

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM 2b.
STRIPED BASS - COMMERCIAL GENERAL CATEGORY

Option 1: Status Quo

12.32 Commercial – General Category:

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

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

(A) January 1 – June 7: Closed annually.

(B) June 8 – August 31:

(1) Allocation: Seventy percent (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 seventy percent (70%) of the general category quota is projected to be harvested if prior to August 31.

(C) September 8 – December 31:

(1) Allocation: Thirty percent (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.

12.4.3 If the Division estimates that the Floating Fish Trap sector will not fully utilize its allocation prior to the end of the season, beginning on October 15, the Division may move the Floating Fish Trap allocation into the general category fishery. The Division will consult with the Floating Fish Trap Licensees or their designee prior to enacting any allocation roll over, and will maintain written correspondence in the form of a letter on file as proof of said consultation.