



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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August 11, 2023

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2023 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS FISHERY CLOSED

DMF is projecting that 100% of Massachusetts' 2023 commercial striped bass quota has been taken. Accordingly, the fishery will close effective immediately ([Closure Notice](#)). Unless otherwise notified, the commercial striped bass fishery will remain closed until it reopens in 2024. During this closed period, it is unlawful for fishers to retain, possess, or land striped bass for commercial purposes or in a manner that does not comply with the state's recreational fishing regulations for the species. 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 31". Recreational fishers are required to use circle hooks when fishing with natural baits and are prohibited from gaffing striped bass.

For seafood dealers, during this quota closure it is unlawful to purchase or receive striped bass from commercial fishers. Dealers may continue to possess striped bass, import striped bass from dealers operating in another state, and sell lawfully possessed striped bass. All striped bass in the possession of dealers must comply with the commercial striped bass tagging requirements. Dealers are also reminded that the Division of Marine Fisheries will be providing them with a written request to return all unused 2023 Striped Bass ID Tags and submit a Tag Accounting Report. If a dealer cannot account for an unused tag, they must provide this information in the Tag Accounting Report. Failure to return or account for unused tags may result in the dealer being unable to participate as a primary buyer of striped bass in future years.

Commercial fishers are to submit monthly trip-level reports by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit was not fished. Reports should be sent to: DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its endorsements in 2024. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2023 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

For more information about the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.