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Marine Fisheries Advisory

COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS FISHERY CLOSED EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

The Commonwealth's 2017 commercial striped bass quota of 800,885 pounds is projected to have been taken on Thursday, August 31, 2017. Accordingly, Massachusetts 2017 commercial striped bass fishery is closed effective today—Friday, September 1, 2017 ([Closure Notice](#)). Until the 2018 commercial striped bass fishery opens, fishermen are prohibited from possessing more than one striped bass that measures at least 28 inches in total length per person or selling or attempting to sell any striped bass in the Commonwealth.

Commercial fishermen are reminded that even if their permit was not fished, their August 2017 trip-level report is due no later than September 15, 2017. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its regulated fishery permit endorsements in 2018. All trip-level reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2017 commercial fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the Division of Marine Fisheries [website](#).

Similarly, effective today—Friday, September 1, 2017—seafood dealers in Massachusetts are prohibited from purchasing or receiving striped bass from any fisherman until the 2018 commercial striped bass fishing season opens. During this closed period, dealers may possess and sell striped bass that are imported into the Commonwealth, provided these fish were lawfully caught in another state and bear a tag with the state of origin. If the fish are re-sold whole, the tag must remain affixed to the fish. If the fish are processed after importation, all containers of fillets shall describe the state of origin, Massachusetts processor, quantity of fillets, and species; original tags are to be retained at the dealer's facility for 30 days after processing. Through September 5, 2017, all striped bass in the possession of a Massachusetts dealer—regardless of state of origin—must be 34 inches in total length or larger. Beginning on September 6, 2017, dealers may import sub-legal sized product provided it conforms to the minimum size of the state of origin.

Dealers are also reminded that the Division of Marine Fisheries will be providing them with a written request to return all unused 2017 Striped Bass ID Tags and submit a Tag Accounting Report. If a dealer cannot account for an unused tag, s/he 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.

For more information regarding the management of striped bass, please review Massachusetts' striped bass regulations at [322 CMR 6.07](#), visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries, or call the Division of Marine Fisheries at 617-626-1520.