



An excel sheet with the results of the Stripers Forever 2013 Annual Fishing Survey including the comments that some members made appears below. In 2013 we received a near record 1020 responses to our annual survey. 752, or 83% of the respondents, have fished for stripers for more than 10 years, and many of these people fished through both the last striped bass collapse and the recovery of the late 1980s and 1990s. This is a very experienced sample of the angling population. This year's survey has again produced a good representative sampling of sentiments from fishers all along the striper's migratory range, and as usual MA and NJ vied for the greatest contributions with 227 and 222 completed surveys respectively.

Without a reasonable doubt the fishery is continuing to decline. 78% of fishers report catching fewer fish compared to 4% reporting catching more. Also, 60% said they were catching smaller fish compared to only 18% claiming they were larger. Most of the older, larger fish from the great year classes of the 1990s and early 2000s have been removed from the population leaving us with smaller fish and many less fish from the poor year classes that have generally characterized the fishery since 2003.

We had survey results from 89 guides, which is one of our best years. Without a doubt the decline in striper fishing is hurting this valuable industry as well as the related fishing tourism and tackle businesses. The guides know how to fish their areas, though, and can usually produce the best results possible from their home waters. If you are thinking about a guided trip please check out the guides and tackle shops listed on the Stripers Forever website.

We will send this information to the press and to fishery policy makers everywhere. We hope that you will use this information personally to help us advocate for the goal of coast-wide striped bass game fish. Please share the results with your local fishing club, hometown newspaper, and elected officials that you may know.

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anglers should be able to keep at least one school striper (possibly different from state to state, but probably															
between 18 and 28 inches in length) per day for personal consumption.															
yes	65	6	134	38	29	64	169	3	8	54	25	7		602	67%
no	29	3	88	32	25	64	49	3	3	4	3	0		303	33%
9. If you answered yes to #8, should this smaller fish be allowed instead of, or in addition to, a bass of some larger size?															
instead of	62	5	120	30	26	60	114	3	5	33	13	7		478	77%
in addition to	8	1	17	9	3	10	58	1	3	20	13	0		143	23%
10. If you answered no to #8 what should the minimum size be?															
28	18	3	54	25	12	19	47	3	3	9	5	0		198	50%
32	2	1	23	6	7	30	11	1		1	1	0		83	21%
36	6	0	23	6	4	26	8				1	0		74	19%
40	4	0	7	1	2	24	7				0	0		45	10%
11. Do you think we should have a slot limit for recreationally caught stripers?															
yes	76	7	147	43	34	73	161	3	7	43	6	6		606	70%
no	17	2	71	26	18	48	57	3	4	14	1	1		262	30%
12. Slot preference															
20-26	54	2	55	12	12	26	37	2	4	18	6	3		231	37%
22-28	13	2	40	16	12	19	63	1	2	13	12	2		195	31%
24-30	9	3	53	14	11	31	61		1	13	2	1		199	32%
13. When commercial fishing is ended, what percentage of the current commercial quota should be saved from harvest as a conservation buffer? The rest would be used to liberalize the recreational harvest. 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%															
25%	9	0	36	9	6	22	34	3	0	15	11	1		146	17%
50	17	5	54	30	17	31	67	1	9	13	8	4		256	29%
75	22	1	30	10	6	28	43	0	1	7	5	1		154	18%
100%	41	3	96	18	22	40	69	1	1	21	4	1		317	36%
15. Would you favor legislation that creates a striped bass stamp costing between \$10.00 and \$25.00 per year with the funds earmarked to buyout the current commercial fishery?															
yes	67	7	153	50	38	93	148	4	7	42	23	5		637	71%
no	26	2	65	20	13	35	70	2	4	16	5	2		260	29%
16. If you answered yes to #15, should this stamp program end after a fixed number of years, or should the fee continue to fund enforcement and striped bass enhancement programs?															
end	15	1	40	17	10	24	51	0	2	42	4	6		212	
continue	52	6	119	32	28	68	100	4	5	16	1	1		432	
17. Should Stripers Forever advocate that circle hooks be required, where practical, when bait fishing for striped bass?															
yes	70	7	173	50	43	96	155	6	9	49	6	6		670	33%
no	20	2	47	19	10	32	63	0	2	9	1	1		206	67%
18. My personal comments on striped bass management that you have not covered are? See comment tab below.															

Guides Section															
19. How has your guiding business for striped bass changed because of the fishery in the last five years?															
worsened considerably	4		8	2	1	4	9			2	4	0		34	38%
worsened a little	3	1	6	1	2	5	1		1	2	2	1		25	28%
not changed	3		7		1	2	3	2		2	0	0		20	22%
imporved somewhat	0		1			2				0	0	1		6	7%
improved a great deal	2		0							2	0	0		4	5%
20. How important is keeping a striped bass to your clients?															
not very important	4		12		0	6	2	0	1	1	0	0		26	30%
somewhat important	6	1	4	1	3	5	3	1		3	3	2		32	37%
very important	1		6	2	2	3	8	1		3	3	0		29	33%
21. How important to your clients is catching a lot of stripers per trip?															
not very important	2		3	0	0	1	0			0	2	0		8	9%
somewhat important	6	1	11	2	4	7	6	2		4	2	1		46	52%
very important	3		10	1	1	6	6		1	3	2	1		34	39%
22. How important is catching a really large striper to your clients?															
not very important	2		2	0	0	2	3			1	0	1		11	13%
somewhat important	7	1	13	2	4	9	7	2		5	5	1		56	66%
very important	2		7	1	1	2	2		1	1	1	0		18	21%
23. Which is more important to my clients, catching big fish or catching a lot of fish?															
big fish	3		8	1	0	3	3	1		2	3	0		24	28%
many fish	8	1	14	2	5	10	9	1	1	5	3	2		61	72%
24. I am more likely than I was 5 years ago to make new investments in equipment for my striped bass guiding business?															
yes	5		4	1	1	4	1	1		4	0	1		32	34%
no	6	1	18	2	3	9	11	1	1	3	6	1		62	66%

25. My comments as to how the management of striped bass is affecting my guiding business:

See Comments Tab below

Additional comments on striped bass management.
ZERO LIMIT

Party boats going out twice a day should be stopped.

It would be nice to see more enforcement of the law and punishment and fines followed through. There are too many people being fined and no follow up. People who break the fishery laws are not honorable people. People like me and people I know believe in catch & release and practice this whenever we fish for stripers. For hire boats caught stripers are mostly always kept, and by people who don't understand what our fisheries are going through right now, the captains certainly do. The captain and mates should not be counting how many have to be caught and kept. They need to start the MD DNR needs more resources to stop poaching, overfishing, and under reporting my commercial fisherman. Also, we should require barbless hooks for bait or lure fishing. I have been mashing or filing barbs off my hooks for 30 plus years with no more loss of fish than I would have had otherwise. If you can't manage a drag and a tight line you need to take up knitting. Treble hook lures should have two of the three hook bends also cut off. Planer boards allowing 25 plus lines to be trolled should be outlawed. Where is the sport in that?? You may as well drop grenades every hundred feet once you mark a school. "Fisherman" drag under sized bass through the water needlessly killing them as they hope for a larger fish to hook up. Trolling

No possession of ANY striped bass for next 3 years, they ALL go back, and take it from there.
Eliminate the bonus tag

no

This year the fish I caught along the coast were from the same age class . they were all about 20 inches not many smaller or bigger.

They should move the 3 mile mark to about five miles off shore

You need to advocate to people that they need to enforce the length . The epa is not always there at 3 am and I have told people to throw fish back because they are too short . And people from other states need to pay a high premium to fish out of state.

Slot limits are not working in Maine I see a lot of fish die after being released
We need to look at a special permit for charter captains to purchase allowing them to go beyond the 3 mile limit with a paid charter and allow 1 fish per person to keep! Charter captains continue to suffer losing bookings because the fish remain stacked up 10-20 miles out .
1 @ 36". 10 per year
Should have game fish status
Use circle hooks for fly fishing as we'll.

If commercial fishing is stopped, I don't think the ezz should be lifted.

Adding to questions 7 and 8... I'd agree to the striper stamp only if the money was actually used for enforcement and striped bass enhancement.
Keep up the good work, u guys are on the right course.

End Commercial fishing for them.
to many big cow bass being killed each year it wont last forever
End the two fish limit! And end kill tournaments. Gotlight was a wonderful tournament with very few dead fish as a result.
Almost no stripers this fall in VA's Chesapeake- Eastern Shore. Form wouldn't let me fill out VA as where I fished

See my comments on following page

The YOY classes have been too poor over the last decade to justify any policy that results in a larger number of smaller fish being taken. We still do not know the health of the supposedly large 2011 class. No to slot limits...yes to 1 fish per day at 32" or above.

There has been no management whatsoever, if there had been the striped bass fishery, and for that matter, all fisheries would have recovered by

the problem with the gov collecting money for a stamp is by the time the politicians finish fighting over how to spend the money no money will ever be I am not sure about the effectiveness of slot limits. If it proves to be the better alternative to increasing the min. limit to 32 " then I would support it. Commercial harvest undoubtedly deserves a role in the management of Atlantic striped bass - you and I both know that a successful balance between recreational and commercial fishing can be found. Perhaps a middle ground should be proposed " a solution that allows the Atlantic striped bass stock to recover, and allows the commercial fishing market to stay afloat. This may seem like an impossible hurdle, but cooperation between

Need to reduce fishing mortality in all ways possible - rec and comm, both increased size and lower bag limits. Also gear restrictions and focus on I have over 40 years on the beach. All States in the Bass producing zones should be mandated to have Striped bass hatcheries. Federal trophy Bass

I marked that I am catching much smaller bass. On average that is true with the exception of the scoring run when the fish tend to be much larger. I used to catch bass regularly from the mid 90's to 3 or 4 years ago when I noticed a significant decline. There are many nights when I blank when it used to be only a few. Since it takes a lot of gas to drive to the beach, I have cut back my fishing. I also fish in pennsylvania and Maine, and have

No season of any type during the spawning time of striped bass. No keeping of the spawning sized fish ever.

End trophy seasons in Maryland that only allow the taking of large breeding stock fish

Without question, the fishery is getting in trouble again. Commercial must end and the min. catch keep size increased back to 34" which previously worked very well. I am a charter boat capt and it is getting really bad again in and around buzzards bay and the elizabeths. better in cape cod bay

This is the worse year ever for me fishing for Striped Bass.

no

Fishing here has changed but I am not certain what the fishery has to do with i, as opposed to environment changes. There used to be a flow of fish in Spring nd Fall, pretty consistent, but Bait movement has changed and so that may have a bigger impact here. I have see larger fish B4 Sandy, and not much since, so I expect something else changed. There were very few Bluefish last year as well. When I boat I can get to them, but from this

No

I would prefer an immediate moratorium until we are satisfied that the inshore striper fishery is suffici9ently recovered. In RI we still has a good deep water fishery but inshore fishing, especially for fly rodders, has declined dramatically.

Lower mortality radically

Think more than \$10 per year for a striper stamp is too much for many fixed income people.

Although I spend more time each year fishing for stripers, my experience is limited and therefore, my responses to the above questions is not based on a wealth of experience/data. I also believe that, although limiting the catch/harvest of striped bass is one solution to the problem of diminishing numbers, equal or greater efforts should be devoted to correcting environmental and industrial problems that decrease the reproduction and early

Get the North & Southern States out of commercial fishery for about 25 yrs.
Size and per trip catch limits should be consistent throughout the migratory range of striped bass.

Why does the recreational fishing industry have to buy out the commercial interests?

Thanks

I have hundreds of suggestions .. We need better regulations in the bunker industry as well I am sure you are aware of the fact Omega takes a TON of these fish for making fish oil they need to be shut down or seriously regulated. The fishery is partially in decline due to lack of food as well as The bass stamp would only benefit the politicians as usual.

more local tagging programs

I'm 55 years old and I was active in the 1980s in Maryland to get gamefish status for Stripers in Maryland. We hired a lobbyist thru the CCA and our legislative efforts were stomped on like a stinkbug. I stopped fishing for about a decade in a half while the resource bounced back following a moratorium. Now that I'm fishing again the same thing is occurring and the politicians are so out of touch and corrupted by the waterman its the same old stuff as 1978. Martin Omalley calls himself a green progressive and he is really a slimeball phony. The whole state of Maryland is corrupt and does

MAKE IT MANDATORY THAT ALL STRIPERS OVER 28" BE THROWN BACK. - ALLOW SPORT FISHERMAN TO KEEP ONE FISH DAILY UNDER

We need to fund a more powerful lobbying group to influence the key politicians involved

protect bait fish herring pogies mackeral

Until the commercial fishing is stopped all commercial fishing should be by hook and line.

Too many party boats and charters are killing far too many stripers. If you go to Montauk and watch the boats when the mates haul in the catch it is like watching the skinning of Buffalo with the same likely result. Stripers should primarily be a game fish, not table fare, and if someone wants a fish,

Keep up the Great work

I don't know anything about circle hooks

Time for another moratorium until we understand the effects of Myco, overharvesting and the loss of the bait - bunker, etc.

Too many small fish being taken. We need better enforcement of the size limits. There is not enough game wardens to enforce the limits.

We have to do something to save the stocks now. We are on the precipice of another collapse of this fishery.

Buying out the commercial fisherman would be great but I hope you mean it to be law because you do know they will be back saying they are

Commercial fisheries should be based on gross weight and not the number of fish caught. This would have an immediate effect on the number of fish killed by commercial fisheries that are dumped back into the water dead so budget fish can be kept. The decline should be addressed now, not wait till the fishery almost collapsed like in the 1980s

Charter boats should limit the number of stripers to one per person and in a slot size.
100% Catch and Release should be the law. There are no fisherman in the U.S. that need to fish for food. Most of the harvested fish end up in the trash. I have been fishing for over 50 years and know that most recreational fishing is just as destructive as commercial fishing.
Provide additional funding for enforcement of conservation programs to punish cheaters and poachers

Paul Diodati has advocated that MA and other states drop their comm and rec quotas, he should be listened to.

I do not fish for strikers so my answers should not be included in your survey!!

The slot size program should be adjusted annually to reflect current species population data. The use of umbrella rigs should be eliminated in Massachusetts. The catch limit should be reduced to 1 fish per person per day. Charter captains should be required to receive written permission from guests to keep their fish, and any fish kept by charter boat captains should be sold legally at market. Part of the saltwater fishing license application Ban Menhaden fishing

Make striped bass a Game Fish in the Chesapeake with NO commercial harvest.

From 1994 thru 2004 (11 year) if you took the number of fish we boated during the third week of June in any of those years, it would be more fish than Allow recreational fishing in the EEZ

I'm not a big fan of legislation unless there will be adequate enforcement "on the water/beach". Otherwise, like the rest of failed govt policies, those who register and are legal will pay for the rest who are a) not paying their share and/or b) not abiding by the regulations - in which case, the regs are this was the worse year yet

Chatham fishing has been the bright light as fishing has deteriorated in Boston, Narragansett bay and elsewhere

no bonus tags

no

Fishing suffered the past three seasons

I would be willing to reduce limit to one per outing to help fishery

two to three year moratorium on taking fish , no fish over 15 Lbs , saving the breeders !

Teach people proper catch and release. It must be stressed that not all big fish can be released alive, especially when anglers use improper tackle.

we should create a hatchery for stripers and releas them at 15" ..put a few million or more adolescent stripers in different regions..Hudson River, Ct
A slot limit of 24"-30" and 1 fish per day recreational limit are necessary, the commercial market should be at least cut in half if not closed, striped bass can be freshwater farmed there is no need for wild caught commercial striped bass fishing

thanks!

Larger limit, one only and no commercial

I am in favor of what you are trying to accomplish. There are far too few regulations and enforcement of the law and regulations in affect right now. I have never seen a game warden or DEC check any boats around where I fish. Also, and very important is the "Party Boat" onslaught. These boats need to be monitored on a daily basis and fines should be enforced when applicable. Anglers from the shore line should also be monitored. (A drive by on the beaches and some stop and check policies should be enforced. The bottom line is most anglers are good honest people but a fault of

The questions asked here are a bit difficult for some people to understand. I hate to say it but, your survey will be biased because fisherpeople will not striped bass should be nationally a game fish!

I've been fishing for Stripers for over 40 years! This past year inside bass rivet there were smaller fish but a lot of them. Off Chatham there were lots of large fish. On one day, boat of 5 of us went out with a local fisherman. We must have caught over a hundred keepers in a matter of an hour or two! I None other than to say the slot limit is all important in saving the big cows

Moratorium is overdue!

One small fish per person per day would be far more enjoyable, healthier and better tasting than a large breeding stock fish that will have more contaminates. along with 1 or 2 Large fish per season for that "fish of a life time slot" say 40" and up. You could sell those tags.

Striper Forever should advocate for catch and release

HAVE ONLY CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING FOR WINTERING STRIPERS IN THE NORTHEAST .CLOSE TO KEEPING ANY FROM DEC THRU MAY. THEY ARE TAKING A POUNDING BY RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN AND YES THEY SELL THEM ALSO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! HOUSATONIC RIVER

Less jargon in this survey would likely improve your response rate. Happy to provide feedback -- contact me through my site:

Reduce retention of mature bass

I answered yes to #8 if and only if the money would be guaranteed for striped bass enhancement programs!

I caught more stripers this year than last 4 years combined. 80% of them were under 28 inches. Not only fishing in Cape May has dropped off in the past few years but also in North New Jersey in the areas of Atlantic Highlands and South... Keep up the good fight

The current Massachusetts recreational limit of two fish over 28" per day does not align with scientific objectives supporting conservation. I support

The fishery has definitely declined in the Lower Chesapeake Bay and Ocean. For the second year, the Rock Fish Shootout ended with no fish taken. Also, we fished for them for many years and kept accurate records on fish size, water temp, number released and time of year. Its only a fraction on what it used to be. This year, we caught a lot of 14 to 16 inch fish under the birds and bait. More than ever before in the lower bay. Maybe this is

Water quality issues are coming to the fore. Chesapeake and recent die off in Connecticut, due to excess snow removal chemicals. Close seasons when breeders are in the bays

More regulation and inspection on the commercial fishing boats

Buyout of commercial fishermen is a good idea, makes it more politically acceptable

After a disastrous week at Martha's Vineyard the spring of 2012 I skipped my annual trip for 2013, which friends said was even worse. Let's restore striped bass and the menhaden that feed them. It's not a coincidence that both have collapsed from levels 50 or 100 years ago. In the Chesapeake Bay, stripers need food. Omega Protein needs to be severely restricted or bought out just the way we would buy out the Stripers forever needs to get in the fight in every state. Especially in md. MD DNR is slow to change and sides with commercial interest. Poaching with nets is out of control in md. Dnr and md court system fails to enforce laws and remove the bad apples.

I don't even bother to striper fish any more because in my area I spend too much time chasing them with very few fish to show for the effort.

Be more conservative and less MSY oriented
Always have a 36" maximum for recs and comms

One fish per week or 20 total per year
Smaller stripers are better eating . . .
More press regarding decline in S.B. biomass.
Protect herring, shad and manhedan.

Need to work at stopping illegal poaching of striped bass in Chesapeake bay as well as other waters. Must also focus on encouraging safe release of larger bass among the recreational sector. Also many waters specifically portions of the Delaware estuary are open to catch during the spawn. This I only went out three times this season. Fishing was too unpredictable. Gone back to trout fishing twice a week. Totally discouraged with the YOU CALL WHAT IS BEING DONE AT THE PRESENT TIME MANAGEMENT?

I find that we have gotten far more gut hooks using the circle hook. I truly do not know what the solution is but yanking on the guts of a Striper is not Restrict commercial charters to 1 fish per man for consumption or trophy . Far too many big fish are killed and needlessly wasted by charters in my

Enforce the 3 mile zone where bass are suppose to be safe
I caught 80% schoolies from the last good spawn this year and very few large fish. I was optimistic until this weeks big fish kill which wiped out most if not all of the schoolies we did have. I think it's too little too late for these fish. and giving the state of bluefish and the total no show of false albacore this year I'm pretty pessimistic about any fishing opportunities this year. Looks like il be fly fishing for bluegill and Largemouth in the spring. I think we Make Striped Bass a game fish and stop all sales of striped bass. Allow 3 fish per person per year through a numbered id system which would be

No comment

No commercial fishing within the entire Chesapeake Bay.

Not really that sure on question 9 of this page. I have never gut hooked a striper , but I do not use bait hooks all that much. Usually live line bunker or lures. I am not a marine biologist so can't say about a slot fish or not. If it would work I'm for it. I also think Sandy changed the fishing a little & it might I do not believe that any minimum size should vary from state to state. I see too many migratory fish show up from a state with a smaller size limit and nearly every fish is at or below their size limit, leaving none for us. I do believe in funding a strip bass stamp, but it is much more complicated than

Needs game fish status ASAP

lower the daily bag limit to 1 fish @ 28" and a lower bag limit for the commerical fishery

Barbless hooks only

Reduce pollution in the Chesapeake, reduce harvest of forage species

Unfortunately, I don't believe circle hooks would increase the successful release of most fish, since the problem is with handling of the fish out of the water. I fly fish, and therefore the circle hook is not a factor in our successful releases.

I think that fish over 28 inches should be illegal to take. That is the breeding stock. I think the size limit should be 15' to 28".

Commercial Striper fishing is out of control. NYS has no enforcement.

No bait fishing or trolling, no treble hooks or umbrella rigs, only single hooks for Stripers.
Striped bass should be a federally protected gamefish resource. They are in serious decline, similar to what many of us remember in the 1980's.
Commercial and "recremercial" (MA) harvest must be ended and forage fish over harvesting (Omega) must be much more significantly reduced.

We could use your help out here on the west coast as well! It's not a commercial fishery, by it's dropped significantly in the past decade due to water
Not one cent of this money should go anywhere but for fish conservation causes and fish and game law enforcement.

We need to change sizes and limits NOW , up and down the east coast...it's NOT getting any better with the passage of time.

Stop all commercial striper fishing
When it comes to stamps to buy-out commercial fishing - I would be in favor but have no trust in any organization to manage the money correctly
I caught > 9,000 striped bass in NJ since 1985 and tagged > 5,000 of them
Slot limits are the way forward

I dont really fish for striped bass
more enforcement of the laws and stricter penalties for commercial poachers in all states. no more year round harvesting like we have in ct.
STRIPERS ARE NOT MATURE ENOUGH TO SPAWN UNTIL THEY ARE 28" +/- ? WHY IS THE LIMIT 28" HARVESTING ONLY SPAWNING SIZE

We need to have more protection for the breeding areas for striped bass, and more protection for the Menhaden population on the entire east coast.
Over the past 10 years, the striped bass fishery has tanked in Maine

yes do not let party boats make more than one trip per day they are slaughtering the bass by us they make 3 trips per day with hundreds of anglers

i don't fish from my boat anymore only surf so less fish for me a season

As a shore based recreational angler, I significantly increased my hours spent trying to catch stripers along the south coast of RI. I caught exactly 2 (two) schoolies and no blue fish, and 1 fluke. Fishing became work. I have sold my striper fishing gear, and my beach home is currently for sale. My experience among my peers is not unique. The loss of a recreational striper fishery in RI, (with the second highest rate of unemployment in the

i hadn't caught a striper for 6 years and this year I caught 3., in the same areas i'd always caught them before.

We need to stop culling out the fish that are approaching or have reached breeding size. If an angler enjoys eating a fish or two, they should be
We're in trouble

One trophy permit per season

Use fact finding info from up to date resources, not outdated information and calculations.

If you are going to have a slot fish regulation there should also be given thought to a 1/year trophy fish. I understand it might be a PIA to control and
Until the current stock rebounds, another moratorium should receive serious consideration.

We are out of time.
Fix this.

I worry about the baitfish - particularly herring. Perhaps, I don't know, bait and habitat are more limiting than harvest. Dunno, but concerned. The reason I prefer a one fish any size bag limit is for fish that won't survive anyway, i.e. gut hooked. I don't keep many fish during the course of the season and don't keep any trophy sized fish at all. They are all returned to keep the brood stock healthy. The reality is we have to improve the water quality of the breeding areas and insure a good food supply not only for the smaller fish but trophies as well! This means a Bass Stamp to rid the east

I hate the EEZ. I think there areas of the. Coast that the fish go around and are found past the 3 mile zone. Many boats in my area are either running a lot of miles to find legal fish or violating the 3 mile limit. The coast guard and the state officers were a pain this year boarding boats that were near the 3 mile line many of which were inside the line. It is also a problem if you catch a legal fish and want to hit a wreck offshore for tog you are screwed. It messes up the whole day. I also have a problem with chunking of big bass because they are mostly cows. I shudder when I see a boat We need to protect the mothers that are being over harvested during the spring and fall ocean migration. Fish over 38" should not be kept. Furthermore charter boat captains and mates should not be allowed to keep fish during charters. Eliminate the bonus tag as well.

save our bass
I feel there should be no keeping/harvesting of stripers. I would support total catch and release.

patterns and size have changed in the last 20 years

One slot fish per person per day no larger than 28" any fish caught over 28" should be released, and enforced by fish and game. Too many people killing breeders just for a picture on the wall, they don't even taste good when they get that big. Brings tears to my eyes when I see big females being

Commercial fishing must stop, but recreational must also be cut way back. Recreational anglers must also be educated on how to handle fish for release. It is shocking in CT how DEEP will refuse to enforce the laws for groups they feel are fishing for food.

I grew up in Centerville, MA. Saw the bottom fall out as a kid...caught one striper for 25 days on the water as a 12 year old. Fished 10 years back and never knew the oceans around the Cape could hold that many fish. Today I'm as scared shitless that we're headed for a crash. Stripers need protection from over fishing from commercial and "recreational" fishermen. The fishery is in desperate need of protection...think about the salmon

Circle hooks are over rated.

I believe the boat fishermen catch and keep the big breeders. Do not allow any fish to be kept until the first of July.
Abolish fishing licenses
interstate cooperation is horrible. I do not fish in states that have poor conservation laws- ie most states!

question#6 is confusing. you did not address the impact of seals on the SB population or the commercial taking of bait fish.

end commercial fishing !!!
Number 7 fee should be for those that wish to keep their catch. For a catch and release fisherman it should not apply.

didn't fish much in 2013 due to illness

Stop the bi-catch and deaths created by the commercial fishing of Striped Bass! Prevent the commercial catch of Menhaden and other bait fish

2013 BEST SEASON EVER IN HUDSON RIVER AT NEWBURGH NY

make em a gamefish!

#7, thee funds will probably end up in the individual states general fund, I live in RI

prohibit capture of the spawners in the springtime

All State should follow Maine's regulation which are the the most conservative. Better regulation on water quality and bait fish management is also

It's pretty poor! Actually, it sucks and it's too slow to act, if and when it does.

Humans have horrible animal management techniques. If we harvest all the young adults/adults, then they will grow smaller and reach sexual maturity quicker. We kill all things, it's only a matter of time. Enjoy it while it's still here because our grandkids won't be able to!

Slot limit is essential for the future of this species

Only in favor of bass stamp fees if possible to guarantee the funds would be used for its intended purpose.

I do not ordinarily target striped bass; I fish for bottom fish like scup, fluke, and tautog.

I feel that the entire east coast fishery for striped bass should be the same, i.e. Va allows 2 @ 18" etc, they should all be the same and until they are I

If I were King we would have C&R only till stocks recover then 1 fish/day

Not enough Catch and release, Why does anyone need to take 20 lb. of fish? Multiple fish.

I prefer a zero limit.

what is a slot limit ?

Make Stripers a game fish!!!!

I caught no fish last summer and went out only a half dozen times so my answers are very limited.

I have selected choices here based on my belief and understanding of the fishery as in place. I would prefer to see a comprehensive plan on the anticipated results of policies put in place here. I also do not believe that having this in place for just one state is reasonable.

Is there any study for cause of the inexplicable drop off of stripers caught since hurricane Sandy?

striped bass should not be a commercially harvested fish. this will prevent over harvesting, poaching, and increase stocks. Also charters should not be

Increase enforcement capability across the board

I much prefer education to legal enforcement when it comes to circle hooks, but that has become irrelevant in Maine as of 2013.

About my answees in question #8.Only if the money is used properly.

end commercial harvest, save a vital SPORTfish

Fix it now or we will pay dearly for the foreseeable future.

Get more fishermen interested in the tagging program and benefits that it can generate ...

I believe our striper stocks are too low and extreme measures are needed to rebound the fishery quickly.

There should be a moratorium on Striped Bass over 40 " in the Spring when the Cows have their eggs. But we need a BIG FINE for those who are

Catch and release!

need more enforcement agents

Slot limit of one fish 22"-28" plus \$20 per fish stamp for fish greater than 28"

the minimum size limitation is ridiculous. It defeats the whole purpose of increasing the breeding population

I don't think that recreational anglers should buy out the commercial anglers but I am willing to increase my fee for use of the fishery (currently \$0 in

Sadly, I think Strippers Forever has created such strong enmity amongst the commercial sector, and they have proven to be vocal, organized and capable of lobbying to quell any/all efforts by Strippers Forever. With that in mind, perhaps it's time to consider working the recreational sector (decreasing their harvest, size limit, etc.) or the tackle manufacturers (banning treble hooks). BTW, your poll seems to suggest that striper

It's a Joke.

I believe we here in Mass. should raise the minimum size of a keeper (1 per day) to 32" or even better 34". I fish for striped bass approx. 100 times a year and manage to catch quite a few from boat and shore. Last year I kept only 2. My views on striped bass management are obviously very

I feel one of the biggest problems that we have with striped bass is the deterioration of habitat. (back bay areas of New Jersey where there use to be tons of life) Areas that had good amounts of stripers do not anymore because of the lack of baitfish and the quality of the water has really gotten bad. (Low oxygen levels etc) Believe this is the second most critical problem other than commercial and recreational guys harvesting too many breeders. There should be the same regulations all along the coast, regardless of differences in fisheries.

No fish over 40" should ever be allowed to be taken; all over 40" must be released.

Increase emphasis on hybrids to help avoid loss due to warm water.

as far as I can see the afmc are wasting resource and time ,there is no long term management in there vocabulary ,if ,and in a way they are a business ,honestly would you invest in the current philosophy???absolutely not ,,ban appointed managers throw the bums out!!!! and have a vote ,referendum to appoint fishery managers,,, enough already ,southern states are in full economic swing with conservation measures ,,slot limits and

The fishery is in big trouble. We need to stop commercial fishing for striped bass NOW!!!

The striped bass fishing this past year was so poor that I would recommend a moratorium be put in place on all harvesting of striped bass for several years until the biomass is restored to historically record levels in the past 40 years.

I believe that striped bass will not recover from the current crash for many year if at all. I hope and pray that I will be able to show my son the great

Take away the trophy season. By labeling a certain amount of time as a trophy season you are encouraging the slaughter of the breeding cows, Fix the bait. Menhaden Regulations need to be changed, again!!! It's still not enough.

There should be more limits and enforcement on commercial fishing for Stripped Bass. There should also be more restrictions on commercial I think anglers should buy a set number of tags for the season which would allow them to keep 1 fish over 40, 1 fish in prime breeding age, 3 fish 28-30, and maybe 10 25-28.. We have to stop the slaughter of the prime breeding bass, which is what the commercials take.

Should we consider fish caught during a for profit guided fishing trip as part the commercial catch? We need to go the a one fish per day over 28".

KEEP STRIPED BASS SEASON IN NEW YORK OPEN UNTIL THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR DECEMBER 31ST.

Encourage the release of larger fish

Should have a parallel effort at menhaden conservation/management!

Big spawners should be protected rather than fish under 28"

I only use lures or fly fish. Charter and party boats should be limited to 1 fish per angler

While I may have eaten a few striped bass dinners twenty or thirty years ago in restaurants, I have never purchased a striped bass from a fish store. I have, however, spent hundreds of thousands on fishing for them - 30 years of vacations on Cape Cod, a house at the Cape (recently sold since the seals have ruined the surf fishing), a succession of boats, 40-50 rods and reels, thousands of lures. As far as I am concerned, a recreational

The bonus fish program in NJ s/b discontinued. No one should retain 3 fish. Slot limits are important to protect the breeders. Let's not eat the seed corn. one rule all states involed.

Encourage catch & release!

Get all States to agree on one management program.

The slot limits in '75 are too small, '36 to '40 is my choice. Allow the young to at least spawn a few times, there more of them. What we really need is

Striped Bass should be a recreational fishery. No commercial permits. There are enough fish farm stripers to supply commercial needs.

The two fish at 28 inches per day for rec fisherman is not necessary. I say 1 fish per day, any size.

A 28 inch size limit for all states. one or 2 fish per day

Your question #6 is difficult to understand, so I was forced to leave it blank.

Should be a catch and release fishery ONLY

The fish are definitely not as plentiful in Virginia Beach. I have grown up fishing for them. It is very easy to notice the lack of fish. I could go on for hours about how good it used to be compared to how it is now. Honestly, the locals kill so many trophy sized spawners down here that I wouldn't be. Circle Hooks should only be mandated when using bait.

There are no "schools" in our waters. I have stopped fishing for stripers, because the last three times out we caught no fish - on flies. The only

I would be in favor of allowing a limited commercial catch through the same means and methods as recreational fishermen, i.e. boated circle hooks on rod and reel, spear fishing for a limited quota, artificial lures on rod and reel. This would help eliminate the large commercial fishing factories and still allow people to enjoy a fish much loved in the northeast for both game and food. I'm not much in favor of slot limits as the science around the biggest fish providing the largest number of offspring is not well represented, yes the big girls produce a ton of eggs but how many are actually viable? I hate

Question 8 should have a third answer - Reduce the buy out amount for continued enforcement.
stop the killing of large breeding stripers

I am in favor of regulating commercial striped bass fishing. But be very careful not to start a war against recreational anglers. I do not want to live in a world where my hooks or terminal tackle is regulated. The problem is not with recreational fisherman. The problem is in netting. Hundreds of boats netting and dragging the bottom EVERY DAY. If all recreational fisherman were lucky enough to keep one short every time they went fishing, it you need to account for the illegal activity that goes on now recreational and commercial, for example Montauk in the fall most novices take way too

One Fish per man, No bonus tags,

Limits size, no big fish

We should only be able to keep one fish when recreational fishing. A slot for that one fish is a good idea. End commercial fishing for stripers.

Stripers should not be managed for maximum commercial yield. They should be managed to benefit the species.
For back bay and river areas, lack of bait is having a dramatic influence on schoolie bass availability. Many back bay areas are severely lacking any

Conservation officers could be on a random rotation accompanying both commercial striped bass boats and those which harvest their forage to limit abuse of whatever regulations are in place. Enforcement on both commercial and recreational fishermen should begin with confiscation of equipment until fines are paid. Fines should be as large as possible to discourage foul play from the start, but unless there are immediate Should be allowed to keep 1 slot fish plus one fish over 28. In NJ they allow us a bonus fish permit but I don't believe that it is enforced and allows

End commercial fishing for striped bass by any legal means possible.

Progress has been depressing and it keeps getting worse.

I would prefer game fish status with no fish allowed to be kept whatsoever for a 5 year period at least.

The Federal government made Striped Bass a game fish. Anglers deserve ONE game fish, why don't States comply?

Circle hooks and the slot limit in Maine have resulted in the targeting of small fish with bait and more fish killed when hauled ashore or on to bridges. My fishing friends have found that circle hooks increase gut hooking with some types of bait like eels. Put a 5 year moratorium on keeper recreational fishing as well as commercial fishing. Reinstate with better guidelines. Allow catch and release They can't be managed without also managing the baitfish (menhaden, sandeels, herring, etc.) that they eat.

A slot is a terrible idea that is likely to cause a mortality spike. Don't do it!

I have been a commercial striped bass fisherman since 1972 and a charter captain since 1980. I have seen the situation we now have in the early 1980's and the fact that we have allowed history to repeat itself is a crime. The level of poaching is at least equal to the legal commercial harvest and these people rarely get caught (crime pays). I believe the recreational harvest should be one (or two) fish, any size over 18 inches. Charter captains

Get East Coast in agreement that SB must be a sport fishery

1) Take the lead in conservation and push harder for a slot fish regulation, and a 36" to 40" trophy fish . the demonizing of the commercial fishery is a mistake. I believe there is room for a rod and reel commercial fishery, these should be actual fisherman who depend on the money. gill netting and it's subsequent by catch must be eliminated. the size limit should be at least 36" across the board for everyone. WITH A SLOT IF POSSIBLE. Question 6 is the type of volatile phrasing that angers different folks. if we are serious about striper conservation why would talk about taking the quota from commercial fishing and giving it to rec guys?. far more important then type of hook used is the proper handling of fish, i've fished every possible way Stop commercial fishing for striped bass.

If you have a 2 fish limit as we do in NJ there should be 1 slot fish and a one time only tag for a 3rd fish of trophy size.

Thanks for everything you do to save this amazing fish.

The Kennebec River should be a no kill area to help reestablish Maine's breeding striper population.

Catch and Release

Bycatch is killing Bass

Yes, 1st i would like to see party boats limit there catch to 1 fish per man. 2nd, i think the same system we use for whitetail deer in nys should be implemented for striped bass, i.e. For example, you obtain your annual license and you are given a certain amount of non transferable tags in your name, perhaps 5-15 tags, (i dont know what the right number should be). whereas upon taking of a fish, the tag must be filled out or date punched out, this system if enforced by dec along with severe penalties for violators will severely cut back on poaching especially people making multiple trips in one day, and furthermore this system will compel fisherman to be a bit more selective about what they keep, leaving medium size fish to breed, and Quite frankly my girlfriend and I fish 12-40 hours a week each and dont usually catch a striper all season. The only reason I am oppose to the stamp for stripers is that there is currently no enforcement of fishing regulations on Long Island. It would cost honest people who already follow the rules, but

overall the number of fish are down and I have to spend more hours and travel farther to catch the fish
Publicly denounce kill tournaments like the MV Derby, and Striper Cup.

I think Striped Bass should be a game fish and no keeping of these fish at all. They can farm these for food. Much more valuable as a game fish.

limit should be one fish period

better enforcement.

Eliminate 90% of the gray seal in Nantucket and Chatham

Need to curtail menhaden catches more.

why is there a spring season in the Hudson river during spawning and the size is only 18" ?
Both commercial and recreational harvest has to be curtailed for the next few years. I would be in favor of any measure that would deliver that

More regulation & enforcement is needed aimed at commercial fisherman. More effort has to be taken in enforcing laws against poaching and I believe the current regulations have little to do with the current state of the striped bass fishery. One or two fish per day, with many anglers practicing catch and release, seems reasonable. If the biomass is shrinking, I tend to believe it has more to do with other variables.

Please do SOMETHING!!!

In addition to trying to conserve the bass stocks, something HAS to be done to increase the menhaden stock so fish have something to eat particularly in the Chesapeake. I realize the commercial strangle hold that industry has can be daunting, but there is no reason for them to take

Keep up the good work!

The fishing is so degraded that I think there should be no recreational harvest.

It would be nice to see the recreational fishermen get together as a unified force to fight for positive change across the board. We all join separate organizations and fight conflicting battles and lose because of the divided front. Unlike the commercial guys...

Catch & release only in spawning areas during spawning times.
we should not target the big fish or have a 36" min. size when there are a lot of small fish

Although the fishing has been horrible the past five years, this year was definitely better. A large amount of early 30" class fish here in Freeport. Very

in long island sound we don't have a fall run. 7yrs. ago we did

Max size limit must be installed in my state

Circle hooks are fine for live bait with a 90% lip hook rate in my experience. For cut bait J hooks work better because one can set the hook resulting in fewer "gut hooked fish". I find 75% of the fish gut hooked using cut bait and circle hooks because they swallow the entire chunk while running off.

The ASMFC has done a disgraceful job not only on striped bass but other species. Such as Mackerel, there used to be a .Mackerel run for weeks, Now it's a few days or a week. I used to catch 20 bass off the beach in a day. Now I catch a couple I feel lucky. Why should we take 2 fish a day per person from a charter boat. There is not an endless supply of striped bass in the ocean. The surf fishing in Montauk has almost collapsed. There used to be blitzes in Montauk that would last for 2 months. Now if your lucky maybe a week. I blame this on the ASMFC for doing nothing but waiting

limit one fish per day

The early (June) fishing was far better than the rest of the summer and fall. More important, scientific input concerning the slot limit size is more

Make striped bass a game fish, buy out commercial fishery.

Regulations needed for the entire range of the Striper all of the states on the East Coast should have the same regulations

There is no problem with the bass population regarding recreational fishermen or their take.. Commercial fishing and the reckless practice of discarding by-catch is the problem. You can paint it anyway you want but that is the problem.

Something needs to be done about the management of the Chesapeake Bay striped bass fishery. Size and possession limit should be consistent with slanted towards commercial interests

I am for a one fish limit and 5 fish per season. Stop commercial fishing and name stripers a sport fish.

STOP SCREWING AROUND BEFORE WE LOOSE THE BASS AGAIN!

I think striped bass should be regulated as a game fish.

Some commercial quota should be shifted to recreational fishing to allow for a transition for former commercial captains. I'm a supporter of C&R or

After the moratorium was lifted, we had great fishing here in ocean city, however I have seen it on the decline since 2001, no fish come in our inlet, most fish in the ocean are (out of bounds) three mile limit, Virginia beach and North Carolina seem to really put a dent on the larger fish in the winter
Need to make striped bass a gamefish
Save the Stripes!!!

Stamp fee should be limited to \$5 - \$10 for seniors

I 'gut-hooked' more fish this year than in any of the last 20yrs and I used circle hooks exclusively last year!

To buy out commercials just means more illegal sales

I do think that circle hooks should be supported, but if Stripers Forever supports it now, they may lose some of the support we need to end commercial I fish for Stripers in the fall off party boats. They are a great gamefish. They deserve ultimate conservation measures. I would gladly agree to catch Regulations should not allow fishermen using nets to dispose of dead fish without them being included in their quota. Striper fishing in the lower bay

End all commercial fishing for stripers

Though I answered yes to a slot limit, my real preference would be to make striped bass a gamefish that is for catch and release only.

I said no to a slot limit and larger minimum sizes because I think much more restrictive regulation is required - perhaps even another moratorium. Bait may be too conducive to mortality. Certainly, commercial harvest is irresponsible in the face of what seems to me to be a species collapse. If we don't try something different this time around then history will continue to repeat itself. We need to leave the brood stock alone with no harvest

During spring spawning
3 words... "Game fish status"

We need a slot fish! If two fish must be kept 1 slot 1 @ 28". Every fish kept is a spawner and way to many are being taken out of the system. Personally I feel one fish is enough and the bonus fish system is ridiculous! A moratorium is in our future if something isn't done NOW!

We are in big big trouble. I fish over 200 days a year as a guide. Stripers are almost done from what I can see. I hope something happens soon to We need to limit commercial menhaden fishing

Please hurry. It is getting late in the game!

New Jersey should have a salt water fishing licence just like Florida!!!

Eliminate repetitive harvesting of the large cows(multiple. Commercial trips by captains in a day) Limit the number of lines used trolling(planer boards charter boat captains should not be allowed to keep bass as a recreational fisherman. The fish they do keep should be subtracted from the annual commercial quota. Recreational fisherman need to be allowed to keep one fish per day because enforcing anything else will be very difficult to NO KILLPERIOD!

One of the biggest problems I see is that there is no mutually agreed upon scientific studies or science for the various management bodies to use in managing the resource. If agreement could be somehow be reached we might actually stand a chance to establish meaningful regulations.., Also

1 striper per day in a slot limit scenario that protects breeding bass. No buy out for commercial striper industry....tell them tough ...and to SCREW OFF...! Damn poachers...!!!!!! They have already made enough \$\$\$\$ by wiping out entire schools of striped Bass. Why would a recreational fisherman even consider giving a nickel to the commercial industry???? A stamp program (recreational) that allows say 5 stripers per season of any size to be taken...cost per stamp to be determined...this would be allowed in addition to the 1 per day allotment per angler. Only one extra striper I don't believe sports fisherman should have special status. If there is no commercial fishing there should be no sports taking either. The stock needs to be restored and sport anglers kill millions of fish every year too! Why are they excepted?
Crack down on poaching and illegal catches.
I think a one fish limit of 32" sized fish for recreational harvest would help the fishery.

Thanks, Joe
Commercial bunker harvest, especially at the Virginia border of the Chesapeake Bay, needs to be curtailed.

We need more information on infected Bass, and what to look for in diseased fish.
Game Fish!
We need more enforcement in the EEZ as many boats are illegally targeting stripers there.

We have to stop MD, VA, & the Potomac River Fisheries in increasing the striper harvest for 2014. This 14% increase is for the benefit only of the Bass and all fisheries should be managed based on science not the politics of NMFC preferably by feds instead according to Magnuson. Eliminate the bonus tag in Jersey Limit should be 1 bass 36" or bigger. Party and charter boats are killing way to many bass. I am 100% catch and release. This year less small fish caught, which is a bit scary. The slot limit would end up killing to many bass before they get a chance to spawn.

single hook and size 0/4 hook

There seem to be plenty of big bass in South Jersey but they are staying out in the EEZ. Honest anglers can't catch fish. Poachers fish in the EEZ every day and brag about their catches on message boards. No enforcement taking place.

1 fish 26 to 32 inches coast wide

2013 was very bad for Striped Bass in NJ
Better management of recreational anglers with regards to current regulations. Too much skulduggery going on with following regulations.
We should never harvest before a year class has chance to spawn at least once, minimum.

reduce or eliminate commercial fishery, better enforcement of recreational regulations. Also, very important, effort should be put into bringing back

Commercial fishing for striped bass should be shut down completely.
I voted NO on #7, because the state would just take all the money & use it for something else. Like they did with the fees for FW Fishing/Hunting programs, that were designed to maintain fish stockings/and bird stockings. Big Fat NO!
I don't understand how MD can increase the catch quota by 15% when the fishing has so noticeably declined. This increase only benefits the commercial fishery since the recreational quota is never met. Someone needs to send a wake-up call to the MD State House.
All commercial fishing for striped bass should be suspended Until a healthy population of striped bass are found each year in a Maine rivers. Stripers

Need to get rid of Sarah peak por commercial fishing
Make limits the same a crossed the board ,for all states .
There should be more restrictions on commercial harvest of bait fish such as menhaden and Pollock to increase striper forage. These species have
Make them a game fish, no take
The taking of the larger fish doesn't make any sense. A slot limit and end to commercial bass fishing would make the most sense.

I would like to see striped bass as a pure gamefish, no recreational or commercial harvest at all.
Many bass caught this year were thin; bout 1/4 had lesions I fish the Choptank River, an historical breeding and nursery area.

First year in over 15yrs I did not catch a keeper. Also I was not present when anyone else caught a keeper. Keepers we caught by friends but it was very inconsistent. I bunkered chunked in Delaware Bay and didn't get a chance to hit the beach but those reports were poor as well.

Management must be coordinated across all states in the striped bass' migratory habitat
The fishery is managed for the wrong goals. It should be managed to produce a quality fishery not to see how many can be caught.

A one year moratorium on keeping any stripers to help replenish the stock.

save the bunker, save the herring

Bass this year in my area aveaged 1.4" larger than previous 5 year average. There seems to be a serious lack of small bass 14-19" this year

I doubt that you really know how many stripers are caught by non commercial fishermen. Try to do that.
Moratorium on Bunker harvesting, and a ban on gill netting would do just as much as quotas, and should be considered in ADDITION to the quotas
We must stop taking the large breeders. Slot limit (22" to 28") is needed. But I am not opposed to al catch and release for a few years. Personally i do
I believe in the use of no take slot limits to protect vital year classes to the species. For example every state should have the two fish per person creel.
One Schoolie and one larger size fish. However there should be a non-take slot of 28 to 36 inches.
I'm all in favor of banning commercial fishing for striped bass and making striped bass a gamefish(at least on the Atlantic Coast). I also think that we,

Stop commercials from catching striped gass and menhaden

Year Class Structures should be considered in setting annual allowable sizes for keeping. Limit changes every year if need be.

It is my opinion that the change in striper fishing is because of less bait fish. decreased numbers of bait fish is caused by the netting process.
Bycatch from commercial boats should be stopped. Especially after that fiasco that happened in Maryland .

I believe that the current regulations encourage anglers to target mostly big fish

This year continues to reinforce my theory that the stocks are dwindling and the powers to be are a bunch of greedy idiots....they are a disgrace...."

Slot fish regulation works well for red drum and would work well for stripers too. This must coincide with commercial changes as well or they will simply harvest the big fish we conserve. This would require banning of all types of netting and make it a pin fishery only. Need to continue to crack It's not people who follow the rules or regulations that are the issue.