

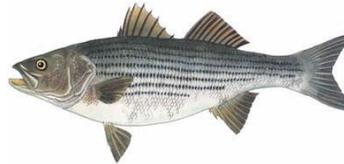


Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, Striped Bass Advisory Panel

January 17, 2012
University of Rhode Island
Graduate School of Oceanography
Coastal Institute

1. John Lake, from Rhode Island Marine Fisheries and the ASMFC Striped Bass technical committee representative gave a short presentation on Striped Bass stock status. The key points of the presentation were as follows:
 - Based on the results of the 2010 stock assessment update: Not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.
 - $F = 0.28 < F_{\text{Threshold}} 0.34$
 - $SSB = 50,548 \text{ mt} > SSB_{\text{Threshold}} 36,881 \text{ mt}$
 - Stock abundance has been declining since 2004 but remains high due to growth and maturation of 2003 year class and biomass from year classes prior to 1996.
 - Chesapeake stock appears to be lower than Hudson stock, models suggest an increasing mortality rate (M).
 - 2011 Young of the Year (YOY) Striped Bass Survey is 34.6, well above the long- term average of 11.9, and exceedingly higher than 2010's results of 5.9. This is the fourth highest measure of striped bass spawning success in the Chesapeake Bay in the survey's 58-year history.
 - Next Stock Assessment in 2013.
2. **Development of the 2012 General Category commercial striped bass season and quota allocation.**

Proposal of the RIMFC Striped Bass Advisory Panel
Status Quo for 2012 Commercial Striped Bass Fishery (General Category)

June 6 – August 31 Eighty percent (80%) of the commercial quota will be available during this period. 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 (80%) of the commercial quota is projected to be harvested if prior to August 31.

September 4- December 31 Twenty percent (20%) of the commercial quota will be available during this period. 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.

Motion by R. Jobin to include Status Quo option for public hearing.

Second by J. Macari

4 in favor

1 opposed

2 abstentions

Motion passes

Further discussion revolved around the fishing productivity and opportunity of Narragansett Bay verses Rhode Island and Block Island sounds with regards to the opening of the spring season. Realizing the difficulty in keeping all groups satisfied the panel felt that a middle of the road opening was the best fit for the fishery.

Other proposals may be submitted at the RIMFC Public Hearing.

3. Development of the 2011 Floating Fish Trap commercial striped bass season and quota allocation.

Proposal of the RIMFC Striped Bass Advisory Panel

Status Quo for 2012 Floating Fish Trap Commercial Striped Bass Fishery

2012 Proposed Fish Trap Commercial Fishery

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.

Motion by R. Jobin to include Status Quo option for public hearing.

Second by A. D'Angelo

Six in favor

none opposed

1 abstentions

Motion passes

4. 2012 Recreational Striped Bass Fishery

No formal motion was taken regarding changes to the 2012 Recreational Striped Bass Fishery

5. Striped Bass Tagging requirement

The Striped Bass Advisory Panel agreed unanimously to continue the State tagging requirement for commercially landed striped bass.

Attendance:

Ken Booth, Chair. Scott Olszewski, John Lake, RIDEM.

Voting members: Ray Jobin, Andrew DeAngelo, Robert Beresford, Michael Lanni, Dennis Zambrotta, David Sanford, AP members. Joseph Macari, alternate member.

Public Attendees: Jack Demers, Rich Colagiovanni, Steven Anderson, Frank Tameo, Anthony Parascandolo Jr., Jerry Trembly, Ronald Forrest, Bart Wagner, Michael Monteforte, David Fewster, Ronald Enright, Wade Baker, Stephen Medeiros.