

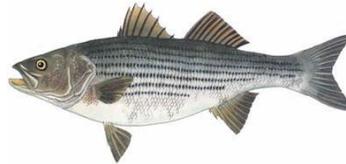


Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, Striped Bass Advisory Panel

February 17, 2009
Marine Fisheries
3 Ft. Wetherill Road
Jamestown, RI 02835

The Panel Chair, Chris Anderson asked for introductions of Panel members and to review the information on the Panel member list.

1. Review Striped Bass Stock Status - Marine Fisheries representative, Scott Olszewski reported from the 46th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop(46th SAW) Assessment Summary Report. The figures presented to the Panel show female spawning stock biomass and total biomass above the biomass threshold. However the 2008 Maryland Young of the Year index was the lowest in the time series since 1990. According to the 2008 Striped Bass Stock Assessment Report, the Striped Bass fishery is not considered overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Panel members asked if the disease issues that are plaguing the mid-Atlantic regions are being seen in Rhode Island waters. The response of members and fishermen was that it is not regularly witnessed, however on occasion there are fish that are released because of health conditions.
2. Development of the 2009 fish trap commercial striped bass season and quota allocation.
Motion by Alan Gliden for the 2009 fishery for the **Fish Trap** sector remain status quo from the 2008 fishery.
Second by John Fuscaldo
All in favor
None opposed
No abstentions
Motion passes.

**2009 Proposed Fish Trap Commercial Fishery
Striped Bass**

Minimum Size - 26" TL

January 1 – August 26	One hundred percent (100%) of the floating trap quota shall be available from January 1 through August 26 minus a 10,000 pound set aside. Once eighty percent (80%) of the seasonal allocation is projected to be harvested the possession limit shall be 500 pounds per fish trap licensee per calendar day.
August 27 -- December 31	The 10,000 pound floating fish trap quota set aside shall be available from August 27 through December 31 with no limit on possession. The fishery shall close once the entire floating trap quota is harvested.

3. Development of the 2009 **General Category** commercial striped bass season and quota allocation.

Discussion – Overage in the fall season is due to accounting problems and late dealer reporting.

The Striped Bass Advisory Panel wishes to stress the importance of strict enforcement of late dealer reporting. Late reporting is responsible for quota overages and resulting fishery penalties. This should be brought to the Enforcement Advisory Panel as soon as possible.

Motion by John Fuscaldo for the 2009 General Category Striped Bass season to be as follows:

**2009 Proposed General Category Commercial Fishery
Striped Bass**

Minimum Size - 34" TL

January 1 – May 31	The commercial fishery will be CLOSED from January 1 through May 31, annually.
June 1 – August 31	Seventy-five percent (75%) of the commercial quota will be available from June 1 – August 31. The possession limit will be five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day. The fishery will be closed in each calendar week from 12:00 AM Friday until 11:59 PM Saturday during this sub period. There will be no commercial possession or sale of striped bass on these days. The fishery will close once seventy-five percent (75%) of the commercial quota is projected to be harvested if prior to August 31.
September 13- December 31	Twenty-five percent (25%) of the commercial quota will be available from September 1 through December 31. The possession limit will be five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day. The fishery will be closed in each calendar week from 12:00 AM Friday until 11:59 PM Saturday during this sub period. There will be no commercial possession or sale of striped bass on these days. The fishery will close when the entire commercial quota is projected to be harvested.

Second by Robert Beresford

Discussion: The reasoning behind the later proposed start date in the fall portion of the General Category Striped Bass season is to avoid overlapping seasons with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts fishery and the resulting market implications.

All in favor
None opposed
No abstentions
Motion passes.

4. Discussion on Recreational Striped Bass fisheries.
Questions on the proposal of recreational slot size for recreational striped bass fisheries.

It was reported that adjustments to the recreational fishery which are more conservative than current management plan regulations would be evaluated by the ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee and the ultimately decided by the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board.

5. Other business:
Regulation for all commercially caught striped bass to be tagged and reported to RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries.
There was a consensus on the value of the continuation of this tagging program.

Attendance:

John Fuscaldo – AP Member
Denis Zambratta – AP Member
Ken Booth
Bob Beresford – AP Member
Jerry Tremblay
Ed Cook – AP Member Alternate
Ray Jobin – AP Member Alternate
Jack O'Donnell – AP Member
Ray Marrinelli
Joe Macari – AP Member Alternate
Al Conti – AP Member

Meeting Adjourned.

