



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FISH AND WILDLIFE  
&  
LAW ENFORCEMENT



**RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES  
REGULATIONS**

**Part XII  
Striped Bass**

~~March 31, 2016~~

**Proposed/annotated changes**

**Public Hearing**  
**February 13, 2017**

**Hearing Item 2a.**  
**Recreational Striped Bass**  
**(section 12.1)**

**Option 1: Status quo**

12.1 Recreational:

12.1.1 Minimum size: Twenty-eight inches (28") in total length, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State, or otherwise.

12.1.2 Season: There is no closed season for recreational striped bass.

12.1.3 Possession limit: One (1) fish per person per day, whether caught within the jurisdiction of Rhode Island or otherwise.

(A) Possession limit compliance aboard vessels:

(1) Licensed party/charter vessels: Possession limit compliance aboard licensed party/charter vessels will be determined by dividing the number of fish by the number of fishermen onboard the boat.

(2) Multiple licensed recreational fishermen fishing from a single vessel: Possession limit compliance aboard vessels with multiple licensed fishermen will be determined by dividing the number of fish by the number of licensed fishermen on board said vessel.

**Hearing Item 2b.**  
**Commercial Striped Bass General Category**  
**(section 12.2)**

**Option 1: Status quo**

12.2 Commercial – General Category:

12.2.1 Minimum size: Thirty four (34) inches or greater in total length, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this state or otherwise.

12.2.2 Seasons, allocations, and possession limits: During a single calendar year, the general category Striped bass fishery shall be allowed to harvest not more than 61% of the annual Rhode Island commercial quota.

(A) January 1 – May 28: Closed.

(B) May 29 – August 31:

- (1) Allocation: 70% of the general category quota will be available in this sub-period.
- (2) Possession limit: Five (5) fish per person per calendar day, or if fishing from a vessel, five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day.
- (3) 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 general category commercial fishermen.
- (4) The sub-period will close once 70% of the general category quota is projected to be harvested if prior to August 31.

(C) September 8 – December 31:

- (1) Allocation: 30% of the general category quota will be available in this sub-period.
- (2) Possession limit: Five (5) fish per person per calendar day, or if fishing from a vessel, five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day.
- (3) 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 general category commercial fishermen.
- (4) The sub-period will close when 30% of the general category quota is projected to be harvested.
- (5) If DFW determines that the quota will be exceeded or will not be met before the end of the fall season, DFW may adjust that catch rate accordingly on or after September 15 annually.

## **Option 2: Industry proposal**

### 12.2 Commercial – General Category:

12.2.1 Minimum size: Thirty four (34) inches or greater in total length, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this state or otherwise.

12.2.2 Seasons, allocations, and possession limits: During a single calendar year, the general category Striped bass fishery shall be allowed to harvest not more than 61% of the annual Rhode Island commercial quota.

- (A) January 1 – May ~~28~~ 27: Closed.
- (B) May ~~29~~ 28 – August ~~31~~ 14:
- (1) Allocation: ~~70~~ 60% of the general category quota will be available in this sub-period.
  - (2) Possession limit: Five (5) fish per person per calendar day, or if fishing from a vessel, five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day.
  - (3) 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 general category commercial fishermen.
  - (4) The sub-period will close once ~~70~~ 60% of the general category quota is projected to be harvested if prior to August ~~31~~ 14.
- (C) September 8 August 15 – December 31:
- (1) Allocation: ~~30~~ 40% of the general category quota will be available in this sub-period.
  - (2) Possession limit: Five (5) fish per person per calendar day, or if fishing from a vessel, five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day.
  - (3) 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 general category commercial fishermen.
  - (4) The sub-period will close when ~~30~~ 40% of the general category quota is projected to be harvested.
  - (5) If DFW determines that the quota will be exceeded or will not be met before the end of the fall season, DFW may adjust that catch rate accordingly on or after September 15 annually.

### **Option 3: Industry proposal**

#### **12.2 Commercial – General Category:**

12.2.1 Minimum size: Thirty four (34) inches or greater in total length, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this state or otherwise.

12.2.2 Seasons, allocations, and possession limits: During a single calendar year,

the general category Striped bass fishery shall be allowed to harvest not more than 61% of the annual Rhode Island commercial quota.

(A) January 1 – May ~~28~~ 14: Closed.

(B) May 29 15 – August 31 ~~September 2~~:

(1) Allocation: ~~70~~ 80% of the general category quota will be available in this sub-period.

(2) Possession limit: Five (5) fish per person per calendar day, or if fishing from a vessel, five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day.

(3) 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 general category commercial fishermen.

(4) The sub-period will close once ~~70~~ 80% of the general category quota is projected to be harvested if prior to ~~August 31~~ **September 2**.

(C) September ~~8~~ 3 – December 31:

(1) Allocation: ~~30~~ 20% of the general category quota will be available in this sub-period.

(2) Possession limit: Five (5) fish per person per calendar day, or if fishing from a vessel, five (5) fish per vessel per calendar day.

(3) 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 general category commercial fishermen.

(4) The sub-period will close when ~~30~~ 20% of the general category quota is projected to be harvested.

(5) If DFW determines that the quota will be exceeded or will not be met before the end of the fall season, DFW may adjust that catch rate accordingly on or after September 15 annually.

**Hearing Item 2c.**  
**Commercial Striped Bass Floating Fish Traps**  
**(section 12.4)**

**Option 1: Status quo**

12.4 Commercial - Floating Fish Trap:

12.4.1 Floating fish trap operators must be permitted pursuant to RIGL §20-5-1, and abide by all conditions as specified in RIGL Chapter 20-5 and RIMFR Part XIV. Application shall be made to the DFW on forms prescribed by the Director.

12.4.2 Allocation: During a single calendar year, the floating fish trap quota shall not be more than thirty-nine percent (39%) of the annual Rhode Island commercial quota.

12.4.3 Minimum size: Twenty-six inches (26") in total length.

12.4.4 Season: April 1 through December 31.

12.4.5 When DFW has determined that the annual quota allocated to floating fish traps has been reached, the fishery will terminate.

12.4.6 Reporting: All floating fish trap operators shall keep daily records of striped bass landings and report landings to SAFIS every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, of every week that the trap is in operation.

12.4.7 If the floating fish trap operators are found to be out of compliance with the reporting requirements, the operators will be notified, and default to following program

- (A) April 1 – December 31: One hundred percent (100%) of the floating fish trap quota shall be available during this sub-period. Once eighty percent (80%) of the seasonal allocation is projected to be harvested the possession limit shall be 500 pounds per floating fish trap licensee per calendar day.

**Option 2: Industry proposal**

12.4 Commercial - Floating Fish Trap:

12.4.1 Floating fish trap operators must be permitted pursuant to RIGL §20-5-1, and abide by all conditions as specified in RIGL Chapter 20-5 and RIMFR Part XIV. Application shall be made to the DFW on forms prescribed by the Director.

12.4.2 **Seasons, allocations, and possession limits:** During a single calendar

year, the floating fish trap quota shall not be more than thirty-nine percent (39%) of the annual Rhode Island commercial quota.

~~12.4.3~~(A) Minimum size: Twenty-six inches (26") in total length.

~~12.4.4~~(B) Season: April 1 through December 31.

**(C) Possession limit: Unlimited. Once seventy percent (70%) of the seasonal allocation is projected to be harvested the possession limit shall be 200 pounds per floating fish trap licensee per calendar day.**

12.4.5 When DFW has determined that the annual quota allocated to floating fish traps has been reached, the fishery will terminate.

12.4.6 Reporting: All floating fish trap operators shall keep daily records of striped bass landings and report landings to SAFIS every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, of every week that the trap is in operation.

12.4.7 If the floating fish trap operators are found to be out of compliance with the reporting requirements, the operators will be notified, and default to following program

(A) April 1 – December 31: One hundred percent (100%) of the floating fish trap quota shall be available during this sub-period. Once eighty percent (80%) of the seasonal allocation is projected to be harvested the possession limit shall be 500 pounds per floating fish trap licensee per calendar day.