

Governor's Bay Day 2008

Striped Bass Catch and Release Contest

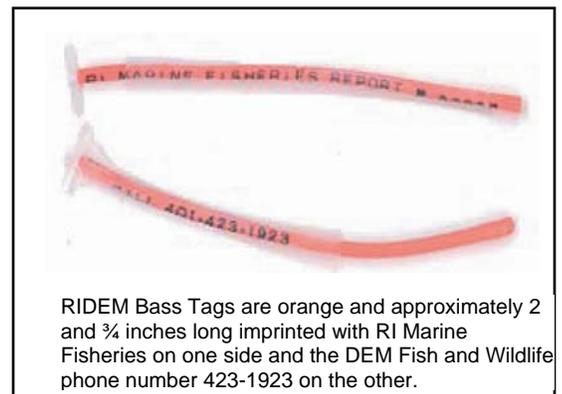
As part of the Rhode Island Bay Day celebration on July 27, Governor Donald Carcieri and officials from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association will release specially tagged striped bass throughout Narragansett Bay. Anglers are invited to pursue the specially tagged bass through Bay Day 2009. The first ten anglers who catch the tagged bass and turn the tag into DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife will receive prizes donated by **Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers** and **Ocean State Tackle**. See [Prize/Contest Winners List](#).

Striped bass, *Morone saxatilis*, have formed the basis of one of the most important fisheries on the Atlantic coast for centuries. Early records recount their abundance as being so great at one time they were used to fertilize fields. However, overfishing and poor environmental conditions lead to the collapse of the fishery in the 1980s. Through the hardship and dedication of both commercial and recreational fishermen, the stock was rebuilt and today's watermen again harvest striped bass in great number. Recreational harvest has grown steadily since the reopening of many state fisheries in 1990, approaching 30 million pounds in recent years. Under the most recent management program, commercial harvest has averaged nearly 7 million pounds annually, for an average ex-vessel value of over 13 million dollars. Striped bass are managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, who provide guidance to coastal states to develop regulations, which include recreational and commercial minimum size limits, quotas and bag limits.

Contest Rules

To receive a prize, an angler must catch a specially tagged fish by rod and reel or trawl, by legal means, between **July 27, 2008** and **July 26, 2009**.

The angler must cut the tag from the fish, measure the fish and release the fish back into the Bay as the tagged striped bass will not meet the legal size limits (34" commercial fisheries; 28" for recreational marine fisheries). The angler must call the phone number on the tag, report the size of the fish, then mail or bring his or her tag to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, 3 Ft. Wetherill Rd., Jamestown, RI 02835 for verification.



RIDEM Bass Tags are orange and approximately 2 and 3/4 inches long imprinted with RI Marine Fisheries on one side and the DEM Fish and Wildlife phone number 423-1923 on the other.

Upon verification, DEM will award the next prize available on the [Prize/Contest Winners list](#). Winner's names and the city and town they live in will be published on DEM's website at www.dem.ri.gov.