



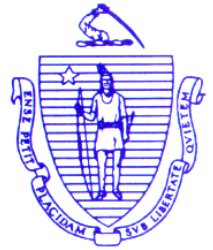
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September 11, 2018

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Adjustments to Commercial Striped Bass Open Fishing Days and Public Comment Period

Current quota monitoring data demonstrates that just under 250,000 pounds – approximately 30% - of the commercial striped bass quota remains. In recent weeks, daily harvest levels have averaged about 20,000 – 25,000 pounds. If current conditions persist, we do not project closing the fishery until October. Moreover, current weather projections and typical fall weather may constrain fishing activity reducing our ability to utilize the available quota.

To ensure that the 2018 commercial quota is taken, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries is taking public comment on increasing the number of open commercial fishing days. DMF is proposing to increase the number of commercial fishing days for striped bass for the remainder of the 2018 season. This would adjust the number of open fishing days per week from two days (Mondays and Thursdays) to three or four days per week, by adding Tuesdays, Wednesdays or both.

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) will review DMF's recommendation and vote on whether or not to authorize the Director to take this action at its September 13, 2018 [business meeting](#). Additional notification will be sent out this Friday – September 14, 2018 - to inform the public of the MFAC's decision on this matter. If approved, these new fishing days will go into effect for fishing week beginning on September 17, 2018.

DMF will accept public comment on this proposal through 5PM on Tuesday, September 25, 2018. Any comment received will be provided to the MFAC and DMF may recommend further revisions to the 2018 commercial striped bass limits based on these comments.

For more information about black sea bass management, please visit our website:
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries