



Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council
Striped Bass Advisory Panel
January 10, 2008
RI Marine Fisheries, Jamestown, RI 02835

1. Review current stock status and ASMFC Addendum 1 to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Management Plan for Striped Bass.

Co-Chair George Allen gave an update on 2007 Maryland YOY index indicating that the geometric mean value of 5.12 was an increase from the 2006 value of 1.78 fish per haul.

Scott Olszewski of Rhode Island Marine Fisheries reported that the latest Striped Bass Stock Assessment remains under peer review and the final results will not be available until spring 2008. Working off the last assessment shows that striped bass is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

Discussion of Addendum I to Amendment 6 of the ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass.

The purpose of this addendum is to implement a bycatch monitoring and research program as required by Amendment 6 (Section 2.1). The monitoring program is designed to increase the accuracy of data on striped bass discards from both the commercial and recreational fisheries. This addendum also recommends an angler education program to help decrease discard mortality in the recreational fishery (Section 2.2). If deemed necessary, a subsequent addendum will propose a management program to reduce bycatch through penalties and incentives. (ASMFC Addendum 1, Nov. 2007)

2. Development of the 2008 fish trap commercial striped bass seasons and quota allocation.

Proposal 1 – Rhode Island Fish Trap Association:

The trap companies request a return to a November 1st rollover date. This past season we had three trap companies actively harvesting striped bass when the trap quota was rolled into the general category. October is a prime month for the fish traps and we would like the opportunity to harvest the quota that fish trap landings created.

This proposal would move the current October 1 annual rollover date of fish trap quota to November 1 annually. The current regulation can be found in R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations Part XII section 12.5.

Motion by Alan Glidden to adopt the Rhode Island Fish Trap Association proposal.

Second – Dennis Zambrotta

All in favor

None opposed

No abstentions

3. Development of the 2007 General Category commercial striped bass seasons and quota allocation.

Proposal 1 – Rhode Island Commercial Rod & Reel Angler's (RICRRA) Association

Remain at status quo for 2008 or the same rules as 2007
Submitted by,
Jim Low

The current regulation can be found in R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations Part XII section 12.3.

Motion by Robert Beresford to adopt the Rhode Island Commercial Rod & Reel Angler's (RICRRA) Association proposal

Second – Ray Jobin

All in favor

None opposed

No abstentions

4. Discussion of recreational striped bass fisheries.

The current regulation can be found in R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations Part XII section 12.1.

Motion by Andrew Dangelo to remain status quo for 2008

Second by Michael Lanni

All in favor

None opposed

No abstentions

5. Other business

Tagging issues – Alan Glidden stated that the fish traps could be a good source of fish to pursue a tag/recapture research project. The Division will contact the ASMFC technical committee and the tagging subcommittee.

Further discussion of Addendum 1 – The industry need to think about measures that could affect by-catch issues in the future. Examples of this could be use of circle hooks and their use in bait fishing and estuarine striped bass mortality from fly-fishing. The Advisory Panel Chair and Co-Chair thought the Panel should recommend to the Director to put together a round table discussion of industry groups to address by-catch and discard mortality issues.

Denis Zambrotta is concerned about the number of Non-Resident Commercial licenses that are active or being renewed annually. He feels that the residents of the State should be able to commercially fish before non-residents are allowed to. It was brought to his attention that these are licenses that have been active and or renewed for years before the last license moratorium.

Ray Jobin discussed licensing issues regarding magnetic strips and the use of a credit card identification system for all striped bass sales to help eliminate illegal striped bass sales. Fishermen with valid RI 2008 commercial fishing licenses must be present at the dealer's facility during the sale of striped bass. No fishermen can sell striped bass on someone else's commercial license. Transactions should also require licensed seller's signature on dealer's sales slips.

This issue was sent to the IAC in 2007 and the Panel asked that it be addressed again in 2008.

Attendance:

Christopher Anderson	RIMFC Advisory Panel Chair
George Allen	RIMFC Advisory Panel Co-Chair
Scott D. Olszewski	DEM Marine Fisheries
Dave Preble	RIMFC former Advisory Panel Chair
Bob Beresford	Commercial Rod and Reel
John Gadzik	Commercial Rod and Reel
Andrew Dangelo	Charter Boat
Kelly Smith	Charter Boat
Brian Turnbaugh	Commercial
Ray Jobin	Commercial Rod and Reel
John Stavarkas	Recreational
Ed Cook	Recreational
Armand Teixeira	Commercial Rod and Reel
Denis Zambrotta	Recreational
Michael Lanni	Recreational
Stephen L. Parente	Commercial
Alan Glidden	Commercial Fish Trap
Craig Stevens	Charter Boat
Joe Macari	Commercial Rod and Reel