



This 20 page PDF contains a few introductory comments; the complete survey results spread sheet, as well as the unedited guide and angler comments.

In 2014 we received 830 responses to our annual survey. 752, or 84% of the respondents, have fished for stripers for more than 10 years. This is a very experienced sample of the angling population, many of them fished for stripers throughout the good years of the 1990s and early 2000s then the subsequent decline. 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 206 and 199 completed surveys respectively.

2014 was another year of declining sentiment. **88% of fishers reported catching fewer fish compared to just 2% reporting catching more. Also, 71% said they were catching smaller fish compared to only 15% claiming they were larger.** It seems evident that 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.

The survey shows that our members continue to believe we should not be harvesting large, breeding stripers, that they want to set aside a high percentage of the current commercial catch for conservation – and not harvest it themselves – and that they are willing to buy a stamp to finance the buyout of the commercial fishery.

We had survey results from 77 guides, which is down from 89 last year. 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.

The complete 20 page PDF of the 2014 Annual Angler Survey is available below. You will find both the questions and the responses listed by state. Comments we received from both anglers and guides are included; as usual there were some very good ones, and they have not been edited. Another PDF document entitled Key Comparisons is also found on our website. Key Comparisons graphs out the answers to some particularly important questions. The questions that we use have been the same for the ten years we have been doing the survey.

If you have any questions about the survey please don't hesitate to e-mail us at:
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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 | 60 | 8 | 122 | 22 | 21 | 50 | 140 | 6 | 6 | 31 | 13 | 7 | 1 | 487 | 65% |
| no | 23 | 3 | 79 | 21 | 20 | 51 | 55 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 261 | 35% |
| 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 | 58 | 6 | 112 | 20 | 22 | 42 | 96 | 4 | 4 | 23 | 8 | 5 | | 400 | 80% |
| in addition to | 3 | 2 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 45 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 99 | 20% |
| 10. If you answered no to #8 what should the minimum size be? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | 10 | 2 | 33 | 8 | 7 | 20 | 48 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | | 147 | 43% |
| 32 | 6 | 3 | 23 | 11 | 6 | 30 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | 96 | 28% |
| 36 | 5 | 1 | 19 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | 64 | 19% |
| 40 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 32 | 10% |
| 11. Do you think we should have a slot limit for recreationally caught stripers? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| yes | 70 | 6 | 136 | 26 | 23 | 61 | 149 | 6 | 6 | 25 | 10 | 7 | 1 | 526 | 71% |
| no | 13 | 4 | 62 | 18 | 17 | 37 | 45 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 1 | | 213 | 29% |
| 12. Slot preference | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20-26 | 49 | 2 | 49 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 33 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 3 | 3 | | 196 | 37% |
| 22-28 | 12 | 2 | 43 | 2 | 8 | 23 | 57 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 161 | 31% |
| 24-30 | 11 | 2 | 42 | 11 | 9 | 29 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | 168 | 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% | 7 | 2 | 26 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 28 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 2 | | 105 | 14% |
| 50 | 20 | 4 | 42 | 14 | 9 | 26 | 63 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 198 | 27% |
| 75 | 15 | 2 | 27 | 6 | 4 | 17 | 25 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 2 | | 110 | 15% |
| 100% | 42 | 3 | 100 | 17 | 16 | 37 | 73 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 3 | 2 | | 313 | 44% |
| 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 | 6 | 154 | 31 | 29 | 67 | 130 | 2 | 7 | 28 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 539 | 72% |
| no | 17 | 5 | 47 | 13 | 12 | 31 | 65 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | | 207 | 28% |
| 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 | 21 | 2 | 41 | 7 | 8 | 23 | 42 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 172 | 31% |
| continue | 47 | 4 | 115 | 25 | 21 | 45 | 93 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 5 | 1 | | 376 | 69% |
| 17. Should Stripers Forever advocate that circle hooks be required, where practical, when bait fishing for striped bass? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| yes | 73 | 8 | 181 | 32 | 35 | 83 | 144 | 5 | 8 | 31 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 615 | 82% |
| no | 12 | 3 | 21 | 12 | 7 | 18 | 49 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | | 136 | 18% |
| 18. My personal comments on striped bass management that you have not covered are? See separate PDF file. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Guides Section | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|--|----|-----|
| 19. How has your guiding business for striped bass changed because of the fishery in the last five years? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| worsened considerably | 7 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 10 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | | 35 | 46% |
| worsened a little | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | | | 2 | | 1 | | 24 | 34% |
| not changed | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | | 11 | 14% |
| imporved somewhat | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 1 | | 2 | | 6 | 6% |
| improved a great deal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| 20. How important is keeping a striped bass to your clients? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| not very important | 6 | | 8 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | 26 | 34% |
| somewhat important | 5 | | 4 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 4 | | 25 | 32% |
| very important | 0 | | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 12 | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | 26 | 34% |
| 21. How important to your clients is catching a lot of stripers per trip? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| not very important | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | | 0 | | 3 | 4% |
| somewhat important | 9 | | 10 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 1 | | 4 | 2 | 1 | | 51 | 68% |
| very important | 1 | | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 1 | 2 | | 4 | | 21 | 28% |
| 22. How important is catching a really large striper to your clients? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| not very important | 5 | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 13 | 18% |
| somewhat important | 5 | | 10 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 3 | | 46 | 61% |
| very important | 1 | | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | | 2 | | 1 | | 15 | 21% |
| 23. Which is more important to my clients, catching big fish or catching a lot of fish? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| big fish | 3 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | | 2 | | 0 | | 17 | 23% |
| many fish | 8 | | 13 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 9 | | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | | 56 | 77% |
| 24. I am more likely than I was 5 years ago to make new investments in equipment for my striped bass guiding business? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| yes | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | | 2 | | 13 | 18% |
| no | 9 | | 15 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 13 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | | 61 | 82% |

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

See separate PDF file.

Q18 Any additional comments on striped bass management?

Answered: 316 Skipped: 517

| # | Responses | Date |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Put an end to spear fishing as a method of taking bass | 1/9/2015 10:26 AM |
| 2 | I don't think ANY breeding age fish should be harvested until stocks have really rebounded. Thanks, Doug | 1/9/2015 9:56 AM |
| 3 | By catch of striped bass and illegal catches should be included in any analysis of biomass availability | 1/7/2015 9:32 PM |
| 4 | Strppers need food, I would like see SF also advocate for reducing Menhaden quotas and other factors that effect Stripper population. | 1/7/2015 11:30 AM |
| 5 | With regard to #7, I am opposed to the idea of "buying out" an industry that is ultimately failing. I would either a) simply eliminate commercial quotas over a period of a few years, or b) just designate striped bass as gamefish with only a recreational slot limit. | 1/6/2015 7:52 PM |
| 6 | we need to move quickly.The striper population is on the decline as you all know | 1/6/2015 5:33 PM |
| 7 | Bass ate Bass are in trouble no ! Puts Bass are in trouble no flute | 1/6/2015 10:04 AM |
| 8 | After the moratorium , striped bass were increasing in size and number caught from the beach and the future of the fishery looked good again (I am primarily a Surfcaster). When the shortsighted folks opened up "commercial" striped bass poaching err... fishing, the numbers of striped bass being caught along Massachusetts shores slowly decreased over the years. About 5-6 years ago I admonished some of the folks on the Striped Bass Advisory board about what my friends and I had been experiencing concerning the depletion of Stripers.....to no avail. They would spout off about some idiotic formula that they use to determine stock viability....I said I use a method too....my fishing rod....and it tells me the opposite of what you are trying to peddle. So this situation has been allowed to continue to the demise of striped bass fishing. Commercial Striper fishing exceeding quotas and thousand of pounds of DEAD striper by-catch each and every year are a major problem for the viability of the striper right now and into the future....if there is one for striper fishing.. The kicker is.....I have overheard commercial striper fishermen talking about finding large schools of 40-50 inch bass holding over in a certain area and how they and their cohorts brag about how they systematically wipe out the school over a period of days.....Nice guys these folks, killing off a species just to make a few extra bucks... Now what has happened to the smelt...??? Been none around for the past two years...I know the striped bass didn't eat them all.. | 1/6/2015 9:18 AM |
| 9 | lets save the breeders | 1/6/2015 8:48 AM |
| 10 | We are losing this battle get it done before the fish are gone again! | 1/6/2015 7:47 AM |
| 11 | Make it a game fish :) | 1/6/2015 7:39 AM |
| 12 | boat limits, i.e.where the capt and mate of a charter boat are included in the possession limit, should be prohibited | 1/5/2015 10:27 AM |
| 13 | There will soon be almost none to manage | 1/4/2015 6:53 AM |
| 14 | Catch and Release | 1/1/2015 1:11 PM |
| 15 | There should be a recreational and commercial ban on keeping any striped bass until the fishery is healthy and then allow only minimal consumption of the resource, | 1/1/2015 8:17 AM |
| 16 | Personally I would like the striped bass fishery become a catch & release one. | 12/30/2014 1:18 PM |
| 17 | Many fish die from use of treble hooks and poor "catch and release" technique. There should be a limit on how many stripers boat fisherman can catch even if they intend to release. | 12/30/2014 12:59 PM |
| 18 | Enact an immediate moratorium on the taking of any striped bass!! | 12/30/2014 12:59 PM |
| 19 | 2 fish 28 inch min from Canada to Florida and enact a \$5 stripe bass stamp | 12/29/2014 7:37 PM |
| 20 | a striper a day is an invitation to overfishing | 12/29/2014 3:45 PM |
| 21 | I favor a different limit for guided trips as a means of maintaining that business. | 12/28/2014 11:26 AM |

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| 22 | There is WAY too many nets in the Potomac River | 12/27/2014 12:31 PM |
| 23 | Make stripers a game fish that can't be sold | 12/26/2014 10:36 PM |
| 24 | I hope that the Striper is given game fish status. It is readily apparent that the commercial fishery is in trouble and that commercial fisherman are unwilling to take the steps required for it to recover. The only viable solution is to attain game fish status. I believe that in the long haul it would provide a more sustainable fishery and provide alternative options for commercial entities such as sportfishing charters. The path we are currently on is a fools game. Thanks | 12/26/2014 4:59 PM |
| 25 | We need a higher minimum size limit but also a maximum size limit. All fish bigger than 40" should be released. A higher minimum size limit of at least 30", preferably higher, is needed. | 12/25/2014 5:18 PM |
| 26 | No commercial harvesting under any circumstances! | 12/24/2014 6:03 PM |
| 27 | Whereas during years of abundance stripers could be caught readily in all Striper hot spots but nor the stripers seem to congregate in zones or regions. For example, in my experience, the regions of the Cape abutting the Bay seem to fish better the the Elizabeth Islands. No doubt the distribution of feed fish is the main factor. | 12/24/2014 11:48 AM |
| 28 | I am in favor of catch and release of all striped bass, regardless of size, until stock replenishment. Thanks, | 12/24/2014 11:01 AM |
| 29 | Reduce overall limits for charter fishermen. Total should be two per boat regardless of how many passengers. All catches should be reported via log too to the state licensing the fishermen. | 12/24/2014 7:07 AM |
| 30 | Stop illegal fishing harvests now | 12/23/2014 2:03 PM |
| 31 | Curtail tournaments that require the weights of the two largest stripers in order to win. Further, discourage tournaments and the needless killing of large breeding stripers that are so essential to helping rebuild striper stocks | 12/23/2014 12:06 PM |
| 32 | Limit commercial to fish outside our 3 mile limit. | 12/23/2014 7:40 AM |
| 33 | The fishery is in dire need of enforcement. | 12/23/2014 6:03 AM |
| 34 | No stainless steel hooks. | 12/22/2014 8:53 PM |
| 35 | No | 12/22/2014 1:09 PM |
| 36 | Fishing has declined p Greatly in the last 5years. In 2014 it stopped after August and the summer was terrible. I would advocate that all commercial fishing be eliminated and fishing captains only keep the legal limit and reduced to x number of fish per outing and the rest released. The fish caught and kept must be reduced drastically. The amount of schoolies ls way down a bad sign for the future. | 12/22/2014 9:17 AM |
| 37 | Fly fishing is my preferred method so circle hooks aren't possible. | 12/22/2014 8:56 AM |
| 38 | No Harvest,...make it a game fish and definitely require circle hooks! | 12/22/2014 8:32 AM |
| 39 | make it a game fish | 12/22/2014 6:59 AM |
| 40 | Something needs to be done as soon as possible to change the pressure created by reducing the number of large fish being taken from this fishery. There should be no fish taken and kept before June 1st every year to allow for spawning. | 12/22/2014 2:13 AM |
| 41 | I am an out of country resident(Canada). I fish for 7-10 days every summer. My time on the water is limited, but where I fish (from shore)has been productive for schoolies between 16-18 inches for the last 7 years. This past summer, 2014, I had two days in a row where I caught 10-12 fish in an hour. A personal best,sizes mentioned above. | 12/21/2014 8:58 PM |
| 42 | As a game fish only the system will sustain itself just fine but beurocratic greed won't allow that to happen. We are taxed and pay for everything we do keep it free and enjoyable the way it has always been | 12/21/2014 7:38 PM |
| 43 | Encourage catch-and | 12/21/2014 7:18 PM |
| 44 | Speed up the Regulation Change process so needed changes can be made quickly and always rule on the conservative (pro-Striper) side. Side | 12/21/2014 7:09 PM |
| 45 | 1 fish 18-24" that is it | 12/21/2014 2:46 PM |
| 46 | Striped Bass Management has been consistently at least two years behind the science.That has to change before irreparable damage has been done to the fishery--if it hasn't already. We haven't learned from past management mistakes. | 12/21/2014 12:03 PM |

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| 47 | game fish | 12/21/2014 10:55 AM |
| 48 | Get active ! Save the bait fish and the eel. | 12/21/2014 9:59 AM |
| 49 | ban party boats from having three or more bass trips a day they are loading boats to the max capacities and boating 2 fish per person or more and when they cant take any more because they maxed out in 1hr they still fish gaffing the fish still and throwing them back so they can get there dimeond jig back makes me sick we tried reviving these fish but it was a lost cause they should not be allowed to sail more than one bass trip per day period they are wiping are bass stocks out soon as the reach us 10 boats three trips perday 100pass or more per thats 6000 20lb to 40lb class fish a trip and they brag a bout bass slaughter on there web noreast and face book this must end soon because soon as they target these fish they are gone and not good for the small guide a or rec angler | 12/21/2014 9:37 AM |
| 50 | In Maryland, a slot of 28 to 32 during the trophy season let the large fish spawn. | 12/21/2014 9:31 AM |
| 51 | Please prevent the commercial catching of Menhaden and essential bait fish. Also stop the commercial catch of Striped Bass, and make Striped Bass a game fish. | 12/21/2014 6:20 AM |
| 52 | Encourage catch & release fly fishing. | 12/20/2014 3:14 PM |
| 53 | Moratorium now!! | 12/20/2014 2:15 PM |
| 54 | I have been fishing for stripers for over 40 yrs, this year felt like we were in 80's with very few stripers | 12/20/2014 2:06 PM |
| 55 | Save the striped bass. My message to commercial boat - the take of 0 striped bass is 0. Once they are gone, they are gone. | 12/20/2014 11:53 AM |
| 56 | This was the worst season in memory | 12/20/2014 11:53 AM |
| 57 | should be the same on the east coast with limited and size | 12/20/2014 11:28 AM |
| 58 | End nj bonus tag, make the limit one fish along the entire striper coast, end taking of any bass over 40" | 12/20/2014 11:23 AM |
| 59 | last three/four years stinks for non-commercial | 12/20/2014 10:34 AM |
| 60 | Stop bass tournaments, protect the big fish from being harvested | 12/20/2014 10:02 AM |
| 61 | Work to ban the use of Spot as a bait. Commercial and Rec's use very small 2-4" Spot as bait live lining and wipe out schools of fish. Once the fish start eating the Spot it is a slaughter. | 12/20/2014 9:48 AM |
| 62 | I do not know enough about the slot & mortality rate to vote on it really. If it will help like it does for Redfish I say yes. Same goes for the stamp. run it until the netters , draggers are bought out & retrained in another field. I would support any fees if the monies are going only to saltwater fisheries (reefs ,ect.) & ARE PROTECTED UNDER LAW TO NOT BE USED NO WHERE ELSE. | 12/20/2014 9:32 AM |
| 63 | Tag system for Trophy Stripers. One or two per year for fish over 35 inches. Protect the larger breeding fish. | 12/20/2014 9:27 AM |
| 64 | Should be more enforcement on both commercial and recreational fisherman for taking small fish, too many fish and fishing without a license. Draggers should be banned completely. Also, a Saltwater Fishing License purchased in any state should be good in every state. | 12/20/2014 9:21 AM |
| 65 | I lived in Maine during 1990s when the fishing for striped bass was excellent. Beginning in 1998, the fishing quality began to noticeably decline. After leaving Maine, I returned every summer to fish with guides for stripers. By 2009, the fishing was so spotty, I gave up on hiring guides for stripers. I switched to fishing for snook in Florida. I would return to fishing in Maine and consider buying a home there if the striped bass fishing was restored. | 12/20/2014 9:15 AM |
| 66 | Did not get a chance with this survey to vote that no stripers of any size should be taken until population is greatly increased and stable for a certain period. | 12/20/2014 9:12 AM |
| 67 | I don't want to see the feds in charge but I hope the individual states can standardize bag and size limits on the entire Atlantic coast. | 12/20/2014 9:02 AM |
| 68 | In addition to focusing on ending the commercial fishery, we should also focus on significantly reducing commercial menhaden quotas. The stock will not recover until there is food for the fish to eat. | 12/20/2014 8:44 AM |
| 69 | Protect the cow rockfish | 12/20/2014 8:29 AM |

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 70 | I mostly fish the Kennebec River and the Sebasticook river In my ipinion has been one of the best season for me.. We only shore fish and most of our fishing is at night.. Artificial lures only.. Well over 200 stripers caught this season.. Lets stop commercial fishing and it can only get better.. St.Croix all the Way Striperman Kennebec River | 12/20/2014 8:27 AM |
| 71 | Eliminate all treble hooks!!!! | 12/20/2014 8:12 AM |
| 72 | Should not be able to keep Stripers over 40" and not be allowed to even fish for them in the Delaware Bay where they are know spawning areas | 12/20/2014 8:02 AM |
| 73 | no commercial quota fish should be used to liberalize the recreational fishery. | 12/20/2014 7:55 AM |
| 74 | End commercial fishing for SB completely and immediately. Prevent devastation of menhaden by fish oil/mineral supplement manufacturers. | 12/20/2014 7:34 AM |
| 75 | striped stamp who is watching the \$\$\$\$? | 12/20/2014 7:01 AM |
| 76 | I continue to support gamefish status. | 12/20/2014 6:33 AM |
| 77 | bonus fish or trophy tag must be changed. They Should NOT be reusable. Use them one time then they are done...One bonus fish per year...NOT EVERY DAY! | 12/20/2014 6:12 AM |
| 78 | I have personally lived the good, the bad and the ugly for the past 60 years. WE are now in the ugly! In the 1960's a small fish was under 25 lbs. These days I have fewer and fewer places to fish as they just don't go there anymore. Fish are concentrated in many fewer areas which indicates a much smaller mass of fish. We must make it a game fish...I lived the horrors of the last management mistakes. | 12/20/2014 5:31 AM |
| 79 | All commercial fishing should be halted, and all recreational fishing should be "catch and release" until the fishery has recovered. | 12/20/2014 5:24 AM |
| 80 | I'd prefer that NO stripers be kept EVER. The stock is in serious trouble | 12/20/2014 3:55 AM |
| 81 | We are in an emergency situation vis-a-vis striped bass. Something must be done. Slot limits are a possible angle to pursue. There may be other angles. Just do something...! | 12/20/2014 12:04 AM |
| 82 | We need to focus more on improving the environment so that stipers will have a better chance at producing higher year of the young indexes. | 12/19/2014 10:30 PM |
| 83 | current regs are not working, stripers must be protected. Commercial fishing for stripers should stop and make them gamefish | 12/19/2014 10:16 PM |
| 84 | 1. The slot limit, when implemented, should also apply to the Chesapeake Bay and other estuaries. Also a one fish limit should be imposed everywhere until the fish population recovers. 2. For #6, above, 0% until we see how the recovery goes. Once the population has recovered, adjustments to size and possession limits should be made annually based on scientific data. | 12/19/2014 9:34 PM |
| 85 | I haven't been fishing for striped bass for very many years, but I fish with more experienced fisherman a lot. They continue to tell me stories about the fantastic fishing they experienced as little as five years ago, but none of them brag about the fishing now. Some even fear moratorium status again. No one makes the long trips down to Watch Hill or other spots that used to be very productive in the past because the fish just aren't there. It's a shame to see that a fishery with so much recreational buying power can't be protected properly because the commercial industry needs something to fill their boat with. I hope groups like Stripers Forever can give striped bass fisherman and the species a concentrated voice to help protect this wonderful and unique fishery for years to come. | 12/19/2014 9:06 PM |
| 86 | Instead of going after comms, why not ban trebles, mandate barbless, close the rec fishery AND commercial? | 12/19/2014 8:52 PM |
| 87 | I would be willing to forego stripped bass fishing for at least one year to help replenish stock | 12/19/2014 8:44 PM |
| 88 | More enforcement to ensure poaching of stripers is addressed, including prosecution of violators. | 12/19/2014 8:28 PM |
| 89 | Suggest you have a slot fish 22-28 and allow a bonus tag for a trophy fish over 36 | 12/19/2014 8:01 PM |
| 90 | We need to save the bait fish to improve striper fishing. | 12/19/2014 8:00 PM |
| 91 | I am unable to fish because of health reasons,therefore some of my answers are inconsistent with your questions. I fly fished for Stripers on the Chesapeake Bay until 11 years ago.Many days I would catch and release as many as 50 to 75 fish.I tied my own streamers and always used barbless. Today I am physically unable to fish, and am now living in Washington state, sol'm not sure how much my answers may mean. | 12/19/2014 7:53 PM |
| 92 | Make it a game fish | 12/19/2014 7:11 PM |

| | | |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| 93 | This was the worst year in over 15 years fishing my honey hole. | 12/19/2014 6:45 PM |
| 94 | I am in favor of sport fish status for stripers, the economic benefit far out ways the economic benefit from commercial harvest of this species. | 12/19/2014 6:41 PM |
| 95 | one slot fish 25-30 May be kept or other appropriate slot size and allowed purchase of trophy tag one per season for larger fish. Breader class fish should not be kept. Purchase of tag funds spent towards conservation. | 12/19/2014 6:32 PM |
| 96 | I would like to see a ban on keeping fish for a few years to let population regenerate | 12/19/2014 6:30 PM |
| 97 | I saw it crash before and I'm watching it crash again... If we don't learn from history we are doomed to repeat it... Game fish status or cash in the chips... | 12/19/2014 6:22 PM |
| 98 | Keep up the good work! | 12/19/2014 6:21 PM |
| 99 | Slot size should be determined by reproductive advantage . Breeder size should be excluded | 12/19/2014 6:21 PM |
| 100 | Better enforcement of the EZ zone! Total pirating of breeders this past year off the jersey coast! | 12/19/2014 6:19 PM |
| 101 | We need to also cut the commercial take of Bunker. | 12/19/2014 6:16 PM |
| 102 | Let the bigger fish breed! | 12/19/2014 6:09 PM |
| 103 | Thank you for the survey! | 12/19/2014 6:05 PM |
| 104 | I already answered this already But here you go | 12/19/2014 5:59 PM |
| 105 | I believe run off into creeks is playing a part in the reduction of bass numbers. Help promote healthier farm and homeowner pesticide and fertilizer practices. If you need help contact me via email. Thx | 12/19/2014 5:58 PM |
| 106 | Keep the menhaden boats from netting within 10 miles from the beach and reduce the quota and seasons. | 12/19/2014 5:54 PM |
| 107 | Its atrocious. Way to many bass killed. I feel the current regulating committee is corrupt. | 12/19/2014 5:54 PM |
| 108 | It's not just about managing the stripers, I've caught stripers with rocks in their bellies. They need food. | 12/19/2014 5:53 PM |
| 109 | The fishery is so poor I spend more days on trout streams than targeting Stripers.I'm a fly fisherman and have been discouraged by the decline. I think there should also be more regulation of forage species. | 12/19/2014 5:50 PM |
| 110 | I would rather see the Striped Bass given game fish status. | 12/19/2014 5:49 PM |
| 111 | I caught no more than 20 Striped Bass all this season, and that was going out at least once a week from end of May thru Sept. 28 in was largest fish caught. Many places where I have consistently found fish in past years were barren. The number of fish in the tidal estuaries of Harpswell Sound is definitely SIGNIFICANTLY down. I always catch & release. I took my grandsons out 4 or 5 times and never got them a fish. VERY sad. | 12/19/2014 5:43 PM |
| 112 | Protect the stripers. Now. | 12/19/2014 5:43 PM |
| 113 | protecting large breeding size fish (while still allowing harvest of an occasional trophy fish) sounds like a good idea to me--it seems silly that current rules encourage killing more breeders | 12/19/2014 5:42 PM |
| 114 | a moratorium should be put in place for the next five years with no striped bass being kept. | 12/19/2014 4:33 PM |
| 115 | make it a gamefish | 12/18/2014 12:09 PM |
| 116 | The 38 inch 1 fish limit with no commercial harvest work well in the past, I see no need to "reinvent the wheel" . Just do what proved to work before and never liberalize the limit for greed. | 12/18/2014 11:29 AM |
| 117 | As long as the current system is in place-ASMFC- will do little if anything posetive for the stripers.Way too much commercial control of the council and the system. | 12/17/2014 10:55 PM |
| 118 | It would be nice if all of the fishing groups, conservation groups, and management groups got on the same page and actually accomplished something from Nova Scotia to Florida. | 12/17/2014 8:34 AM |
| 119 | take immediate action now to save this fishery I remember when catching even 1 striper was big news | 12/16/2014 10:05 PM |
| 120 | I would like to see that striped bass have a game fish status.Ban all commercial fishing for striped bass ,not only in ma. but the entire eastern coast. | 12/15/2014 8:59 PM |
| 121 | If you advocate for circle hooks I will no longer provide my support for you. Period. | 12/15/2014 7:08 PM |
| 122 | Encourage more catch and release for club tournaments and fishing derbies | 12/15/2014 6:46 PM |

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| 123 | The one at 28" (or conservation equivalent) for 2015 is one step in the right direction, but we need more drastic cut-backs to curtail the downward trend. | 12/15/2014 6:14 PM |
| 124 | Fishing is much worse now than even a few years ago. Look to what Florida has done for Snook fishing with a limited slot and huge comeback. There is no need for a commercial fishery on striped bass. The ban on commercial snook fishing in Florida has also established a good game species, with a slot for those who want limited consumption. | 12/15/2014 1:45 PM |
| 125 | Item 9) J hooks work fine and help my bait stay better on when casting from the surf. No problem removing hooks with proper tools and using proper time to set hook. | 12/15/2014 12:58 PM |
| 126 | no | 12/14/2014 4:25 PM |
| 127 | NY should be pressed to make the Striper a Game fish, and discontinue all commercial fishing for stripers. | 12/14/2014 9:49 AM |
| 128 | We also need to consider quality of nursery habitat and bait stocks | 12/13/2014 2:37 PM |
| 129 | Ideally, no commercial fishing, individuals keep 10 fish per year, your choice of size and timing. If your bait-caught fish is bleeding, it's one of your keepers. | 12/13/2014 2:13 PM |
| 130 | i think that striped bass should be a catch and release species. pure game fish. atleast until stocks are completely returned. as humans we do not really need to rely on hunter gatherer techniques anymore. less pressure on the fish! thanks for everything! | 12/13/2014 1:30 PM |
| 131 | Seals are a HUGE problem on Truro beaches. There are virtually no surf fishermen left in Truro/Wellfleet. Why bother? If you catch anything seals take it off your hook. | 12/13/2014 12:02 PM |
| 132 | Answer to question 6 is 0% Recreational fishing should be 100% Catch and Release. We need to change the Neanderthal fishing mentality. We are not fishing for food. Most killed fish end up in the trash. | 12/13/2014 10:25 AM |
| 133 | limit the take on the Head boats to one fish 32 inches | 12/13/2014 8:53 AM |
| 134 | 2 - 3 year moratorium, then re- evaluate | 12/12/2014 6:42 PM |
| 135 | I believe fishing for Stripers at this critical time should be on a catch and release basis only.The questions as posed above do not allow for me or others to express this opinion. | 12/12/2014 11:55 AM |
| 136 | The recreational fishery for Striped Bass has declined to where every fish should be released for a number of years, and the commercial fishery should be bought out. ALL bass caught should be released. These big fish that are breeders are being killed for nothing but show, they don't even taste good. If anything, one fish per day, slot fish, 22 to 28",, THATS IT. And violators should be fined to where they won't do it again, and the word will spread and it will stop. ANY fish over 30" should be released, period. When it gets better, review it again. This is the worse year ever, ask around. Please help, I'll pay 25 a year to buy out commercial bass fishing until the day I die, thats where the real problem is. | 12/12/2014 10:58 AM |
| 137 | STOP KILLING THE BREEDERS. STOP KILLING FISH OVER 34" THAT ARE PRIMARILY COWS!!! | 12/12/2014 9:23 AM |
| 138 | stop catching all of the big breeding stock. | 12/12/2014 8:57 AM |
| 139 | I hope Striped Bass recover again. We were lucky in the 80s that the fishery recovered. I hope we get lucky again. | 12/12/2014 3:58 AM |
| 140 | Only in favor of bass stamp if these fees are guaranteed to be spent on what they are supposed to be spent on. Highly unlikely! | 12/11/2014 10:38 PM |
| 141 | I think that no stripers should be harvested for the next five years, then see where we are (they are) | 12/11/2014 9:51 PM |
| 142 | no stainless steel hooks. limited treble hooks on plugs. stop trophy status striper fishing | 12/11/2014 6:29 PM |
| 143 | It is not adequate | 12/11/2014 4:42 PM |
| 144 | Stronger penalties and much more vigorous enforcement re professional poachers. | 12/11/2014 4:38 PM |
| 145 | Willing to have catch and release for a number of years if commercial fishing is ended | 12/11/2014 4:37 PM |
| 146 | Catch and release Only, untill stock is made up. | 12/11/2014 1:18 PM |
| 147 | I feel that regulations be coast wide using a slot And only then allow 1 trophy per year with a trophy tag that you have to purchase | 12/11/2014 10:50 AM |
| 148 | I would like to see a 1 fish limit 28"-36" | 12/11/2014 9:26 AM |

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| 149 | We need another moratorium as painful as it may b | 12/11/2014 9:10 AM |
| 150 | 1 slot 1 over 28 | 12/10/2014 10:50 PM |
| 151 | too many breeders being kept | 12/10/2014 10:30 PM |
| 152 | i support circle hooks but not SFs issue to fight | 12/10/2014 10:29 PM |
| 153 | we need a moratorium now | 12/10/2014 9:47 PM |
| 154 | I fish 100% of my time from a kayak and normally do catch aand release | 12/10/2014 9:10 PM |
| 155 | I think if the average recreational fisherman were permitted to keep at least one slot fish per outing it would assist in the willingness to release of the larger breeders. | 12/10/2014 7:30 PM |
| 156 | I THINK THERE SHOULD BE A ZERO HARVEST OF STRIPERS UNTIL THE NUMBERS REBOUND. | 12/10/2014 6:29 PM |
| 157 | Both bait hooks and treble hooks do a lot of harm to the fish that are being released . For those fish being released to have a high rate of survival single hooks in plastic or circle hooks or flies are very effective and should be mandated . | 12/10/2014 6:15 PM |
| 158 | All states should have the same size and bag limits. Too many different rules for each state. Striped bass should be a "game fish" in all states. | 12/10/2014 5:57 PM |
| 159 | close the striper from any harvest for 5 yrs only catch and release.no sport or commercial keeping any bass! | 12/10/2014 5:19 PM |
| 160 | I disagree on the slot limit principle and would advocate a one fish limit of 18/20 inches minimum | 12/10/2014 5:02 PM |
| 161 | Don't give any \$\$ to the government. They'll misuse it. Circle hooks still get swallowed by the bigger fish leading to gut hooked fish. Ban stainless steel hooks. | 12/10/2014 5:02 PM |
| 162 | I want striped bass to become a game fish ASAP we need to save this stock now! Slot regulations are a must ! | 12/10/2014 4:59 PM |
| 163 | The biologists should have the greatest say in setting the size and limits for striped bass. What the fisherman want is irrelavent because it is not science based. This survey should not be used in setting size and limits for striped bass. | 12/10/2014 4:58 PM |
| 164 | I'm totally in favor of a 1 fish 22 to 28 " slot | 12/10/2014 4:29 PM |
| 165 | We need another moratorium . | 12/10/2014 3:25 PM |
| 166 | It's time for drastic action | 12/10/2014 2:07 PM |
| 167 | If the [new] striped bass daily limit is one fish, I feel it should be legal to catch it in the EEZ area. Hot water/summers sometimes make fishing for stripers within 3 miles of shore impractical. | 12/10/2014 1:27 PM |
| 168 | Capt and mate should not count toward the daily limit on a charter | 12/10/2014 1:02 PM |
| 169 | The fee would never end of course! | 12/10/2014 12:42 PM |
| 170 | I fish almost exclusively in Virginia for Striped Bass, and I believe that gill nets which are indiscriminant and unfortunately still legal, represent the greatest waste of Stripers in the waters I frequently fish. | 12/10/2014 12:37 PM |
| 171 | This season I came across an abundant amount of bunker in the waters of the NY bight however the striped bass were not there nor were the bluefish. On a side note there were not many fluke around or sea robins for that matter (not that I miss them). I'm wondering if water quality was an issue or are other factors at play. | 12/10/2014 12:06 PM |
| 172 | none | 12/10/2014 11:12 AM |
| 173 | need beeter mangers | 12/10/2014 11:07 AM |
| 174 | Bomb the next meeting of the ASMFE ! Somehow limit the influence of the commercial fisherman over their local state elected representatives. | 12/10/2014 10:55 AM |
| 175 | still in favor of ending commercial stripe bass fishing and its time to come up with a measure to reduce the reproduction of the Gray [horse head] seals] | 12/10/2014 10:44 AM |
| 176 | End commercial fishing !!! | 12/10/2014 9:48 AM |

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| 177 | 1 fish per person per day would not seriously degrade the current striped bass biomass. What is destroying it currently, is the over harvest of large fish, (over 40 inches). No one seems interested in imposing limits the harvest of these large fish. These fish are the backbone of the reproduction process. In addition, they provide the highest quality gene pool available. They survived such a longtime for good reason!!! Lastly, fish that large are far less desirable to eat than a smaller fish. No one needs to eat more than 1 fish a day. Anything more is strictly based on greed or profit. I know i've been there. The woes of the pre moratorium striped bass fishery collapse turned my attitude around. I would be in favor of a periodic moratorium even if the fishery is healthy. Ive seen what that moratorium did!! There were bass everywhere!!!! I would also be in favor of some type of federal or state program that would reward catch and release. Perhaps a photo contest with a large cash prize for the best release photo... | 12/10/2014 9:42 AM |
| 178 | No | 12/10/2014 9:11 AM |
| 179 | Conservation should be on an ecosystem level, not by individual species. Habitat, forage and gamefish should all be taken into account in a synergistic fashion. | 12/10/2014 9:07 AM |
| 180 | Making progress, but allowing commercial fishing will reverse generation of conservation | 12/10/2014 7:36 AM |
| 181 | I would like to see a ban on bait fishing, live or dead, altogether as a way to help reduce the take for consumption by those most likely to keep short fish or too many fish. Keep it to artificial lures, plugs, jigs, flies, etc. | 12/10/2014 7:10 AM |
| 182 | We need a long term outlook so we don't have to make knee jerk decisions Leave the trophy fish alone to breed . and end commercial interest . | 12/10/2014 6:46 AM |
| 183 | I'd like to see a slot limit set to protect the strongest year classes of striped bass, with a once-a-year trophy tag for a fish of a lifetime. | 12/10/2014 12:32 AM |
| 184 | They should be made a game fish | 12/9/2014 11:16 PM |
| 185 | I may have caught more, but they were all between 18-22". South of Cape and in my own waters above the Cape. Saw very few large fish and I have fished a LOT. | 12/9/2014 10:55 PM |
| 186 | Something really needs to be done. I believe that imposing a slot is one of the best options. | 12/9/2014 10:26 PM |
| 187 | Eliminate commercial fishing; it is too difficult to control; and economic impact of sport-only is high. | 12/9/2014 10:20 PM |
| 188 | Stop the commercial fishery, it's them that are killing the striped bass population not the recreationally, except maybe the party boats. Slot limit should be 28-34 | 12/9/2014 9:44 PM |
| 189 | open the eez | 12/9/2014 9:01 PM |
| 190 | make it illegal to use nets for commercial fishing for bass | 12/9/2014 9:00 PM |
| 191 | Stripers need a break for a while. Large breeding stripers should not be kept. Fishing for stripers during spawn in rivers should be banned. | 12/9/2014 8:53 PM |
| 192 | commercial manheaden reduction fishing ended forever Wiiing to donate to fund that would buy out those bastards. | 12/9/2014 8:37 PM |
| 193 | I release every fish over 32 and only keep two or three fish per year. Ideally I'd like to see them obtain game fish status. | 12/9/2014 8:35 PM |
| 194 | Also see a definite lack of bait in rivers and back-bay areas. | 12/9/2014 8:26 PM |
| 195 | I would like temporarily catch and release only. | 12/9/2014 7:42 PM |
| 196 | It's getting worse but people who make money off fishing put their wallets before the well being of the striped bass. | 12/9/2014 7:26 PM |
| 197 | The reason my fish are larger this year, is a bought a customized fishing kayak with a trolling motor, and switched from lures to live bait -- mostly eels using circle hooks and releasing every stripper I caught - did not keep even one. I am concerned about commercial fishing in spawning zones, and think it should be banned, or severely limited during that critical reproductive period. I am also concerned about improving the health of Chesapeake Bay for stripers and other species like the soft shelled crab. Obviously some bad choices were made, and the ecosystem was not sufficiently protected to safeguard the revitalization of the population and now we have a heavy task in front of us to prevent another collapse of the resource. | 12/9/2014 6:30 PM |
| 198 | Stripe Bass should be a game fish where no one keeps any size bass, period. | 12/9/2014 6:29 PM |
| 199 | Game fish status only. Protect the most productive fish. | 12/9/2014 6:04 PM |

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| 200 | good luck getting the idiots in charge to recognize the problem | 12/9/2014 6:02 PM |
| 201 | I have a few that I've brought up at public hearings, but it falls on deaf ears. The problem that I see is the commercial interests have a lot more money and political pull. Also the regulations MUST BE ALONG THE ENTIRE EAST COAST, what don't the majority understand about this point. Thanks for letting me vent. I'm at the point in this ongoing battle, about regulations, size limits, slot fish no slot fish etc. etc. That writing to my congressmen and senators is a complete waste of my time. Everybody will understand when the fisheries collapse again like they did in the eighties. Ban the nets and STOP commercial fishing for striped bass. End of problem. Tightlines.....maybe. Ken Dibblee | 12/9/2014 5:56 PM |
| 202 | Keep up the Good Work | 12/9/2014 5:54 PM |
| 203 | Cut commercial quotas by half | 12/9/2014 5:53 PM |
| 204 | Stripers forever should partner with fishing industry participants to educate anglers on catch and release and advocate promotions to enhance catch and release. For example photo and video contests of anglers releasing their catches. Rewards from tackle industry for released fish. | 12/9/2014 5:43 PM |
| 205 | Every year for the past 5 years has gotten worse. With this year the absolute worst in my 20 years of fishing. | 12/9/2014 5:28 PM |
| 206 | Need to have standard regulations all across the Atlantic coast. Would be in favor of game fish status from Maine to Florida. Limit of one fish per recreational angler per day. | 12/9/2014 5:25 PM |
| 207 | Large cow stripers should not be fished for and kept at any time of the year. These fish are the future! | 12/9/2014 5:21 PM |
| 208 | please stop the killing of striped bass before they are all gone. I remember the moratorium and do't want to see it again. | 12/9/2014 5:17 PM |
| 209 | Need to rebuild the stock in Chesapeake Bay and elsewhere, similar to what ASMFC has prescribed for 2015. | 12/9/2014 5:15 PM |
| 210 | Would suggest maximum of one or two fish per WEEK, but impossible to enforce. | 12/9/2014 5:14 PM |
| 211 | I run a charter boat from montauk, if you stoped bait fishing, you have more spwning size. the last 3 years live bait fishing killed alot of big fish they still would dead with a circle hook Captain Mike Albronda charterboat Montauk | 12/9/2014 5:03 PM |
| 212 | The slot limit is an imperative. So is making the noble striper a game fish. | 12/9/2014 4:47 PM |
| 213 | In order to manage a healthy striped bass population, we must also manage their forage base especially bunker. These fish have been commercially over-harvested for years and their numbers are dwindling. | 12/9/2014 4:36 PM |
| 214 | There needs to be an emphasis on both habitat and forage species in addition to the stripers. | 12/9/2014 4:24 PM |
| 215 | I would like to see anglers be able to keep one fish between 18 and 28 inches in length) per day for personal consumption. I favor legislation that creates a striped bass stamp costing between \$10.00 and \$25.00 per year with the funds earmarked to buy out the current commercial fishery I would also like to see a trophy stamp available for one fish over 40" to fund enforcement and striped bass enhancement. programs | 12/9/2014 4:16 PM |
| 216 | 2014 provided us all with ample evidence that the health and sustainability of the striper fishery in New England is in serious jeopardy, and that commercial and "recremmercial" striper harvesting must be ended. | 12/9/2014 4:13 PM |
| 217 | TAKE THE PRESURE OF THE FISH AND MAKE IT A GAME FISH ONLY | 12/9/2014 4:12 PM |
| 218 | The gamefish debate needs to take place at ASMFC. While it may seem insurmountable, it can be won by a simple majority. Much easier than attacking each state legislature | 12/9/2014 4:04 PM |
| 219 | You need to add " do you fish from the Surf ". In my case 95% of the time for over 45 years. This would add weight to what I think over someone who has fished but one or two years. The stamp should be for fish over 35 lbs and can be used but once a year. Personally I would not care if the Striped bass had a game fish status. | 12/9/2014 3:58 PM |
| 220 | I have found that I 'gut hook' as many or more fish using circle hooks as I did when using regular J-hooks. | 12/9/2014 3:57 PM |
| 221 | There is no commercial fishing in N.J. Why is there a commercial Quota? Do away with commercial quota. | 12/9/2014 3:49 PM |
| 222 | limit should be 1 @32. Conserve for the future of the fishery | 12/9/2014 3:49 PM |
| 223 | Striped bass should not be commercially fished. Game fish status for Striped Bass. | 12/9/2014 3:43 PM |
| 224 | This fishery is a complete mess, and much worse than the late 70s. | 12/9/2014 3:43 PM |
| 225 | Action's required. Though I fish and catch nearly every day, Since early last Spring, among the very large number of fish that I've caught, three have been over 28' long. THREE! | 12/9/2014 3:29 PM |

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| 226 | As for recreational fishing The big fish should be released. I'm ok with two fish/day but limit the size. Somewhere between 28"-32" or slightly lower and slightly higher in size | 12/9/2014 3:24 PM |
| 227 | Stop charters from 2 bass per head , 1 fish over 42" per man for trophy , and a slot fish for consumption . None of this 14 fish a day , none for the captain or mate . In my opinion , besides the commercial harvest , the charter boats slaughter the breeding fish population . | 12/9/2014 3:24 PM |
| 228 | From what I have read poaching and by-catch problems are as much of a problem or even more of a problem then others. I would like to see the licensing fee go for better inforcement of poachers and those selling striped bass illegally. | 12/9/2014 3:19 PM |
| 229 | #7 You know as well as I that moneys collected like that never goes where it was intended. It disappears or ends up going for something else. #9 In my experience when bait fishing, especially live bait a circle hook doesn't lessen the chance of a fish swallowing the hook. Just another unenforceable law to contend with. | 12/9/2014 3:11 PM |
| 230 | Open the EEZ. | 12/9/2014 3:11 PM |
| 231 | regulations have to be the same on the entire striper coast if not it is almost a waste of time--the people in charge should be investigated to make sure they have the best interest of the striped bass in their hearts and not in their bank accounts the fish is in trouble and if they can not see that then they should have their brains checked as a man of 71yrs. old I am very tired of incompetant people making these decisions --just my thoughts | 12/9/2014 3:00 PM |
| 232 | one fish limit everywhere | 12/9/2014 2:56 PM |
| 233 | The Last 2 years have been a disaster. Long Beach Island summer fishing contest with 700 to 900 entries in past years had 1,800 to2,000 bluefish weighed in. Last year ONE and this year 7 bluefish weighed in. There is a serious problem along the New Jersey coast since Sandy wrecked the Jersey coast two years ago. | 12/9/2014 2:55 PM |
| 234 | As a retired Engineer for the US Navy, I, throughout my 32 year career, depended on not only data, but also experiential intuition to identify risks to equipment. As regards my 38 year involvement in Striper Fishing and, in some cases, decades-long support (including the commitment to Lifetime Memberships) of environmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Stripers Forever, The Recreational Fishing Alliance, Trout Unlimited and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, I feel qualified to come to an assessment of the future of the Striped Bass population thru, once again, my experiential intuition and data generated by these organizations. As a Fisherman who began fishing for Striped Bass in 1976, and who has, for all intents and purposes, never fished from a boat, but rather almost exclusively from the surf and back waters of NJ, I have witnessed, in the late 70's thru mid 80's, the almost complete disappearance of Stripers from our waters, and am now deeply saddened to see what I believed the Fisheries Managers were too smart to let happen again. I also, early in my fishing life, was blessed to be taken under the wing of some true experts in the pursuit of the Striper, most of whom are now either deceased, infirm or, simply so discouraged to once again see the severe decline in the Striped Bass population that they have simply walked away from the sport. What struck me as a common thread thru these associations was the admission, by these Fisherman, that not only the commercial greed, but also the recreational greed had contributed to the unbelievably severe decline in the Striper presence. In turn, I made a promise to myself that I would not follow the same path, and can honestly say that I have remained a true catch-and-release fisherman, keeping only those fish that I caught in conditions that made attempted revival in the surf too dangerous for me. And so here we are today....I am now often asked by fisherman new to the sport, as well as tackle store owners/employees, what I feel were the best years of Striper fishing after the crash, and what I feel contributed to the current tragedy we are seeing in the Fishery... I relate to them fish I fought in the mid 90's that gave me the thrill of a fight lasting over 30 minutes, and recall one specific fight that went from 2 am to 2:42 am...I also relate to them that on that particular night, having witnessed innumerable boats in the same canal keeping 2 LARGE breeder Bass per person in the boat, the fish that I fought never left the water, but rather was immediately resuscitated and pushed into deep water to fight another day. I tell them of days when others next to me said they stopped counting how many fish I landed after they reached 100. I tell of how, from 1995 to 2003, there was never a night, according to my wife, when I fished that same canal, that I did not come home and say I had caught Stripers (note the plural). And then I tell them that now, a good Spring season is if I catch 10 Bass, and that Summer Bass are non-existent in the surf or backwaters, and all we can hope for is that someday we get a Fall season like we had in 2011, but never since. And then I tell them of the greed I have witnessed, since the Bass population recovery, on the beaches and in the backwaters in NJ, and the greed of Commercial Fisherman that I witnessed in 2005 on the beach in North Carolina. | 12/9/2014 2:51 PM |
| 235 | none | 12/9/2014 2:39 PM |
| 236 | Game Fish!! | 12/9/2014 2:37 PM |
| 237 | Stop all commercial fishing for Stripers and make it a game fish. | 12/9/2014 2:26 PM |
| 238 | The lack of action to curb the decline of stripers is very frustrating as it was the greatest fishery in the northeast. | 12/9/2014 2:10 PM |

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| 239 | keep all commercial menhaden boats south of Conimicut light in Warwick, R.I.. | 12/9/2014 2:09 PM |
| 240 | no two fish limit in all states, should be one fish up & down the coast | 12/9/2014 2:08 PM |
| 241 | I think there should be more restrictions on catches of large stripped bass. For instance those fish over 40 inches should not even be taken from the water due to structural (spinal/neural) damage. Certainly the slot limit will help keep the breeders in the water where they belong. There is far too much emphasis on catching the big eg 50 pounders! | 12/9/2014 1:55 PM |
| 242 | There is no justification for commercial harvest of wild-caught striped bass. Attention should also be given to size and movement of baitfish stocks and effects of ocean temperture change. | 12/9/2014 1:55 PM |
| 243 | KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK | 12/9/2014 1:51 PM |
| 244 | EEZ MUST REMAINED CLOSED,ALSO SPAWNING GROUNDS SHOULD BE CLOSED DURING SPAWN | 12/9/2014 1:50 PM |
| 245 | More enforcement personnel to assure compliance | 12/9/2014 1:48 PM |
| 246 | Barbless single hooks should be required throughout this fishery, in my opinion. Also better education on handling fish and catch and release techniques. | 12/9/2014 1:48 PM |
| 247 | I caught no striped bass in salt water this year and didn't see any. A 26" striped bass that I caught, tagged and released in Barnegat Inlet, NJ, on 10/24/2013 was recaptured and killed in a Chesapeake Bay gill net 2/24/2014. | 12/9/2014 1:46 PM |
| 248 | Eliminate treble hooks | 12/9/2014 1:46 PM |
| 249 | Forage issues need to be addressed as vigorously as size/bag limits on Stripers. | 12/9/2014 1:45 PM |
| 250 | Take commercial out of mix | 12/9/2014 1:41 PM |
| 251 | Striper fishing sicked this year | 12/9/2014 1:34 PM |
| 252 | circle hooks save fish | 12/9/2014 1:29 PM |
| 253 | MAKE IT A GAME FISH .NO BASS AT ANY SIZE. | 12/9/2014 1:29 PM |
| 254 | I would like to see all fish >40" released | 12/9/2014 1:16 PM |
| 255 | A stamp fee is touchy. Better regulations and much bigger fines for poaching is important. Here in Southern NJ the 3 mile limit is a big issue. Many of our fish travel further out to sea because of our gradual shelf and shallow waters. Often the fish are outside of the 3 mile limit and because folks are already breaking the rules to just fish for them, they figure they might as well keep as many as the want. I'd rather see better limit enforcement and not the 3 mile rule. Now the coast guard uses valuable money to patrol boats fishing in striper season outside of 3 miles and more or less harassing you if you are't even fishing for stripers. Meanwhile, just inside of the line are boats keeping way over the limit. | 12/9/2014 1:15 PM |
| 256 | Fished in Maine this year, caught a few nice fish. 24 to 33 inches. Seems they were in better shape than what we catch in Md. The whites were brighter and the black stripes were blacker. No sores on the Me. fish | 12/9/2014 1:13 PM |
| 257 | The correct answer to #8 is the fee should be reduced (50%?) and continue for enforcement. | 12/9/2014 1:10 PM |
| 258 | Would like to see consistency between Maryland and Virginia with regards to all striped bass management plans. | 12/9/2014 1:10 PM |
| 259 | Catch and release only for 3 years and monitor impact. | 12/9/2014 1:09 PM |
| 260 | The ASMFC has done a poor job of managing the Striped Bass. The decline in the fishery started in 2005 and finally 2014 they are making changes for 2015 what's wrong with this system, We need changes in the way the ASMFC works. | 12/9/2014 1:02 PM |
| 261 | I do not agree with a buy out since the comms will only use the money to get bigger and better boats to fish more efficiently. | 12/9/2014 12:57 PM |
| 262 | Make Stripers a game fish---No comercial harvest!!!! | 12/9/2014 12:57 PM |
| 263 | I would really like the striper be a game fish | 12/9/2014 12:33 PM |
| 264 | So, will we receive a copy of the summary of your results ??? What do you plan to do with this information??? | 12/9/2014 12:29 PM |
| 265 | If we need not to keep ANY Striped bass for a few years until the stock starts to recover let's push for this. Including commercial fishing. | 12/9/2014 12:29 PM |

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| 266 | would like to see the 3 mile limit gone as it costs so much to enforce and the fish seem to be migrating more offshore due to the lack of forage fish inshore. | 12/9/2014 12:28 PM |
| 267 | Take a page from the Red Fish, conserve and guard the brood stock!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! | 12/9/2014 12:25 PM |
| 268 | Management should be more conservation oriented and play into the interests of the user groups. The fishery has to come first in order for it to be sustainable. | 12/9/2014 12:22 PM |
| 269 | Active inforcement of current rec regs would be helpful. Right now there is very little inforcement. | 12/9/2014 12:16 PM |
| 270 | The following comment was posted on Tidal fish. com less than one week ago--it has received 10,000 hits and Over 50 comments, 95% of the comments supported my opinion. Default I fear the recreational striped bass fishing for 2014-15 season will be dismal The signs are there for anyone to read: There have been relatively average spawns of striped bass in MD and VA the last few years. The folks who work the water report many small stripers in the rivers...for some reason they do not reach maturity? 2011 year class was exceptional. Where are those (3 year old) 23 inch fish now? The Chesapeake Bay should be full of those fish for the picking. They do not exist. AS babies, they died or were eaten by predators (dogfish??) Today I fished the CBBT using my most dependable and most productive techniques. The temp was right, the water was clear, the outgoing current was strong, my most favorite situation. We caught one "dink" north of the 1 st island; a whopping 17 inch rish...I could hardly tell I had a fish on my line?? Fished south of the 3rd island without results..... Trolling the tubes at the 3rd and 4th in ideal conditions and all the way to 12 mile marker...NOT A BITE !; Came home past bluefish rock and saw a boat at Bluefish Rock reef. He was catching small fish trolling; we followed suit and caught a giant 18 in fish. That was it. !! Usually at this time of year, the CBBT is loaded with nice 5 to 10 lb fish; after those fish depart, the "dinks" are what remains. The dinks are up the bay at Windmill pt; The dinks are at bluefish rock, the dinks are at the CBBT. I fear recreational saltwater rockfishing will again be poor in Chesapeake Bay and Va Waters. AS an afterthought: are there a lot of Menhaden in the bay right now? Dr. Bob Allen 60 years fishing for rockfish in Va waters. | 12/9/2014 12:15 PM |
| 271 | Slot limit 26-32", create striped bass lisenche for recreation fishing to raise awareness and programs to clean up water systems and study striped bass, reduce commerical harvest by 50 percent | 12/9/2014 12:10 PM |
| 272 | Make it a Gamefish!! Save the Stripers! | 12/9/2014 12:05 PM |
| 273 | We need to do a better job and not be reactive. Concerned a fee is good but can we trust it will be used to help the bass? Should be classified as a sport fish. | 12/9/2014 12:00 PM |
| 274 | I simply think that circle hooks can be just as deadly as J-hooks. Maine's slot limit targets small bass, often with bait, and they are roughly handled. A flopping bass is hard for many people to handle, and my experience has been that few want to part with a hook for some reason. I think that Maine should comply with the other states on the east coast and be consistent. drb | 12/9/2014 11:57 AM |
| 275 | The recreational take is nothing compared to the commercial take. That's where we need to look! | 12/9/2014 11:55 AM |
| 276 | In central Maine - very bad striper returns over the last 5 years. So clean up nursery waters down south and reduce commercial fishing! | 12/9/2014 11:50 AM |
| 277 | Limit the amount of fish per boat/per person. When a 6 pack takes 16 fish this is just a crime and there is no way that all that fish is making it to the table.. | 12/9/2014 11:50 AM |
| 278 | I've fished for a week each year in the spring at Martha's Vineyard. The last few years fishing is so bad I'm ready to quit. | 12/9/2014 11:48 AM |
| 279 | 2014 has been our best year in the last 5 due to the amount of bunker still in the water close to our beach. Although the season did not start till mid November. | 12/9/2014 11:47 AM |
| 280 | Striped bass should be deemed game fish and strict regs should be put in place and policed!!! | 12/9/2014 11:46 AM |
| 281 | 1. Worst problem stripers in Mid Atlantic area have is pollution of the Chesapeake Bay. Area states must take action. 2. Boat captains should be licensed (fee, tags like deer) to permit their fishermen to keep at least one (1) injured short fish that would likely die after release.(swallowed hook, e.g.). Thirty years ago we caught 20-30 inch fish one after another in the bay. In the last two years, with the very same captain, we have caught no legal size (18") rockfish. BTW, the captains now say they are allowed to fillet the fish out on the water. Used to be (5-10 years ago) that was illegal. | 12/9/2014 11:43 AM |
| 282 | Make stripers a gmefish no 40inch trophy allowed dont give up. Thegood work thanks doug krebs | 12/9/2014 11:36 AM |
| 283 | End the commercial fishery! | 12/9/2014 11:36 AM |

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| 284 | I'm not a fan of limiting the recreational bag limit to 1 fish. I would prefer to see the min size raised. I'm not at all in favor of a slot limit. I fish the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby...have for a very long time. Much of my views/opinions about options for changing regulations to conserve the resource are influenced by considerations of the Striped Bass' inclusion in that tournament. I haven't seen any evidence that Circle hooks reduce mortality. I gut hook a lot of fish with circle hooks, and they are more difficult to remove when it happens. I've used them religiously, but I'm strongly considering abandoning them. | 12/9/2014 11:35 AM |
| 285 | This was the worst year I have had in 26 years. Zero stripers to hand. | 12/9/2014 11:34 AM |
| 286 | One size fits all. No special Hudson or Chessy size. No bonus tags in NJ. And clean up the poaching once and for all with huge fines and future activity restriction and property seizures. | 12/9/2014 11:32 AM |
| 287 | The bass fishery is declined in Montauk. 2014 was by far the worst fishing i've experienced. | 12/9/2014 11:30 AM |
| 288 | We must preserve, protect the large fish, the proven best breeders. It is irrational to allow our best fishermen (commercial fishermen) to harvest the best breeders. In no other industry (chicken, cattle) would we kill the best breeders. | 12/9/2014 11:29 AM |
| 289 | I think a focus should also be on the forage fish population and nitrogen pollution issues. Both of which probably have a larger impact than commercial harvest (although considering the complexity of those issues, the over harvesting Striped Bass should be addressed too) | 12/9/2014 11:29 AM |
| 290 | Make trophy species...no keeping regardless of size | 12/9/2014 11:29 AM |
| 291 | Something needs to be done now in order to save the Strippers. | 12/9/2014 11:28 AM |
| 292 | What about creating a Striped Bass license for those who fish for Bass (i.e. for hires, recreational, etc). Take that money and used it towards the fishery such as nmore enforcement and even adding hatcheries to help when YOY is low. | 12/9/2014 11:28 AM |
| 293 | Advocate gear restrictions similar Maine to reduce release mortality. | 12/9/2014 11:24 AM |
| 294 | Look, I don't think anyone should be allowed to take any fish until proof exists that the stock is well and self-sustaining. Your survey does not allow for these opinions to be noted. | 12/9/2014 11:24 AM |
| 295 | No possession commercial and recreational for 2 years, then go from there. | 12/9/2014 11:22 AM |
| 296 | Any measure that reduces the total harvest of stripers. | 12/9/2014 11:22 AM |
| 297 | Game Fish Status ASAP!!! | 12/9/2014 11:22 AM |
| 298 | I fish estuary stripers in an area of large commercial by catch, that needs to end | 12/9/2014 11:21 AM |
| 299 | I would like to see a closed or catch and release only season on Striped Bass from January through May 15 to give the fish a chance to spawn. If we continue to kill fish before they get a chance to spawn then we will soon see the complete collapse of the fishery | 12/9/2014 11:20 AM |
| 300 | Asmfc to slow to act | 12/9/2014 11:20 AM |
| 301 | End commercial fishing. Eliminating legal striper sales would cut down on a lot of illegal sales/possession. | 12/9/2014 11:20 AM |
| 302 | I only fish the upper Chesapeake bay and tribs but for over 40 years. This year was again a disaster on the Susquehanna Flats for spawners. Not like the 90s or early 2000s. I have been catching some more small fish this fall probably 2012 year class they are thick on upper bay shoals. You have to get rid of commercial guys buy them out because you cant fix the pollution problem in the Chesapeake, You also have to get rid of alwieve fishing for heart pills. Then make it Striper game fish, only way to insure future generations of fish. | 12/9/2014 11:19 AM |
| 303 | I believe that NO stripers should be kept. The population is in BIG trouble and we're going to see the 1980's again soon if radical changes aren't in place. I'd be for anything that seriously restricts the keeping of striped bass for both commercial and recreational. | 12/9/2014 11:19 AM |
| 304 | Also need to manage the forage fish, including those that are not currently managed such as sandeels. | 12/9/2014 11:19 AM |
| 305 | The stocks are crashing. This is evident in the poor fishing that has occurred on the entire East Coast. Something needs to be done soon or we may be facing another moratorium. | 12/9/2014 11:18 AM |
| 306 | Stinks! Particularly in Maryland. | 12/9/2014 11:17 AM |
| 307 | 1 Trophy tag per year for a trophy fish only one | 12/9/2014 11:12 AM |

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| 308 | No schoolies. 1 fish over 28 1 fish between 28 and 36 no conservation tags - allowing a third striper is not conservation. | 12/9/2014 11:12 AM |
| 309 | My personal observations for 2014 are as follows; the average size of the resident bass has decreased and numbers have somewhat decreased but I still caught a good amount of schools. As far as the migration the average size of the fish is way up with some rather large fish around but not as many shorts or small keepers which is unusual. Overall I feel like the population of stripers has decreased and they are seeing increased fishing pressure with many large breeders being kept that should be released in exchange for keeping a smaller class of fish. | 12/9/2014 11:08 AM |
| 310 | In 2010 I caught 4 stripers, in 2011 I caught 11 stripers and in 2012 I caught 37 stripers. In 2014 I caught 111 stripers. All of my fishing is done with a fly rod. The number of days and hours spent fishing during the last four years has been pretty much the same. It did seem that there were a more fish in my area this year, but still I got skunked more times than I caught a fish. | 12/9/2014 11:07 AM |
| 311 | Your survey is loaded to a kill fishery. You do not give a zero kill option in your questions and answers. Whose side are you on? Your survey is now a piece of trash in my book. also, why do you need to ask for people's names. Odds are you'd get a better response if you left that part out. | 12/9/2014 11:06 AM |
| 312 | I would be in favor of any measure that leads to fewer bass being killed. | 12/9/2014 11:05 AM |
| 313 | Kill the 10 fish "recreational" license in Mass | 12/9/2014 11:04 AM |
| 314 | THE STOCK NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED OR WE'LL BE BACK TO THE 80s... | 12/9/2014 11:02 AM |
| 315 | I can't believe that the current plan allows for large female bass to be killed! How stupid! | 12/9/2014 11:02 AM |
| 316 | I am in favor of game fish status for the striped bass coast wide from Maine to the Carolinas. Any other approach will continue the cycle of deplete-react-rebuild-repeat. | 12/9/2014 11:01 AM |

Q25 Any additional comments as to how the management of striped bass is affecting my guiding business:

Answered: 30 Skipped: 51

| # | Responses | Date |
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| 1 | Brad, i answered these questions because I run a guide service. I am not a guide. | 12/31/2014 7:31 PM |
| 2 | Jul, August, and the first half of September was the worst, regarding the number of striped bass caught and released, in the 17 years I have been guiding. The 2014 season as a whole was a "bust" regarding the number of fish caught and released. | 12/30/2014 1:03 PM |
| 3 | Not good for business! | 12/24/2014 6:05 PM |
| 4 | Most people are onboard with conservation but need to expect keep some fish before they will pay for a trip. | 12/21/2014 9:35 AM |
| 5 | killing it | 12/19/2014 6:32 PM |
| 6 | I am moving out of Massachusetts and to North Carolina because I can't watch or be part of the train wreck in progress... | 12/19/2014 6:24 PM |
| 7 | Slot limit would send clients home with at least dinner, bringing them back! | 12/19/2014 6:21 PM |
| 8 | It would be nice to leave the dock and catch a lot of Bass, yet my people want to be able to put a Bass or two in the box for the dinner table. | 12/19/2014 6:20 PM |
| 9 | I fish strictly with fly rod and light tackle. Five years ago it was a given to go out in mid summer and enjoy catching a few fish and releasing same. The last three years I have not caught a single striker after July . | 12/19/2014 6:00 PM |
| 10 | LOL It's killing it up here in Maine due to the impact of the commercial striper fishing,by catch an so on. | 12/17/2014 10:59 PM |
| 11 | I was going to close my business up this year, but gave it one last shot. If not for Tog, Triggers, and Flounder, this year would have sucked! | 12/17/2014 8:35 AM |
| 12 | The implimentation of a single fish bag limit will reduce my over all bookings. Although most clients are more than happy with taking home a single fish, the perception of being able to take another is more important to them then actually doing it. | 12/11/2014 1:10 AM |
| 13 | Very hard to generalize about clients because some are happy with quantity, some with quality. fzor sure, no clients wants to catch nothing! | 12/10/2014 10:31 PM |
| 14 | It is over. the resource has been completely mismanaged and I have moved the bulk of my business to fresh water where the resources are more stable. | 12/9/2014 8:35 PM |
| 15 | Can different regs be used for for hire allowing for more fish than the guy on the beach or his own boat. Our customers only fish a few times a year so maximizing there trips. | 12/9/2014 3:14 PM |
| 16 | Our Charter business has dropped to ZERO Striper charters this year. The commercial fishing has decimated the stock. | 12/9/2014 2:40 PM |
| 17 | All the talk of slot fish scares me a little if allowed in states south of Maine as there are way to many excellent striper fishermen there. Slots should be adjusted annually to reflect various, available year classes. We should not fish on a year class that is weak in numbers. | 12/9/2014 2:30 PM |
| 18 | I am catching about 1/10 of the fish I caught on a single trip (on average) 10-15 years ago. This fishery is now a pale shadow of the great fishery we had 10-15 years ago. I think the way this fishery has been mismanaged is scandalous! | 12/9/2014 1:50 PM |
| 19 | There has been no Spring Striper run for the past few years making our season in the NE shorter than it already is. Many of us will not be in business if the fishing does not improve soon. | 12/9/2014 1:42 PM |
| 20 | Striper fishing sucked this year | 12/9/2014 1:35 PM |
| 21 | With people talking of the fishery being in trouble. Anglers don't think its worth spending their money on striped bass trips. | 12/9/2014 1:13 PM |

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| 22 | Brad, I have now retired from guiding customers to catch stripers. I only fish with my good friends now. I now have reached the age of 81. Capt. Bruno | 12/9/2014 1:12 PM |
| 23 | Most all my clients release their catch of legal size fish. My customers are mostly fly anglers and it is the thrill of catching and not the keeping. They would rather catch a number of fish than fish for hours only catching a few. Over the last few years I feel one of the biggest problems is the lack of forage species in the back bay and along the beach front. Dredging, beach replenishment and run off I believe are responsible. If there is no food you will find no fish and stripers have to feed on no traditional species to survive. | 12/9/2014 12:34 PM |
| 24 | My guide business has all but disappeared because of over harvest. | 12/9/2014 11:48 AM |
| 25 | I have only been a guide for the past two seasons. | 12/9/2014 11:32 AM |
| 26 | Abundance is key | 12/9/2014 11:28 AM |
| 27 | Less fish, smaller fish = bad for business. | 12/9/2014 11:23 AM |
| 28 | We harvest way too many | 12/9/2014 11:21 AM |
| 29 | Charter is recreational fishing, it is not commercial kill & sell fishing. If you can't keep a fish, so what. Find better clients. | 12/9/2014 11:08 AM |
| 30 | Striped bass MIS-management is killing my striped bass guiding business. | 12/9/2014 11:02 AM |