

**R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations  
PART XII - STRIPED BASS**

**12.3 Striped Bass Size/Possession Limits in the Commercial Striped Bass Fisheries --**

Except as provided in Part 12.5, any person meeting the requirements of RIGL §§ 20-2-26, or 20-2-27, or 20-2-28.1, shall be allowed to take or possess, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this state or otherwise, striped bass which measure thirty four (34) inches or greater in total length. Except as provided for in Part 12.5 or 12.6, no person shall in any manner take and/or possess in Rhode Island more than the allowable limit established by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. When the Division of Fish and Wildlife has determined that the annual quota established by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has been filled, the commercial sale of striped bass will terminate and the season will be closed. A notice of the closure will be submitted to the Secretary of State to be effective upon filing.

The following seasons and possession limits are established for commercial striped bass fishermen:

January 1 – <del>May 31</del> <u>June 5</u>	The commercial fishery will be CLOSED from January 1 through <del>May 31</del> <u>June 5</u> , annually.
June 6 – August 31	<del>Eighty</del> <u>Seventy-five</u> percent ( <del>80%</del> ) ( <u>75%</u> ) of the <u>entire</u> commercial quota will be available from June 6 – August 31. The possession limit will be five (5) fish per person per calendar day, or if fishing from a vessel five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day. The fishery will be closed in each calendar week from 12:00 AM Friday until 11:59 PM Saturday during this sub period. There will be no commercial possession or sale of striped bass on these days for non floating trap net commercial fishermen. The fishery will close once <del>eighty</del> <u>seventy-five</u> percent ( <del>80%</del> ) ( <u>75%</u> ) of the <u>entire</u> commercial quota is projected to be harvested if prior to August 31.
September <del>4-11</del> – December 31	Twenty- <del>five</del> percent ( <del>20%</del> ) ( <u>25%</u> ) of the <u>entire</u> commercial quota will be available from September <del>4-11</del> through December 31. The possession limit will be five (5) fish per person per calendar day, or if fishing from a vessel five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day. The fishery will be closed in each calendar week from 12:00 AM Friday until 11:59 PM Saturday during this sub period. There will be no commercial possession or sale of striped bass on these days for non floating trap net commercial fishermen. The fishery will close when the entire commercial quota is projected to be harvested.

In addition, if Fish and Wildlife determines that the quota will be exceeded or will not be

met before the end of the fall season, Fish and Wildlife may adjust that catch rate accordingly on or after September 15, annually.

**12.4 Commercial Striped Bass Tags** -- No striped bass may be sold unless it has been properly identified with a special tag provided by Fish and Wildlife. Fish and Wildlife may designate tagging agents as appropriate. All designated tagging agents shall keep and maintain the required forms and logs specified by Fish and Wildlife. (RIMFC REGULATIONS) [Penalty - Part 3.3; (RIGL 20-3-3)]

**12.5 Special Striped Bass Quota - Trap Net** -- During a single calendar year Rhode Island floating trap net companies licensed and operating under §20-2-26 shall be allowed to harvest and market not more than ~~forty~~ thirty-nine percent 39% of the annual Rhode Island commercial quota established in Part 12.3. These striped bass must be at least twenty-six inches (26") in total length. Each individual fish shall be immediately marked with tags supplied by Fish and Wildlife. All trap net companies shall keep daily records of striped bass landings. Weekly summaries of daily landings shall be submitted to Fish and Wildlife. When Fish and Wildlife has determined that the annual quota allocated to floating fish traps has been reached the trap net harvest of striped bass will terminate. A notice terminating the fishery will be filed with the Secretary of State to be effective upon filing.