers patrolling? More tagging during the migration months, more additional information for rec fisherman to be able to tag and summit data. No harvest across the whole east coast.
Dan Bergman	NJ	Private rec.	There should be a strict no harvest closure during the spring/spawning season		
Padraic Sciortino	NJ	Private rec.	There should be no closures. But if you must make this awful decision and impact countless lives and families, a No Harvest closure can be achieved but it MUST not occur in New Jersey between October-Christmas Day		

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Andrew Carey	NJ	Private rec.	There should never be a no target closure for any recreational striped bass fishing	There should never be a no target closure for any recreational striped bass fishing	
Chase Mako	NJ	Private rec.	To harvest, ever.	Maryland and Virginia, no harvest recreational or commercial.	
Jameson	NJ	Private rec.	yes	yes	

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William Coppola	NJ	Private rec.	You cannot enforce/support no targeting, it opens the floodgates for the revenue machine and class action against fish and game, which is already being drafted premtive by lawyers, it leaves things to open to the opportunistic nature of law enforcement to just ticket people no matter what. Public opinion is at an all time low as it is with law enforcement, some of the last supporters are part of the fishing community, you will turn these supports against law enforcement, there's not enough space to begin to continue to outline why no targeting is bad for a plethora of different reasons.		You are penalizing recreational fisherman because you were allowing out of country boats to harvest the striped bass's food source, which in turn they're also catching striped bass in those nets and you're allowing commercial fishermen. Also, uncharter boats to kill massive amounts of striped bass day after day after day and you're penalizing the people who have absolutely less than 2% of the mortality rate on their hands
Keifer samul	NJ	Private rec.		All year no harvest	

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Stephen Rhodes IV	NJ	Private rec. / rod builder		I think since the largest of the bio mass spawns in the bay we should have a no target on them during spawning times and actually enforce it. As when it's not the spawn and let's call it post spawn we can fish for the fish and then there is no accidental deaths to the big breeder fish.	
Frank Branagan	NJ	For-hire		Jersey no targeting July and august	Close the fishery 11-30 to 12-15
Drew Ward	NJ	Private rec.		No Harvest	A lot of folks livings count on the Striped Bass Fishing in NJ. If they can't keep them to eat, it's fine, but need to be able to target and fish them
William Marmo Jr.	NJ	Private rec.		No harvest closures in the spring months especially.	
Alex Ford	NJ	Private rec.		No harvest.	Harvest moratorium.
Peter G Frank	NJ	Private rec.		No harvest. See comment to 15	Don't close season for charters or surf fisherman. If there has to be a closure make it catch and release. No target is not enforceable.

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William Doan	NJ	Private rec.		No targeting.	I'm for the maximum reduction in commercial and recreational harvest to help rebuild the striped bass population faster. Striped bass have been seriously overfished.

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Matthew carey	NJ	Private rec.		GENERAL COMMENT: I strongly oppose the proposed closure of striped bass fishing for surf anglers in New Jersey, as this measure unfairly targets the wrong group of individuals and does not address the root cause of the issue. Surf fishermen have long been responsible, conservation-minded anglers who abide by regulations designed to preserve fish populations. They represent a small fraction of the overall fishing effort and are not the primary contributors to the decline in striped bass stocks. CONTINUED RIGHT	Instead, the real threat to both striped bass and their primary prey, menhaden (or bunker), lies in the commercial fishing industry. The overfishing and netting of menhaden, a vital food source for striped bass, has caused significant disruptions in the ecosystem. Commercial operations, by removing vast quantities of menhaden from the waters, have directly impacted the health of striped bass populations. Closing striped bass fishing for recreational surf anglers would not solve these critical issues and would instead unfairly penalize an entire community of responsible fishermen. Rather than imposing a blanket ban, we should focus on reforming commercial fishing practices and ensuring more sustainable management of both striped bass and menhaden populations. It is crucial that surf anglers are not unjustly blamed for the problems caused by industrial-scale commercial fishing. Let's preserve our sport, while protecting the striped bass for future generations by addressing the true threats to our marine ecosystem.

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KENNY RUSSO	NJ	Private rec.			ALL STATES HAVE THE SAME LAWS UP AND DOWN THE COAST
John Thies	NJ	Private rec.			Designate Striped Bass as no-sale or as a gamefish, as New Jersey has done. Protect forage species especially Atlantic Menhaden, that Striped Bass depend upon by eliminating the foreign-owned Menhaden Reduction Industry that catches every Menhaden in Chesapeake Bay every Spring and then moves out into the Atlantic Ocean to continue this devastating practice. Force Massachusetts to change their regulations that currently allow recreational fisherman to purchase a $20 permit to become commercial fisherman and fill their boats with Striped Bass up to 35” during a special season. This commercial catch of Striped Bass is drastically under reported. Force Virginia and Maryland to work together to improve environmental conditions, reduce pollution, and reduce invasive Blue Catfish in the Chesapeake Bay, to improve Striped Bass Spawning in the largest spawning area on the East Coast.

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Troy	NJ	Private rec.			Do not close striped bass fishing
Derick Cortes	NJ	Private rec.			Don’t take recreational targeting of striped bass away from the public.
Evan	NJ	Private rec.			Fuck your no target addendum
Gerard Zagorski	NJ	Private rec.			Given the recreational catch estimates might be revised downward and there is a new benchmark stock assessment scheduled for 2027 I would like to keep the regulations status quo
Becky LeLong	NJ	Private rec.			I am STONGLY opposed to an closure of the striped bass fishery in 2026. I support the Status Quo option
Anthony Califano	NJ	Private rec.			I do not now, or ever have (or ever will) support any motions implementing different regulations for Private and For-Hire users of this resource. All this does is drives a wedge between recreational anglers that we do not need. Thank you
Greg O’Driscoll	NJ	Private rec.			I favor a moratorium as before because it worked

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Brian Walters	NJ	Private rec.			I know recruitment has been sub-par but I feel like the emergency actions that were taken a few years ago hasn't been fully vetted yet. If no target closers go into effect it will be detrimental to so many tackle shops, mom and pop diners hotels.
Steve Kline	NJ	Private rec.			I strongly oppose the proposed "no targeting" closures for striped bass. The ASMFC's own Law Enforcement Committee has said these closures are unenforceable, ranking them last among 27 possible actions. They reduce fishing activity only on paper, not in reality, and will delay rebuilding. Instead, managers should prioritize measures that are enforceable and effective: equal reductions across commercial and recreational sectors, tagging fish at harvest to curb illegal sales, uniform measurement standards to close loopholes, and incorporating new science showing gear changes can cut release mortality. Real conservation depends on actions that work on the water, not rules that can't be enforced.

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Lance Miller	NJ	Private rec.			If you have no targeting you'll kill the fishing industry (tackle, bait, boats, etc). I've personally considered upgrading my boat this year as I've saved up a budget for it. Unfortunately due to your rules and regulations I'm NOT buying a boat now as I'm skeptical what your outcome will be. Please allow us anglers to enjoy what we love. Thank you for your consideration.
Adam Zalewski	NJ	Private rec.			No closures on striped bass fishing. Always allow catch and release. If you want to improve the stocks then stop the bunker reduction boats that decimated the baitfish population up and down the east coast. And improve habitat in rivers and estuaries and spawning grounds!
Glen Truelove	NJ	Private rec.			One important note put a total stop to commercial fishing for striped bass they take the majority of the fish.

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Capt Jerry Lombardo	NJ	Private rec.			Regarding New Jersey.....None of this is helping... as I see many fish going back that do not make it.....Better Reg=Allow one fish between 28-31 PER BOAT and Allow one Fish PER BOAT over 31 inch
Ray Simpson	NJ	Private rec.			The slot limit does not work. Should be no harvest for 3 years. Recreational and commercial. Or one fish over 38" Close harvesting during spawning season everywhere.
Brian	NJ	Private rec.			This is the healthiest stock of fish I have seen in 45 years of fishing in NJ. Not sure where your survey data is coming from. But it's not coming from recreational anglers.
Glenn Mattern	NJ	Private rec.			With the data, which upon the 12% reduction target is being based, has been shown to be flawed, I believe the efforts should directed to gettin* more accurate input data. For now, I would recommend status quo to 2024 regs. I also believe more effort should be done to address likely issues impacting the spawning level reductions (ex. Predation, pollution, etc.)

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Kyle Stigale	NJ / DE	Private rec.	In Maryland the summer needs to be catch and release	In January- March i understand a non target closure due to the amount of breeding fish but a non harvest closure should come into play more in the summer	Striper fishing has become the center of many of our lives the many of us take the best possible care of these fish resulting in as high of a successful release rate as possible these past few years I have seen more bass on the coasts then in a long time if anything needs to be done it is in the commercial fishing side of things and not the guys with 1 rod and reel
Devin sem	NJ / PA	Private rec.	Catch and release should be allowed at all times. There should be a full no harvest for 2 years, and see what happens from there. Most recreational anglers are not harvesting fish. That's the commercial side.	No harvesting all year	
Evan Barger	NJ / Potomac	Private rec.			Can we end commercial fishing for striped bass? The fact that adult breeding aged fish are slaughtered in mass is the biggest detriment to the population. I am totally fine with a complete closure to harvest, or as restricted as possible but do not support any no target closures.

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Thomas Cipriano	NY	Private rec.	I would support a no harvest during certain times of the year.	I do not know enough about this fishery to properly comment.	No targeting is extremely difficult when the same methods are used for bluefish as well. Everyone is used to not keeping oversize bass so that should not be an issue, even if it no harvest for periods of sensitive times for the fishery like spawn or migration.
Wyatt Jensen	NY	Private rec.	.	.	regulate commercial harvest heavily as well as for hire
Thomas Falco	NY	Private rec.	12% equal reductions; I oppose any commercial favoritism. For ocean: I support sub-option O1 because it's uniform and has no for-hire exemption. I support no-harvest closures because its enforceable and allows catch and release. Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts and should thereby be included in the Northern Region as well.		We all see that this fishery is in serious jeopardy of collapse. PLEASE carry out ASMFC's mission to protect/preserve this amazing resource for the PUBLIC, and not bow to the few loud voices in the for-hire sector. Thank you

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Brian Connor	NY	Private rec.	12% equal reductions; oppose of any commercial favoritism. For ocean: Sub-option O1 (uniform, no for-hire exemption); no-harvest closures (enforceable, allows C&R). Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.		No target should be taken off the table.
Matt	NY	Private rec.	Ban Commerical fishing of a Striped Bass	Ban Commerical fishing of Striped bass	Ban Commerical fishing of striped bass and bunker.
Adam	NY	Private rec.	Catch and release targeting only Harvest prohibited	C/R only Harvest Prohibited	

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Karim Elayouby	NY	Private rec.	Closure on fall season fishing.	Closure on fall and spring season fishing.	Without proper funding and staffing of enforcement/game wardens a lot of these regulations and changes will be close to meaningless. There are simply not enough game wardens or DEC officers to police our watersheds... yet we really do need them to help support these initiatives and conservation efforts.
Arthur C Romaine	NY	Private rec.	Fishing mortality reductions are essential and Amendment III is only scratching the surface of necessary changes. As much as it it hurts to say this, no harvest closure are preferred over no-target closures anywhere in the region.	I support harvest reductions regardless of the region or the time of year.	I support harvest reductions regardless of the region or the time of the year. We must all be in this together so we may benefit down the road.
VanDyke Manners	NY	Private rec.	For the mid Atlantic region from April 15-May 31st should be C&R strictly due to the spawning grounds. No harvest in that time, this should include the rivers like Hudson River, Deleware River, and James.		Catch and Release only

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Alessandro oliviero	NY	Private rec.	I believe a no targeting closure with strict enforcement will be great for our fishery. As someone who fishes the season religiously every year, I would sacrifice a couple years to make sure my children can enjoy the same fishing I have.		
Jeremy	NY	Private rec.	I don't know what to put here	No harvesting	
Martin Barth	NY	Private rec.	I only support no harvest closures. No target closures are unenforceable, the Law Enforcement Committee has gone on record saying this. This would place a large economic burden on businesses that rely on recreational anglers. The no harvest closures should be implemented during months with the warmest water temps when fish are most vulnerable.	No harvest closures	There needs to be more accountability by the commercial fishery.

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Jakub Zienowicz	NY	Private rec.	I season closer wouldn’t help as much as people think there simply isn’t enough DEC or park rangers around to enforce it a no harvest closure would definitely help	No harvest	
Wulber ruiz	NY	Private rec.	I strongly oppose no target closure because they're unenforceable and better management options exist.	I strongly oppose no target closure because they're unenforceable and better management options exist.	I strongly oppose no target closure because they're unenforceable and better management options exist.
Kevin S	NY	Private rec.	I strongly oppose no target closures because they are unenforceable and better management options exist.	I strongly oppose no target closures because they are unenforceable and better management options exist.	I strongly oppose no target closures because they are unenforceable and better management options exist.
John Gans	NY	Private rec.	I support a full moratorium		Please do not delay taking action. The stock needs to be rebuilt as soon as possible. I think all sectors and stakeholder should contribute to rebuilding the stock. There should be no exemptions

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Alfred J Sargente	NY	Private rec.	I support a no-harvest closure. NY, CT and RI should all be included in the New England region. I support wave 4 closures for New England.	I support a no-harvest closure. I support wave 6 closure for the Mid-Atlantic region.	The Board should be taking strong preventative actions now, especially as we face 6 straight years of failed spawning in the Chesapeake Bay. I support an equitable coast-wide harvest moratorium as the best and only way to rebuild the stock.
Joel Stoehr	NY	Private rec.	I support an east coast (New England and Mid-Atlantic region) wide no harvesting closure for the entire season (year round) going forward for at least 5 years, after which the no harvest regulation could be reevaluated. Single hook, artificial only- no bait allowed when targeting striped bass. Catch and release only.	I support an east coast wide (including the Chesapeake Bay) no harvesting closure for the entire season (year round) going forward for at least 5 years, after which the no harvest regulation could be reevaluated. Single hook, artificial only- no bait allowed when targeting striped bass. Catch and release only.	I support a no harvest closure on all striped bass fishing on the entire east coast until the spawning stock biomass of striped bass is above target for four years. This no harvest closure should include regulations mandating the use of artificial bait only (lures and flies- single hook) catch and release only.

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Liam	NY	Private rec.	I support no harvest and making striped bass a gamefish aka no commercial fishery for striped bass what so ever. The no harvest should be implemented during the spring run in both regions. Also treble hooks on lures should be prohibited		
Eric Hallenbeck	NY	Private rec.	I support no harvest closures because it is enforceable and allows access to fishing throughout the season.		The fishery needs to be protected. No harvest closures are the only reasonable, enforceable measure to be taken.

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Jake Hardy	NY	Private rec.	I support no harvest closures. No-target provides less quantifiable contributions to rebuilding and enforceability issues will undermine compliance and respect for the Boards regulations. Private/Shore recreational anglers drive 99% of the socioeconomic value of the fishery. The board should discuss why the 1% of commercial and for-hire special interests continue to dominate ASMFC management and whether thats an appropriate waste of the resource. NY, CT, and RI should be included in the Northern region because they share more in common with New England's fishery than southern states.		The Board is failing its obligation to the resource and the public. With six years of recruitment failure and the uncertainty in the SSB modeling, risk-averse management action is required. If the board fails to rebuild, a moratorium will be the only option.
Lloyd Kee	NY	Private rec.	I support no- harvest closures. Rhode Island should be included in the northern region. Wave 4	I support no-harvest closures. Wave 6	

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James Christopher Tracy	NY	Private rec.	I support no harvest closures. You will not be able to enforce no targeting.	I support no harvest closures. You will not be able to enforce no targeting.	

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Matt Maciaszek	NY	Private rec.	I support no harvesting closures as these have shown success in the past and when coupled with more conservative measures around replenishing stocks over time will be easier to sustain for a prolonged period, as necessary. For example, a no-targeting closure may face more significant pressure to be rolled back more quickly than a non-harvest closure.	I support no harvesting closures as these have shown success in the past and when coupled with more conservative measures around replenishing stocks over time will be easier to sustain for a prolonged period, as necessary. For example, a no-targeting closure may face more significant pressure to be rolled back more quickly than a non-harvest closure. GENERAL COMMENT: The state of the striped bass fishery is as depressed as I have seen it in my 47 year lifetime. There are a number of factors contributing to this decline, and a large degree of uncertainty inherent in measuring the impact of proposed harvest reductions, but we must act nevertheless. CONTINUED RIGHT	While increasing water temps, declining quality of spawning grounds, declining availability and prevalence of certain baitfish, and increased numbers of near shore predators (eg seals and sharks) are all likely suppressing striped bass stocks, the factor directly within the control of this governing body is the harvesting of striped bass by commercial and recreational anglers. The time has past for half measures - we must undertake a moratorium on harvesting this incredible fish until we are certain of a recovery in stocks, particularly if juveniles in the Chesapeake Bay. Please take into consideration when making these decisions the biases of anglers and other groups that argue against significant action. This would be not only shortsighted but would also risk hitting a point of total collapse, from which recovery might be impossible. Please, please act and act strongly.

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Scott Rispaud	NY	Private rec.	I support no harvesting. No targeting is to difficult to enforce,	I support no harvest, no targeting for a closed period of 3 years. The last time this was done, Bass came back with a vengance	STOP THE NETTING! Nothing has an effect on the fishery worse than commercial netting. If netting were stopped and recreational fishing continued status quo, the populations would increase substantially.
Vasilios Tzanides	NY	Private rec.	I would be supportive of a no harvest closure of striped bass in New York, full stop. I would be supportive of a no target closure of striped bass fishing in New York from July 1 through September 15 and from December 15 through March 1. Ideally, I would be in favor of a year round no harvest if it meant no periods of no target.	I don't have a horse in that race but for the overall health of the population. I don't think it's right that the anglers of the Chesapeake bay suffer for my preferences. I think their say should hold more weight.	I am hopeful that any future regulations do what the commission hopes to achieve however, I am concerned that without proper enforcement of those regulations the poaching will diminish any returns. Currently, there are a total of 3 to 5 rangers responsible for the entirety of Staten Island and Brooklyn. The poachers in one neighborhood in Brooklyn outnumber them 10 to 1, if not much more.
Rodney Otero	NY	Private rec.	I would keep it as is. Recreational fisherman are already getting squeezed, Charter boats are losing business while commercial does what they want.		

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Chuck Vaccarino	NY	Private rec.	I would support no closure with a catch and release only. Also no trolling as that kills fish.	No harvest	I would support a smaller & tighter slot limit to preserve the 2015 class which are now in the 28 to 31 inch range. Use 23 to 26 inches. For Hudson River I would support no target before May 1st and also catch and release only with no trolling.
Ryan Norell	NY	Private rec.	I would support no-harvest closures of Striped Bass fishing. No target closures are unenforceable and better management options could be implemented.	No harvest for ALL of 2026	SAVE THE STRIPED BASS!
Bryan Kappenberg	NY	Private rec.	I would support Seasonal No-Target and No-Harvest for all regions. Give the fish a break.	I would support seasonal No-Target and No-Harvest for all regions.	I am a recreational angler on a private vessel, target striped bass average 10 trips per year. I support No-Target and No-Harvest on a seasonal basis for Recreational and Commercial. I think that "For-Hire" should be considered further and more strict rules be set for that group. There are a lot of boats and they have a big impact on population.

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Max	NY	Private rec.	I've been fishing for over 10 years with my dad off montauk and have seen firsthand the devastation of the striped bass population. Tightening the limits so people can't keep big fish anymore was a good step but now what I see is charter boats fileting fish onboard and then using an old slot carcass to pretend like that fish was a slot. I think we need complete harvest closure so we can preserve the population. I want to be able to enjoy the resource with my kids one day and I worry that the continued harvest won't let the population ever recover. People need to realize they need to pay back the decades of overfishing and leave the stripers in the water.		We need to close the striped bass fishing. I remember the massive bass that would be caught every day off of montauk point and that is now a rarity. And while the harvest regulations changing was a good step. We need to go further to help the population recover. And drastic and serious steps are needed.

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Louis	NY	Private rec.	In the New England area, BAN COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS AND MENHADEN OMEGA 3 BOATS WHY AS A RECREATIONAL ANGLER AM I ALLOWED 1 FISH PER DAY WHEN THESE BOATS ARE CRUSHING HUNDRED OF BASS AND THOUSANDS OF BUNKER DAILY	In the CHESAPEAKE area, BAN COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS AND MENHADEN OMEGA 3 BOATS WHY AS A RECREATIONAL ANGLER AM I ALLOWED 1 FISH PER DAY WHEN THESE BOATS ARE CRUSHING HUNDRED OF BASS AND THOUSANDS OF BUNKER DAILY also ban the use of trebles. A no target closure will never work people will still fish for them. “I’m gonna go blue fishing” lol give me a break	In the New England area, BAN COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS AND MENHADEN OMEGA 3 BOATS WHY AS A RECREATIONAL ANGLER AM I ALLOWED 1 FISH PER DAY WHEN THESE BOATS ARE CRUSHING HUNDRED OF BASS AND THOUSANDS OF BUNKER DAILY
Jack Bertini	NY	Private rec.	Increased restrictions on commercial menhaden harvest		

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Vito dilluvio	NY	Private rec.	It'll be impossible to comply with no targeting throughout an entire season coastal wide. However, making the fishery catch and release only will help to alleviate the pressure on current stock. It's blatantly obvious that this fishery is taking a beating. We cannot blame one side for this issue more than another either. From over commercial fishing, to party boats making 2-3 trips per day with 30+ fisherman per boat, to private charters putting their customers on tons of fish to build their reputation, to the recreational angler abusing fish in various ways. I believe there should also be a complete shutdown of targeting striped bass within the 3 major spawning rivers (Hudson, Chesapeake, Delaware rivers). Give these fish a chance to spawn without the unnecessary pressure from anglers. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: Limit the fishing to the ocean only! River mouths should be off limits as well due to the fact that we don't know whether or not this fish is entering or leaving the river post spawn. The fishery needs to increase its young of the year numbers in order to be sustainable. The 3 major rivers have had horrific numbers over the past 5 years. A couple of good Hudson River years doesn't not make up for the lackluster production of the Chesapeake. We all know that river is the main producer and it should be protected with even more regulation. CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: No target and no catch and release during the spawning months. River mouth off limits as well due to the fact that we don't know whether or not the fish have spawned yet	Protect the rivers at all costs. Allow these fish to spawn without any pressure from anglers. Also, there's a major issue with commercial menhaden boats throughout the striped bass migration route. From my own experience I can honestly say that bunker has almost become nonexistent within the areas I fish. I'm talking about areas that historically produce bunker in great numbers year after year are void of the bait fish all together. A major forage for striped bass being absent along their migration route will cause major disruption to their feeding opportunities. Malnutrition will increase the chances of being susceptible to disease, sickness, and starvation.

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Thomas Heilig	NY	Private rec.	Keep regulations as is		There is not enough policing of violators of current regulations in NY
Sam Stuhlman	NY	Private rec.	Mid Atlantic region (primary spawning areas) should have no targeting implemented during spring spawning.	Full no-targeting, year-round.	
Joe Giglietta	NY	Private rec.	Mid Atlantic, No-Harvest. Start and end of the season	Spring	
Anthony	NY	Private rec.	No closures keep it at one fish pre	None keep one fish pre no size limits	Keep fishing one fish pre with no size limits
Scott	NY	Private rec.	no harm to fish		
Richard Booth	NY	Private rec.	no Harvest	no harvest	Let's do something and not pass the buck to the next mtg. Thank you. Eventually it will be too late.
Marcus Olivo	NY	Private rec.	no harvest	no harvest	No target closures seem to be very troubling, I feel a no harvest closure is the better option for the recreational fisherman and the local tackle shops and other small businesses related to recreational fishing.

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Ryan Zwick	NY	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest, no commercial, no 18” minimum nonsense	No harvest, enforce closed seasons for all states, eliminate virginia and Maryland's ability to kill small fish
Christian Moscicki	NY	Private rec.	No harvest		Please don’t let NJ, MD and DE kill all our bass
Scott Monahan	NY	Private rec.	No harvest		Striped bass shore fishing is my life & passion for over 30 years. I do not harvest. Please fo not implement no target
Kyle Ellis	NY	Private rec.	No harvest		We need better spawns. It’s to late. The only fix is no longer being able to keep these precious fish
Matthew Kircheim	NY	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	No Targeting would destroy a large part of the industry, no harvest appears to be a good option to start and then get a better idea of how the fishery responds.

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Eric Wallace	NY	Private rec.	No harvest	GENERAL COMMENT: As an avid surfcaster on Long Island ny I wanna stress that this fishery is in trouble. I personally believe the commercial boats are not participating correctly especially with trading of permits quotas etc. As I have read in a previous study that you have done you mentioned the recreational fisherman was the highest culprit of fish mortality. CONTINUED RIGHT	I myself do realize you are saying majority but also wanted to mention most striped bass anglers do not remove bass from the water upon unhooking and we revive all fish properly before releasing, I personally have removed most treble hooks from lures and have removed most rear hooks and switched to tail flags for many years now. I also have noticed the community of surf fishermen following suit. I have personally not kept a striped bass in many years feeling that the fisheries were in distress that being said speaking for myself in that manner. I live for this species to survive and grow stronger for my daughters and hopefully grand children to enjoy. I understand that there has to be action taken to help this species but i sincerely hope you understand that us stripebass surf fishermen truly love and care for this species. Perhaps a no harvest would help the 2017 species and later reach maturity. I hope these words see you well in your decisions. Ty
Larry	NY	Private rec.	No Harvest	No Harvest	I feel no Harvesting of striped bass would make the most sense to help rebuild the population.

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Leo Watson	NY	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	No harvest is the only way to revive the fishery
Richard Wisseman	NY	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	Striped bass counts are way down since I started fishing in 2005. Something needs to be done to increase numbers
Michael Douglas	NY	Private rec.	No Harvest	No Target	Striped bass population have been and continue to be in decline,would love to see a minimum of 3yrs of NO HARVEST both commercially and recreationally ,then re assess after 3 yr period,should be absolutely no target in Hudson River and raritan bay from March 15th - may 15th during pre & prime spawning seasons.Completely eliminate snag and drop bunker/herring etc. STOP THE SLAUGHTERING OF THESE MAGNIFICENT FISH
carlos solorzano	NY	Private rec.	no harvest	no targeting december-april	
Daniel Manzella	NY	Private rec.	No harvest		
Zachary Boozer	NY	Private rec.	No harvest across states. Recreational and commercial.	Non harvest.	
Patrick Morch	NY	Private rec.	No harvest all season.	No harvest , all season.	
Glenn Tippy	NY	Private rec.	No harvest all seasons	No harvest all seasons	

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Christopher Voorhies	NY	Private rec.	No harvest all year		
Raul ortiz	NY	Private rec.	No harvest along the entire east coast	No harvest	No harvest entire east coast but to catch and release is allowed
Thomas Malatesta	NY	Private rec.	No harvest closure everywhere all the time		No harvest, it will keep the jack asses off the water and only the people that are in it for the love of the fish and fishing will go out. We don't need captains limiting out on head boats for every angler so fish can die and get thrown out after getting freezer burn, we really really don't need that right now keep the fish in the water. If that's not good enough for them, stay home

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Albert Vincent Messina	NY	Private rec.	No harvest closure Include NY with New England	CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: No Harvest GENERAL COMMENT: I am a retired physician US Navy veteran with the good fortune of waterfront living in Cold Spring Harbor NY,owning my own dock at my house on which my own boat is moored.I fish striped bass every fishable day from early spring through early winter.I have fished bass from the mid 1950's ,through the crashes of the bass population of last century,through the bonanzas of the 1990's til the crash of the 2020's. CONTINUED RIGHT	I only tag bass (American Littoral Society),never keep any.This has given me such a wonderful life experience I would hope all fisher people could enjoy. The bass population in Cold Spring Harbor has dropped precipitously,as my experience has shown, from tagging over 1000 fish per season in the first decade of this millenium to about 50 fish this season(2025),most in June,zero in July and August,and 2 in September.This is not for lack of trying! The bass population is plummeting. If possible and practicable,a no harvest interval of perhaps 5 years might very well allow the population to recover. I would suggest no-bait,lure-only tackle, clipped-barb single hooks. This would allow all anglers the great pleasures of fishing and,hopefully,not cause catastrophic loss of the striped bass biomass.
Doug Schantz	NY	Private rec.	No harvest closure is the only option that makes sense because it is the only option that is enforceable.	No harvest	

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Nick Cherkas	NY	Private rec.	No harvest closure will positively affect tackle shops as well as the recreational angler particularly the Surfcaster; many are staunch advocates for catch and release to begin with. Bluefish and many other inshore species provide for a nice bycatch that can be harvested as well.	No harvest closure will positively affect tackle shops as well as the recreational angler particularly the Surfcaster; many are staunch advocates for catch and release to begin with. Bluefish and many other inshore species provide for a nice bycatch that can be harvested as well.	The future is in our hands and we need to think right before we can act right.
Ryan	NY	Private rec.	No harvest closures, No target is impossible to implement		If there are to be season closures during any wave, it should be no harvest. There is no way to enforce a no target closure especially on Long Island with the amount of DEC officers we have
Justin Gibbons	NY	Private rec.	No harvest for the entire coast throughout the whole year.		
Joseph Mensche Jr	NY	Private rec.	No harvest for the full season.		SAVE THE BASS, MORATORIUM ON STRIPED BASS NOW
Brian Christie	NY	Private rec.	No Harvest Mid Atlantic May-June		

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Jason DeLand	NY	Private rec.	No harvest moratorium	We need a moratorium to rebuild the stock GENERAL COMMENT: Dear Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, I have been an avid striped bass angler for 20 years. Over the past several years, I've witnessed a troubling decline along the Atlantic coast. This iconic fishery is integral to our ecosystem and coastal culture—and it is in deep trouble. Recent recruitment and stock status metrics are alarming. Maryland's 2023 young-of-year (YOY) index was 1.0, far below the ~11 long-term average and part of a multi-year pattern of poor recruitment. In the Hudson River, 2023 produced the lowest YOY value since 1985, and 2024 registered 7.85, again below the long-term average and the second consecutive year below the 25th percentile. CONTINUED RIGHT	At the same time, the ASMFC's 2024 Stock Assessment Update (through 2023) found the stock overfished, with F = 0.18—above the current F target (0.17) but below the F threshold (0.21)—i.e., overfishing is not occurring even as the stock remains depleted. This reality underscores that low recruitment is now a central driver of risk and that status-quo measures are inadequate to rebuild by the Commission's timeline. There is precedent for decisive action. State moratoria and severe restrictions led by Maryland (1985–1989) helped reverse a previous collapse; today's conditions—compounded by climate and habitat stressors—warrant at least as bold a response. I urge the ASMFC to implement target moratorium on striped bass fishing coastwide to allow the stock to recover fully under persistently weak recruitment. Please include my comments in the supplemental materials for your upcoming meeting and act decisively to secure the long-term future of this fishery. Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue. Sincerely, Jason DeLand Montauk NY

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Eric Waytowich	NY	Private rec.	No harvest New York April to june	No harvest	The no target closure is not enforceable and will put many fishing related businesses out of business
Ferdinand Cosentino	NY	Private rec.	No Harvest NY/NJ		
Peter Leary	NY	Private rec.	No harvest only across board	No harvest	No harvest. The striper population is struggling
Robert Mamys	NY	Private rec.	No harvest only, a no target closure is not enforceable.		I DO NOT support a no target, it is unenforceable. The commercial fishery is more at fault for the decline. We also need more enforcement for the rules and regulations.
Frank Walls	NY	Private rec.	No harvest RI - NC April 15 - June 30 and October 15 - Dec 5 No harvest ME - MA May 15 - July 15 and Oct 1 - November 31	Catch and Release Jan 1 – Apr 30 No Targeting Apr 1 – May 15 Harvest May 1 – July 31 Harvest May 16 – July 15 No Target July 16-31 No Target Aug 1 – Aug 31 Harvest Sep 1 – Dec 5 Catch and Release Dec 6 – Dec 31	I gave answers to what options were available. I feel as if any measures taken have not been enough to accomplish the 2029 goal and that the fishery is headed for a moratorium. I chose No Harvest, for the most part, due to lack of adequate enforcement up and down the east coast. No Target in the Chesapeake during the spawn just makes sense for the SSB to attempt any sort of recovery.
Michael roefs	NY	Private rec.	No harvest they should close the season from June till September	No targeting for spring and summer	

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Russell Zivkovich	NY	Private rec.	No harvest with a season from June 1 - August 31. No Target before June 1 and after Sept 1. NJ/NY/CT,Mass,NH.	I think the Chesapeake should be closed.	
Allan Craddock	NY	Private rec.	no harvest, all states, all year	no target, all spring during the spawn	I support a full halt on all harvest of the striped bass. Can target but no harvest.
Gregory travers	NY	Private rec.	No Harvest, entire coast, at all times. There is no science-backed reason to differentiate, either act now or risk fishery collapse		
Saju David	NY	Private rec.	No Harvest, New York		
Anthony daliapes	NY	Private rec.	No harvest, new york , the entire season	No harvest, entire season	Yes, too many illegal immigrants and commercial boat guys are taking tons of fish i live in new york and you quite frankly see it everywhere you go its sickening they sell these fish for money very very dishusting and bad
Paul Capuzzo	NY	Private rec. / For-hire	No Harvest, no opinion regions or closure dates except to discourage fishing activity during spawning	No Harvest	

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Frank	NY	Private rec.	No harvest, no split whole east coast same regs, and only open in spring and fall for two short harvest seasons.	No harvest, reduce open season.	
James Nash	NY	Private rec.	No harvest, Rhode Island in New England April and November for mid Atlantic		
Timothy Regan	NY	Surf fishing guide	No harvest.	No targeting in the summer.	
JOHN MLODYNIA	NY	Private rec.	NO HARVEST. ALLOW CATCH & RELEASE STRIPED BASS FISHING.	NO HARVEST. ALLOW CATCH & RELEASE STRIPED BASS FISHING.	I DO NOT SUPPORT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR "FOR-HIRES". I SUPPORT TREATING THE "FOR-HIRES" EXACTLY THE SAME AS ALL OTHER RECREATIONALS. I THINK COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR STRIPED BASS SHOULD BE ENDED AND MAKE STRIPED BASS A RECREATIONAL ONLY FISH. NO COMMERCIAL SALE ALLOWED.
Frankie Stimmel	NY	Private rec.	No Harvest. All year long	No harvest. All year long	

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Nick Murray	NY	Private rec.	No harvest. During spring migration		
Tyler	NY	Private rec. / tackle shop	No harvest. I'd rather miss out on 5 years of fishing short term than to have no fish in 10 years.	No harvest	No harvest
Don Meyer	NY	Private rec.	No harvest. NY, Ct should be in New England.	No harvest. Same closures.	
Billy Jin	NY	Private rec.	no harvest. you cannot reasonably enforce no targeting people in NYC will not listen to this. make it no harvest and bring more dec officers and increase the ticket prices.		
Franklin Salmeron	NY	Private rec.	No harvest-fall/spring		
Vasilios Siklas	NY	Private rec.	No harvesting	No harvesting	
Caleb	NY	Private rec.	No keeping fish whatsoever, and catch and release all year	Catch and release all year no keeping fish	We need to preserve our fishery

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Thomas Micieli	NY	Private rec.	No point to take away our recreational sport fishing , been in the family for years.	No harvest	This type of fishing is generational
Peter	NY	Private rec.	No target closure in all three areas from December 6th to April 30th.	No target closure	
Mark Barylski	NY	Private rec.	No target on forage for Striped Bass. I feel the main problem is their food source is getting over-fished. (Menhaden)	No Targeting - Early to mid Spring on Commercial and Recreational. No Targeting forage fish for Striped Bass	Commercial fishing is the main issue, not recreational fishing. No-Targeting would be detrimental to all tackle shops on the east coast, possibly irreversable after 1 season. Catch and release would be a lesser impact on the community.
Oscar Delgado	NY	Private rec.	No targeting	No harvest no target	No target no harvest
Emanuel Pelegrinis	NY	Private rec.	No -targeting during spawning	No-targeting during spawning	
Frank shea	NY	Private rec.	No targeting no harvest for 2 years	No targeting no harvest for 2 years	No targeting no harvest for 2 years
James Minor	NY	Private rec.	No targeting, which is easier to enforce than no harvest, split at NJ/NY (Hudson), ASAP	No target and ASAP	The fishery is in trouble. I know the boats don't see it as the shore fishermen do, but once they finish pummeling the Class of 2015, it should be obvious we have got to give the Chesapeake fishery a break. It is overdue.

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Joseph	NY	Private rec.	no-harvest / no commercial harvest	no-harvest / no commercial harvest	Stop commercial harvest until the numbers come back. Also limit the menhaden harvest in the Chesapeake so the stripers have an adequate food supply.
Michael	NY	Private rec.	No-harvest by recreational or commercial fisheries. Recreational anglers should be allowed to pursue the striped bass for sport and use proper catch and release techniques when handling the fish.	GENERAL COMMENT: As an avid recreational angler I come across I wide variety of people on the beaches of Long Island New York. I would say upwards of 90% of these fellow anglers are conscious and concerned with the population of striped bass that migrate through and occupy our waters. With that in mind I see people handle these fish with care and precision giving their best effort in releasing them properly so they can swim off and breed and grow. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for what I see from commercial vessels. Whether targeting bass or not through methods of rod and reel, traps, or nets. CONTINUED RIGHT	So many fish are taken on purpose or as a product of by catch that is unacceptable. The larger breeding fish must be handled and released carefully and in many cases revived manually to ensure they swim off safely. On a larger commercial boat this kind of care just can't be given and in many cases are tossed off the side only to be left suffocating floating at the surface. With these being said I hope whoever reads this takes into consideration my words during the vote. Fishing for me is more than a hobby but a lifestyle and one I hope to enjoy for the rest of my life, which will hopefully be filled with many more striped bass as the population increases

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Richard Bertoli	NY	Private rec.	No-harvest closure is actually enforceable and doesn't limit the recreational angler's opportunities and the businesses that support them. NY, CT, RI, MA, NH, ME in New England Region; the rest in Mid-Atlantic. Closure should aim to protect the spawn, so mid-Feb thru mid-May.	No-harvest closure is actually enforceable and doesn't limit the recreational angler's opportunities and the businesses that support them. Closure should aim to protect the spawn, so mid-Feb thru mid-May.	Abundance of striped bass drives opportunity and the economy! If we continue to experience recruitment failure, there will be no other option to conserve this fishery but a moratorium.
Justin Cockx	NY	Private rec.	No-harvest, all year round until targets are met or the deadline in 2029, then reassess.	No-harvest, all year round until targets are met or the deadline in 2029, then reassess. All bay states	Make striped bass a game fish and have it as No harvest until 2029 and re visit the stock numbers to make a decision on reopening.
Jonathan Agosta	NY	Private rec.	No-targeting closures are largely unenforceable, and carry a significantly higher economic and social impact. Only no-harvest closures should be explored, and should be targeted to protect spawning and pre-spawn fish.	No-targeting closures are largely unenforceable, and carry a significantly higher economic and social impact. Only no-harvest closures should be explored, and should be targeted to protect spawning and pre-spawn fish.	Given the abysmal spawning in the Chesapeake over the last several years and the poor spawning in the Hudson the last couple of years, maximum caution should be used to protect spawning fish. No-targeting closures are not likely to achieve that goal, although they may wreak havoc on hundreds of businesses both small and large that rely on access to a fishery.

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Klearko Goro	NY	Private rec.	No-targeting closures are not enforceable, as has been mentioned on the record multiple times by the LEC at ASMFC. Therefore, I fully support no-harvest closures. It's important to hold violators accountable, and no-harvesting closures being enforceable is significant. RI and CT are very similar to each other, and overall to the rest of the New England states, even though harvest in those states peaks in Wave 3 as opposed to Wave 4. In an ideal scenario, RI and CT would make up their own region, however, I believe they are more appropriate in the Northern region than the Southern. With that being said, there is still quite a bit of nuance. I would like to see some additional granularity. Massachusetts, for example, has multiple bodies of water. CONTINUED BELOW	As stated in previous comments, I do not support any type of closure that is NOT enforceable. No-targeting closures are effectively useless, therefore, I fully support no-harvest closures. Since there are already no-targeting closures being mentioned in MD for parts of Wave 3 and Wave 4, I would support Wave 6 closures in addition to those. For VA, I also support Wave 6 closures.	The inaction has gone on far too long. The Board has ignored too many concerns, some of which were being raised over a decade ago. Those who are responsible MUST be held accountable, and that starts by doing the right thing NOW. The time for considering "special" interests is long gone. If these upcoming rebuilding efforts fail, a more extreme option must be pursued. No commercial or recreational harvest until the fishery has rebounded. Additionally, more time and effort must be spent trying to understand the poor recruitment in recent years. This is a major problem, and its solution is absolutely a part of the overall solution to this fishery. Equity has been mentioned in the draft Addendum III a few times. I agree, we want to keep things as equitable as possible, however, the fishery comes first. In that light, I want to emphasize how inequitable things have been in the past with for-hire exemptions. They are responsible for a disproportionate amount of harvest compared to the vast majority of other anglers.

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Klearko Goro	NY	Private rec.	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: Southern MA (Buzzard's Bay, Ocean, etc.) are likely to be more in line with CT and RI compared to Northern MA (Cape Cod, Boston, Plum Island, etc.). These regions can behave quite differently. Similar situation in NY, where the Western parts of Long Island likely align more with NJ while the Eastern parts likely align more with the Southern New England states. If there is any way to break this down further by similar bodies of water, I would support that as well. In any case, Wave 4 is optimal for the Northern states while Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern states. I am not necessarily concerned with inequity, as that has been prevalent regardless over the last couple of decades. The state of the fishery is far more important, to be frank.		

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Dominick DiGesaro	NY	Private rec.	NY No harvest Season should be closed during the scientifically agreed upon spawning season begins.		No harvest will support the fishery for our kids and their kids. But in order for them to be able to enjoy the fruits of our labor, we have to be able to be stewards for this sport. If we can't show them the beauty of these fish, they can't continue the legacy of these fish.
Kyle Horrocks	NY	Private rec.	Ocean recreational fishing should be way more restricted that land based fishing (surfcasting) due to the available access to particular spots via a boat.	I'd never want to deny a local recreational fisherman to a local resource. However, I've read too many stories over the years of commercial fishing vessels going unchecked in the Chesapeake Bay are. Accountability for both recreational AND commercial needs to be enforced better in all states.	The last few years has felt more like a battle between recreational and commercial angles with the powers at be siding with the commercial anglers. Recreational anglers generate way more revenue to local areas then commercial anglers do and cause way less damage to not just the stripped bass population, but all other species that's written of as "by catch" shame on them.
Andrew Shelhorse	NY	Private rec.	Only support no-harvest closures. Do not support any for-hire exemptions. NY, CT and RI should all be included in the New England region. Support wave 4 closures for New England and wave 6 for the Mid-Atlantic regions.	No Harvest and wave 6	We should be taking strong preventative actions now, especially as we face 6 straight years of failed spawning in the Chesapeake Bay. I support an equitable coast-wide harvest moratorium as the best and only way to rebuild the stock.

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Jack larizadeh	NY	Private rec.	Please implement no harvest. No target would destroy the fishery	Close down the chesapeake the fish need a break	
Nick Wynja	NY	Private rec.	Please increase the uncertainty buffer to 15% and focus on no-harvest season closures due to the unenforceable nature of no-target.		
Mitch Fenton	NY	Private rec.	Rhode Island is New England. Their weather and seasons are the same as New England. My advice would be to align all the parameters that impact striped bass stock as a whole (season of targeting, etc, and see if Rhode Island is more like New England or mid Atlantic. Besides this, I would support a no harvest fishery. I would want to avoid a no target fishery as much as possible. This is due to my love for targeting bluefish. If I can't target bass then how can I avoid them while blue fishing?	No harvest.	I support no harvest being implemented and more DNR/enforcement of these laws. I have lived in ny for over a year and have never seen a dnr officer in NYC or Long Island. I have many friends who have lived here their whole life and never had their boat checked. This is something that must be implemented to deter poachers.

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Laurenz Ingram	NY	Private rec.	Save the fish so my children can fish one day. I can go a season or two without it if it means our oceans get to thrive. Stop the menhaden fisheries. Protect our future	See above	See above
Jian Yuan Wu	NY	Private rec.	Shorten bass season. Prohibit fishing for spawning bass in the hudson and Chesapeake region.	N/A	More focus on angler education prior to obtaining fishing license or permit. Charter boats should also follow suit in the future.
Anthony Garcia	NY	Private rec.	STOP COMMERCIAL FISHING, STOP LETTING THESE CHARTER BOATS RAPE STRIPERS	STOP COMMERCIAL FISHING, STOP LETTING THESE CHARTER BOATS RAPE STRIPERS	STOP COMMERCIAL FISHING, STOP LETTING THESE CHARTER BOATS RAPE STRIPERS
B	NY	Private rec.	Support No harvest. No targeting not enforceable	Support No harvest. No targeting not enforceable	Support No harvest. No targeting not enforceable

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Andrew Ewing	NY	For-hire	There should be zero closures other than commercial seasons with quotas.	Same as above.	Please do not implement a no closure or no harvest in NY or any of the north east. It would really wreck the industry and many lives. I personally think we should look into cormorants and the amount of newly born striped bass they eat in the Hudson and Chesapeake. Canada has a season for them, they're fish killers.
Conrad Scott	NY	Private rec.	type of closure: no-harvest closures ocean region split: Ocean Regional Approach 1: Maine – Massachusetts and Rhode Island – North Carolina when during the year the closure should be implemented: Waves 2 & 3	type of closure: no-harvest closures when during the year the closure should be implemented: Wave 3	
Jason Ivino	NY	Private rec.	You should close the commercial earlier and not allow them to enter inland	Catch an release	Commercial fishing should be by rod an reel only or limit lowered stop putting all the regulations on recreational fishing considering 80% or more practice catch an release an commercial run nets an keep any size including the big breeders loaded with eggs
Alex	NY	Private rec.		Catch and release only.	Catch and release only.

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Nicholas Giustra	NY	Private rec.		No Harvest during peak spawn.	
Daniel	NY	Private rec.		No harvest March through December	No harvest for 5 years no fish under 36” for an additional 5 years
Kyle Hutter	NY	Private rec.		Small openings with catch and release only.	
Joe Grillo	NY	Private rec.			Although the biggest issue probably is and most likely always will be funding. I do believe there needs to be a bigger presence of DEC or any sort of policing of harvesting. I constantly come across fileted striped bass washed up on the beach that are clearly well over slot size. It is a shame that it could be ruining it for the rest of us that try hard to do it honestly and correctly to keep it alive for our children
Steven figari	NY	Private rec.			I have been fishing for about 15 years and have seen the rise and fall of the striped bass population I think it’s very clear the fishery is getting worse and worse every year and needs a complete moratorium to allow them to come come back

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michael a ferrigno	NY	Bait distributor			It is time to use new science. The patterns have changed and we need to update how we monitor the species. Canada is killing thousands of fish as an invasive species that may decimate their Lobster population. This is a new problem there. The fish are changing where they migrate and we need to address these changes.
Michael resnick	NY	Private rec.			No harvest catch and safely release only
Alberto cruz	NY	Private rec.			No harvest, catch and release only, more commercial/party boats regulations. And more education on how people can help save striped bass
Giuseppe Giammona	NY	Private rec.			No target for 1-2 years. More regulations on menhaden commercial fishing.
Andrew B Carothers	NY	Private rec.			NO to no-target closures!
Daniel Rosa	NY	Private rec.			Please do not implement a no target closure. The ocean is my sanctuary and peace . A no target closure would be devastating .
Juan Gonzalez	NY	Private rec.			Please donate right thing
Marco Seandel	NY	Private rec.			Please prioritize stock rebuilding.

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Joseph Masone	NY	Private rec.			Please, save our fishery, the right way. Enforcement is impossible for a 'no Target' option. The 'no harvest' option is enforceable and the only logical option.
Daniel Lorino	NY	For-hire			Separate into regions NY/NJ being the dividing line. Stop Omega 3 from harvesting all the adult bunker & the fish will rebound.
Philip Sciortino, Jr.	NY	Shore-side support			Status Quo!
Paul Benn	NY / MA	Private rec.	No harvest, 99% of my fish are catch and release. I cannot say that for the other people I see keeping everything they catch!!! there's no enforcement!	I do not fish the bay	I've been fishing off the coast of Gloucester, Massachusetts for close to 40 years. I've never been stopped at once for a license check or a bag check that's your problem. People that don't speak a lick of English are keeping multiple fish and it's getting worse every year. I have video and photos
Capt Carl Sherman Jr	NY / MA	For-hire	No Harvest. Nop Target would be almost impossible to police and accomplish as an angler.	No harvest	As a New York resident, ALOT of large breeder fish are killed in the Long Island sound every year. The slot limit there alone say 21 to 28" would eliminate the decimation of the large cows often caught there. Many charter and party boats hammer those fish daily. Videos are easy to find on Social platforms. " Hero Pics" of 20-30 large dead Striped Bass every day.

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Alex Frankel	NY / NJ	Private rec.	Catch and release only at all times protected species	No harvest	No harvest
Ronald Contrelli	NY / NJ	Private rec.	closure and no harvest	closure and no harvest	
Joseph Rauch	NY / NJ	Private rec.	I fully support a No harvest closure for the entire region for the entire year.	I fully support a No harvest closure for the entire region for the entire year.	Status quo is clearly not sustainable. I understand there are some financial considerations when talking about closing down such a huge commercial fishery but allowing those considerations to sway the science is extremely short sighted. We need a full closure to buy some time to better study and come up with solutions. CLOSE THE HARVEST IMMEDIATELY if there is to be any hope of a successful rebound

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dAVID	NY / NJ	Private rec.	NO HARVEST FOR 3 YEARS. AND MORE ENFORCEMENT	NO HARVEST FOR 3 YEARS. AND MORE INFORCEMENT	TOO MANY PEOPLE TAKING FISH DAY AFTER DAY ALONG THE JERSEY COAST DURING THE FALL RUN. I SPENT EVERY WEEKEND FISHING FOR STRIPED BASS. I NEVER KEEP ANYTHING. BUT PEOPLE DONT MEASURE THERE FISH AND GIVE FISH AWAY WHEN THEY HAVE CAUGHT THERE LIMIT. PLUS THE PARTY BOATS ARE DESTROYING THE FISHERY. DAY AFTER DAY 30 PEOPLE PER BOAT 2 TRIPS A DAY TIMES 7. THATS ALOT OF FISH. I SUPPORT NO HARVEST FOR 3 YEARS. AND ELIMINATE THE 28-31 FOR THIS SEASON.
Ian Gordon	PA	Private rec.	Catch and release, no harvest	No targeting	Please consider decreasing the commercial quota while encouraging catch and release amongst recreational fishermen
Brendan Wellman	PA	Private rec.	I do not support any no-targeting closure.	no-harvest.	

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Matthew Risser	PA	Private rec.	I support no harvest. I believe this should focus on the Spring spawning season primarily.	I support no-targeting for the Cesapeake Bay closures. This should be focused on the spring season.	The smaller size limit for the Cesapeake Bay is not sustainable for the fishery and it based on a false logic that the biomass is primary male fish. The years of moratorium and subsequent surge in spawning success show that allowing the smaller fish in the bay to not be targeted and migrate drastically improved the SSB. The same size restrictions that the rest of the cost follows need to be implemented there as well.
Matt weise	PA	Private rec.	Mid Atlantic, early season		

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Jim Boccalupo	PA	Private rec.	No closure at all and no change to current rules	No closure at all and no changes to current rules	I have been fishing nearly my whole life, 56years. It's one of the only things I enjoy. I personally, and many other fishermen, are tired of the ridiculous size limits and harvesting limits that have been imposed over the years practically destroying recreational fishing. Fish have always migrated and moved to different locations. The data doesn't support the shortages of fish that are claimed. The ridiculous laws are also destroying businesses as in bait and tackle shops, hotels , motels restaurants and charter fishing boats. I spend approximately $3000 a year in gas, tolls, bait, tackle, food , drinks,fishing equipment, fishing clothing and countless hours of driving just to get to the NJ shore to fish. And every year for many years, the laws have gotten more strict, size limits increased and harvest limits reduced. Enough is enough!!! Recreational fishing has a massive impact on the economy. And many will suffer if these outrageous regulations and restrictions continue. Please listen to the fishermen. Thank you for hearing me and I hope you were listening.
James Keelen	PA	Private rec.	No harvest for entire coast	No harvest	

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Edward Kay	PA	Private rec.	Region split	No target	
Angel	PA	Private rec.		Do	CNN
Will Gomez	PA	Private rec.		I support no-targeting during spawning season and doing away with area closures. I could not select both to question 13, but that's the primary answer. I would also support additional no-harvest closure for a pre-spawn window bay-wide: move it to March 15 instead of April 1.	My overall opinion is that targeting-closures are what stop recreational fishing and the economic and social benefits of this sector.
John Keating	PA	Private rec.			Striped bass fishing should never be no-harvest or no-target. This species has changed so many people's lives, you can't take it away. Generations of anglers, businesses, and coastal communities have been built around these fish. Conservation is key, but so is keeping the tradition alive.

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Justin cox	PA / NJ	Private rec.	I would be for no harvest. No targeting would be detrimental for a lot of businesses. There needs to be more wildlife officials to prevent or slow down the poaching. I had to call nj wildlife multiple times last year. You could also limit the amount of treble hooks on lures/plugs. I use single inline hooks to help with mortality and making it easier to release the fish.		I would be for no harvest. No targeting would be detrimental for a lot of businesses. There needs to be more wildlife officials to prevent or slow down the poaching. I had to call nj wildlife multiple times last year. You could also limit the amount of treble hooks on lures/plugs. I use single inline hooks to help with mortality and making it easier to release the fish

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Paul Kameen	PA / NJ / New England	Private rec.	No targeting closures are only effective on paper, as Cleary stated by LEO's. Additionally, all it takes is 5 minutes of scrolling on social media to see the comments of anglers openly stating they will simply not follow the regulations by saying they are fishing for bluefish. The only places I would support no targeting closures, are in the areas they would actually be enforceable, and would provide real benefits for the fishery, like the Delaware, Hudson, and Chesapeake. While I acknowledge the data is not the greatest or most comprehensive, anecdotal experience, and angler handbooks in spawning areas like the Hudson support the idea that they have disproportionately high mortality rates.	I strongly support no-harvest closures rather than no-targeting closures. No-targeting is widely recognized as unenforceable and ineffective, while no-harvest closures are realistic, enforceable, and still allow the public to access the fishery through catch-and-release. For timing, I recommend implementing the closure during the summer months (August), when water temperatures are highest and release mortality is most concerning. I also support building in a precautionary buffer (10–15%) to account for effort shifts and ensure the conservation benefit is realized. This approach provides a fair balance: it meaningfully reduces removals, is practical for enforcement, and maintains angler engagement in the fishery.	It is truly mind-boggling how we have managed to fail this fishery so badly. Striped bass are not just a fishery—they are the backbone of the East Coast's saltwater economy, responsible for huge economic benefits across Maine to Virginia. More importantly, striped bass are the "every man's fish." They provide opportunity to anglers of all backgrounds, from surfcasters and pier fishermen to charter captains and guides. The continued mismanagement of this stock has hurt all of them, and it goes without saying that this addendum falls far short of doing enough to ensure true recovery by 2029. Still, it is at least a step in the right direction. On the issue of Chesapeake Bay recreational season closures, I do not support no-targeting closures. They are only effective on paper, as law enforcement officials themselves have clearly stated. Their ranking of "no-targeting" as the least enforceable measure confirms what every angler already knows: it's simply not realistic. CONTINUED BELOW

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Paul Kameen	PA / NJ / New England	Private rec.			GENERAL COMMENT CONTINUED: All it takes is five minutes of scrolling on social media to see countless anglers openly admitting they would ignore these closures, claiming to be targeting bluefish or other species instead. Rules that cannot be enforced erode credibility and compliance, which is the last thing this fishery needs. That said, there are areas where limited no-targeting closures could be justified—specifically, in spawning grounds like the Delaware, Hudson, and Chesapeake rivers. While the data is not as comprehensive as it should be, anecdotal experience and angler handbooks consistently indicate that mortality rates in these spawning areas are disproportionately high. In such environments, a carefully enforced no-targeting closure tied to environmental conditions (e.g., water temperature) could provide real benefits for the fishery. CONTINUED BELOW

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Paul Kameen	PA / NJ / New England	Private rec.			GENERAL COMMENT CONTINUED: Beyond that narrow application, I believe no-harvest closures are the only meaningful and enforceable option. They maintain public access to the resource through catch-and-release, while directly reducing removals in a way that can be monitored and achieved coastwide. For Chesapeake Bay, I recommend a summer closure in August, with a precautionary buffer of 10–15% to ensure conservation goals are met even with effort shifts. This strikes the balance between conservation, enforceability, and fairness to the angling community. The failures of the past six years should make one thing clear: unless bold, enforceable, and equitable measures are taken, we will be left with no option but a moratorium. I urge the Board to prioritize actions that actually reduce removals and protect the long-term viability of this fishery, not measures that only look good on paper
Justin Serbent	RI	Private rec.	All states, no targeting during closures.	No-targeting.	

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James R. Doyle	RI	Private rec.	Close the entire fishery on the entire East coast for harvest! Stop pussy footin' around with this species. Give them 10 years to rebuild the stocks. Catch and release only. So many people are breaking the rules now it almost doesn't matter what the rules are and I have seen the carcasses fist hand. Illegal to harvest with a major penalty. Add no harvest of herring, bunker, and mullet on the eastern seaboard. Do play politics with this resource but PROTECT it for the future of our children and their children.		Make the striped bass a protected sport fish like tarpon or goliath grouper and allow the species (what's left of them) to rebuild themselves.
Nick Burke	RI	Private rec.	Closures should coincide with spawning seasons and peak water temps and vary by state. Prioritize healthy releases and protect the fish that have made it to the spawning grounds.	Same as above	Thanks for considering

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William d Pinkus	RI	Private rec.	Commercial needs to be closed. Commercial fishing for striped bass is a privilege for a select few and right now we need to remove that privilege until the stock is rebuilt. Recreational fishing regulations need to be enforced, I fish daily and have never witnessed any enforcement.		
Ken Blanchard	RI	Private rec.	Dec 1 - March 15	Jan 1 - May 31	
Justin	RI	Private rec.	I do not support no target closers , there are better management options ,		I do not support no target closure there are better management options
Michael Long	RI	Private rec.	I do not support no target closures, I only support no harvest closures	I do not support no target closures, I only support no harvest closures	I do not support no target closures, I only support no harvest closures
Ben Picotte	RI	Private rec.	I strongly support a no harvest closure, there is real money to be made in the rec industry and would hate to stop them from operating, however I fully support a no-harvest closure to rebuild the stock.	Same reasons as above	

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Seth Fiola	RI	Private rec.	I support a No harvest closure. A no target closure is unenforceable	I support a No harvest closure. A no target closure is unenforceable	
Thomas Houde	RI	Private rec.	I support no harvest as a means to rebuilding the stock. No harvest would have less economic impact on businesses that derive their income from a healthy fishery.	No harvest closure for Chesapeake Bay would have less impact on the businesses that derive their income from a healthy fishery. The Chesapeake Bay fishermen should decide when the closures take place, not a resident from another state.	Thanks for offering this means to have my voice heard and be counted.
Read McKendree	RI	Private rec.	I support No harvest closures because no targeting closures are completely unenforceable, do little to reduce mortality, damage businesses and restrict the public from intereacting with nature through catch and release fishing.		I am reiterating my support for No harvest closures to reduce mortality and increase the odds of meeting the 2029 goal. All sectors need to take reductions and regulations need to be implemented that dont needlessly hurt local businesses by restricting access to fishing.

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Matthew LaBella	RI	Private rec.	I support no harvest closures. Haven't harvested a striped bass in years and if everyone is as passionate about these fish as I and some many others are then they really need to be concerned about its future!	No harvest closures, especially here! Preserve the future stock a lot of it starts here!	
Ian McGregor	RI	Private rec.	I support no harvest. Rhode Islands fishery should be considered New England region. Closed July and August.	No harvest during the spring and summer seasons.	
Michael Porco	RI	Private rec.	I support no targeting and no harvest closures for all sectors	No targeting during peak season. Chesapeake has the highest cast of all states combined. They need give the fish a break.	This fishery is in dire condition. And I support periods of closure of the fishery. Especially when water temps are warmest. Or having short seasons. Drastic measures need to be taken. I also support outlawing treble hooks to increase mortality. We also need to look at the management of the baitfish that striped bass eat such as the atlantic menhaden. If we overfish the menhaden that would impact that predator population. The fact of the matter is all these species are connected and individual species management does not work. We need to look at it more wholistically.

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Brandon Hakulin	RI	Private rec.	I support no targeting because data shows that the number of bass killed during catch and release is more substantial than once believed.	I support no targeting because data shows that the number of bass killed during catch and release is more substantial than once believed.	Please focus on increasing stocks. It will benefit states more in the long run with more revenue from fishermen who may have stopped fishing due to poor management and lower numbers of fish. My neighbor sold his boat because the fishing has been so poor inshore and in the Hudson that he said it wasn't worth going out. His whole family used to go and then stop for dinner after.
James Buchok	RI	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures. Closures should be based on the average historical warmest water temperatures to minimize stress upon release	I support closures during typical spawning season	I feel a complete commercial and recreational moratorium should be enacted before it's too late. This will allow more time to study the root causes of the decline and address those causes.
John Alm	RI	Private rec.	I support no-targeting in all states at periods of time that the researchers believe it would have the greatest impact	I support no-targeting in all states at periods of time that the researchers believe it would have the greatest impact	
Vaughn Hayward	RI	Private rec.	I support total season NO HARVEST closures to rebuild stock. Like what was done in the 80s		Implement a NO HARVEST closure coast wide to rebuild stock. Catch and release only.

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Joshua Bartoszuk	RI	Private rec.	I would classify New Jersey and south as mid-Atlantic and New York and north as New England. I would support no harvest closures during the spring migration, when fish are actively spawning.	No harvest closures should be in place in all of the Chesapeake bay during the spring spawning season.	The recreational catch and release striped bass fishery is far more important to me any ability to either purchase or harvest striped bass. Obviously subjective but I believe our northeast waters are full of fish that are not only better eating but more prevalent and less important to the recreational catch and release industry that supports so many tackle shops and charter captains. If I could eradicate both recreational and commercial harvest for striped bass tomorrow I would for the sole purpose of my grandchildren being able to enjoy the fishery that was so formative to my childhood.

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Demetrius fay	RI	Private rec.	I would like to see a no target closure of striped bass, there is to much poaching going on recreationally and not enough officers to patrol it and it's sad seeing the decline of striped bass. I remember how great the fishing use to be now you go out surf fishing and fishing in the bay and hard to find a striped bass. The amount of fish I seen taking from over slots and under slots is crazy with no one following the rules. A no target closure would help not just officers patrol it but help the fishery. CONTINUED RIGHT	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: Also commercial draggers are hitting the fishery as well there is multiple times leaving out of Narragansett Rhode Island in boat and see draggers throwing hundreds of striped bass over board dead because that wasn't the fish they were targeting. The fishery should have a moratorium for at least 5 or 6 years until the striped bass fishery rebounds. CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMENT: During the peak spawning times and fishing times.	I would like to see major closures in Rhode Island and Massachusetts Connecticut, New York and Jersey We're a majority of the fish are during the summer months and fall months. There's times I see commercial boats in Boston harbor with 3 to 400 boats at a time commercial fishing and recreational fishing some of those fish being over 35 inches is just sad because those are fish with the genetics for future spawns. We need something done about it as soon as possible, it's not just the striped bass fishery but also the blue fish fishery locally, I know some commercial boats do it for a living, but what's going to happen when there's no more left?I know some commercial boats do it for a living, but what's going to happen when there's no more left?

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Christopher McIntee	RI	For-hire	I would support no harvest. I would support No Target ONLY DURING TIMES AND PLACES WHERE MORTALITY IS HIGH IE the rockpiles of New England in the mid-late summer which in the last 3 years have become saturated with Sandbar Sharks that are eating the bass off our lines, and where water temps are high enough that Catch and Release mortality is greater than 10%. I would also like to see a HOOK LIMIT, where any lure/bait is restricted to a mixumum of 3 hookpoints, allowing us to use just one treble hook, or 2 single hooks per lure. CONTINUED BELOW	CLOSE THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER FROM LAPIDUM-CONOWINGO JAN 1ST-MAY 31ST TO TARGETING. It has gotten out of control, the rec pressure on that river, now that everyone knows they can catch big bass there before is closes march 1st. Nearly every bass in that river gets caught and so many get mishandled, held out of the water for glory shots for too long. Also, Conowingo should be closed to targeting anytime the water temp is over 75 degrees. Every Freshwater system should be closed to targeting when water temps are over 75 degrees.	If the bass can no longer successfully spawn we need to put funding into figuring out why. There are no clear answers as to why they can no longer successfully spawn all of a sudden. Its not a lack of fish, we catch a lot of big pregnant bass in March in the Chesapeake, Delaware and Hudson, there is something going on with a misalignment in the timing of phytoplankton blooming and bass hatching, or water temps/flows, or water quality.. we need to pinpoint the issue and if we conclude there is little chance of successful spawns going forward we need a hatchery on each of the spawning sites (Delaware, Chesapeake, Hudson). Otherwise it doesnt matter if we regulate the fishery or not, make the whole coast No Target for 12 months a year and it will still collapse if the fish cant successfully spawn.

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Christopher McIntee	RI	For-hire	OCEAN COMMENT CONTINUED: Would also support some version of Not taking the bass out of the water during high water temperature times, IE Summer, where fish over 40" must be left in the water, similar to the Tarpon regs in FLA. The big fish seem more susceptible to lactic acid buildup and floating and thus Dying during warm water periods more than the small fish. All this is for nothing though if the fish cant spawn!! None of this would be an issue if Spawning were happening as per status quo! The real focus should be on getting juvenile fish back into the system!		

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Johannes Fimmers	RI	Private rec.	I'd prefer a no-harvest closure, it seems more enforceable than a no-target. Im from the Southern New England area, I believe that the no-harvest season should be in the spring until early-mid June to allow for the best possible odds for a successful spawn.	For the Chesapeake I'd prefer to see a no-targeting closure in the spring. The Chesapeake is so critical to the spawn of the striped bass population, and in order to increase recruitment we need to protect their biggest nursery. Enacting a no-target closure in the Chesapeake would have the greatest impact because the conservation efforts would impact the most number of individual fish.	I am a newer shore angler from Southern New England who has spent a little time fishing in the Chesapeake and become increasingly passionate about the conservation of Striped bass. Because I am newer to shore fishing I strongly desire to conserve and rebuild the striped bass population so that myself and other future surfcasters are able to catch these amazing fish long into the future.
tom logan	RI	For-hire	If there is mortality from catch and release why is targeting for "catch and release" a good option. If it is closed there is going to be minimal mortality.	If there is mortality from catch and release why is targeting for "catch and release" a good option. If it is closed there is going to be minimal mortality.	

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Douglas	RI	Private rec.	I've been fishing here in Rhode Island for years for striped bass by kayak and from the surf.....I do not keep any fish because I don't like the taste of em,,,,but I do believe action is needed to preserve this great fish and by doing "status quo" will not help the fishery recover or flourish in the future.....		Im a member of ri saltwater anglers association and have even been to some of the meetings which I find interesting and am thankful for your service and for allowing us anglers input to help make decisions on enjoying this fishery for generations to come Douglas St.Jean 761 Tunk Hill Rd Foster Rhode Island
Joseph Dagostino	RI	Shore-side support	No closures.	No closures.	Yes, Maybe we should expand and learn that striped bass are spawning in all rivers and we should focus on others to see what they contribute.
Riley	RI	Private rec.	No harvest	No harvest	I implore our representatives to take a legitimate consideration to a thorough, collaborative and long term path to protecting and correcting an invaluable resource.

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Seth Posternak	RI	Private rec.	No harvest- no target is not enforceable, will will say they are targeting bluefish. I support all year no-harvest, in every state, until the population recovers and we have good spawns.	No target makes sense here only, during spawning season	
Mitchell Maloof	RI	Private rec.	No harvest at all for 3-5 years		
Grant Munson	RI	For-hire	No harvest closure all around especially pre spawn/spring run throughout the Atlantic		
Ken Morris	RI	Private rec.	No harvest closure year round year round no exceptions for anyone	Year round no harvest for all categories	Please bring back the stripers to the levels we enjoyed in the early 2010's. Don't believe those who say there's more stripers than ever, there are darned few striped bass under 24"
Mark Ellis	RI	Private rec.	No harvest closures for all regions. New England no harvest for June, July, September and October	no harvest	
Gary lepore	RI	Private rec.	No harvest closures only	No harvest closures	

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Brian Rooney	RI	Private rec.	No harvest during high summer when water temps are hottest.	No harvest	
Andre Digou	RI	Private rec.	no harvest for all	no harvest	
John Douma	RI	Private rec.	No harvest should be mandatory, it will allow tackle vendors and charter captains to keep making money and keep introduce striped bass fishing to the next generation who will ultimately be responsible for the stock		
Thomas Czerni	RI	Private rec.	No harvest unless no-target can be made soundly enforcable.	No harvest unless no-target can be made soundly enforcable.	No-target does not seem able to be enforced. Additionally DEM needs to be better about checking licenses and compliance with harvesting laws.
Luke Sparks	RI	Private rec.	No harvest would be best- year round	No harbest	

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Steven Hoch	RI	Private rec.	No harvest, all states, peak season. Need to take rebuilding seriously by giving the population the greatest chance of survival but allowing businesses to stay open through catch and release practices.	No harvest, all states, peak season. Need to take rebuilding seriously by giving the population the greatest chance of survival but allowing businesses to stay open through catch and release practices.	Giving any group of fishermen (e.g. commercial, recreational, location) the ability to kill more (and larger) fish significantly hurts the potential of recovery. Please do what's best for the fish and focus on the long term goal and not short term greed.
Jeff Bergeron	RI	Private rec.	No Harvest, all states.	No Harvest	No Harvest!
Alexander Colantonio	RI	Private rec.	No harvest, in all regions until we have a successful year class over the mean for 2 consecutive years		Striped bass are in serious trouble. Yes, there are larger fish still on the reefs but with no solid year classes we are quickly killing them as rec anglers or commercial fishermen. If we do not take drastic action there will be no striped bass for the same people who say any short moratorium will kill their businesses. I would support states buying some of the quota from commercial fishermen during the shut down, but something has to change before the fishery collapses.

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Bryan Doyle	RI	Private rec.	No harvest, New York should be the first New England state, Closure should be implemented from September to May	No harvest closures, Should be implemented from September to May.	I am in support of a Striped bass stamp on recreational fishing licenses. This would be an extra cost stamp on a recreational fishing license that would raise funding for their preservation, as well as mitigate the fisherman who are illegally harvesting bass whether it be out of season, out of slot length, or over bag limit. It gives an extra check for Wildlife Law Enforcement to see that recreational fisherman are respecting the species.
Mark schubert	RI	Private rec.	No harvest, ny north= NE, jersey south= mid atlantic, dec 31		
Peter Kosciukiewic	RI	Private rec.	no harvest, Rhode Island, Month of may		Please do whet ever it takes to significantly reduce harvest ! I fish 80-100 nights per year in CT and RI, and I will tell you that there is are fewer and fewer fish each year... Surf-fishermen are the canary in the coal mine, and There simply are FEWER FISH!
David j Gordon	RI	Private rec.	No harvest, RI included with mid Atlantic, late summer closure- August	No harvest, early spring closure spawning season	

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Derrick	RI	Private rec.	No harvest, should be implemented until we see a rebound in spawns and stock	No targeting during spawning periods	
Dave Monti	RI	For-hire	No harvest. RI - NC[8]		
M DiSanto	RI	Shore-side support	No target during May spawning	No harvest	Make it a game fish
Earl Evans	RI	Shore-side support	No Targeting Closure criminalizes fishermen and its difficult to enforce. It will cripple the fishing tackle industry. It should not an option!	No Targeting Closure criminalizes fishermen and its difficult to enforce. It will cripple the fishing tackle industry. It should not an option!	We almost lost the striped bass once, let's not do it again. No Harvest Closure is the way!

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Dee fay	RI	Private rec.	No targeting closure needs to happen, it will be easier for the fish to rebound without no pressure. Also easier for patrols to happen by environmental management officers. We will have a great fishery again like the mortorium we had back in the day. Striped bass fishery is the worst I ever seen it and I fish 250 to 300 days out of the year and never seen it this bad. Yes there are schools of striped bass and a lot of anglers ain't looking at the bigger picture. The amount of fish killed by draggers and poachers in Rhode Island is sickening. We need to stop caring about money and take care of the little bit we have left. IT NEEDS TO BE CLOSED!!!!!	Moratorium	We need more patrols of the commercial boats and back bays on a daily bases to control and help the fishery. Poaching and draggers
Angel Vasquez	RI	Private rec.	No-harvest	No-harvest	Enforce
Paul Lavallee	RI	Private rec.	No-harvest closures only	No-harvest closures only	

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Gravity Tackle	RI	Bait manufac turer	Not sure why gamefish status isnt an option here.	Gamefish status.	Fully support gamefish status. Anyone claiming to want to save the species and not even mentioning this as an option isn't serious about saving the species. Game.Fish.Status. will protect it forever. It's worked for every other species. Not sure what money is holding this back. I guess people would be out of a job if stripers truly were protected
Jim Gibson	RI	Private rec.	no-targeting closure new enland states Eastern CT - Maine Mid Atlantic MD - Western CT	no-targeting, closure times I'm not sure exactly, but would base it on the migration periods for each region. Allow the breed stock a chance to get up into the rivers and lay and fertilize eggs.	As a collective coastal region these fish migrate through, all governing authorities that enforce these regulations will need to work harder to prevent poaching and illegal fishing. There are a lot of people in each region that don't follow the guidelines and don't intend to until they are caught. That amounts to a lot of fish that don't get recorded in the harvest category.
Wayne Clark	RI	Private rec.	Rhode Island No harvest for wave 1, 2, 4, 6		

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Michael kronfeld	RI	Private rec.	Rules must be the same for every state every season and commercial striped bass needs to be permanently closed. They deserve to be a game fish. The economic value each fish brings for recreational anglers hotels gas food and gear is far greater then the table price of 5$per pound. It's a crying shame you people allow this to continue. Tarpon, bonefish, striped bass. American icons. Protect them.		Rules must be the same for every state every season and commercial striped bass needs to be permanently closed. They deserve to be a game fish. The economic value each fish brings for recreational anglers hotels gas food and gear is far greater then the table price of 5$per pound. It's a crying shame you people allow this to continue. Tarpon, bonefish, striped bass. American icons. Protect them.
enrique lopez	RI	Private rec.	strongly oppose no target closures because they're unenforceable and better management options exist!		strongly oppose no target closures because they're unenforceable and better management options exist!

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Patrick williamson	RI	Private rec.	The way the options were drafted makes it almost certain that split mode will be forced down recreational anglers throats although the equity in split mode is horrific. Close each state to harvest for 9 months of the year. Let each state choose which 9 months. The three months open must be consecutive. That will be simple to enforce, simple for anglers to understand, and will have some reduction. Maybe not the full 12%, but sometimes common sense needs to beat out the statistics. It is ridiculous to over complicate the rules or not let states choose their closures. Closing by regions makes statistic sense but no common sense and will just cause confusion.	Give them the same options as the ocean but with a closure mandated for a month and a half around spawning.	Split mode is most likely ending up in courts.l if you do that. States don't have the resources to fight lawsuits. Make it simple. You should not be able to buy extra fish or a bigger limit. That disadvantages the majority of anglers. Balence common sense with the need for closures. Don't get to caught up in waves and let the states have a say in when they are closed. This is not going to be great for any state or sector so be a bit delicate by ignoring the wave logic and just saying you need to be closed 9 consecutive months in the ocean and letting states pick the months. That deduction is better than nothing. Also if you have resources, give them to the states as grants for enforcement of striper regs and signs/out reach (in multiple languages) for fishing areas. The states should really have put in a multi state SWG proposal for that. Maybe look into that for next year.

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Mike Susi	RI	Private rec.	There is only one solution to saving stripers removing all commercial fishing 3 miles offshore. Rhode Island is getting destroyed with commercial boats being less than a quarter of a mile offshore lines		
Jason Ferschke	RI	Private rec.		No harvest	Should limit the harvest further and educate on safe handling and release.
John Cusick Jr	RI	Private rec.			Rhode Island should be included in the Northern region. Frankly, CT and NY share the water with Rhode Island and Massachusetts. If it is possible, you should push for NY and CT to be included in the Northern Region as well. Wave 4 is optimal for the North and Wave 6 is optimal for the Southern no harvest closures only.
David Collins	RI	Private rec.			Close the Housatonic, Thames, Quinnipiac and Connecticut Rivers in CT to striped bass angling from Nov 1 to Apr.1
Tom Wood	RI	Private rec.			I agree with Pete Jenkins' comments
Dawn Wood	RI	Private rec.			I agree with Rich Hittinger's comments

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Steven McKenna	RI	Private rec.			I have over fifty years of experience fishing for striped bass. The striper is definitely in trouble and drastic measures must be employed immediately if their stocks are to rebuild. I totally disagree with all of the aforementioned management solutions to the instant problems of the striped bass. In my opinion, all striped bass fishing should be limited to catch and release with no possession and no sale for an indefinite period of time.
Alex Pikul	RI / CT	Private rec.	No harvesting closure should be implemented in all of New England and mid-Atlantic regions until the stock is rebuilt. No targetting closure is unrealistic.	No harvesting is an easier and effective option than no targetting.	No targetting would be a disaster

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Michael Gerl	RI / CT / MA / NC	Private rec.	NO TARGETING IS COMPLETELY UNREASONABLE!!! It's completely unenforceable. Law enforcement already has enough problems to have to deal without adding a law like no targeting where there is 100% overlap in bait and lures with bluefish, Weakfish, Fluke, False Albacore, and Bonito. If you must and I don't think you do, because I don't think there's been enough time for slot lengths to work let's go back to what worked last time. No harvesting for a year or two then 1 fish at 38" then down to 1 fish at 36".. worked last time why does this have to be so damn complicated...	I DO NOT SUPPORT NO TARGETING CLOSURES ANYWHERE!	NO TARGETING IS COMPLETELY UNREASONABLE!!! It's completely unenforceable. Law enforcement already has enough problems to have to deal without adding a law like no targeting where there is 100% overlap in bait and lures with bluefish, Weakfish, Fluke, False Albacore, and Bonito. If you must and I don't think you do, because I don't think there's been enough time for slot lengths to work let's go back to what worked last time. No harvesting for a year or two then 1 fish at 38" then down to 1 fish at 36".. worked last time why does this have to be so damn complicated...
Ryan Defaria	RI / MA	Shore-side support	A no harvest implement would keep fisherman on the water and millions of dollars coming in. Law enforcement does a wonderful job at catching fish poaching as seen first hand.		

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Steve Gerencser	RI / MA	Private rec.	I support no-harvest closures that allow catch-and-release but prohibit harvest. For timing, I recommend closures during Wave 4 in the Northern region (including MA, RI, CT, NY) and Wave 6 in the Southern region to protect spawning and stock rebuilding.	I support no-harvest closures rather than no-targeting closures since enforcement agencies have said no-targeting closures are ineffective. Closures should align with peak spawning protection windows in each state while allowing responsible catch-and-release fishing.	Steve Gerencser 121 Laurel Avenue Providence, RI 02906 September 15, 2025 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N Arlington, VA 22201 Re: Comment on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 — Atlantic Striped Bass Dear Members of the Striped Bass Management Board, I'm writing as an angler who cares deeply about striped bass and the coastal communities they hold together. I fish from shore whenever I can grab an hour and go out on charters when I vacation on Martha's Vineyard. Over the last few years I've watched the fishery feel thinner—fewer schoolies in the usual corners, fewer legal slot fish on tides that used to produce. That lived experience is why I'm asking you to choose strong, enforceable measures in Draft Addendum III so we actually rebuild this stock by 2029 and set it up to thrive well beyond that date. The science matches what I see. Striped bass remain overfished, and we've had six straight years of weak recruitment. The much-discussed 2018 year class is slipping into the slot, but there isn't a bench behind it. CONTINUED BELOW

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Steve Gerencser	RI / MA	Private rec.			COMMENT CONTINUED: If we rebuild to the target by 2029 and then look around to find an empty pipeline, we will have won a battle and set up the next decline. I don't believe a "bare minimum" approach will get us anywhere we want to be. I also want to be candid about the public process. Many hearings this round are in-person evening sessions only. For people with family obligations and jobs, that's a barrier. If the goal is robust public input, hybrid access shouldn't be a luxury, it should be standard across jurisdictions. I appreciate the single general hybrid session, but going forward I hope the Commission leans into broader access, not away from it. On management substance, my priorities are simple: clarity, accountability, and fairness. For clarity, I support a single coastwide way to measure fish—mouth closed, tail pinched—so an inch in Massachusetts means the same thing in New Jersey or Virginia. It's a small fix that closes big loopholes and makes compliance and enforcement straightforward. CONTINUED BELOW

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Steve Gerencser	RI / MA	Private rec.			COMMENT CONTINUED: For accountability, I want commercial fish tagged at the point of harvest. Waiting until the first sale or later invites gray areas and makes real-time tracking nearly impossible. Frankly, I'm concerned about persistent weaknesses in commercial oversight. In Massachusetts, dealers, not fishermen, tag fish. In the Potomac, the fishery has essentially operated on the honor system with no finfish check-in. Maryland has a long history of underestimating average weights, and Virginia has no way to follow out-of-state buyers who pick up fish at the dock. In that context, assigning a 2.8% commercial bycatch mortality doesn't square with what's likely happening. If reductions are supposed to be equal across sectors, the bookkeeping and enforcement have to be just as tight on the commercial side as they are for recreational anglers. I'm also asking you to be honest about the data that underpins recreational removals. NOAA's work on the Fisheries Effort Survey indicates the current design may have overestimated recreational effort by as much as forty percent. CONTINUED BELOW

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Steve Gerencser	RI / MA	Private rec.			COMMENT CONTINUED: If that holds through recalibration, then recreational removals have been overstated relative to commercial for years. That's uncomfortable, but it matters for how the burden of reductions is shared. Please acknowledge and incorporate that reality as you finalize measures. At the same time, I take responsibility for the fish I release. New research out of Massachusetts shows that gear choice and handling can push release mortality down dramatically—potentially from around nine percent toward three percent with the right hooks and techniques. If release mortality is truly a coastwide concern, then those findings should be reflected in how we educate anglers, shape regulations where enforceable, and model removals. Conservation-minded choices should count. With all of that in mind, here's what I'm asking you to adopt in Addendum III. I support the uniform total length method for measurement and tagging at harvest for commercial fish. CONTINUED BELOW

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Steve Gerencser	RI / MA	Private rec.			COMMENT CONTINUED: In the Chesapeake Bay, I support the proposed new season baseline with an uncertainty buffer, and I encourage you to set that buffer at least in the ten-to-fifteen percent range to account for effort shifts, hot-water closures, and the general messiness of real life. Coastwide, I support uniform twelve-percent reductions applied equally to commercial and recreational sectors, without carve-outs for the for-hire fleet. For-hire exemptions shift the burden onto the overwhelming majority of anglers and undermine the sense that we're all rowing the boat together. If you use seasonal no-harvest closures as part of the tool kit, I can live with that— so long as they are clear, enforceable, and allow catch-and-release. Given how intimately Rhode Island's waters are shared with Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, I also ask that the Northern region include Rhode Island – and, where possible, that Connecticut and New York be grouped with the North as well – to align management with how the fish and the fleet actually move. CONTINUED BELOW

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Steve Gerencser	RI / MA	Private rec.			COMMENT CONTINUED: There are a few measures I cannot support. Large-scale no-targeting closures are a good example. Your own Law Enforcement Committee has said repeatedly that these are practically unenforceable, ranking no-targeting dead last out of twenty-seven options. Unless we're talking about narrow environmental triggers, like heat-driven summer closures in the Chesapeake, no-targeting rules reduce impacts on paper while doing little in reality. We don't have time for cosmetic conservation. Finally, I want to be clear about the stakes. If recruitment keeps failing or if the plan falls off track for rebuilding, the Commission should be prepared to consider a moratorium rather than watching the stock slide back into the ditch. That's not what I want; it's what becomes necessary when we wait too long to do what we already know needs to be done. I appreciate the work that goes into the assessments, the addenda, and the hearings. I also know how hard it is to balance livelihoods with stewardship. But the right choices are in front of you. CONTINUED BELOW

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Steve Gerencser	RI / MA	Private rec.			CONTINUED: Please choose the options that are tough, enforceable, and fair so the bass I chase at dawn are still there when today's kids take their own children to the water. If we fail to act now, the economic fallout could be severe. In 2016, recreational striped bass fishing supported about 104,867 jobs and generated nearly $13 billion in total economic output along the Atlantic coast (Southwick Associates, 2019). As stock declines worsen, fewer trips will be made, fewer people will purchase boats and fewer bait and tackle sales will occur, and coastal businesses – charter operations, lodging, gas stations, boat repairs, restaurants, tackle shops and general tourism – will feel the squeeze. The cost to coastal state GDPs could reach into the billions of dollars annually as the backbone of the recreational economy weakens. Thank you for considering my comments. Sincerely, Steve Gerencser 1. Southwick Associates. (2019, April 12). The Economic Contributions of Recreational and Commercial Striped Bass Fishing (report for The McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership). pp. 15–16 (Tables R-3 & R-4). Retrieved from mcgraw.org.

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Jackson McCrickard	VA	Private rec.	I would prefer to see a no-harvest closure for the recreational season closures as no-targeting is detrimental to the recreational fishing economy and its unenforceable. New England region should be New York and North. New Jersey and South is Mid-Atlantic region. No Harvest closures should be implemented in wave 4 for New England region and Wave 6 for mid Atlantic region which will save some fish during the fall run.	I would like to see a no-harvest closure and I would like to see the bay states standardized so all bay states operating together here on timing, regs, and closures. I would do wave 3.	Hi, I am a recreational angler from the Chesapeake Bay region. I have been fishing the Bay in both Maryland and Virginia since the late 1990s. Luckily, I have experienced excellent striped bass fishing in the 2000s - 2010s timeframe. For me personally, fishing has gotten significantly more challenging in the last 5-7 years. Gone are the Octobers full of acres of blitzing striped bass on peanut bunkers throughout much of the middle and upper bay. From a purely anecdotal perspective, the biomass has clearly shrunk significantly. Sure there are areas where you can still find fish but given the fact that we have had 6 years of failed spawns, we are really hurting here as far as fishing is concerned in the bay as we have a juvenile fishery for the most part (minus December - April) when our fishing gets good again while the big girls are here before the biomass moves north again after the spawn. CONTINUED BELOW

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Jackson McCrickard	VA	Private rec.			COMMENT CONTINUED: Given lack of spawning success for 6 possibly 7 consecutive years, and the fact that the 2018 year class, our last solid year class, has gotten whacked this summer up in New England as those fish are right smack in the middle of the 28-31 inch coastwide slot, it seems to me that proactive conservation efforts can no longer be kicked down the road. I would personally applaud the board for enacting strong conservative measures to protect the fishery for years to come before we are forced into a coastwide moratorium yet again. Lets act now before its too late and history has to repeat itself.
Tyler Nonn	VA	For-hire	No harvest	No harvest	The stock obviously needs help. But no target enclosures would be devastating to the economy, while no harvest closures would be advantageous for rebuilding the stock and allow people to continue fishing.
John Craig Sr	VA	Private rec.	No Harvest No Tag and release.	No target No Harvest	

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Robert Dunning	VA	Private rec.	no harvest of ocean fish all year long	No harvest in the Chesapeake Bay from June 15 to September 15	Striped bass need to be managed more conservatively. Poaching, environmental issues and bad spawns can not be managed. All states where fish can be targeted must have the same regulations! No exceptions. Regulate commercial fishing more intensely or outright outlaw it! We need to protect our beloved striped bass for future generations. A moratorium for 3 or 4 years would be the best option so long as we maintain very conservative regulations when the moratorium is lifted.
Ron Binshtok	VA	Private rec.	No harvest. Flexible on dates.	No harvest. Flexible on dates	
David Juth	VA	Private rec.	No harvest. NY, CT and RI should be included in the New England region. I would like to see wave 4 closures for New England and wave 6 for the Mid-Atlantic regions	No harvest. We need strong preventative actions now, especially as we face 6 straight years of failed spawning in the Chesapeake Bay.	The state of the striped bass fishery right now is of major concern. I support an equitable coast-wide harvest moratorium as the best and only way to rebuild the stock.
David Irwin	VA	Private rec.	No preference	No harvest. Dates to be determined by fisheries experts.	Please, please reduce menhaden catch limits in the Bay. Any restrictions on striped bass harvest could then be phased out.

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Christian	VA	Private rec.	No target	No harvest	Remove commercial fishing for striper Keep recreational fishing Problem solved
Jonathan Freeman	VA	Private rec.	Support of a No-Harvest in the ocean	A No-Harvest for the Chesapeake Bay	When will the ASMFC strongly challenge and target industrial fishing for Menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. So many steps have been taken to limit Commercial and recreational fishing people. That same amount of energy and efforts must be taken to limit, reduce or ban reduction fishing for Menhaden. There needs to be more policing in state and federal waters. If the Chesapeake Bay is truly the breeding grounds for Striped Bass, why is so little being done to protect that estuary? Reduction fishing shouldn't be allowed during the spawning months. During the warmer months reduction fishing should be limited to federal waters. This is how we bring back Striped Bass, Redfish, Blue Crabs, Ospreys and so many other species that rely on Menhaden as forage. Thank you Jonathan
Jesse Kirk	VA	Private rec.		Cold water catch and release isn't hurting the population.	Close commercial

Name	State	Partici-pant	Ocean season closure open-ended comments	Chesapeake Bay season closure open-ended comments	Any additional comments on Draft Addendum III
Nicholas Li	VA	Private rec.		No harvest from Dec 1 - April 30	
Robert L Hoffman Jr	VA	Private rec.		No recreational or commercial fishing for Striper or menhaden.	I have not fished for striped bass in fifteen years because the menhaden have been raped from the bay near Virginia Beach and the Bay bridge tunnel and the fish are not there. They catch them at the light tower..
stover hughes	VA	Private rec.			Close Omega as they process every fish that gets into their nets. At the very least, force them to fish offshore and not in the Bay. Maryland wised up many years ago.
Robert Bennett	VA	Commercial			The size restriction on commercial fishery in the bay is ridiculous when in March we can't keep fish over a certain size, it's a quota, the sooner we catch our quota the sooner the nets are out of the water. We release 1 40lb fish to kill 10 4kbers not a sustainable practice. Currently the Chesapeake striped bass population is robust, the data and science are flawed.

10/1/2025 *Up-scope*

To: ASMFC RE: Striped bass BONUS programs

The striped bass resource on the Atlantic coast is managed by the ASMFC rather than the individual states. The fishing industry harvesting these fish consists of two distinct sectors; recreational and commercial. In ASMFC's attempt to control harvest[1], it creates restrictive harvesting rules for each fishing sector. It monitors the status of the biomass each year, and makes major adjusts to the restrictive measures with amendments, and minor ones with addenda. The management measures imposed include bag limits for recreational fishermen, and quotas (caps) to limit each state's commercial harvest.

Since New Jersey does not allow commerce (sale) in striped bass, in 1990 it petitioned the ASMFC to allow it to create a new recreational fishery using NJ's commercial quota. The ASMFC approved NJ's request to create this BONUS fishery as a conservational equivalent (CE) program. Currently NJ's BONUS program continues since Amendment 7 says: " *all approved .... CE programs and state implementation plans are maintained until such measures are changed in the future*" . However, there are several reasons why the future is NOW, and the ASMFC should terminate NJ's BONUS fish program. They are:

A. NJ's BONUS program (using commercial quota) ignores the definition of ***commercial***.
   - By definition, ***commercial*** indicates **commerce** (i.e. being bought or sold). In the BONUS program, the fish are neither bought nor sold.
   - Since the commercial quota is harvested as recreational fish, it is contrary to objective #4[2] (i.e. fostering a **viable commercial fishery)** as listed in section 2.3 of the current Amendment 7.

B. NJ's BONUS program (using commercial quotas) is a violation of FMP Amendment 7, section 4.1.2.3. which says:"***Commercial quota transfers are not permitted."*** **(PERIOD !!).**
   - NJ's BONUS program uses a **transfer** of the annual commercial quota[3] to support this recreational fishery. Since ASMFC issues yearly quotas; ASMFC's **continued approval of transfers of commercial quotas is a blatant violation of its own rule found in Amendment 7, Section 4.3.2.1.**

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[1] **Objective #1** listed in Amendment 7 (page 29): "*Manage striped bass fisheries under a control rule designed to maintain stock size at or above the target female spawning stock biomass level and a level of fishing mortality at or below the target exploitation rate."*

[2] **Objective #4** listed in Amendment 7 (page 29): "*Foster quality and economically-viable recreational, for-hire, and commercial fisheries"*

[3] Since ASMFC issues yearly quotas, states with BONUS programs apply for approval each year for transfer to occur. The approvals granted under Amendment 5 (1995) were therefore renewed year(1996-2022). When Amendment 7 (2022) took effect, it allowed all CE that were in effect at the time it was approved (May) to continue thru the end of year (Dec, 2022).

- The basis of ASMFC management scheme is to restrict recreational harvest by putting coast-wide size and bag limits on the recreational fishermen; and to restrict commercial harvest within each state to a fixed amount by use of a quota (cap) system.
- Amendment 5, Section 4.3; describes a commercial quota as a "*constraint*". To allow a state to consider that commercial quotas are tangible amounts of fish (assets) given to the states rather than limiting factors for fisheries within the states .... is to change the basis of ASMFC's management program.
- Tables #13 and #14 in Amendment 6 show clearly that ASMFC considers the commercial quota to be a "cap" rather than a tangible amount (an asset) of fish.

C. NJ's BONUS program violates the standards set for CE programs outlined in ASMFC's *Conservation Equivalency Policy and Technical Guidance Document* because:
   - It fails to meet requirement #2[4] in that document which says: "... ***meets all*** *relevant FMP objectives.....,* since it doesn't meet Objective #4 of the FMP that says: To "*Foster quality and economically-viable recreational, for-hire,* ***AND commercial fisheries***" (That's **AND** not OR)

D. The conservation equivalency (CE) programs were created to allow states flexibility **within** the FMP; not to circumvent or rewrite it.

E. Although Amendment 7 no longer lists fairness as an objective, it is unfair to allow NJ's BONUS program anglers to have 2 fish while other anglers coast-wide are restricted to 1.

F. NJ's BONUS fish program creates an incentive for all states to start a BONUS program and deny the non-angling public access to the resource.

If New Jersey chooses to deny its citizens access to this resource by prohibiting harvest and sale within the state ..... it may do so. However, Ignoring ASMFC's prohibition of commercial quota transfers in Amendment 7[5], NJ transfers its commercial quota annually to the recreational sector.[6] The commercial quota set by ASMFC was never intended to be used by the recreational sector as an extra fish since it was based on NJ's commercial sector harvest in the base years (1972-1979). It was intended to help achieve ASMFC's FMP Objective #4[2].

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[4] *https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/ConservationEquivalencyGuidance_RevisedAugust2025.pdf*

[5] ASMFC, striped bass FMP, Amendment 7, section 4.3.2.1: "*commercial quota transfers are not permitted*",

[6] There is now nothing to stop NJ from doing the same thing with its commercial quota of other fish (e.g. summer flounder, bluefish, etc.).

Please don't let NJ, and its (greedy) recreational fishermen, take commercial fish that *rightfully* should enter the stream of commerce and be distributed to the non-angling American public. Recreational fishermen in NJ have their own size and bag limit dictated by Amendment 7 just as recreational fishermen in other states do. If NJ wants its recreational fishermen to have a larger bag limit, it should apply for a recreational Conservational Equivalency program with alternative seasons and size limits to support it. [I.e. a *real* CE program that has the recreational sector staying with what it is permitted.]

Please fix the problems with this BONUS fishery by enforcing Amendment 7, section 4.1.2.3 .
END IT !!

The Old Fisherman ..... *>)))"> Down-scope*

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