



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

2020 Commercial Striped Bass Fishery

The 2020 commercial striped bass fishery is scheduled to open on Wednesday, June 24. Over this winter, several adjustments were made to the commercial striped bass regulations, including changes to the commercial minimum size, the open fishing days, and a closure of the Cape Cod Canal to commercial striped bass fishing; for additional information, see DMF's [April 16](#) and [June 3](#) advisories. This advisory serves to lay out the commercial striped bass rules for 2020.

2020 Commercial Striped Bass Fishery Limits					
Activity	Open Season	Open Fishing Days	Closed Fishing Days	Possession Limit	Minimum Size
Boat-based permit from named vessel	June 24 – Quota	Mon/Wed	Tues, Thur – Sun & Labor Day	15 fish	35"
All other fishing activity	June 24 – Quota	Mon/Wed	Tues, Thur – Sun & Labor Day	2 fish	35"
2020 Annual Quota: 735,240 pounds					

In addition to the limits described in the table above, there are a number of longstanding rules affecting the commercial striped bass fishery. A commercial fishing permit with a regulated fishery permit endorsement for striped bass is required and trip-level catch reporting is mandatory. Striped bass may be taken by hook and line gear only; striped bass taken in any other gear must be immediately returned to the water. The high-grading of striped bass is prohibited, meaning that you cannot discard previously retained fish in favor of larger fish. The gaffing of any striped bass below the minimum size limit is prohibited. When fishing commercially, recreationally fishing may also not occur. The possession limits above apply per trip or per calendar day, whichever period is longer, and apply to the vessel per calendar day regardless of the number of permits held or carried onboard. Commercial fishermen may only sell commercial striped bass on open fishing days during the open season to seafood dealers authorized as primary buyers. Prior to sale, commercial fishermen may not fillet or process striped bass in any manner except evisceration.

For all commercial striped bass regulations, please refer to [322 CMR 6.07](#).