

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

**12.1 Striped Bass Size/Possession Limits/Season in the Recreational Striped Bass Fisheries** -- Except as provided in Parts 12.3 and 12.5, no person shall possess in Rhode Island any striped bass which measures less than twenty-eight inches (28") in total length, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State, or otherwise. Except as provided in Parts 12.3 and 12.5 no person shall possess, per calendar day, more than two (2) striped bass, whether caught within the jurisdiction of Rhode Island or otherwise. There is no closed season for striped bass. Compliance with the possession limit aboard vessels will be determined by dividing the number of fish onboard a vessel by the number of recreational fishermen onboard said vessel. (RIMF REGULATION) [Penalty Part 12.2; (RIGL 20-4-11)

**12.2 Striped Bass Violations - Penalties** -- Any person, firm, or corporation shall be fined not more than fifty dollars (\$50) for each striped bass taken, possessed, sold, possessed for sale, or offered for sale in violation of the provisions of this Chapter. In addition to the fine, the fish trap license of the person, firm, or corporation violating the second provision of § 20-4-12 of this Chapter shall be suspended for a period of one (1) year. (RIGL 20-4-11)

**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 – May 31	The commercial fishery will be CLOSED from January 1 through May 31, annually.
June 4 <del>6</del> – August 31	Seventy-five percent (75%) of the commercial quota will be available from June 4 <del>6</del> – August 31. The possession limit will be five (5) fish per vessel per

	<p>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 seventy-five percent (75%) of the commercial quota is projected to be harvested if prior to August 31.</p>
<p>September 13– December 31</p>	<p>Twenty-five percent (25%) of the commercial quota will be available from September 13 through December 31. The possession limit will be 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.</p>

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. ~~If on November 1, any of the floating fish trap quota remains, including the 10,000 pound floating fish trap quota set aside, that poundage will be committed to a general category available to the entire commercial fishery.~~

**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 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.

Floating Fish Trap operators will be required to report landings of striped bass to SAFIS every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, of every week that the trap is in operation.

If there is noncompliance with the reporting requirements as set forth above, the Floating Fish Trap operators will default to the program as set forth below:

The following seasons are established for the commercial trap net fishery –

<p>January 1 – <del>August 26</del> <u>December 31</u></p>	<p>One hundred percent (100%) of the floating trap quota shall be available from January 1 through <u>December 31</u> <del>August 26</del> minus a 10,000 pound set aside. Once eighty percent (80%) of the seasonal allocation is projected to be harvested the possession limit shall be 500 pounds per fish trap licensee per calendar day.</p>
<p><del>August 27 – December 31</del></p>	<p><del>The 10,000 pound floating fish trap quota set aside shall be available from August 27 through December 31 with no limit on possession. The fishery shall close once the entire floating trap quota is harvested.</del></p>

If the Floating Fish Trap operators are found to be out of compliance with the reporting regulations as set forth above, the operators will be notified and a notice will be filed with the Secretary of States Office.

**(RIMF REGULATIONS) [Penalty - Part 3.3; (RIGL 20-3-3)]**

**12.6 Gill Net Prohibition for Striped Bass -- No person shall take or possess any striped bass while gill netting, or while hauling a gill net (RIMFC REGS) [Penalty - Part 3.3; (RIGL 20-3-3)]**

**12.7 Striped Bass 50-yard Closure Zone for Gill Nets -- It shall be illegal to set, haul, or maintain a gill net within 50 yards of the Rhode Island coastline (mean high tide line) in the following areas and during the following seasons:**