



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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### Marine Fisheries Advisory

#### **COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS FISHERY TO OPEN ON JUNE 20**

The commercial striped bass fishery is scheduled to open Monday, June 20, 2022. This is the first open fishing day on or after June 16. The season will commence with three consecutive open fishing days—Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays—and closed fishing days of Thursdays–Sundays. Additionally, this year the commercial fishery will be closed on Monday, July 4 and Monday, September 5 (Labor Day). Provided the quota has not been taken by October 1, Thursdays and Fridays will be added to the open fishing day schedule, thereby allowing the commercial fishery to occur five days per week (Mondays–Fridays) with closed fishing days on Saturdays and Sundays.

During any open commercial fishing day, commercial fishers may retain striped bass in accordance with the commercial fishing limits; on closed commercial fishing days, all striped bass catch must adhere to the 2022 recreational fishing rules. For 2022, the commercial size limit remains 35" or greater. The commercial possession and landing limit is 15 fish for boat-based permits when fishing activity is conducted onboard the vessel named on the permit and 2 fish for all other commercial striped bass fishing activities. Commercial possession and landing limits are applied to the vessel regardless of how many permit holders may be onboard. High-grading is prohibited.

As open fishing days are consecutive, commercial fishermen may fish overnight tides spanning open fishing days. For example, fishermen may retain, land, and sell fish on a Monday and then begin fishing again on Monday and continue fishing into Tuesday morning to land and sell fish. However, in doing so, they may not possess or sell more than one limit during any calendar day.

The commercial quota for 2022 is 735,240 pounds. This is the allowable quota adopted under Addendum VI to the Interstate Striped Bass Management Plan (2020) to achieve a reduction in commercial removals comparable to the reduction in harvest achieved by the recreational slot limit and consistent with the effort to reduce the overall fishing mortality rate to its target level. The 2022 commercial fishery will close on November 15 or once 100% of the quota is taken, whichever occurs sooner.

The Cape Cod Canal ("Canal") remains closed to commercial striped bass fishing. This closure was implemented in 2020 to address numerous and worsening public safety and nuisance issues. This closure requires striped bass retained from the Canal or possessed within 1,000 feet of the

Canal adhere to the recreational striped bass limits. Exempt from this are striped bass caught elsewhere that are being transported directly to a seafood dealer.

For 2022, the recreational striped bass fishery is subject to a 1-fish per angler daily bag limit and a slot limit of 28” to less than 35”. Accordingly, anglers may only possess more than 1-fish per angler and fish exceeding 35” if commercially permitted and fishing on an open commercial fishing day during the commercial striped bass season. Commercial fishing for striped bass may not occur aboard a vessel at the same time as recreational fishing for striped bass. Commercial fishermen are reminded of the requirement to report all striped bass harvested under the authority of a commercial permit on forms provided by the Division.

**For more information, please visit our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)).**