

Question # and answer	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	VA	NC	SC	totals	% respons
Personal use angler's section															
State of the Fishery 2015															
1. <i>What state</i>	54	3	123	27	26	77	127	2	2	20	5	2		503	100.0%
2. Are you currently a member of Stripers Forever?															
yes	54	3	118	26	25	67	119	2	2	19	5	2		469	93.0%
no	0		5	1	1	10	8			1				34	7.0%
3. Town and State (see top line for state)															
4. I fish from a boat what percentage of the time.															
0 to 10%	12	2	51	14	9	46	63	1	2		1			210	43.0%
10 to 25%	2	1	9	2	0	5	10					1		31	6.0%
25 to 50%	6		8	3	1	1	6							25	5.0%
50 to 75%	7		13		2	4	7	1		2				39	8.0%
75 to 100%	27		41	8	14	21	41			18	4	1		181	37.0%
5. I have fished regularly for stripers for this many years.															
<5 years	5		6	1	2	4	4	1						23	5.0%
5-9 years	6	1	13	1	4	12	9			2				48	10.0%
>10	43	2	104	25	20	61	113	1	2	18	5	2		415	85.0%
6. The average size of the stripers that I catch now has changed as follows:															
much smaller	11		29	16	7	33	44	1	2	8	1	1		162	33.0%
somewhat smaller	27	1	52	7	9	31	57			7	4			180	37.0%
no change	6	2	16	3	7	16	14	1		3				75	15.0%
somewhat larger	10		22	1	3	7	11			2		1		63	13.0%
much larger	0		3				2							5	1.0%
7. In my opinion striper fishing in the past five years has changed as follows:															
much worse	3		13	9	7	25	43	1	1	6	3	1		115	24.0%
worse	13		47	13	8	33	57		1	8	2			194	40.0%
same	10	3	25	1	5	9	14	1		3				72	15.0%
improved somewhat	18		31	3	6	8	11			2				82	17.0%
improved greatly	9		6	1		2	2			1		1		22	5.0%
8. The number of stripers I catch per hour of fishing time on the water is:															
many fewer	2		14	7	7	26	48	1	1		3	1		125	26.0%
fewer	18	2	39	15	11	31	48		1	8	2			183	38.0%
about the same	13	1	38	2	5	16	24	1		8				106	22.0%
more	17		26	3	2	4	7			3		1		62	13.0%
many more	4		5							1				9	2.0%

9. Because of the changes in the striped bass fishery my inclination to take a professionally guided striped bass trip has changed as follows:															
less likely	23		51	18	14	47	79			11	5	1		259	54.0%
about the same	25	3	60	8	11	25	40	1	2	5		1		188	39.0%
more likely	6		9	1	1	5	6			4				33	7.0%
<i>Bag and size limit</i>															
10. Forgetting for a moment current striped bass regulations, and starting with a clean sheet, I think that recreational 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	40	3	70	12	13	33	90	2	1	18	5	2		299	63.0%
no	13		51	24	13	40	34		1	2				176	37.0%
11. 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	37		63	10	12	30	66		1	13	2	2		244	80.0%
in addition to	4	3	6	3	1	4	25	2		6	3			60	20.0%
12. If you answered no to #8 what should the minimum size be?															
28	12		29	9	8	16	30		1	3	2			117	53.0%
32			12	4	5	15	6			1	1			44	20.0%
36	5		10	1	1	13	6							38	17.0%
40			10	2	1	1	4							20	10.0%
13. Do you think we should have a slot limit for recreationally caught stripers?															
yes	41	3	84	15	17	47	88	1	1	14	5	2		330	71.0%
no	12		33	10	7	25	34		1	6				134	29.0%
14. Slot preference															
20-26	25	1	30	10	1	6	22		1	9	3	1		114	34.0%
22-28	12		27	2	6	9	41	1		5	1			107	32.0%
24-30	5	1	26	5	10	31	25				1	1		110	33.0%
15. 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%	4	2	7	5	2	9	15	1		2	1			52	11.0%
50	15	1	20	5	5	18	35	1	2	6	2	1		116	25.0%
75	15		25	8	4	13	15			2	1			89	19.0%
100%	19		63	7	14	31	58			8	1	1		204	44.0%

16. 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	48		105	20	60	60	93	2	2	18	3	1	388	82.0%
no	5	3	15	6	6	13	32			2	2	1	86	18.0%
17. 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	12		27	7	6	15	31		1	4	2		112	29.0%
continue	36		78	13	14	45	65	2	1	14	1	1	280	71.0%
18. Should Stripers Forever advocate that circle hooks be required, where practical, when bait fishing for striped bass?														
yes	47	3	110	23	24	66	100	1	2	17	4	1	412	87.0%
no	6		11	3	2	7	25	1		2	1	1	63	13.0%
19. My personal comments on striped bass management that you have not covered are? See separate PDF file.														
Guides Section														
20. How has your guiding business for striped bass changed because of the fishery in the last five years?														
worsened considerably			4	2			7			2			16	33.0%
worsened a little	1		3		1	1	3						10	21.0%
not changed	2		4	1		2	5				1		15	32.0%
improved somewhat					1	1	1			1		1	5	11.0%
improved a great deal	1				1								2	4.0%
21. How important is keeping a striped bass to your clients?														
not very important			8	3	1	1	6						20	44.0%
somewhat important	3		2		1	2	2			1	1	1	14	30.0%
very important	1				1	1	7			2			12	26.0%
22. How important to your clients is catching a lot of stripers per trip?														
not very important					1		1			1			3	7.0%
somewhat important	3		7	2	1	3	9			1	1		29	63.0%
very important	1		4		1	1	5			1		1	14	30.0%
23. How important is catching a really large striper to your clients?														
not very important			1	1			4						6	13.0%
somewhat important	3		9	1	1	4	8			3	1	1	32	71.0%
very important	1				2		3						7	16.0%
24. Which is more important to my clients, catching big fish or catching a lot of fish?														
big fish			3	1	2	1	3			1	1		12	27.0%
many fish	4		7	1	1	3	12			2		1	33	73.0%
25. I am more likely than I was 5 years ago to make new investments in equipment for my striped bass guiding business?														
yes	4		3		1	3	4			1		1	17	34.0%
no			7	2	2	1	11			2	1		28	66.0%

**26. My comments as to how the management of striped bass is affecting my guiding business:
See separate PDF file.**