



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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July 30, 2024

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Update on Commercial Striped Bass Fishing Days

DMF's commercial striped bass regulations include a fishery performance-based trigger to add Thursday as an open fishing day (joining Tuesday and Wednesday) effective August 1 if more than 30% of the quota is projected to remain after July 31. Please be advised that DMF will not be making a decision whether to add Thursday as an open day until next Monday, August 5. Accordingly, **Thursday, August 1 remains a closed day to commercial striped bass fishing**, and August 8 is the first Thursday that may *potentially* be opened to commercial striped bass fishing.

Rationale: Dealer-reported landings data used for quota monitoring are due each Tuesday for the prior week. Commercial striped bass landings through the week ending July 20 total roughly 340,000 pounds, or 50% of the quota, with dealer reported landings for last week expected today. Daily landings throughout the season have increased, averaging greater than 50,000 pounds per day during the week ending July 20. The two open days this week are July 30 and July 31, with favorable fishing conditions forecasted. If daily landings this week and last week follow similar trends, harvest through July 31 will be above 70% quota-use (i.e., > 478,641 pounds), but if landings decline, that projection could change. Given this situation, DMF will validate this week's landings before assessing the 70% quota-use trigger. DMF will issue another advisory on August 5 as to whether or not Thursday will be added as an open day effective August 8.

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