



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC)

FROM: Daniel J. McKiernan, Director 

DATE: August 19, 2020

SUBJECT: **Recommendation to Make In-Season Adjustments to Commercial Striped Bass Open Fishing Days**

On August 10, 2020, DMF solicited public comment on a proposal to increase the number of open fishing days for the remainder of the 2020 commercial fishing season (see [Advisory](#)). The proposal specifically sought to add Tuesdays and Thursdays as open fishing days effective September 1 and then go to a seven-day commercial fishing week effective October 2. The purpose of this proposal was to provide active commercial fishermen with additional access to the available striped bass quota and to allow businesses to fish around worsening seasonal weather, which may limit small boat effort.

Recommendation

I recommend that the MFAC vote in favor adding two open fishing days – Tuesdays and Thursdays – to the commercial striped bass fishery effective September 1 for the remainder of the 2020 fishing year. This would increase the number of potential fishing days between now and the end of October from 19 to 36.

Note that this final recommendation differs slightly from the August 10 proposal. I am not recommending a seven-day open fishing week at this time. Given the animosity expressed by recreational fishermen in the public comment, I think it is appropriate to continue to prohibit commercial fishing on Fridays – Sundays to ameliorate user group conflict that may arise over weekends when recreational fishermen traditionally access the fishery.

This recommendation is consistent with the reasoning set forth in the August 10 proposal, which was to provide access to the available quota and allow business to fish around worsening weather in the fall. It also reflects the logic set forth in my March 27, 2020 commercial striped bass recommendation memo to the MFAC. At the end of this memo (p4), I indicate my preference for making in-season adjustments to provide more liberal access to available quota at the end of the season to liberalizing limits at the start of the season. I favored this approach because there were numerous questions facing the fishery at the start of the season and I felt it would be better to try to manage the fishery in near-real time to consider quota availability, market conditions, and fishery performance.

Public Comment

At this time, DMF has received about 250 public comments in response to the August 10 proposal. Similar to 2018 and 2019, the comment was dominated by recreational anglers, including an organized write in campaign by a nation-wide organization. These recreational anglers do not support taking any action to enhance access to the commercial quota and many expressed a desire to see the commercial fishery eliminated and striped bass given gamefish status. Commenters also expressed conservation concerns regarding the proposal. There were several common themes among these comments, including that poor fishing conditions around the Cape and Islands were a harbinger of another collapse and that the commercial fishery taking large breeding size fish was exacerbating current stock conditions.

There were also numerous comments in favor of the proposal from commercial fishing interests. These fishermen supported the proposal because they would have more access to the available quota and this would help mitigate against the loss of days to weather and economic conditions in other fisheries that have been depressed due to the pandemic.

Rationale

Our most recent quota monitoring reports (through August 15) demonstrates that the 2020 commercial striped bass fishery has landed just under 31% of its 735,240 pound quota with average daily landings of about 18,000 pounds. This leaves about 500,000 pounds of quota available for the remainder of the fishing year. Commercial fishermen and dealers have reported a strong ex-vessel value of about \$6 per pound, which is reflected in SAFIS dealer data that shows an average price per pound of \$5.50. Adding commercial fishing days would allow fishermen to capitalize on this strong market, which could provide some economic relief to fishermen who may be struggling in other areas of their business operations due to pandemic related impacts. This includes recouping impacted commercial striped bass related income due to a soft market at the start of the season, as prices ranged from \$2.33 to \$4.24 per pound as compared to 2019 when prices ranged between \$4.70 and \$5.67 per pound.

In the public comment, there was a sentiment that this action would lead to a substantial increase in effort and use of the quota. I do not believe this to be true. Recall that in 2019, DMF did not take any action to make in-season adjustments to take the available quota. Accordingly, last year provides a decent barometer for projecting performance this fall if my recommendation is not approved. During the 2019 summer months, the fishery was averaging just over 20,000 pounds of landings per day. In September, landings dropped by about 50% to about 10,000 pounds per day and further dropped to about 3,000 pounds per day in October before tapering off entirely by the end of the month. This matches anecdotal reports from fishermen that landings wane beginning in September and conclude by the end of October due to worsening weather, loss of seasonal participants, and the southern migration of the resource.

If we do not make any in-season adjustments and anticipate similar conditions this year, we can expect to have landed about 300,000 pounds of the quota by the end of the month, and less than 400,000 pounds by mid-October when the fishery usually ends. That is just over 50% of the 2020 commercial quota. However, if my recommendation is approved, I project that we would land about 50,000 to 100,000 more pounds. This would bring our annual landings up to 450,000 to 50,000 pounds, which is still less than last year's harvest of 586,128 pounds. If this occurs, mortality would only be increased by about 2,500 to 5,000 fish (using a 20-pound per fish average), which is a very small contribution to overall fishing mortality and an order of magnitude lower than harvest in our recreational fishery.

Public comment also expressed concern that the reason the fishery is underperforming is that the resource is not as strong as it has been in recent years. The latest stock assessment does indeed demonstrate that the number of large fish in the population is down from a high in the mid 2000's. This is owing to a number of poor year classes from 10-14 years ago, which are now passing through the fishery at a size >35". While this will contribute to lower availability and lower catch rates, this alone cannot explain the greatly diminished catch rates particularly on Cape Cod. Other factors are clearly in play (and are discussed in more detail below). Moreover, the quota is set based on the estimated biomass and the target mortality rate. Thus, while the perception of the recreational public is that taking the quota is a conservation issue, the quota is in fact based on sound scientific underpinnings, as are the new recreational measures; both are crafted to reduce fishing mortality to the target rate.

Part of this story regarding reduced catch rates relates to the management of this fishery. Most significant is the requirement that only hook and line gear be used to take striped bass. This law, [G.L. c. 130, 100B](#), was enacted by the Legislature many decades ago and is widely supported by the public. Since 2013, DMF and the MFAC have enacted numerous regulatory measures that have constrained the fishery's performance. This includes: a February 28 permit renewal deadline (2013); halving the number of open fishing days per week from 4 to 2, including eliminating Sundays (a popular day for part-time commercial fishermen) (2014); reducing daily trip limits from 30-fish on weekdays and 5-fish on Sundays to 15-fish for boat-based permit holders and 2-fish for all other permit holders (2014)¹; restricted the ability for for-hire operators to fish commercially during a for-hire trip (2014); required fin clipping to prevent stockpiling (2015); closed the commercial fishery around summer holidays (2018); increased the minimum size from 34" to 35" (2020); and closed the Cape Cod Canal to commercial fishing (2020). These actions were taken to address unique fishing conditions off Cape Cod that were leading to substantial increases in effort and causing market gluts and enforcement issues. These measures have had a cumulative impact on the fishery and its ability to access the resource and this impact has become much greater in recent years as the stock size has decreased and availability has changed.

The accessibility of the resource has clearly changed in recent years. This is not just because of stock size, but more significantly, changing oceanographic conditions and predator/prey distribution. Warming waters and forage availability influence where and when striped bass aggregate and predators like seals and white sharks also have similar effects. These factors may be driving fish away from the inshore waters along the Cape, which has historically been the epicenter of the striped bass fishery. We have also seen anecdotal evidence of this over the past few years, with increasing reports of striped bass in the federal zone and the commercial fishery becoming more active in Boston Harbor and the North Shore in response to dense schools of menhaden.

Commenters also raised concerns about the size of fish harvested by the commercial fishery. Some recreational anglers expressed frustration that commercial anglers can harvest larger fish that recreational anglers no longer have access to under the current slot limit. Per my March 27 memo, this was done to make it more difficult to retain market-sized fish on non-commercial days, to enhance enforcement, and to simplify management. However, it has created an equity issue for some recreational fishermen. This

¹ The combined impact of the reduction in open fishing days and trip limits reduced the aggregate weekly landing limit from 95-fish to 30-fish for boat-based permit holders and 2-fish for all other permit holders.

cannot be solved through the proposed in-season adjustment but should be discussed in developing future regulations.

Another aspect of this concern is that some anglers view the current recreational slot limit as a means of protecting larger fecund females. While this may have contributed to why some anglers preferred the slot limit, it was not why DMF favored the slot limit and why the slot limit was selected as the coastwide management option. The slot limit was preferred and selected because it was modeled to reduce recreational mortality by the required 18% while still allowing recreational anglers to be able to retain fish in a size class that is commonly caught. This then leads to the concern that the commercial fishery is contributing to the decline of the stock by virtue of removing large fecund females. However, these removals are accounted for in the projections of the size structure of the harvest and in the calculations of quota based on a target fishing mortality rate. Moreover, it should be noted that, while the commercial fishery is still allowed to harvest larger fish, the recreational fishery is no longer harvesting these fish, so the net result will be far fewer large fish harvested even if the entire commercial quota was taken.

I'd also like to add that DMF has historically regulated the commercial fishery in a manner that forces them to harvest larger fish. This was preferred for several reasons. First, it tended to favor the more skilled, and one may argue, professional fishermen. Smaller fish are more available and catchable to anglers of lesser skill, whereas the larger fish tend to require more skill to catch, and often a vessel to venture offshore to deeper waters. In turn, this reduced daily landings and allowed the quota to be consumed over a longer period of time to avoid market gluts and make fish available to local markets throughout the summer tourist season. Quota consumption is a critical point given the fact that the state's quota would be reduced if the commercial fishery targeted smaller fish because the quota is based on the number of fish harvested. Also, there was a sentiment that if the commercial minimum size was similar to the recreational minimum size it would worsen user group conflicts because both sectors would be fishing on the same size of fish.

In summary, there are numerous factors contributing to the current performance of this fishery. This includes a historic management approach that, given current stock conditions and environmental factors, is likely too conservative. While concerns about the status of the stock are legitimate and shared by DMF, the coastwide quota management system takes this into account when setting the commercial quota. My recommendation to increase the number of fishing days per week will result in commercial fishery landings that are well within this quota, and in fact, I do not anticipate these changes will result in the quota being achieved. Additionally, for the reasons stated above, I do not share the concerns stated about the harvest of large fecund females by our commercial fishery. Accordingly, I argue that my recommendation is appropriate and should be approved.

Other Considerations

Recent fishery performance and public comment from both commercial and recreational fishermen on commercial striped bass management issues over the past several years indicate that we need to consider whether our current management approach is appropriate. As stated above, this management system was devised over the course of the last four decades to address the emerging issues of that day and their negative impacts on the economics of the fishery and the summertime supply of striped bass to our markets. We now faced with a new set of challenges and need to reconsider how this quota is managed.

One of my central issues is the excessive level of participants. DMF typically issues over 4,500 permit holders, with just a fraction of them (usually less than 1,000) reporting selling fish. This raises some questions about the accountability of the fishery and the harvest estimates, and I believe this is an area where management can be improved. For instance, while inappropriate, some anglers may obtain the commercial permit as a means to circumvent the recreational restrictions of 1-fish per day in the 7-inch (28-35") slot limit. This concern is furthered because there are no requirements to sell fish taken under the authority of the commercial permit. Additionally, there is the issue of where commercial striped bass tagging occurs. All other states with a commercial fishery require their commercial fishermen tag the fish upon harvest, whereas in Massachusetts the dealers tag the fish upon first sale. DMF opted for the dealer-tagging program because of the overwhelming number of commercial permit holder and the administrative burden of issuing tags and retrieving unused tags at the end of the season. However, commercial harvest would be better accounted for if the tagging was done by the fishermen.

Accordingly, and regardless of the outcome of this recommendation, I have a strong interest in engaging the MFAC on how to manage the striped bass commercial fishery in the future. To this goal, I'd like to assemble a 3 or 4 person sub-committee of the MFAC to review the current striped bass commercial fishery management system and begin to develop recommendations for potential improvements.

Attached

August 10, 2020 Advisory

Public Comments through August 19, 2020



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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC)

FROM: Daniel J. McKiernan, Director 

DATE: August 18, 2020

SUBJECT: **Recommendation to Make In-Season Adjustments to Commercial Black Sea Bass Limits**

On August 10, 2020, DMF solicited public comment on a proposal to liberalize the commercial black sea bass limits for the remainder of the 2020 commercial fishing season (see [Advisory](#)). The specific proposal was two-fold. First, it sought to increase the number of open fishing days per week by adding Mondays and Wednesdays to achieve a five-day fishing week (Sun-Thur) beginning on August 31 and then adding Friday and Saturdays to achieve a seven-day fishing week beginning on October 2. Second, it looked to increase the trip limit for potters from 400 pounds to 500 pounds effective August 31. The purpose of this proposal was to provide active commercial fishermen with additional access to the available black sea bass quota and to allow businesses to fish around worsening seasonal weather, which may limit small boat effort.

Recommendation

I recommend that the MFAC vote in favor of the following in-season adjustments: (1) adding Mondays and Wednesdays as open fishing days beginning on August 31; (2) adding Fridays and Saturdays as open fishing days beginning October 2; (3) increasing the pot fishery trip limit by 25% from 400 pounds to 500 pounds effective August 31; and (4) increasing the hook and line fishery trip limit by 25% from 200 pounds to 250 pounds effective August 31.

Note that this final recommendation differs slightly from the August 10 proposal. Based on conversations with dealers, DMF did not initially propose increasing the trip limit for commercial hook and line fishermen. This is because dealers reported commercial hook and line anglers were seldomly taking their 200-pound limit. It was thought that this was due to the confluence of a number of factors including the fish being further offshore than normal during the summer; hook and line catch consisting primarily of medium and large market grade fish with few jumbos mixed in; and a depressed ex-vessel value for all market grades, but particularly the smaller grade fish comprising most of the catch. However, the public comment demonstrates an interest among some commercial anglers to increase the hook and line trip limit. Given the available quota, I support making this in-season adjustment to accommodate those instances when a commercial hook and line angler can take more than 200 pounds of black sea bass, particularly as they are travelling further distances and incurring additional overhead to catch them.

Accordingly, I am recommending a proportional (25%) increase to the commercial hook and line trip limit to 250 pounds.

Public Comment

As of August 17, 2020, DMF received numerous public comments in response to the August 10 proposal. In many cases, comments regarding black sea bass were lumped into concerns regarding the striped bass proposal. Those comments that focused exclusively on black sea bass generally supported the proposed adjustments and even advocated for more liberal limits (e.g., seven days per week beginning August 31 and higher trip limits for all gear types).

In advance of developing the proposal, DMF also sought insight from active commercial fishermen and dealers, including many of those who contributed to last December's ad-hoc working groups. The advice provided by these entities helped DMF develop the proposal and subsequent recommendation. Accordingly, we believe that these changes are supported by the commercial fishery.

Rationale

Our commercial black sea bass fishery has undoubtedly been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Dealers inform us that this is a fish that is primarily sold into urban restaurant markets. With the contraction in these markets, the demand and price for black sea bass has decreased. Dealers and commercial fishermen have reported to DMF that prices for medium grade fish have been as low as \$0.75 per pound at times this summer. This is reflected in preliminary SAFIS dealer data, which reported through August 17, show that the 2020 average ex-vessel price per pound is \$2.27 for all market sizes. This is down from \$3.15 average ex-vessel value for all market sizes in 2019. This low ex-vessel value has contributed to reduced profitability, which has also been exacerbated by the fish being further offshore this summer than they have been in past years and a year-class effect resulting in fewer large fish being available. This year class effect is the result of the exceptionally large 2011 year class contributing less to the overall population.

My above recommendation is consistent with the reasoning set forth in the August 10 proposal and is further aided by the public comment received to-date. As with striped bass and summer flounder, I was hesitant to make sweeping changes to the management of the fishery this year and preferred to rely on in-season adjustments, particularly with some of the uncertainty going into the commercial fishing season. As of August 8, the state landed almost 190,000 pounds of its 728,565-pound quota (25%). Compare this with the same time last year, when 232,000 had been landed. As you can see, commercial landings this year are off by about 40,000 pounds. Factor in that the commercial quota increased by about 270,000 pounds from 2019 to 2020 and we are looking at a substantial quota underage this year if no action is taken. Given these current circumstances, and considering the health of this stock, liberalizing the commercial fishing limits for the fall period is a reasonable approach. I suspect that, if adopted, these recommended changes will allow us to harvest most, if not all, of our available quota and provide much needed protein to consumers during this pandemic.

Attached

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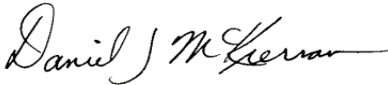
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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC)

FROM: Daniel J. McKiernan, Director 

DATE: August 18, 2020

SUBJECT: **Recommendation to Make In-Season Adjustments to Commercial Summer Flounder Limits**

On August 10, 2020, DMF solicited public comment on a proposal to liberalize the commercial summer flounder limits for the remainder of the 2020 commercial fishing season (see [Advisory](#)). The specific proposal was two-fold. First, it sought to increase the trawl fishery trip limit from 400 pounds to 600 pounds effective August 23. Second, it sought to move up the starting date of the current November 1 – December 31 rule that allows a 1,000-pound trip limit, seven days per week, to October 4. The purpose of this proposal was to provide active commercial fishermen with additional access to the available summer flounder and to allow businesses to fish around worsening seasonal weather, which may limit small boat effort.

Recommendation

I recommend that the MFAC vote in favor of the following in-season adjustments: (1) an increase in the trawl fishery trip limit from 400 pounds to 600 pounds during the period of August 23 – October 3 (at the existing 5 days per week); and (2) beginning October 4, an increase in the trawl fishery trip limit to 1,000 pounds, seven days per week. Those vessels participating in the Period II summer flounder pilot program will be allowed to land up to 1,200 pounds of summer flounder taken in 600-pound increments over a two-consecutive-day trip.

Public Comment

As of August 18, 2020, DMF received numerous public comments in response to the August 10 proposal. In many cases, comments regarding summer flounder were lumped into concerns regarding the striped bass proposal. Those comments that focused exclusively on summer flounder generally supported the proposed adjustments and even advocated for more liberal limits. However, there were some concerns expressed by both recreational and commercial fishermen regarding the status of the inshore summer flounder fishery around Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds.

Rationale

My above recommendation is consistent with the reasoning set forth in the August 10 proposal and is further aided by the public comment received to-date. As with striped bass and black sea bass, I was

hesitant to make sweeping changes to the management of the fishery this year and preferred to rely on in-season adjustments.

Anecdotally, we have seen an interesting geographic shift in the summertime fluke fishery in 2020 with reduced participation in the inshore fishery in the Sounds and more participation coming from the offshore fleet. This is reflected in the conversations DMF has had with fishermen and dealers, participation in the Period II fluke pilot program, and public comment. The contraction of the inshore fishery coupled with low daily summertime limits designed for the inshore fishery and to constrain seasonal participation by offshore vessels have contributed to reduced landings this summer.

When DMF implemented the Period II summer flounder pilot program, it was designed to allow inshore small boat fishermen to layup overnight near the fishing grounds off Nantucket to avoid the additional expenses incurred by having to steam back and forth to port. When the program was renewed for 2020 it was expected that participation would be dominated by the inshore fleet. This turned out to not be the case; of the 26 participants about half are vessels that are known to predominantly fish offshore. This indicates that a shift towards the offshore fishery is occurring. This is also reflected in staff conversations with offshore fishermen who have stated large catches of summer flounder are occurring about 20 to 40 miles south and east of Nantucket in federal waters and these catches include all size grades of fish. These vessels have indicated to DMF staff that in order to profitably target fluke on a multi-day trip they need a landing limit of about 1,000 pounds.

With regards to the inshore fishery, we have seen a decline this year in the number of trawlers who are participating this year. It has been reported to DMF that this is due to a number of factors. First, the abundance of large summer flounder in the Sounds is limited. The fishery is producing mostly medium grade fish¹. While the ex-vessel value for jumbos and large fish remains stable, the value for mediums is reported to be low. Additionally, the Sounds are producing large amounts of seaweed this year that are reportedly clogging up trawl nets making fishing conditions difficult. Some inshore vessels have reported that given the time spent tending their gear and dealing with seaweed they have frequently not been able to take their 400-pound limit². Given these factors and existing overhead (e.g., fuel, dockage), many fishermen have chosen not to participate in the inshore summer flounder trawl fishery.

Many of the boats that have traditionally participated in this fishery are deriving income from other fisheries for which they are permitted (e.g., scallops, lobster) or have turned to other endeavors (e.g., working as a research vessel). Those that remain are primarily the small (30' to 40') state-waters trawlers. While these operators do have LOAs to participate in the pilot program, they have reported to DMF that they are not actively doing so due to their vessel size limiting their ability to fish more distant grounds and retain large quantities of fish. Instead, they have favored making a go of it on day trips in more inshore areas.

Due to the confluence of these factors, landings have been slow in the summertime fishery. As of August 8, the summer fishery has landed about 200,000 pounds of summer flounder. Add this to the landings

¹ This echoes reports from dealers and commercial trawl fishermen at the December 2019 ad hoc industry meeting, as well as comments from commercial and recreational anglers.

² Note that the time when these draggers may fish is limited by state regulations. Mobile gear night closures prevent trawlers from fishing between ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise and the landing window requires summer flounder be landed before 8PM.

achieved by the Period I fishery, and the state has taken just under 400,000 pounds of its 786,399-pound quota.

If we are to let things remain status quo, the inshore fishery will likely wane over the next six to eight weeks and the offshore fishery will continue to be constrained by low landings limits. This will likely result in a large quantity of the remaining quota being allocated to the offshore fishery for the November – December period. If the January – March period in 2020 is any indicator of how this fishery will perform in November and December, it is likely that they will land less than 200,000 pounds. This leaves a substantial amount of the quota underutilized.

Rather than doing this, I'd rather increase the trip limits now. This may provide some benefit to those inshore trawlers that remain in the fishery, but primarily it will let the offshore fishery have more access to the quota. This action would effectively increase their trip limit to about 1,000 pounds for the remainder of the year³. Accordingly, they would be able to profitably target this resource and the state would more likely be able to take its available quota.

I recognize the concerns of recreational fishermen regarding how increasing effort in the summertime fishery may adversely impact their fishing conditions. However, I do not expect this action will result in more inshore effort, but instead a reallocation of the remaining 2020 quota to the offshore fishery, where there are fewer interactions with the recreational fleet.

That said, this does not diminish the concerns raised by the recreational fleet regarding the status of the inshore resource. These concerns are also echoed among our inshore commercial anglers and trawlers as well. There is uncertainty regarding the cause of this change and it deserves further investigation. Additionally, it is not my intention to reshape the summertime fishery away from inshore fishermen in favor of offshore fishermen. The inshore fishery is a critical source of revenue for small boat trawlers and rod and reel fishermen and should remain as such. This is instead a deviation in management in reaction to a number of complicated factors to ensure our available quota is taken this year. We will work to address these emerging issues with fishery participants and seafood dealers over the winter.

Attached

August 10, 2020 Advisory

Public Comments through August 18, 2020

³ Those offshore vessels fishing with LOAs to participate in the pilot program could potentially take up to 1,200 pounds on a two-plus day trip if the trip limit is increased to 600 pounds.



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August 10, 2020
Marine Fisheries Advisory

DMF Proposing In-Season Adjustments to the 2020 Commercial Fishing Limits for Certain Quota Managed Species

In response to fishery performance and quota utilization so far in 2020, and with consideration of market impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, DMF is proposing in-season adjustments to 2020 commercial fishing limits for striped bass, black sea bass, and summer flounder. These proposals are described in the bullets below.

- Striped Bass. DMF is proposing to add open fishing days to the 2020 commercial striped bass season. Beginning on September 1, 2020 Tuesdays and Thursdays will be added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing four days per week (Mondays – Thursdays). Then, effective October 2, 2020, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays will be added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing seven days per week.
- Black Sea Bass. DMF is proposing to add open fishing days to the 2020 commercial black sea bass season. Beginning on August 31, 2020 Mondays and Wednesdays will be added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing five days per week (Sundays – Thursdays). Then, effective October 2, 2020, Fridays and Saturdays will be added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing seven days per week. Additionally, DMF is proposing to increase the daily trip limit for pot fishermen from 400 pounds to 500 pounds effective Sunday, August 30.
- Summer Flounder. Beginning on August 23, 2020 DMF is proposing to increase the commercial summer flounder trip limit for trawlers from 400 pounds to 600 pounds. Vessels participating the [Period II Summer Flounder Pilot Program](#) will be subsequently allowed to possess and land 1,200 pounds taken over a two-day trip. Then on October 4, 2020 DMF is proposing to increase the commercial summer flounder trip limit to 1,000 pounds and eliminate closed fishing days (Fridays and Saturdays) allowing commercial fishing seven days per week.

In-season adjustments to commercial fishing limits for the late summer and fall period is a routine action by DMF. The purpose of proposed actions is to provide active commercial fishermen with additional access to these quota managed fisheries during the fall. This will let these businesses fish around worsening seasonal weather, which typically has a limiting impact on commercial fishing effort. They will also allow for commercial fishermen to have greater access to remaining quotas. As of August 1, 2020 approximately 25% of the state's 735,240

pound 2020 striped bass quota has been taken, 20% of the state's 728,565 pound 2020 black sea bass quota has been taken, and 48% of the state's 786,399 pound 2020 summer flounder quota has been taken.

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will review and vote on these proposals at the August 20, 2020 business meetings. If approved, in-season adjustments will be announced on August 21, 2020 and will be in effect for the remainder of 2020 or until 100% of the relevant 2020 commercial quotas have been taken.

Instructions for Public Comment

DMF will be accepting public comment on these proposals through 12PM on Monday, August 24, 2020. Please address all written comments to Director Dan McKiernan. All comments are to be submitted to DMF by e-mail (marine.fish@mass.gov) or by post (251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114).

For more information about the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

From: wahooslayer89@comcast.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: **ATTN. Dan McKiernan**Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 9:46:06 PM

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Dan,

I am an advocate of balance with nature. I don't believe in just catch and release. I also don't believe in just catch and kill. There is a delicate balance between the two. If the numbers and Striped bass biomass supported extra commercial fishing days, I would not oppose. However, this is absolutely ludicrous that the option to extend is even THOUGHT about. Let's not add gasoline to a heavy burning fire and allow this fish a chance. The numbers do not lie. If the population was in good shape for commercial fishing, the THOUGHT of needing more days would not exist. Think about that, please?

I want my 5 year old daughter and 1 year old son to have a chance at fishing for and catching this magnificent fish we all love...if they so choose to do so.

Please, PLEASE, listen to your gut and do the right thing!

Sincere Regards,

- Stephen Richter

From: [East Coast Angler](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Fishing Quota Increase
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 8:01:27 PM

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Dear Mr Dan McKiernan,

As an angler, conservationist, guide and tackle maker, my main hobby, business and I could say my lifestyle depends on abundant striped bass populations. I'm from New Brunswick, Canada, however, American striped bass can sometimes make up a significant portion of our runs, even the majority when the US population is healthy. My local Saint John River striped bass have also bred with US bass and some of these bass, including those from US rivers may spend years in Canadian waters before returning to the US as recently discovered via tracking/DNA studies performed by the Canadian Rivers Institute. One tagged bass even ended up in a fish market in Massachusetts. Allowing commercial harvest of such a valuable sport fish is truly no longer feasible nor realistic in this day and age when striped bass are worth many times more per pound to the recreational fishery and the many businesses recreational angling supports. Commercial fishing is not a tradition, it is an industry. It is time to phase it out via buyouts of licences of those whose livelihood truly depends on commercial striped bass harvest and also increase retention restrictions on the recreational fishery until the population rebounds to abundance. From what I am told, many of these commercial fishermen are just anglers looking to make a few extra dollars on the side and many often bend the rules for financial gain. If this is true, it is time to stop this practice. If the striped bass population is overfished, all retention needs to cease until the current situation is corrected. A few short years of no retention or tightly controlled retention via issuance of tags, will pay back 10 fold in a few years with a truly abundant striper population.

If you are not already aware, the Miramichi striped bass population went from near extinction (less than 5000 adults) to well over 1 million in only a little over 10 years of protection from angling retention and commercial fishing. The US population could easily rebound in less time if those responsible for managing the most important fishery on the east coast of the US, have the courage to make the right call and stop increasing harvest when the population is clearly overfished!

Sincerely,

Stephen Delaney
www.eastcoastangler.ca

From: [William Hoyerman](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Decrease Commercial Fishing on Striped Bass!
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 8:30:17 PM

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Dear Dan

As an avid, life long, striped bass fisherman, i depend on these fish for sanctitude. I literally beg you to not increase the commercial days for commercial fishermen. I am on the ground floor and That is wrong.

If you'd like more details please call me anytime!??

thank you

Bill Hoyerman 781/799-9506

Sent from my iPhone

From: [david bixby](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Do not increase days for commercial striped bass fishery
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:52:30 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director Dan McKieman,

Expanding the number of commercial fishing days for striped bass is an awful idea. There might be some pockets of large bass somewhere remaining to decimate, but that is not the case in most of our waters around cape cod where I fish. Large breeding-capable fish that used to be common only a few years ago are largely gone. We need greater protections, not less. When I first heard of your proposal I had thought it would be a decision to impose an emergency moratorium on the taking of all striped bass in Massachusetts pending a healthy recovery. Please do not increase the number of days for the “harvesting” of striped bass for commercial sale. If anything, you should stop the practice altogether.

David Bixby
Dbixby48@icloud.com
Chatham, MA

From: kaufmann@nycap.rr.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Increase days for commercial fishery
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 8:47:52 AM

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I am normally skeptical about anecdotal observations as the source of analysis.

I have been fishing for striped bass for half a century. The decline of harvestable fish during the last three years has been so precipitous that it is apparent that the stocks have drastically fallen. My experience is echoed by a network of anglers. I expect that if you and your staff are at all honest, you know this to be the case.

The reason the harvest by commercial fisherman of striped bass has only reached 25% of its allocation may have been affected by other factors like the price of dead fish and the limits created by COVID but the real issue is that there are just very few fish measuring more than 30" around let alone 35".

It is shocking to me that as the stewards of our fishery you would put forward a proposal to add fishing days for the commercial industry. It is clear that the real need is to close down the killing of striped bass pending its recovery.

Thank you,
JK

From: [Eric Larsen](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Massachusetts Proposes Adding Commercial Striper Days
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 7:23:08 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan,

As a long time surf fisherman in southern Maine, my friends and I have seen a steady decline in our fishing numbers over the last few years. Please, I urge you not to add open fishing days for the commercial fisherman. If the commercial guys aren't catching enough to meet their quota then there aren't enough fish out there to catch plain and simple. We surf fisherman are experiencing the same situation and for them to use COVID 19 as an excuse proves this is driven by money and greed in my opinion. If anything, the quota should be reduced even more next year given the poor harvest numbers. I realize I'm just a small voice, but I represent the views of many serious surf fisherman up here in Maine and we see first-hand how this fishery is rapidly declining.

Thank you sir in advance for doing the right thing for this fishery.

Best regards,

Eric Larsen
York, Maine

From: [Karen Hluchan](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Increasing Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6:28:16 PM

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TO: Dan Mckieman, Director Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

I strongly oppose the proposal to increase adding open fishing days to the commercial striped bass fishing season. According to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the population of wild Atlantic striped bass was "overfished, and overfishing is occurring." And for that reason, commercial and recreational regulations were changed to reduce fishing pressure and begin the process of rebuilding a healthy, sustainable striped bass fishery. Increased fishing pressure on striped bass now will only decrease their numbers and undo conservation efforts.

In past years the entire quota of over a million pounds of striped bass was caught within a few weeks. Furthermore, the minimum commercial size limit of 35" means nearly all striped bass harvested in Massachusetts are mature, breeding female fish—the very fish needed to propagate the species back to abundance. Please do not cave to pressure from commercial fisheries. They are being short sighted to their own industries welfare, harmful to sports fishing/tourism industry and devastating to the bass population.

Sincerely,
Karen Hluchan, JD
President Sparrow Woods Company, LLC (Retired)

From: [Tom](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Extend Commercial Striped Bass Fishing Season
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 11:51:19 AM

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ASFMC states Striped Bass numbers down. I notice that in my own fishing. Recreational fishers can't keep large breeders, why should Commercial Fisherman have the season extended when already they can't catch their quota, likely due to reduced numbers of Striped Bass.

Tom Largy
59 Moore Rd., Wayland, MA

From: [Dennis Beauchene](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:43:20 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

As an avid striper fisherman in ME & NH for over 60 years, I am totally amazed that commercial striper fishing is even allowed??? Please dissolve this assault on striped bass ASAP. Especially, the taking of female breeders, fish over 35". This practice is not only short sighted but insane. These fish are the future of the species as well as future fish that my grandchildren can enjoy catching. Please stop this practice immediately!

Thank you for your time,

Dennis Beauchene
PO Box 612
Cape Neddick, ME. 03902

From: ndross@comcast.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:09:54 PM

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You will never understand reality. Your regulations are not protecting the species. NO MORE DAYS TO COMMERCIAL SEASON PLEASE

Village Restoration
P.O. Box 97
West Falmouth, Ma. 02574
508-274-1673 (cell)
508-495-1036 (Office/Fax) No VM

From: [Justin Cordonnier](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 12:44:37 PM

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Director McKiernan,

I am writing to oppose the plan to add days to the MA commercial fishing season for striped bass. The reason the quota isn't close to being met and hopefully won't be met is due to the significant decline of the striped bass population, specifically the large, breeding fish.

In the past, when the striped bass population was more abundant, the quota was met in a few weeks.

ASMFC has even acknowledged the striped bass population is overfished.

Allowing commercial fishermen more opportunities to catch large stripers is short sighted and will hurt the fishery in the long run.

Thank you,
Justin Cordonnier
Needham, MA

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [Andy Dober](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:35:42 AM

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I oppose this change to current limits

Thank you,
AD

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kyle Schaefer](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 8:42:56 AM

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Good Morning Director Dan McKiernan,

I am voicing my strong opposition of extending the Massachusetts commercial striped bass fishing season. The inability of the commercial fishery to meet its quota over the past few years is a clear indication that we do not have the viable stocks available to responsibly access the resource.

Striped bass are clearly in trouble and allowing more breeder fish to swim free this season will improve our chances of letting this resource repair itself for the future. I am a full time guide in Maine. We have very few big bass around and we need every chance we can get to help these fish rebound. Thanks a million for the time and consideration.

Best,

Kyle Schaefer
603.969.3050

[Write a Review for Soul Fly Outfitters](#)

[Soul Fly Journal](#) || IG: [@KyleSchaeferFlyFishing](#)

[ASGA Board of Directors](#) || [T&T Ambassador](#) || [Simms Ambassador](#)

[AMFF Ambassador](#) || [Costa Pro](#) || [Hog Island](#)

From: [Barry Woods](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:59:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan-

I am strongly opposed to extending the MA Commercial Striped Bass season to allow additional days this Fall.

As you know, the ASFMC has determined this fish is currently overfished- something any angler who targets them can confirm. For the MA commercial market to be allowed additional time because of their inability to achieve their quota should, if anything, alert you to the seriousness of this situation. The state of striped bass management continues to be chaotic and reactive, not proactive and sustainable.

Large bass over 35" are not around. That is quite simply why the commercial quota is unfilled. More time will not magically create more large fish if they don't exist. It will only put undue pressure on whatever remnant of large breeding females there are- and hasten the destruction of this species.

Shame on you and your fellow "managers" to consider this proposal with any degree of seriousness. ALL fishermen- whether recreational or commercial- should align themselves with reducing mortality and sacrificing to preserve this great fishery.

What legacy do you want to leave MA anglers as a result of your work? Please step up and support the preservation of this fish.

Sincerely,
Barry Woods

From: [D. Carver](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:04:57 AM

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With all due respect....

Are you stupid?!? Basic, basic, basic biological sciences 101. If the fishing pressure on the population has been causing depletion of that same population, resulting in less fish being caught, since when does it make scientific, logic or otherwise sense to do something to decrease the population in an attempt to increase the take? There is no magic wand that, next year, will deposit MORE stripers in the sea. They breed, they grow, the breed again, the grow, and if you disrupt that simple process, you decrease the standing population at any given time and place.

Or do you think there are less people fishing for stripers for some absurd reason? With covid, there are more people out of work, and one of the favorite past times for non work time has always been fishing (and drinking, a great combination!)

What you suggest is how buffalo nearly disappeared. Killed more, faster and over larger areas than the existing population could repopulate based on its gestation and survival rates (other than by hunting). Do you harvest more potatoes and pull the plants up with the intent of increasing the crop? Do you shoot more deer intending to increase the total herd?

The striper population has shrunk. The broader portion of that population has been reduced. The catch has therefore declined. Increasing the opportunity to catch more of the fewer fish that remain is a design to further reduce the net (mathematical net, not fishing net) population.

Why don't you start an open season on Corona virus instead. Do something useful with the money and energy you are spending.

Maybe you should open a Unicorn season as well to help reproduce the population.

Sorry but I would like to see some basic science and brain power drive your decisions in hopes of rebuilding the striper (and cod, and other great populations that continue to be under protected and over fished). If anything REDUCE the quota until you find the population has replenished and sustains itself in spite of the taking by hook for commercial or recreational purposes.

Do you get it? Or do you have some reason to neglect your charge and don't care if the striper (and other) population(s) are further depleted? If I was a conspiracy theorist, I'd say you have some short term financial gain in mind for neglecting to protect the long term sustainability of the fish population.

Why do you think people are eating more and more "junk" fish? That happens in places where the human population has such high demand they keep and find a way to eat whatever they catch and care not what it does to the food chain the next day.

Doug Carver
339-933-1794

From: [Joe Fournier](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:00:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern

As an avid recreational fisherman off cape cod, I, along with many others fishing these waters, have seen a decline in sizeable striped bass over the last several years. When the state made the brave choice to slot fish for recreational and limit the commercial days of fishing, I was encouraged that the fishery will rebound in a few years and we can return to an abundant crop of the species that will remain as such for many years to come.

The fact that the commercial quota has fallen short of expectations is not the goal here. The commercial fishing targets are the very fish that are mature females mostly and breeders as we all know. Increasing the commercial days for the sake of a quota is doing the exact opposite of what the new regulations were intended to accomplish.

We, as keepers of the environment, implore you NOT to increase the commercial fishing days so our future striped bass fishery can replenish itself as nature intends.

While it is understood some livelihoods are being harmed by the new regulations. It is better to have a couple of down years than no targets at all....that is the apparent direction we are heading. The fact the quotas are down has nothing to do with the number of days to fish....that should be evident.

Sincerely,

Joe Fournier

Licensed recreational fisherman

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Keith Goodman](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 6:50:40 AM

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Director McKiernan,

Please know that our children's children are hoping you will not increase or extend the commercial striped bass season. This public resource desperately needs replenishing of their brood stock, mature fish are critical to The continuation of the species. Thank you, on behalf of our grandchildren, for managing this incredible resource like a renewable resource, not an opportunity for a few to money.

Best Regards

Capt. Keith Goodman

Sent from my iPhone

From: [william doane](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:59:15 AM

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Striper populations are declining .Other states are enacting rules to limit fish mortality This is no time to increase the catch. Increasing the commercial catch benefits a few at the expense of many. The striped bass resource is a national resource to be shared.

William Doane

Pittsfield Me.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: toprod2000@yahoo.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:48:54 AM

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To the Director, my comment is about the extended Striped Bass season. Bothe more days and a longer season. Being a charter boat Captain , and have fished Massachusetts waters for Stripers starting in the 1960s and fished commercial even when we were allowed small fish . 18 inch stripers in the late 1970s till the 1980s when we had no stripers hardly left.

These fish need a break as we did in the 1980s. The MVSBD stopped the killing of stripers then and now they are advocating the same.

Some southern states have put a stop to large stripers also.

Do The RiGHT thing.

Give the stripers a rest from not only the slaughter but from other states catching and selling in Massachusetts.

The stopped commercial striped Bass in the CCC make it all over the state.

Thanks for allowing me to send in a comment.

Captain Joseph Fitzback

Cape cod Charters

Chatham, Massachusetts

Sent from my iPad

From: [Pete B](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:19:04 PM

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To Dan McKiernan - let's use common sense and not increase the commercial harvest. The fish is too important as a recreational species for present and future generations. Also it doesn't make sense to slot a 35in SB which is considered within the breeding female size ranges - that alone raises the question of the experience/acumen understanding of the people/person suggesting these changes.

From: [Kevin Brown](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 9:54:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not extend the commercial striped bass season. Let's allow these fish to recover. It's unpopular with the commercial fisherman but recreational fisherman bring a lot of money into the mass economy. Allow the biomass to return to a more healthy level by protecting the fish and not extending the commercial season at this time.

From: [Anderson Family](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 9:48:09 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Surely you can't be serious about extending the commercial striped bass season in order to allow for the limits to be reached? The simple fact that there unable to fill their quota has to send a clear and concise picture that the bio mass is in serious danger? You simply cannot read that fact any other way? The answer is not to extend the season...it should be to close it immediately!! And whatever the weight is that has been harvested so far this season, knock off 20 percent and make that next years quota! It's insane to follow any other course of action? The writing is on the wall and unless states take a serious stand to reverse the current trend the future of this fishery is sure to be doomed.

cordially,
Earl D. Anderson III

From: [Greenleaf](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 8:51:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

There is no reason to add more commercial days this year! Same as last year! The fish population has been decimated, that's why commercial harvest is only at 25% when are people going to learn? When we are back in moratorium like in the 80's? Please, as a life long, born and raised Cape native. Do not increase commercial days!

Thank you,
M. Greenleaf Garrison

From: [Raymond Lawrence](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 7:33:58 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Strippers are struggling enough, without any more extensions of commercial fishing. Lets do what's right to bring them back, not reduce the chances to improve the stock. We should shut down any taking till we see a significant improvement. Even if it takes years to do.

--

Ray Lawrence

From: [christopher brown](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 7:04:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am strongly against increasing the commercial striped bass quota. I find it highly disturbing and very telling to the nature of the fishery's management that such a measure is proposed even though the striper is and has been overfished. This is TOTALLY unacceptable

From: [William Mackie](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 5:42:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director Dan McKiernan,

I oppose the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) proposed addition of open fishing days to the commercial striped bass fishing season.

Extending the days for commercial harvest of striped bass only puts more pressure on a stressed fishery.

Thanks you.



Bill Mackie
617.877.2888



From: [Skip DeBrusk](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:50:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As scientists, please follow the logic – the best striped bass breeders are the largest females, please do not allow our best fishermen, the commercial fishermen, target and diminish our most productive breeders.

Thank you, Capt. Skip DeBrusk

From: [botc120352](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Commercial fishing days
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 12:49:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Having been fishing for stripers for 23 years I'm against increasing the amount of days of fishing commercialy.I bought a commercial license this year for the first time as I'm now retired. My understanding is we were unable to meet the qouta the last few years, so I have to ask myself is it a lack of fish or a lack of fishing days. Surely your concerned enough about the striped bass population to have the new slot regulations and circlehook mandates but yet you are for increasing the amount breeders to be harvested. I wonder is this change only for Massachusetts or is it to be adopted by other states? We all see how well you people regulated the rest of the fishery ! Its obvious that you are run by the commercial lobbyists. So now the race is on to not only catch the last cod but in afew years the last striper.Bob O'NEIL

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android Device

From: [Doug Jowett](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: 2020 striped bass season extension
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:08:11 AM

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

Mr. Dan McKiernan, I am totally against opening more commercial fishing days for striped bass. It's no secret that striped bass are in trouble. Killing more 35 inch plus bass doesn't help the problem. My suggestion is to totally shut down both recreational and commercial striped bass fishing effective September 1st 2020 and give these fish a chance to recover.

Captain Doug Jowett
61 Four Wheel Drive
Runswick, Maine 04011

From: [JAMES F O'LEARY](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Adding Commercial Striper Days
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 5:07:54 PM

Director Dan McKiernan -

I will keep this short and to the point.

NO

Thank You for the opportunity to comment on this non-sensical idea.

Sincerely,

JIM

From: [MAL BAKER](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Adding commercial striper days
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 9:26:29 PM

You say the bass are in trouble, you let the commercial fisherman take any fish 35" and over (breeders) put in a slot limit that most consider ridiculous and now you want to increase the number of days the commercial fisherman can fish so they can reach the quota? It would seem to me that maybe the quota might not be reached because the bass are in trouble. This is the worst year I have ever had striper fishing and I have done well even in bad years for more than 4 decades. This proposal doesn't make sense at all and that is the opinion of everyone that I have heard speak on the issue and I have heard quite a few. I am opposed to this change and if the quota is not reached so be it.

Thank you

Mal Baker

From: [Daniel Wells](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Additional Commercial Days for Striped Bass in 2020
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:49:18 AM

Director Dan McKiernan,

The striped bass population is in severe decline. I have seen the documented evidence presented by ASMFC as well from groups like Stripers Forever and the American Saltwater Guides Association.

Additionally, I have seen a continuous decline in fish caught by myself and my group of fishing friends over the 28" size range year to year since 2016. In 2020 its very difficult to find any fish in the slot size or larger from shore. I believe opening up the remaining population of large breeding fish over 34 inches to additional commercial harvest will lead to such damage to the remaining fish that soon we will end up in another "moratorium" situation.

We probably should be considering a moratorium right now based on the data and to think the plan is now to increase harvest goes counter to all sustainable fisheries management I have seen in other states I have reside. I hope that the commonwealth will do the right thing and instead of adding more days completely close the commercial fishing for striped bass in 2020.

Sincerely,
Daniel Wells

From: [Dave Eldridge](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: additional days for seabass and striped bass.
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:29:53 PM

Mr. Director.

This is Dave Eldridge. Permit# 161399. I am a rod and reel fisherman from Centerville, Cape Cod. In my opinion, just adding fishing days will help fill the quotas, but there are a few other reasons for the hook guys are not catching fish. Firstly, the unchecked grey seal population has decimated the inshore stocks. Also, it seems fish don't seem to like areas with abundant predators. Go try to catch a striper on the outer cape beaches, or Pleasant bay for that matter. You won't, because they are gone. Something to think about...

Now about Seabass. Currently the Seabass season is open in July. The fish have mostly left our traditional fishing grounds and are worth far less than they would be in May. Now we have to travel to find fish. Not a few miles, but 30 to 40 miles. In July the Biomass has moved to the backside of the Vineyard and beyond... It is nearly impossible to find Seabass in harvestable concentrations in either Nantucket or Vineyard sound. These long distances are not an option for many inshore guys that are not set up for long distances and or open water fishing. Boat size does matter.

The common consensus between myself and peers is to reopen the spring seabass fishery... The stock has always been healthy and is currently exploding. Stop the Potters if you are worried about the breeding population, the hook fishery is completely sustainable... It's going to be tough to fill the quota this year, any way you look at it... the fish have very little value (this year) and it takes a lot of effort just to get to the stocks.

The extra days will help with the quotas but most of us can't fish if we can't make money.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dave Eldridge
405 Ames Way
Centerville, Ma.

From: [CINDY FRIESWYK](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Additional days to fill quota - striped bass
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:43:09 AM

• Striped Bass. DMF is proposing to add open fishing days to the 2020 commercial striped bass season. Beginning on September 1, 2020 Tuesdays and Thursdays will be added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing four days per week (Mondays – Thursdays). Then, effective October 2, 2020, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays will be added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing seven days per week.

This is not a good proposal for the following reason(s):

1. The quota was not filled in 2019 and is not close to being filled as of Aug. 12 2020. To me this is evidence that the striped bass population is in trouble.
2. Striped bass population is collapsing (numbers of big breeders way down) . This is my opinion based on 30 years of fishing for stripers in (MA, RI, NJ)
3. Added pressure from the huge unmanaged gray seal population is not helpful (witnessed seals catching stripers, bluefish, flounder, skate, and sand dabs on many of my fishing trips)

Thanks for the opportunity to comment

Tom Frieswyk

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Ben Scott](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Against Proposed In-Season Adjustments
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 6:08:57 PM

Director Dan McKiernan,

Do not add open fishing days to the 2020 season. The commercial sector is a major reason the breeding size striped bass are not available. The population is already in trouble and this would be an additional wound that eventually these fish which are far more valuable alive than dead will not be able to recover from. Do the right thing and consider eliminating all commercial harvest of striped bass in future seasons and don't let the interests of a few dictate the course of history for a fish that provides far more than a meal

I also oppose the extension of commercial seasons for Black Sea Bass and Summer Flounder. Do you not think there is a reason these quotas are not being met? Use common sense and please support these fish.

Thank you,
Ben Scott

From: [Matthew Boyer](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Atten Dan McKiernan
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:01:49 PM

Extending the commercial season is ridiculous. The fish are on a obvious decline . If your not part of the solution your part of the problem. I want these fish to be around for our children and there children. I was just asked by my kids to bring a striped bass home for the table I explained that I would only do it if the fish could not be revived or swallowed the hook and would die. They understood why can't the rest of us. GREED

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Fletch1951](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: attention Dan McKiernan
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:06:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Extending the commercial striped bass season is a very bad idea. Removing even more of the best breeding fish from an already badly depleted stock will not help anyone in the long term. Please do not do this.

From: [Shane Nicholls](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Attention Director Dan McKiernan RE: Proposed In-Season Adjustments - Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:17:31 AM

Dan,

I wholeheartedly object to extending Commercial Bass fishing days ! I live on Nantucket and have for 51 years . In that time I have watched the as I first arrived in 1969 the amazing amount of huge Striped Bass being caught and brought to market. Of course none of us had the foresight to see we were shooting ourselves in the foot by taking all those large breeder cows at the time. That practice by the fisherman and a lack of oversight by the state has led to the serious decline of the Striped Bass and brought about the moratorium . The moratorium ,although not thought of kindly by many fishermen , did the trick and Stripers rebounded amazingly!

I think the slot size 28-35" is an excellent way to let those breeders do their thing. Would also be nice if Jersey got on board and dropped their 38" to 35".

I fish from a 23' center console based in Madaket. From there I fish as far West as The Vineyard , North to the Cape and East into Nantucket Shoals. I not only fish for Stripers but also Black Sea Bass , Fluke, Bonito, False Albacore & Blues. I am a catch , handle gently & release guy as I want to preserve our amazing fisheries for generations to come. This year I would guesstimate I have caught at least 80

Stripers and probably more. In all those fish I had 1 Keeper and he was 29.9". The majority of those fish were 24-26" and if I have done the math correctly should be the 2015 year class. NO BIG STRIPERS...nor many smaller fish. We have to PROTECT those larger fish to allow for as much procreation as possible. I feel the Striped Bass should have game fish status and not be harvested at let alone letting the commercial fishery take the breeding stock. It is bad enough that they are allowed 2 days a week to decimate the breeding stock. Please DO NOT ALLOW additional days for this travesty to take place! Has anyone considered that landings are down because the over 35" Stripers are in short supply ?

I have no bone to pick with commercial fisherman as I was myself in the '70's and I understand you are trying to help them out in year like no other which is admirable but PLEASE THINK THIS THROUGH!

Black Sea Bass stocks in good shape as well as Summer Flounder so go ahead and increase those fishing days but let the Stripers alone. I am very concerned when that 2015 year class of Stripers reaches 28" ,which should be next year , what is to follow...

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Shane Nicholls
21a Evergreen Way
Nantucket, MA 02554

860sdn@gmail.com

From: [Chris Wechsler](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Attn Dan mckiernan
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 8:43:00 PM

Please do the right thing and do not extend the commercial fishing dead line. We have a well documented decline of the striped bass population and all that you will be doing is help speed the decline up even more. Please we all beg you to not allow this to happen so that we can have a future for our fishery.

Sent from myMail for iOS

From: [Jeff Boswell](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Attn. Director Dan McKiernan - Commercial Striped Bass Quota
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 2:11:24 PM

Director McKiernan,

I am writing in regard to the proposal to add additional open fishing days to the 2020 commercial striped bass season. In short I believe this is a poor idea. As an avid recreational fisherman I (along with every other rec fisherman I know) have watched the striped bass population decline sharply in recent years. The inability of the commercial fleet to meet the quota last year (and surely again this year) help to illustrate what all of us has seen in our own experience. Adding additional days to maximize the harvest of this declining population is counterintuitive. I grew up fishing in the early 80s and recall the scarcity of striped bass at that time. These fish need us to protect them and not facilitate a greater harvest if we hope to avoid the dire situation of my youth.

Regards,
Jeffrey A. Boswell

From: BrewsterOyster@comcast.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: change to comm striped bass fishery
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 8:03:31 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am in favor of the proposed regulation change to allow the fishery to be open Mon – Thur. for the month of Sept. and then 7 days / week in October if needed to try and fill the quota. This action should have been taken last year and quite possibly the year before as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alex Carlson

From: [Steve Petruska](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Changes to 2020 Commercial Striped Bass Regulations
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:40:38 AM

Mr. McKiernan,

I urge you to reconsider the changes being proposed to the Commercial Striped Bass Regulations. I'll be honest with you that I'm an opponent of commercial striped bass fishing. The regulations target breeding fish and threaten the overall health of the striper stock. In addition, I feel that most "commercial" striper fishermen are not commercial in the true sense. They don't earn their living fishing every day. Many are individuals who use the commercial license to right off the cost of boats and equipment.

All that being said, I think the proposed changes are a big mistake. The fact that only commercial fishermen have only managed to catch 25% of the quota thus far is an indication that the larger fish aren't there. The stock of larger fish is smaller than it's been. Many of my fishing friends are reporting 26" as the largest fish they're catching. These are individuals who spend a great deal of time on the water.

Increasing the number of days and extending the commercial season to reach the quota is the wrong approach. It's likely to target migrating fish. Fish that would normally move South and be free to breed in the Spring. That would have a very negative impact on the stock. Why not let the season proceed in its current form and let the stock survive to breed again? This approach would provide a significant benefit to both fisheries in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steve Petruska

From: borab2@aol.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Changes to Commercial Striper Bass Regulations
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 6:37:12 AM

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am opposed to changing the number of days for Commercial Striper Bass fishing in Massachusetts.

I would support changes to increase the penalties for any and all people (recreational or commercial) who possess illegal Striper bass.

Best regards,

Richard

Richard Banks
27 Out of Bounds Drive
South Yarmouth MA 02664

From: [Donald Nardi](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [pdrenzek](#); [Tony Drenzek](#); [Craig Pehlert](#); [George Stolgatis](#)
Subject: Changing Regs
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 1:26:52 PM

Increase the quota on everything!

Then we wonder why there are no fish.

Why not give the fish a break this year.

They said after WWII the fishing was great.

Perhaps that's what will take to save our fish stocks.

Sincerely, Don Nardi

From: [Mark Mattson](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comment on Adjustments to commercial fishing
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:53:28 PM

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

I can't believe you are proposing more commercial fishing. Where is the data to support such an idea?. I have fished on Martha's Vineyard for over 30 years and the fishing used to be great back in the day. The past few years however I have spent the summer recreationally fishing about 3 times a week and all I have caught are undersized stripers (no slot fish at all), 2 legal fluke, and a modest amount of mid-sized black sea bass. There are hardly any bluefish anymore either. Give the fish stock a break for God's sake. Do you job or resign.

sincerely

Mark Mattson

From: jackbroisi@aol.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comment on change to commercial fishing days.
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:04:14 PM

Did it ever occur to anyone that the reason that the striped bass quota is so far behind is because there are not that many commercial size bass to catch. So by going to 4 then 7 days a week you are going to kill even more of the breedstock so in a year or two it will necessary to shut it down completely. We all know that the majority of commercial bass fisherman do it as a hobby to support their boats and equipment.

BAD IDEA

Fluke? Once again I can't catch a keeper 17 INCH Fluke in Vineyard Sound.

So let the commercial guys and draggers continue to take even more 14 Inch fish so there will never be a chance for a recreational fisherman to put dinner on the table!

Please pay attention to the real problem, a decline in the biomass and the ability of commercial fluke fisherman to take 14 inch fish so less of them will ever reach the 17 inch recreational size!

Respectfully

Jack

From: [Baymen Charters](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comment on Commercial Striped Bass Days
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:42:38 PM

Director Dan McKiernan, DMF:

Please do not add additional days to commercial striped bass. The population is already stressed too much by the commercial quota. Make striped bass a game fish only status and a catch and release fishery, with only 1 fish 36" - 40" allowed to be kept per day.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Capt. David Bitters
Baymen Guide Service, Inc.
62 Teakettle Lane, P.O. Box 366
Duxbury, MA 02331
(781) 934-2838

From: [Conor MacWilliams](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comment on DMF Proposing In-Season Adjustments to the 2020 Commercial Fishing Limits for Certain Quota Managed Species
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 9:36:05 AM

This comment is addressed to Director Dan McKiernan:

I think the addition of days to the striped bass commercial fishery is a mistake. The entire fishery is already weak due to overfishing and demand for striped bass for commercial use is much lower than previous years due to COVID-19. Please reconsider the expansion of fishing days as it will unnecessarily increase pressure on the fishery to no benefit of the people who fish it. Striped bass are a vital resource for Massachusetts and must be managed with care. Please feel free to contact me for further comment.

Best,

--

Conor MacWilliams - (914) 582-7230

From: [ROBERT TARTAGLIA](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comment on proposal to further open commercial bass
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 5:39:50 AM

I am writing in opposition to the plan to open commercial Bashi's and further

How is it that we are making recreational fishermen release big fish (which I certainly support) so stock will go up but then say commercial guys haven't killed enough big fish so lets give them more days.

Please, this measure cannot be passed it absolutely makes no sense.

The focus should be on continued conservation not how to figure out further measures to deplete the stock

Thank you

Rob Tartaglia

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ken Howland](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comment on Striped Bass Commercial Season Proposal
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:57:59 PM

Director Dan McKiernan.

I firmly believe the season should open June 1 and be open Mon - Thursday to start the season. Adding days in September is fruitless due to less anglers on the water, a percentage of anglers pull their boats at or around Labor Day. The amount of striped bass is diminished by Sept 1, school size bass will be more prevalent during Sept and October. School bass will be injured or killed during commercial days. Several people I know purchased commercial licenses only to be able to harvest fish above 35". These fish are never sold and are not compiled into the catch quota. Marine fisheries can look at the reporting and determine the majority of the harvest is between season open and mid August. Sept 1 is too late.

Best regards

Ken Howland

From: [Jeff Clabault](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comment re extending commercial striped bass season
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:28:24 PM

Dear Director Mckiernan,

The reason the Striped Bass quota was not filled last season and has only seen 25% of the available stock taken so far this year is due to a severe depletion of the species as a whole. This shortage is especially problematic in the population of 35"+ bass, most of which are the breeding sized females needed so desperately to, hopefully, repopulate the species. Continuing the season into October, when most of those large Bass will be migrating and thus easier to target, will enable the commercial fishermen to fill more of the quota but it is bad science to fail to respond to the reason for their current lack of success. The season should instead be cut short with the goal being to protect the few fish we have left. To merely give them more opportunity to damage this already decimated fishery would be folly.

From: [Brett Stone](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comments for in season adjustments
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:45:22 AM

Hello DMF,

Would you kindly submit the following comments in to official record in regards to your email dated 8/10/2020; DMF Accepting Public Comment on Proposed In-Season Adjustments through August 24.

As a commercial fisherman, I applaud the DMF for considering to open the commercial season of Striped Bass for additional days; however I find the days of which are proposed to be wholly inadequate based upon a paltry commercial catch of 26% quota as I am writing this email. While opening up the commercial fishing days to 4 days per week for Striped Bass effective September 1 can help some fisherman, opening this up to 7 days per week on September 1 would help a much larger population of fisherman get back on the water. Waiting to October 1 to go 7 days per week will do absolutely nothing to help fisherman as the majority of the Bass will have migrated out of our waters by then and the return of bad weather will limit the days which fisherman can go on the water. Right now many of our local fisherman are out of work entirely in their day jobs and are relying on commercial fishing to make ends meet during this COVID-19 pandemic and any additional help the DMF can do in order to get our fisherman back on the water will greatly help. In summary, please do not wait until October 1 to make commercial fishing 7 days per week as our fisherman need help now and can't wait 2 months for more relief which would be limited by fall weather.

Thank you for accepting my comments.

Sincerely,
Brett Stone

From: [Robert Gartside](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Comments on Quota adjustments
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:14:20 AM

To whom it may concern:

Doesn't the fact that the commercial catch is so poor this year register that the fishery is in trouble ? As a recreational fisherman, I am not going out as much since the fishery is so poor. Increasing the catch of breeding fish will do nothing but hurt the stock further. Don't add any days to the season - let the fish have a chance !!

Rob Gartside
Brewster , MA
Cape Cod Flyrodders

From: [Rick Schwartz](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Bass Extension
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:50:00 AM

I am totally opposed to extending the allowable fishing days. As you should be aware, the stocks of legal size striped bass have plummeted in recent years, your own data supports this fact. There is no reason you should support any activity to further decrease the stocks. On the contrary, you should be doing everything in your power to increase the stocks, a total moratorium on keeping any fish would be a reasonable action. Do the right thing. Richard Schwartz Brewster MA.

From: [Mike Alesse](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: commercial fishing
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:28:51 AM

dear dan,

mike alesse here 31 Years old work full time and part time fisherman. I would love to see you open some more days. fish are here right now if i had more time on the water we could fill this quota. my suggestions would be lowering the limit back to 34. opening more days. prices are great market is strong. We cant let them take away more quota because we all know you never get them back. I did attend the meeting this winter.
thank you for your time

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Adam Schneller](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial fishing adjustments
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:44:55 AM

The striped bass are finally starting to grow their population and now you want to let commercial fisherman catch and kill more?

This is a terrible idea. Let the population grow!

Please don't make this huge mistake now at the end of the season.

Sincerely,
Adam Schneller.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Comcast](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial fishing for stripers
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:14:01 AM

To whom it may concern' I do not agree that you should extend the commercial season ,as a matter fact I think commercial striper fishing should be stopped completely. It would be fine with me personally to make stripers catch and release only. Thank you Nick Korniot 508-274-4502

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sam Mullin](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial fishing open 7 days a week as of Oct 2nd
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:16:52 AM

Dear Daniel McKiernan

The opening of the commercial striped bass fishery to 7 days on October 2nd is completely obtuse. Why would this ever be done if the fish can never reach the quatoa. There's a reason that its not being reached..the bass are being depleted! The numbers are horrible past 3 years. The commercial needs to be given up. This fish is worth way more recreationally than it is commercially. As a resident and 13th generation of Cape Cod, there is no local benefit of harvesting striped bass in this way. And it's awful being a surfcaster in CC bay catchin nice fish and releasing them. Then once commercial season starts the bay from shore goes dead for nice fish. No one has been making a living off of it for years. The best local revenue is charters big time. And its great with the new slot size and no gaff and the use of circle hooks thats how to save this sacred fish. I attended the meeting at MMA this fall and showed my support. In that meeting a lot was talked about EPOs and there's not enough of them. This exstention of days would put a huge stress on law enforcement, and people would take advantage of it. Such as fishermen catchin bass in Rhode Island and bringing them back to mass to sell like late last season. By extending the days all the good new recreational rules would be thrown out because the amount of damage the commercial would do. Especially if it was October 2nd such a time of very large breeding fish heading home that would be killed, should be saved for the future. Moratorium is upon us been there before and we don't want to be there again. Thank you for your time and I hope you take this in consideration with many other fishermen sayin the same...the truth.

Thank you,
Sam Mullin

From: [Glenn](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [DonaldJTrump.com](#)
Subject: Commercial Fishing regulations
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:06:54 PM

I request you to re-consider your allowance for commercial fishing guys to have even more season. There are very few "keepers in the ocean, and the recreational fisherman make up a huge population. The benefits of a few, should not override the opportunity for many. Recreational fisherman not only support boat dealers, they support taxes, vacation homes, bait suppliers, rod and reel suppliers, local tackle shops, local restaurants, local hotels, and so on. What do commercial fisherman support? I believe it is a travesty putting commercial fisherman above recreational fisherman. They are destroying the fisheries in coastal waters. I urge you to not proceed with this course of action, and rather should be rather reducing commercial quotas and showing the recreational fisherman you are hearing the voices of the masses.

From: [James Harr](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial fishing
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:48:43 AM

And it's only right that us anglers from the shore line can only get 1 striper
5 flounders
And 5 black sea bass

You guys cater to the commercial fishermen more the us

It's not fair
Commercial fishermen are the ones who are over fishing the fish populations
And us on shore anglers are the ones who get all the restrictions placed upon us
Fishing has been scarce for us fishing recreational
Thanks to all the over fishing from commercial fishing
Make more rules to cater commercial fishing
And restrict the anglers

I guess money talks
Commercial fishermen have fleets of boats
Many companies with commercial licenses
Over fish the population
Money talks
And the government is greedy and corrupt
Money talks

From: [Jill Fitzgerald](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial flounder fishing
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:05:22 AM

Are you people insane why are you guys letting commercial fishermen drag for flounder are you guys trying to kill the population of them? I find it appalling that you people are letting them have extra days. There will no fish left if this continues and then our kids and grandchildren will have nothing left. This is disgusting.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [James Joyce](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial season striped bass
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:17:50 AM

Dan I just read the article in the Vineyard Gazette about the possibility of extending the striped bass season. That is the craziest thing I've heard of striped bass should be made a game fish and we should end the commercial season on striped bass all together. What are you thinking to extend the season?

The VINEYARD has taken striped bass out of the worlds most famous fishing derby this fall and we didn't do that so commercial fisherman could harvest them and make more money. Wake up.

Thanks

Jim Joyce

James E Joyce
Broker CSB
Carroll & Vincent Real Estate
PO Box 65
9 Green Ave
Edgartown MA 02539
Work: 508.627.4080
Cell: 508.627.0286

From: [Rob Moss](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial striped bass
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:50:30 AM

Please open more days sooner than later the recreational guys are hammering the fish on off days most aren't playing by the rules and taking over 35 in fish as they are now fishing the same fish we are charter captains seem to be playing by the rules but unfortunately some commercial guys are fishing on off days we have contacted you about this on Ryder's Cove gaffing fish on off days makes it obvious so if you could move forward with new openings before September that would be great and EPO just showing themselves at some of the landings may help thanks so much Robert Moss Chatham Ma (508-237-0710)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ross Lyon](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass feedback
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 2:38:40 PM

Hi,

This is the first time I have ever commented on anything like this, so I'm not even sure if I'm doing it correctly. I am a recreational fisherman and I harvest an average of 3 fish per season. My feedback is short and simple. The correct commercial landings of striped bass vs. the reduced quota tells you everything: the fishery is under duress and/or the demand for harvested striped bass is low. As a result, leaving the schedule of remaining commercial fishing days unchanged is acceptable and should have a positive impact on the long term health of the fishery.

Regards and thanks for your consideration.

Ross Lyon
Byfield, MA
rlyon@toddtool.com

From: [Art Howe](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Fisheries
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 6:15:57 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I know you re considering a relaxation of rules, days of fishing, for the commercial harvest of striped bass. I understand there is under harvesting of striped bass presently. In order to reach some level of compromise for both the recreational and commercial sectors, I would suggest you add Tuesday and Thursday as commercial days, but strongly oppose commercial fishing 7 days/week. Personally, my part-time guiding business on Martha's Vineyard has dropped off considerably over the last 10+ years due to the stresses on the striped bass population and changes in the forage base. Let's all work towards sustainability of the species we love and that is an economic driver commercially, but even more so recreationally. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Art

Arthur Howe III
860-324-0422
Member, American Saltwater Guides Association
Member, Coastal Conservation Association

From: [Peter Willett](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Fishery
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:23:01 PM

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am opposed to the commercial striped bass fishery in general and therefore opposed to any expansion of the commercial striped bass fishery in 2020 or at any other time for any reason.

My conclusion through my own study of the issue and substantial time on the water as a successful sport fisherman is that the taking of large fish targeted by Massachusetts commercial striped bass fishermen damages the resource, and the main reason why quotas aren't being met is because there aren't enough large fish to meet the quota.

Does the data around current fish stocks and future replacement unequivocally support an expanded commercial fishery that targets breed stock? I tend to trust science when it exists in a scientific vacuum. When data exits the vacuum and is used alongside "market impacts" as justification, I become much more suspect of the entire analysis. Is the state considering expanding limits for sport fishermen this fall?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Peter Willett

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Aaron Perlmutter](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Fishing Day
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:59:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director Dan McKiernan:

I am a MA resident and fisherman living on Cape Cod. I strongly oppose any increase in the number of commercial Striped Bass fishing days.

The reason that quota is slow to fill is because there are so few large bass remaining. I have been out and seen fleets for 50+ boats, so it is not for a lack of trying. PLEASE do not increase the fishing pressure on the few large breeders that are left. Let them live and spawn.

The quota is just too high given the low numbers of fish.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Aaron Perlmutter
111 Allyn Lane
Barnstable MA 02630

From: [Fred Olander](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Fishing Days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:08:44 AM

TO: Director Dan McKiernan

NO MORE FISHING DAYS!!!!

Does it no occur to you that the striped bass stock is in TROUBLE?

Frederick Olander

From: [Michael Brangwynne](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Fishing
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:11:35 AM

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

As a Mass. resident and a recreational angler I am strongly against increasing the number of commercial fishing days to harvest striped bass. Thank you.

Mike Brangwynne

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Germain Cloutier](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Fishing
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:41:49 PM

To Director Dan McKiernan,

I would like to weigh in on the proposal to Add fishing days to the Massachusetts commercial striped Bass season. This is NOT in the best interest for the fish and for the fishermen. As we know the quota has Not been met in years and the numbers don't lie. With COVID-19 around some people blamed that for the Low numbers, but that does not seem to be the case at all. It is lack of fish. Even after talking with A lot of Commercial fishermen, they are worried adding more days will flood the market and drop their prices significantly. As we All know the Striped Bass fishery is driven by the recreational sector and as a sport fish the Striped Bass is worth more Alive to the State of Massachusetts then it is dead. As we also know the decline of Striped Bass at this time is a fact, and the idea of adding more days to kill the big breeder sized As they head South to their Wintering/Spawning grounds is not a good idea in the best interest of future fish stocks. The idea that the fish that are Suppose to be Protected to breed and spawn with the New Slot limit is kind of moot if there's Commercial harvest for them. Hopefully someday the Commercial Striped Bass fishery will be a thing of the Past, as many know there aren't any people that Hold a Commercial Striped Bass tag that actually depend on it for a living, this just pays people's gas and stuff for the weekend trips. So in conclusion I Would urge you to consider NOT allowing for more Commercial Days. Please make the right decision for the State of Massachusetts and the Striped Bass future. Thank you for your Time and Considering Public Input for this matter.

Thank you,
Germain Cloutier

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: cahodg@aol.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass fishing
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:38:40 AM

Why are you extending this season to every day rather than reducing or eliminating this species from commercial fishing and classifying it a game fish as done in our neighboring states?

From: pajr777@aol.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial striped bass proposed fish day increases
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 7:24:01 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attn: Director Dan McKiernan

I am opposed to the increased proposed fish days for commercial bass fishing for the year 2020.

I recreational fish as well as commercial fish for stripers.

Although it appears this year's landings will fall short of the designated quota I feel that during a year of the pandemic and the new regulations imposed on recreational fishermen to try and bolster the fish stock we should leave the existing fish days as they are. By adding those days we would be flooding a market with fish with little or no demand. The prices will plummet and we'll be killing the breeder stock that we are trying to protect for the simple reason of reaching a quota.

We need only to look at the tuna fishery as recent as last year when supply overwhelmed the market. And also the restricted fish days this year to prevent that from happening again during the pandemic.

Please do not adjust the fish days and chalk it up to an anomaly year

Respectfully, Phil Lenzi

From: [david christie](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial striped bass quota
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:51:20 PM

I would like to ask you not to extend the number of commercial fishing days for striped bass this year. If the quota is not filled I think that is a good thing give the weak state of the fishery. Thank you for taking public comment on this issue. I think preserving the fishery needs to be a priority for both recreational and commercial fishermen.

From: [Stephen J Dempsey Jr](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial striped bass quota
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 6:38:08 AM

I am writing to oppose the proposed opening of additional commercial days for striped bass.

Striped bass are overfished and need less fishing pressure not more. Increased commercial harvest is a bad idea.

Stephen Dempsey, East Falmouth

From: [John Hollenberg](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Season Expansion
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:07:22 AM

Dear Dan McKiernan:

I am against increasing the number of commercial days for striped bass fishing.

I would like to see more restrictions on both recreational and commercial fishing for striped bass.

Thank u

John Hollenberg

Sent from my iPhone

From: bonitobob@aol.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped bass season
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:39:48 AM

Question

Why do we need a commercial bass season - it's killing all the big spawning fish for no reason
Striped Bass are being farmed raised - the bass are in big trouble just like the 1980's - stop this
killing now for the future of fishing

From: [MPerry6220](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial striped bass
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:51:05 AM

PLEASE Do NOT extend the commercial days. I fish out of lynn harbor on Wednesday boats clog the channel fishing for strippers its crazy. I have seen boats passing fish off to there commercial friends the commercial fishing on striped bass NEEDS TO BE STOPED.pass on to the recreational fisherman some of there quota if u think there are too many fish WITCH there are not.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ryan Brule](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:18:38 AM

I am writing this email to voice my opinion on the Massachusetts commercial striped bass season. My name is Ryan Brule and I live on Cape Cod. I have been an avid fisherman for most of my life and have seen good years and bad years.

I believe it is IMPERATIVE that we address the “commercial” striped bass fishery. We are one of the last states to still allow this practice. No one is making a living as a commercial striped bass fisherman. People DO make a living by using this fishery as a game species. The charter captains, the bait shops, and the lodging owners make their living on people who come to our state to fish for stripers.

Our state is progressive for so many other things... why are we holding on to this antiquated practice? The striped bass fishery has been declining in recent years, this has been proven scientifically. Having a commercial season is a bad idea as is, extending it is even worse. Please rethink this practice, your decision effects not only the fish, but the people who depend on them.

Thank you,

Ryan Brule

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: hhdecoys@aol.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striper Fishing
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:16:59 PM

I am opposed to any increase or expansion in the Commercial Striper season or limits. They're killing off the breeders in what we know is a declining biomass.

Thank you

Bob Mosher
16 WTER ST.
Hingham, MA
02043

From: [Thomas Rosatto](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial striper fishing
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 5:29:56 AM

To whom it may concern, I'm a recreational striper fisherman and was wondering why commercial fishing is getting extended ? It seems there are a lot less stripers , (especially big ones) around the last couple of years. Shouldn't we be restricting the commercial catch so the striper population can thrive again? Thank you for listening and I look forward to a response.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [oswoodworks978](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial stripped bass
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:03:56 PM

Director McKeirnan,

I am writing with concern to that proposed changes to striped bass commercial fishing.

With the added slot limitations added this year to prevent overfishing, and population degradation it concerns me that the department is even considering the addition of more commercial fishing days.

Even prior to covid there has been a noted decrease in sizable fish on NE shorelines. It saddens me that industry may be given a break when it's the fish that actually need it.

I would urge you and all considering to decline the proposed changes to commercial fishing regulations along our coasts.

Respectfully,
Todd Alden

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From: [Will DiMento](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commerical striped bass season
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 2:33:30 PM

Dan-

Adding additional days to the commercial bass season to fill quota did not work in the past, why would it work now? The state of the fishery is in severe decline. There are very clearly two biomasses of large fish right now, one off Block Island and one between Boston and Revere. Similar to the Chatham and Elizabeth Island stocks that got wiped out in years past, these are soon to be gone too. These fish are way too valuable to all be killed off. Luckily the Block Island fish are somewhat protected by the slot limit, but some were still harvested in RI's season. Please run the course of this season at two open days and reassess.

Will DiMento
9785003511

From: [Frankie Gonzalez](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Dan Mckiernan, get it together....
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:55:43 PM

Adding days to the harvest week is a stupid move. It benefits noone in the long term. So quit with your poor decision making and find something else to do to occupy your time.

Sincerely,
A pissed off angler

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [robert](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Dan Mckiernan/commercial striper changes
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:38:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to express that I am against the proposed changes to the commercial striper season adding more fishing days.

I have been fishing for stripers since the mid'90s and this year I have yet to meet anyone who has had a good season. Everyone I talk with says this is the worst season they can remember in many many years. The large breeding females of the species must be protected. They have been severely overfished in the last few years and I can see a collapse of this fishery in the future if we continue on the course we have taken.

Thanks,
Robert Boland
Centerville, Ma.

Sent from Xfinity Connect Application

From: [Colin Stokes](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Director Dan McKiernan Stripped Bass Regulation Change
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:28:16 AM

Dear Director,

I would like to submit my support for the changes proposed to the Commercial Stripped Bass season.

I would also suggest moving those dates sooner if possible.

Thank you for your time.

Colin Stokes

From: [Adam Schneller](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Director Dan McKiernan.
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:51:11 AM

The striped bass are finally starting to grow their population and now you want to let commercial fisherman catch and kill more?

This is a terrible idea. Let the population grow!

Please don't make this huge mistake now at the end of the season.

Sincerely,
Adam Schneller.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Adam Schneller](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Director Dan Mckiernan
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 12:09:53 PM

I see you extended the commercial striped bass fishing. Thanks for nothing. Why don't you do something about the seal population???

You're useless.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matthew B. Stetson](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Director Dan McKiernan: Comment on proposal to extend commercial Striped Bass Season
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:33:07 PM

Mr. McKiernan,

I am a recreational striped bass enthusiast and a full time resident of Sandwich Ma, Also, I might add, not a marine biologist. I find the proposal to extend the commercial bass season ludicrous. The obvious reason that they have only achieved 24.4% of the quota this year is that there are less fish to catch. I have witnessed the decline in the passed 10 years myself. The solution is not to extend the season so they can sell more of a quota of a declining fishery. 735, 240 should be the **LIMIT, not the goal**. Additionally, It should be lowered next year, and the year after that, until the magic number can be found to create a sustainable fishery for striped bass commercially.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Respectfully,

Matthew Stetson

From: [Jim Brennan](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [James Brennan](#)
Subject: Director Dan McKiernan/comm striped bass season adjustments
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:32:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sir

As a commercial license holder with striped bass endorsement and charter boat permit holder I just wanted to voice my approval for proposal to adjust season on 9/1 to Mon-Thurs for all the reasons mentioned i.e. weather issues/quota fulfillment etc. Only makes sense to increase odds of license holders to take advantage of already established quotas which in all honesty will probably not be reached once again, primarily because of limits placed by number of days allowed to fish in prime part of season in my opinion. Going forward perhaps consideration may be given next year to opening the season Mon-Thurs right from the beginning in June, I guess results from this year will bear that out should the quota not be reached even with the increase in open days. I feel I can speak to this issue with some experience having held both commercial/charter permits for over 30 years. Feel free to reach out to me for any input/comments which you may feel helpful in making future decisions.

Respectfully, Jim Brennan, Strike Sportfishing Charters

Sent from my iPhone

From: [James Jewkes](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Director McKiernan
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:09:42 PM

Hi Mr McKiernan,

After seeing how the striper season is going and seeing this email. Not sure how adding days to the commercial side of the striped bass fishery would help the them recover after over fishing has occurred. Back during one of the DMF meetings it was brought to your attention about not meeting the commercial quota and here we are again. When you became director I thought to myself, hey this guy knows what's going on, Now the fish might have a chance. It looks like same as it ever was.

Please no extra commercial days our fish need a chance to go back and spawn.

Less killing of our breeder fish is the only way to rebuild the stocks

Thank you for reading

James Jewkes

Sent from my iPad

From: [James Richmond](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: DMF Accepting Public Comment on Proposed In-Season Adjustments through August 24
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:13:10 AM

I am for all of these Proposals. With these hard times it is a way to make a living.
Thank you

From: [Charles Devens](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: DMF Accepting Public Comment on Proposed In-Season Adjustments through August 24
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:59:23 PM

Dear Fisheries Managers,

Please give the species you are considering increasing the commercial days for a break. The reason the quotas are low is because the demand is low due to the pandemic. This would allow the stocks to replenish so that when there is sufficient demand again there will be sufficient stocks to meet that demand. I have caught exactly one legal recreational sized striped bass this summer while targeting them practically every weekend off of Monomoy Island. Their size and volume has been decreasing for years from my experience. This is your one chance to protect some of the best breeding fish for a year so please give them that break. The same goes for the Black Sea Bass and the Fluke/Summer Flounder. Give them a break from over-harvesting when there isn't demand to meet the oversupply you will be creating.

Thank you

Charles Devens
45 Deerpath Rd
Dedham, MA 02026
617-901-4485

Daniel McKiernan, Director
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114

August 11, 2020

Dear Dan,

I respectfully submit the following comments regarding recent proposals to increase allowable days of commercial fishing for striped bass, summer flounder and black sea bass, ostensibly to allow for quota attainment.

Given the current localized abundance of legal commercial and recreational size striped bass and summer flounder, particularly around the Cape and Islands, it is very difficult to rationalize that the taking more of a scarce resource makes sense for the long term outlook of the stock or the fisheries.

Personally, I have caught hundreds of the 2015 year class of stripers this year, but with only a handful over 28". The same holds true for most of my friends. There are just not many of the older fish left in the local populations and those should be carefully conserved for their contribution to the spawning stock until such time as the abundant 2015 year class recruits to the local fisheries.

Local summer flounder fishing, unfortunately for both sectors, seems to be a lost cause due to population contraction, and a reduction in the length frequency distribution. Out of 10 recreational fishing trips this summer I have caught only a handful of recreational size limit fluke and a limit of 5 fish only once. That from a trip a 35 mile run from the dock east of Nantucket. Like striped bass given the local availability of fish to keep, it makes little sense to increase effort.

One could make the case that the fish we don't kill will only be utilized by other fishermen in other states, however tagging results for both species and strong correlations between local recruitment and future stock size reveal the localized nature of the stock components we fish on. I.E. our fisheries rely heavily on fish imprinted to our waters returning to our waters and most of those localized stock components have been fished down to the point they are no longer support viable local fisheries. Many recreational anglers as well as small boat commercial fishermen are having to go further and further from port forcing them to make decisions regarding giving up fishing, pushing the range limits of their vessels or having to move up to larger vessels, greatly increasing costs and safety concerns.

Most of the above comments could be applied to black sea bass as well but in this species case elevated water temperatures in the Sounds appear to be more of a factor in declining catch rates than population size. Our commercial quota and recreational harvest limits appear commensurate with localized availability, at least for the last several years. A decline in water temperatures this fall should result in an increased commercial harvest, with or without the addition of allowable harvest days.

Lastly, I feel the Division and Commission need to look long and hard at what they wish the two fisheries sectors to look like down the road. The two sectors are in direct conflict regarding fishing grounds, supporting infrastructure, and available resources. As an example, anglers with a hook and line in small vessels cannot compete directly with commercial net operations in the same places, times and on the

same species unless resources are abundant. Having disparate size limits only places anglers at a greater disadvantage.

Setting a long term policy regarding balancing the two user groups needs would go a long way to reducing the constant tug of war between the two sectors by establishing ground rules that both can sectors can live with vs arguing about rules on an annual basis.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Caruso

42 Matthew Way

Marstons Mills, MA 02648

From: [John Curry](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: DMF -Proposed in season adjustments
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:55:59 PM

Dear Mass-DMF,

In response to the proposed changes to the commercial Striped Bass season open days , I have to say I'm very disappointed!

As a for-hire charter captain who for the last 10 years averages roughly 100 charters a season I am worried, very worried.

I have seen the catch rates and average size of the fish my clients catch consistently decline over the past 5 seasons.

The commercial take of striped bass in our state waters is 100% responsible for this major decline.

How can you have sound management of such an important species as our Striped Bass by allowing the taking of the large breeding sized fish year after year? It makes no sense at all to anyone from out-of-state when I discuss our commercial season to them.

I even had a fisheries biologist from Montana last year and he was very confused as to why this is. In his words " that type of management is for the good of one or two entities and most likely it's about a short to term gain in dollars ". Needless to say he hasn't been back to fish and spend his tourism dollars on The Cape since.

I'm an onshore guide who caters to many foreign travelers who spend considerable amounts of money in our state while they fish for Stripers.

Hotels, restaurants, rental vehicles etc and not to mention they love the charm of our small specialty shops here on Cape Cod. Oh and we hardly ever keep a fish. Like most of the guides I know, we may kill roughly 10 fish a season for clients to take home and enjoy.

Our striped bass no longer hold in large schools where they once did . Why you may ask? Because once the commercial fleet finds them it's game over for that school of breeders. I often see the same boats out for 2-3 trips a day instead of the legal one trip per day for the commercial limit. They have 3 licenses and use a different one each time they sell their catch to the buyer. It's widely known and is virtually un-enforced.

Yes I'm bitter on this new proposal so let me ask you this. If my clients can't catch a keeper size fish each trip why aren't you allowing the recreational anglers to keep smaller sized fish? Hmm?

I'm 56 yrs old and have lived through the time period when we had no stripers due to over fishing commercially. Let's not let that happen again please!

Stop the commercial take of striped bass all together and see how much more revenue the state will make versus the alternative.

Best,

Capt John Curry

508-209-7741

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joseph Modry](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Do not increase commercial striped bass harvest
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 9:17:23 AM

These fish are worth much more harvested recreationally than commercially. If there comes a time when the stock has been restored to good health, it might make sense to allow the harvest of excess by commercial anglers. This is not that time. Focus on restoring the stocks so that my son can enjoy the excellent fishing I had in the 90's and 2000's

Best, Jay Modry
647 Lake shore rd
Greensboro, VT

---This message was sent by a Hazen Teacher---

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From: [Jeremiah Treanor](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Expanding Commercial Fishing Days
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:56:55 AM

Dear Dan,

I am writing in protest of the expansion of the commercial season for striped bass in light of the quota not being met. The quota hasn't been in years now which no extensions will solve.

There is a well documented decline in the striper biomass, how are they expected to repopulate if such added pressure becomes the norm. Do right by both the people and the bass, use some common sense. Don't extend the commercial season.

Jeremiah Treanor

Sent from my iPhone

From: [01/27/2017 Cannistraro](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: extended fishing
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:33:02 PM

No wonder that the fisheries are suffering .Let the commercial people take more striped bass and a longer season
for Bass and black sea bass. Punish the recreational fishermen and reward the commercial fishing.
With the bad mismanagement
these species will never come back. Example River Herring allow netting of Sea Herring as the River Herring are mixed in.
That's why the River Herring have not come back even with a no take mortarium in place.
Recreational fisherman
put ten times more into the economy than any Commercial fisherman .
David Cannistraro

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [rht1898](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Extending Commercial Fishing Days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:48:17 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I do not support extending the striped bass commercial fishing days.

The weather this summer has been as near to perfect for fishing and commercial striped bass fishing is at an all time low. What does that tell you? The large breeder stock is in terrible shape. DMF response? Kill more and further stress an already depleted stock so that next year there will be even less. Makes absolutely zero sense.

Give the stock a few years to rebuild itself and you can pat yourself on the back in 2025. Otherwise, there will be no commercial striped bass fishery to manage. In three short years, the stock has gone from easily reaching quota to never reaching quota. For a state that prides itself on data, DMF still can't get it.

Never mind that the market for selling these fish, i.e. restaurants, is pretty much closed. There could never be a better year for DMF to shorten the commercial season than this one.

Best regards,
Richard

From: [Jerry Williamson](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Extending commercial fishing striped bass
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 2:06:17 PM

DAN McKiernn

There is no need to add more days to commercial fishing, the over fishing has caused enough damage already. Lets save something for future generations

Jerry Williamson
jerry@tresent.comwww.tresent.com

From: [Joe Cummings](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Extending commercial striped bass fishing days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:38:16 AM

Director Dan McKiernan; I am opposed to an extension of commercial fishing days for striped bass. If the catch rate to this date is low a logical reason is that there may well be fewer fish to catch. Let the bass live for a few seasons to reproduce. Extending the commercial days for striped bass would be like hunting buffalo in the Wild West almost to extinction . It makes no sense. Thanks for your consideration.-Joseph Cummings

Sent from my iPad

From: [dan feeney](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#); [Mafia Maark](#); [Tom Berg](#); [Blair & Dianne Emin](#); [Mike O'Rourke](#)
Subject: Extending the seasons and limits on commercial Striped Bass and Black Sea Bass
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:25:30 PM

I am amazed that you folks are still stuck on helping the commercial guys when you have allowed them to destroy our recreational fishery. Maybe you didn't get the memo that there are now more (paying) recreational fishermen than commercial and we are sick of your one sided control of our fishery. We not only ask but will now demand a sustainable fishery management team where the fishery comes first, the Recreational fishermen come second, and the commercial guys can have any fish that are left. At the rate you are going - there won't be any.

I want those of you who even propose such stupidity as your recent striped bass regulations to be fired and their pensions taken away. As a wildlife biology major back in the seventies, I am completely amazed at your politics and frankly - incompetence. I would rather stop ALL fishing than to let you continue down this path and I intend to formulate a plan to end your positions.

Sincerely and with no respect deserved
Daniel Feeney

From: [Dennis Minnich](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Extension of commercial fishing days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:42:28 AM

Director Dan McKiernan,

I am against extending striped bass commercial fishing days. There are fewer and fewer striped bass every year. This year is worse than last year and last year was worse than the year before. Please don't give in to the lobby. Thank you, Dennis Minnich

Dennis Minnich
54 South St
Berlin Ma. 01503

From: [Thomas Shallow](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Extension of commercial fishing
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:13:38 AM

Hello i just wanted to let you know the commercial fishing should be limited if anything. 1000lbs a week for flounder? Seriously? That's about 500 fish PER license. What you're proposing is wrong and should not take place.

From: [GERALD WHEELER](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: extension of commercial season for striped bass.
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:43:43 PM

attn: Mr. Daniel Mc Kiernan

The obvious explanation for the low yield for commercial striped bass fishery is the obvious lack of larger fish in our waters. Adding more days or ours to the allowed fishing time will only exacerbate the depletion of larger fish. The original time allotted to commercial fishing I would assume was thought to be realistic to arrive at the allotted catch ,and since weather has not played an unusual part in available days, this season,One could conclude that allowing more time will only lead to the further depletion of available fish.

I hope the commission would consider lowering to reflect the real and apparent lack of fish.

Thank you

From: [Will Pinkus](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Extension of commercial striped bass season
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:16:09 PM

I am writing in response to the proposal to extend the commercial striped bass season. The striped bass fishery is in need of repair. We should be reducing the harvest and increasing studies on how we can responsibly harvest these fish if at all. I have more than 30 years of experience fishing Massachusetts for striped bass and recently have noticed a severe decline in commercial sized bass. We need stricter enforcement for everyone, recreational, for hire and commercial. Please help protect this resource that provides much more recreationally than commercially.

Tight lines,
Will Pinkus

From: [WILLIAM GRAHN](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Extra commercial fishing days.
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:29:41 PM

I think adding more commercial fishing days is a slap in the face to recreational fishermen and women. Striped bass numbers are severely restricted for recreational fishers. 7 day open season will eliminate boat access for recreational fisherpeople using boat ramps because all parking spaces will be taken by commercials. With no boat access why would recreationals even bother 1: buying a recreational license? 2: register a boat, pay the ramp fee? 3: buy bait and tackle putting tackle stores OUT OF BUSINESS!!! 4: Provide info to fisheries personal. 5: buy extra gasoline for towing vehicle and boat, NO GAS TAX. Your proposal is terrible.... William Grah.

From: [Richard Deschamps Jr](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Fishing regulation changes
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 8:36:15 AM

I do not support your proposed in-season commercial fishing quota changes. Your primary duty is to manage a healthy fishery for the long term. Instead, your department is often focused on the short term profit of private business at the long-term expense of depleted fishing stocks. In your proposed changes, there is no mention of any scientific evidence to support them. You anecdotally cite COVID and weather as the reasons for low catch levels to date. Where is the evidence that this is the case, and that the lower catch levels are not due to depleted fisheries? Furthermore, fisherman and environmentalists alike know that in part the burgeoning seal population in recent years has had a harmful impact on the local fish populations. And yet this is never addressed by your department, and instead only fishing gear and fishing practices are blamed. Sure, that is a part of the truth, but your department should give the full truth. That is your duty, and what is needed to maintain public trust for your department. Please do your job and prioritize long-term healthy fish populations, and get out of the business world, which is not the designated priority of your department. Thank you.

Richard F. Deschamps Jr.

From: [Mike Walsh](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Fluke
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:50:11 AM

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Hi I think the state is heading in the right direction on the commercial landing lining up with other states and maybe landing ours state's Allocation
Mike Walsh

From: [Dave Anderson](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: For Dan McKiernan
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:55:33 PM

Dan,

You can't be serious. In the face of a documented decline, an obviously failing fishery, a commercial quota that used to be met long before September and now is flat out NOT MET year after year, you're going to try and INCREASE the number of commercial fishing days so that a greater percentage of the remaining fish can be harvested? When something is easy to get and then becomes hard to get, the obvious conclusion is that you're taking too many! C'mon Dan do the RIGHT thing, the responsible thing, and start moving toward a lower, attainable quota. This will ensure that the commercial striped bass fishery actually has a chance to remain viable for many years to come. Making it easier to kill more of the biomass we have left in the pipeline is irresponsible for all fishermen and only puts this failing fishery in greater jeopardy.

Do the right thing, your mom would approve,
-Dave Anderson
Outdoor writer, avid striped bass fisherman and concerned citizen

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Foye](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: I am Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:21:49 PM

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Failure to catch its full commercial quota is an indication of the decline, please think of everyone that fishes for Striped Bass and i have **for 50 years !** thank you - John

From: [Tom](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: I Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:08:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director Dan McKiernan

Sir,

I am writing as a resident of Massachusetts and an active recreational fisherman.

It very clear to me and my fellow recreational fisherman that the Striped Bass population is in a sever crisis. The last 5 year (and especially last season vs. this) have seen dramatic decrease in catching of ANY stripped bass.

Regularly fishing multiple days a week this summer I have only caught 5 (only one of which was a keeper!). That is crazy! That is something like a 10x decrease vs 5 years ago. I would say there has been a 2x decrease just since last season.

It is time for extreme measures to protect and repopulate the striped base population. A move to extend the commercial season is a mistake and would be yet another commercial biased decision that further hurts the diminished Striped Bass population and in the extreme, further deprives them of the breeder size fish that we need most.

Thanks.

Thomas Wisniewski
917-885-2616

From: [KENNETH ELDREDGE](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: in season adjustment to striped bass regs
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:31:38 AM

Last year the quota wasn't filled with the 2 days a week regulation. Now this year is heading the same way even with a reduced quota. Obviously the striped bass population is in trouble. You are most certainly not going to help the situation by adding fish days. More breeding sized fish will be killed. The ex vessel price will drop as well. Let's face the fact that something bad is happening. Increasing fishing effort on the bass stock will harm it, not help it. Keep the Monday and Wednesday days in effect. Don't risk overfishing the striped bass.

Kenneth Eldredge

Captain

Chatham

From: [Paul Unangst](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: in season adjustment
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:01:23 AM

ATT Dan Mckiernan

This is Paul Unangst from marshfield Mass fishing on my boat Destiny for summer flounder in Nantucket sound. I have been fishing this area before there were any start dates and any quota amounts so i have a good knowledge of the trend of this fishery. This year has been another year with lots of grass around which has really hurt the catch rate of fish. I have only been able to fish on average of 2-3 days out of the 5 that are allowed because the weather has been windy on the open days and the nice days have been on the days off. Every single Saturday for the month of July has been no wind at all. I fish alone and its hard to fish when the wind is 25 mph On a 36 foot boat with all the dragging gear. I wish you would eliminate the closed days right now not wait till October 4. If you wait till October every one i know is all done fishing for fluke by that time and it will do no good to anyone. I have said for many years i wish i could pick my 5 days out of each week to fish and was told it would be an enforcement problem but you could maybe use a call in system like we had for ground fish years ago. As far as going to 600 lbs from 400 lbs not going to make a big difference in the catch rate because most boats having tough time to catch 400 lbs. I wrote a letter at the beginning of this year asking not to reduce the horseshoe crab to 75 crabs from 300 for me because of last year the crabs were caught for the first time ever and now we are looking at that quote at 50% caught with boats leaving the fishery every week because we can't make enough money to get by. I would like to ask to go back to 300 crabs for the rest of the season even at that it would most likely not reach the quota by the end of the season . There has been a drastic reduction in the boats fishing for fluke in just the last 3 years in the Nantucket sound i used to look around and see roughly 20 boats in sight of me and at the most now maybe see 4 boats. In my opinion this fishery the way it is set up right now is not going to profitable in the future. Myself and at least 4 other fisherman i know have doubts about fishing for fluke next year.

Thank you Paul Unangst

From: [Ketch, Chad](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Increased Quota
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 8:21:07 PM

Hello Dan,

I think the choice to increase the days per week available for commercial striped bass fisherman to meet their quota is the exact opposite of what should be happening. The striped bass stocks have reached a dismal state, and will have no hope of retaining a chance for positive upturn if nothing is done. I hope this changes your perspective.

-Chad Ketch

From: [WILLIAM R TODD](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Increased quotas for Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:39:59 AM

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Gentlemen, Please realize that the striped bass is declining in numbers and the amount of money that we recreational fisherman spend to fish for this species is much larger than the sales of this fish at the markets. It should be a gamefish like bonefish are in the Bahamas. Government should be reducing the quotas if they are really interested in serving the public. Sincerely, William Todd 781 Stony Brook Rd Brewster, Ma 02631

From: [Dave Pickering](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: increasing commercial striped bass days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:45:33 PM

Dear Director Mc Kiernan,

I fish live in RI but fish MA waters a lot for striped bass. I am a recreational fisherman. From my observation of fishing just about every night, I can see there is a serious problem with large striped bass or the lack of.

I'm guessing the quota is not going well because there are so few big fish around to catch. So, why increase the pressure by increasing the number of days commercial guys can fish? I **am opposed** to any increase in commercial fishing days for striped bass given the current situation.

In addition, these larger keepers are the breeders of future generations of striped bass. They should be protected for the health of the future of the fishery.

I hope you will consider my comments,

Dave Pickering
4 Sayles Ave.,
Lincoln, RI 02865

From: [Timothy Donnelly](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: In-season adjustments to 2020 commercial fishing limits for striped bass
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 9:35:19 AM

Dear Director Dan McKiernan:

I am writing to provide public comment to the proposed in-season adjustments to 2020 commercial fishing limits for striped bass.

As background, I am an active recreational fisherman, both shore and boat. I fish primarily Cape Cod, but also the northern shores around Boston.

You are the experts and I assume are in regular contact with the commercial fisherman. I presume you are also familiar with the market conditions for striped bass. Two things are affecting the harvest: a soft market because of C19 and/or lack of properly sized fish.

Increasing the number of days available to commercial fisherman will have no positive impact on either factor. It may slightly increase the harvest and provide some flexibility to commercial license holders to fish other days, but it will only serve to soften the market demand. If there is a shortage of properly sized fish, then we have significant problems that this proposal exacerbates. I will also add there has been a tremendous uptick in recreational fishing, perhaps unprecedented. Anecdotal, but I have seen a lot of undersized dead fish floating in the areas I fish. Even the best C&R practices result in some mortality.

I see this proposed change as inconsistent with preserving and fostering the striped bass fishery. The striped bass could use a season off.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate all you and your staff do.

Tim Donnelly
timothy.e.donnelly@gmail.com
Melrose, MA

From: [Edward Austras](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: keep commerical striped bass fishing at 2 days per week for 2020
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:37:01 AM

Hello Sir,

Please keep the current rules in place for both commercial and recreation fishing.

Do not add additional days to the commercial fishing season. Do not increase catch limits.

if the total catch is down, it's because the overall striper population is down. Let's give the fish a year to restock. We may need another year or two to help make things right.

Thank you

Ed Austras

Recreational Striper fisherman for 10 plus years.

From: [Jeffrey MacDonald](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 3:03:05 PM

I would personally think that given the fact that the commercial fishing guys are having difficulty filling the quota, then maybe the quotas are too high and the fish stocks could use some time to rebuild, similar to what is going on with the GOM cod stocks, figure it out, give the fish a break!

From: [Andy Boynton](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:02:10 PM

Dear Officials,

I'm stunned and saddened by the proposal to expand commercial fishing quotas because they failed to catch their quota. Is the quota now not a quota, but a "targeted number"? The quota numbers are already too high and Mass already overly favors commercial fishing, given their damage to the fishery and hindrance of effective sports fishing. **NO HIGHER QUOTA's** please. The logic of raising the quota can only point to support from a few well heeled interest groups who are pursuing objectives against the greater good.

Thank you, Andy Boynton

--

Andy Boynton
John and Linda Powers Family Dean
Carroll School of Management
Boston College
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

boyntona@bc.edu

617-552-8420 (p)

617-552-8738 (f)

From: [Joseph Gomes](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:50:45 AM

My response to extending the commercial striped season;

I strongly disagree with the extension plans. I strongly disagree with the whole idea that commercial fishermen are allowed to take the bigger fish for market. I feel that ALL the stripers taken ought to be in a slot limit and allow the larger, older more prolific breeding stock to escape death and rebuild the stocks now being over harvested at one end and deprived of their food sources at the other end.

I am pleased that Fisheries has FINALLY taken moves to restrict the over harvest of Menhaden by the rendering industry but I fear that it may be a case of too little, too late; so often the case with our precious resources.

I am not pleased at the whole idea of fluke/flounder fishing with towed nets. Who thinks it's a good idea to totally tear up the sea floor to catch the fish? The bycatch must be incredible. Such waste is unsustainable and WE ALL know that.

Would it be so terrible if we DID NOT fill a quota for a reason other than there weren't enough fish to catch? Must we always operate on the credo of MORE, MORE, MORE?

Use some common sense, employ your ethics rather than be swayed by money.

Thanks for your time. J. Gomes

From: [chris blakie](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:41:03 AM

I for one am against the change for the commercial fisherman. As a recreational fisherman would like to see the striper fishing get better for the future of the sport. I understand businesses need to survive but at what cost loosing the fish all together?

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Robbie Willis](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:12:51 AM

Sure after you screw the canal Fisherman

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [romanaround5246](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 4:11:06 PM

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am writing to you about the absurdity of opening up more days to commercial Striper bass fishing. There is a reason why the commercial sector has low numbers. Just like the recreational sector, the population of striped bass is overfished. And I guess you don't understand what that means. We don't have the same number of fish that we used to. If the recreational sector isn't able to catch and keep their one fish a day, are you going to allow us to keep more fish at the end of the year to make up for it? I don't think so. Why should you allow the commercial sector changes in regulations? If you do, then you are considered a hypocrite!! Save the Striped Bass!!!

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: vinnyf18@verizon.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: vinnyf18@verizon.net; michaelgerrity@me.com; ron.reif.jr@gmail.com; salar02@aol.com; chellafoods@gmail.com; rickjwils@hotmail.com; capeflyfish35@gmail.com; harry.graff3@gmail.com; tinylynch@comcast.net; outcastcharters5@aol.com; Flyfisher2012@live.com; Wfb99@comcast.net; godinfam@comcast.net; ccunsworth@comcast.net
Subject: New proposed commercial regs.
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:10:04 PM

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

In a year when we've seen our world turned upside down with a pandemic and social unrest, you and the members of Mass Fisheries are in the unique position to do something to restore our faith in the powers that be. Please do not extend the number of commercial fishing days. As a matter of fact, as a board member of the Cape Cod Flyrodders, I can unequivocally state our membership would vote tomorrow for a limited moratorium on striped bass fishing all together ASAP. This would give these fish a chance to recuperate their breeding stock numbers, and increase their chance to survive for future generations. It is not often a few people have the power to do something that is genuinely good, rather than unquestionably for the financial gain of a few. Believe me when I say, so many people are waiting and watching what happens on this vote. Thank you for your consideration.

Vincent Foti
21 Hinkley Pond Drive, South Dennis MA 02660

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

From: [Bill Ewing](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: New rules for commercial fishing Striped Bass
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:53:25 AM

I'm a long time recreational salt water fisherman from Cape Cod to Salisbury. Over the last 40 years I've seen the Striped Bass fishery have it's ups and downs in size, quantity and locations. Not to mention but not excluding Cod and many other restricted fish on your list.

Let's be serious here people, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know the Striped Bass population is in a decline, and has been for a number of years. I have fished with friends commercially and it's frankly a slaughter house for money and greed with no respect for the fishery! I now refuse to participate in this mad house, especially on Cape Cod!

I realize that people need to make money and feel the fish provide that income but it's time for a change before it's too late. Increasing the number of fish or day's being able to fish commercially will NOT solve the population problem. The quota is NOT a goal! if it's not met by a certain date it may help Striped bass recover for years to come. Allowing commercial fishermen to maximize the quota year after year just for the sake of making money will in the future severely limit or stop the recreational angler from enjoying this beautiful fishery.

Please make the smart changes now before it's too late, it's time the fisherman that fish for money look at alternatives in there income instead of depleting our fish stock to the point of no return.

Thank You,
Bill Ewing

From: [Stephen Gallant](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: NO ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL STRIPER DAYS
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:36:32 PM

I mean, c'mon Dan . Are you guys serious with this again? The fishery is in decline, has been for years. Only a quarter of the quota has been hit (which should be a giant warning sign right there) and your solution is to open additional days so they can destroy what's left of the breeding biomass? I'm honestly ashamed my taxes help pay your salaries with leadership like this and a clear disregard for what's right for a species. Shame on you for even suggesting this. Shut the entire commercial striped bass fishery down.

LACES OUT DAN!!!

- Steve Gallant

From: [Jonathan Tierney \(USPRO\)](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: NO MORE Striped Bass Days in Mass
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:20:35 AM

Attention: Dan McKiernan

I wanted to reach out and STRONGLY discourage the possibility of more Commercial Striped days in Massachusetts. I have been Striped Bass fishing in Rye NH for the past 22 years or so. Year by year the numbers in NH drastically have gone down, especially when it comes to catching big striped bass in NH. I feel that the Commercial Striper fishing in MASS has drastically lowered the amount of fish who are able to get to both NH and Maine waters. It also seems insane that NH and MA border each other and have drastically different rules / regulations when it comes to harvesting Striped bass. NH is going above and beyond to help keep the population of Striped bass strong by only allowing slot limit fish to be taken as well as a limit while Mass allows commercial fishing.

PLEASE HELP KEEP THE STRIPED BASS POPULATION STRONG SO PEOPLE IN NH AND MAINE CAN ENJOY THESE FISH FOR YEARS TO COME AND NOT LET MASS FISH THEM TO POTENTIAL EXTINCTION LEVELS.

Thanks,

Disclaimer

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From: [David Moore](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Open Fishing Days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:18:37 PM

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am writing to you to register my opposition to add open fishing days to allow more commercial harvesting of striped bass. Only last year striped bass were declared overfished. They are too important a resource to the Massachusetts recreational industry to take a chance on further reducing their population.

Sincerely,

David Moore
448 Wilson St.
Clinton, MA 01510

From: [Henry Godin](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Opening more commercial striped bass fishing days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:13:28 AM

Mr. Dan McKiernan, I am totally against opening more commercial fishing days for striped bass. It's no secret that striped bass are in trouble. Killing more 35 inch plus bass doesn't help the problem. My suggestion is to totally shut down both recreational and commercial striped bass fishing effective September 1st 2020 and give these fish a chance to recover.

Henry Godin
379 Braggs Lane
Barnstable, Ma 02630

From: capsing2@comcast.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose extension of commercial striped bass fishing season
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:48:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Dan McKieman:

I strongly oppose, as a recreational striped bass fisherman, the proposal to increase the commercial striped bass season.

In October of 2019, in response to years of diminishing numbers, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), declared that the population of wild Atlantic striped bass was “overfished, and overfishing is occurring.” Commercial and recreational regulations were changed to reduce fishing pressure and begin the process of rebuilding a healthy, sustainable striped bass fishery.

Massachusetts' failure to catch its full commercial quota is an indication of the declining quality of the fishery. In past years the entire quota of over a million pounds of striped bass was caught within a few weeks. Furthermore, the minimum commercial size limit of 35" means nearly all striped bass harvested in Massachusetts are mature, breeding female fish—the very fish needed to propagate the species back to abundance.

Sincerely,
Larry Singmaster

From: macminkman@aol.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:58:20 PM

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Dear Director Dan McKiernan,

Please do not add any additional commercial fishing days to the stripper season this year or any year until the fisher recovers from **over-fishing**. The shortfall in the commercial harvest of stripped bass is a sure indication that this vital fishery is still being over-fished. As a regularly licensed fresh and saltwater Massachusetts sports fisherman, please do what you can to allow for the full recovery of this species of fish.

Sincerely yours,

Harry A. Mink
4 Cricket Way
Acton, MA 01720
E-mail: hmink@alphabizgp.com
FAX: 978-263-9420
Home Phone: 978-263-2341

From: [Richards](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:53:28 PM

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Pls let the strippers rebound for a change.
Then we can think about catch quota adjustments.

Thanks,
Paul Richards

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Al](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:05:45 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

From: [capt.tom02](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass because you idiots have no clue.Striped Bass have no commercial value. Instead of trying increasing commercial fishing quotes, lets try and save this great game fish. But a 5 year ...
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:38:50 PM

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Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [Gary Mickus](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:36:03 PM

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Don't increase the commercial quota for strippers. With the fishery in very significant decline, this action would worsen the situation.

Gary A. Mickus/Striped Bass fisherman

Sent from my iPad

From: [Rick Drew](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:31:27 PM
Attachments: [StripedBass_Youngofyear.docx](#)
[fisheriesofnarthatlantic_historical.pdf](#)

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<!--[if lte mso 15 || CheckWebRef]-->

Rick Drew has shared a OneDrive file with you. To view it, click the link below.

 [HistoricStripedBassReport 4.pdf](#)

<!--[endif]-->

Dear Mr. Dan McKiernan,

As a lifetime Striped Bass fisherman for over 50 years I am troubled by the proposal to increase the season on commercially harvested Striped Bass in Massachusetts for the 2020 season.

How does adding days to the season support a sustainable fishery? Clearly, we are way off past performance when we had a healthy SB fishery. Extending the season will only serve to beat down an already diminished resource. We have over fished the SB fishery, particularly breeder size fish that the commercial fisherman are targeting.

Please consider the overall health of the fishery and the HUGE economic impact a healthy fishery has on our region. Please call me if you have any questions. I have a very large library of documentation on Striped Bass.

Thank you and best regards,

Rick Drew
631.903.0751

From: drtarditi@verizon.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#); rmsshreve@yahoo.com
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:26:54 PM

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Hi Bob-

I agree!

This year the stripers are so scarce along the East Coast through New England that the Martha's Vineyard annual fall fishing contest-started in **1946**, and continuous through at least this year (9.15 to 10.15.20), **has eliminated Striped Bass**.

So the contest will be for only three species: Bluefish, False Albacore, and Bonita. Two categories for each: from the shore and from a boat. They have over 3,000 contestants each year, and it covers the whole Vineyard Sound which includes Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard and the various islands trailing from the Vineyard to the shore just west of Falmouth, Mass.

Dave

David R Tarditi
64 Linden Avenue,
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Shreve <rmsshreve@yahoo.com>
To: marine.fish@mass.gov <marine.fish@mass.gov>
Sent: Tue, Aug 18, 2020 3:08 pm
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass

Please do not increase the commercial harvest of striped bass. Also, drop the length of 35" to a size shorter than a sexually mature female. We cannot keep harvesting all the breeders and expect to have a healthy fishery.

thank you,

Robert Shreve
Haddonfield, N. J. 08033

From: [Edward Horowitz](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:23:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I oppose more days of Commercial fishing. All that is being done is killing more fish. We need the additional fish to increase the population which has been waning for years

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bob Shreve](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:09:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not increase the commercial harvest of striped bass. Also, drop the length of 35" to a size shorter than a sexually mature female. We cannot keep harvesting all the breeders and expect to have a healthy fishery.

thank you,

Robert Shreve
Haddonfield, N. J. 08033

From: [Boston Fish](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:04:05 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please increase the a commercial bass days Immediately. Monday wasn't fishable again tried to and almost died in 6 ft waves . Please do not wait for september

Thanks Jeremy Furtado commercial bass permit holder

From: [Jack O'Mara](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:53:00 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Take a look at the destruction of the striper fishery by the commercial fishing fleet. Stripers are going the way of cod and shrimp in the Gulf of Maine and all New England waters. This must stop.

I have fished for stripers for sixty (yes sixty years). It continues to decline. I want my grandchildren (al ten of them) to be able to enjoy a quality fishery.

Please reconsider expanding the amount of stripers that can be harvested. Every year the number of stripers here continues to decline

please help us.

SINCERELY,

DR. OMARA

Author of "Whitewater Opera - Death Comes to the Allagash"

To learn more, visit my webpage at:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__whitewater-2Dopera.com&d=DwIFaQ&c=IDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=Y1CBtQZE17Rj2MeXjOmTypaU2t5pniKda5lCF15lQyg&m=_h7orCIHbDqWWhxj-NalT7PGQeqMXJ5e9mIAr5gqXhA&s=fODEiY47QyVErcPbFWG1iEuD8U4uy9f3q8mtorAjWZg&e=

Purchase an autographed copy for \$15 and \$5 will go to Dana Farber for breast cancer research.

Just send me an email with your address. If you don't love this novel, I'll refund your money but still send the \$5 to Dana Farber. I believe in my novel . . . and I really believe in Dana Farber.

From: [Bob Reilly](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:52:47 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to register my opposition to the current consideration to open more days to the commercial striped bass harvest season.

I believe that the current regulations were developed and implemented based on the best available scientific research coupled with input from and in consideration of, all interested parties.

I further believe that it is much too early to consider increasing the number of commercial fishing days simply because the the state commercial harvest appears to be falling behind target quotas for the third year in a row.

In my opinion there are a number of significant possible reasons for not reaching the target quota, with at least one of which could exacerbate the current situation.

Size limits, an extremely complicated, and sensitive issue which I do not feel qualified to debate, being one.

Despite my lack of knowledge I can understand how it alone could be a major contributor towards not achieving the quota.

I strongly urge you to resist the current pressure and let "time" and "more data" inform us as to what is the safest way to preserve the Striped Bass resource.

Yours truly,
Bob Reilly

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tom Kelly](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:51:21 PM

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Let me get this straight , you're considering to let the commercial guys have more days to fish because they can't meet their quota . The fishery is over fished that's why they can't meet their quota . I have an idea , let's manage the striper fishery for everyone not just the commercial fishermen . I strongly oppose the plan for more days .

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michael Sullivan](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:30:30 PM

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Dan,

I oppose the plans to increase commercial fishing pressure on Striped Bass.

Massachusetts' failure to catch its full commercial quota is an indication of the declining quality of the fishery. In past years the entire quota of over a million pounds of striped bass was caught within a few weeks. Furthermore, the minimum commercial size limit of 35" means nearly all striped bass harvested in Massachusetts are mature, breeding female fish—the very fish needed to propagate the species back to abundance.

Please do not allow the extension on the Striped Bass commercial season or quota.

Thanks,
Michael Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gary Mirando](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:15:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

At this time there is a decline in the number of striped bass on the East Coast. The decline is most evident in the group of larger mature bass. Large fish taken via commercial striper harvest are often breeders important to restore the fishery to a sustainable level.

With current commercial fishing days unable to fill the poundage quota it is obvious there is a shortage of striped bass numbers. This is due to overfishing.

I am asking Mass DMF to stop the commercial overfishing of striped bass and to not increase the days for commercial harvest of the species.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary Mirando
PO Box 666
West Tisbury MA 02575
508 693-8380
g.mirando@verizon.net

From: [Wendelin Giebel](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:07:49 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Are you all nuts or just almost all of you ?
The striped bass stock is collapsing . Close the season , clowns .

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tom Doyle](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:00:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not allow the commercial season on Striped Bass to be extended to more days. The fact that they have only reached such a low portion of the quota is a direct indication that the fishery is experiencing diminishing numbers.

As an angler of 30 years, I continue to witness less and less Striped Bass in our waters.

thank you for your consideration.

-Tom Doyle
Longtime Bass Fisherman

From: [David Barrell](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:46:11 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi:

I'll be brief. I live in Vermont and fish the waters of Maine and Mass. Striper fishing SUCKS!

Please help by limiting the commercial take.

Thanks,

David Barrell
POB72
Quechee, VT 05059

From: [Robert Antonucci](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:44:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am opposed to any extension of the commercial fishing season. The quota should be decreased to reflect the decrease in fish harvested during the season.

--

Bob Antonucci
978-808-4616

From: [Bill Schiek](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:38:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Failure to fulfill the commercial quota is an indication of a declining fishery. Please Oppose the plan to increase the quota.

Sent from my iPad

From: [M&J Leavitt](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:24:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am in opposition to increase the commercial season for striped bass. In fact, all commercial fishing for stripers should be banned. For the fish to survive, they must be classified as a gamefish. Thank you. Regards, Michael Leavitt, Saco, Maine

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Hufnagel](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:19:37 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not extend the time for commercial steps bass fishing. We are just getting back to rebuilding the population which will help us to get to a more sustainable level.

John Hufnagel

Sent from my iPhone

From: [capt.tom02](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:13:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

When will you idiots learn. We need no increases in commercial fishing for Striped Bass in any State on the eastern seaboard. IF any thing we need a moratorium placed on striped bass for commercial and recreational fisherman for the next 5 years. Stop killing these magnificent fish now.

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [Andre Alguero](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:02:54 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

I am writing today to express my dismay and outrage with the DMF proposal to extend the commercial striped bass fishing season. The very fact that the fishery has not been able to adequately fill the annual "quota" is a strong indication that it is overfished. Historically, the fishery has produced far more fish and we must take this evidence seriously or lose the fishery altogether.

As a politically active Massachusetts resident, I am disappointed that we must fight again for the appropriate and effective conservation of this critical species. But fight is what we must do and we implore you to drop this proposal for the sake of our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,
-André Alguero
Roslindale, MA

From: [Steve Stathis](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:59:00 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please Come to your senses by extending commercial days. You are embarking on a catastrophic decline of the Striper population! Common sense Please!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matthew](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:57:05 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not increase commercial fishing in MA for striped bass. There are so few bass to catch as is, we don't need more of them being caught commercially. thank you

From: [Sean Tracey](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:54:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear ASMFC and DMF,

Please do NOT increase the Commercial Striped Bass fishing season or quota.

As a 35+ year fisherman in New England (Massachusetts and NH mostly) I've seen a decline in the striped bass population that must be stopped.

These valuable fish / resource should not be commercially harvested until the population is far exceeding the need.

Thanks

Sean Tracey

--

Sean Tracey
email: sean@seantracey.com

p 603/427-2800
visit us: seantracey.com
like us: [facebook](#)
follow us: [twitter](#)
videos: [youtube](#)

address:
401 State Street, Suite 3
Portsmouth, NH 03801

From: [William Schott](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:53:58 PM

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The proposal to add a few days to the striped bass commercial “season” so the commercial sector can meet their quota is, quite frankly, a boneheaded idea. While a super majority of those who fish for striped bass are willingly trying to help rebuild the stock, MA regulators are once again pursuing a corrupt path that favors special interests. How about joining the rebuild effort and be on the right side of change.

William P. Schott

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10
t

From: [ROBT TEEDEN](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:35:02 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs I AM deeply opposed to the opening of commercial fishing again. I travel to cape cod to fish. Four to five times a year. I invest money at hotels , restaurant's , and fishing equipment this money goes directly to Massachusetts economy.

I do not understand why the sport fishermen are ignored while we contribute millions of dollars to the economy while helping to preserve the Striped Bass population.

Please reconsider your actions in opening the commercial Fishing again.

Robert D. Teeden

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Robert Gilvey](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:07:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dan McKiernan-

On August 10, and with the commercial striped bass quota at almost 25%, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) proposed adding open fishing days to the commercial striped bass fishing season. By opening more days to commercial harvest of striped bass, DMF says it will provide more opportunities for participants in the fishery to fill the annual quota of 735,240 pounds. It is likely that the state will fall short of meeting its quota for a third consecutive year.

I adamantly oppose this proposal.
Bob Gilvey

From: [Mike](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:06:01 PM

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Brilliant! Commercial quota is not being filled (Because there's fewer striped bass) so let's increase the commercial fishing pressure by adding more days. Stop fooling around and designate the stripers a game fish.

Respectfully, a salt water fly fisherman

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bill Balaschi](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:03:46 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Dan,

I am writing in opposition to the increased commercial fishing days proposal.

It is really hard to understand why anyone, including the comm guys, would think this proposal is a good thing.

It appears to have no common sense or science behind it.

Only money!!

That is the only way anyone can view this.

I know that is not how you operate Dan but that is how people will see you if this is voted in.

Yes I selfishly want great fishing. Who doesn't. But we need to sacrifice for a short time to get there. You can be remembered as the guy that stepped up to save this fishery or the guy that allowed it to disappear.

Perhaps I am being dramatic but that might be what it takes.

I hope you have been fishing. You must know what's happening. Please put your weight behind conservation and long term success.

Thank you Dan

Bill Balaschi

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mitchell Bamberger](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:00:05 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director Dan McKiernan

I am writing this letter to oppose the increase and/or relaxing the limits for commercial striped bass fishing. As you are well aware, the species is in crisis. If the commercial fishing industry has not met it's limit thus far, that alone tells us how small the striped bass population is at present. Increasing the amount and time only further depletes the remaining population. The young and healthy breeders must be allowed to survive if we are to maintain this sport fish. It appears your intent is to just wipe out the species. I adamantly oppose any increases in commercial fishing limits as a sportfisherman and resident of Massachusetts.

Mitchell Bamberger
zembamberger@gmail.com

From: [Paul Z](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:52:26 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The fisheries is in trouble why take more fish these guy are fishing for boat payments and beer money

Sent from my iPad

N.

Paul Zack

Oakham Ma

From: [Scott Mackie](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:51:44 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The commercial season for striped bass should NOT be extended. The quota wasn't met because the fishery is declining and in a perilous state. Most of the fish being commercially kept are breeding females (females grow larger in the Striped Bass world than males statistically speaking) which will have a dramatic impact on the future. If the fishery continues to decline, we'll end up back where we were in the 1980's with the moratorium. Please don't extend the season, the bass need your help.

Regards,
Scott Mackie
South Boston, MA

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jerry Williamson](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:50:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please stop the over fishing!! You have done enough damage already. Save something for future generations

Sent from my iPhone

From: capring2@comcast.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:48:42 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Dan McKieman:

I strongly oppose, as a recreational striped bass fisherman, the proposal to increase the commercial striped bass season.

In October of 2019, in response to years of diminishing numbers, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), declared that the population of wild Atlantic striped bass was “overfished, and overfishing is occurring.” Commercial and recreational regulations were changed to reduce fishing pressure and begin the process of rebuilding a healthy, sustainable striped bass fishery.

Massachusetts’ failure to catch its full commercial quota is an indication of the declining quality of the fishery. In past years the entire quota of over a million pounds of striped bass was caught within a few weeks. Furthermore, the minimum commercial size limit of 35” means nearly all striped bass harvested in Massachusetts are mature, breeding female fish—the very fish needed to propagate the species back to abundance.

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In October of 2019, in response to years of diminishing numbers, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), declared that the population of wild Atlantic striped bass was “overfished, and overfishing is occurring.” Commercial and recreational regulations were changed to reduce fishing pressure and begin the process of rebuilding a healthy, sustainable striped bass fishery.

Massachusetts’ failure to catch its full commercial quota is an indication of the declining quality of the fishery. In past years the entire quota of over a million pounds of striped bass was caught within a few weeks. Furthermore, the

minimum commercial size limit of 35" means nearly all striped bass harvested in Massachusetts are mature, breeding female fish—the very fish needed to propagate the species back to abundance.

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[DONATE NOW](#)

SHOP

BOAT RULER - LOGO DECAL - HAT
FREE SHIPPING ON ALL ORDERS!

[SHOP NOW](#)



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From: [Vito Foderaro](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: vito@comcast.net
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:48:39 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director Dan McKiernan

Sir, while I understand the challenges inherent with managing a fishery during these times, I would hope to see some balance with the condition of the stock. I am not a Commercial fishing expert and I am only a sometime recreational fishier man.

I can say without hesitation that the fishery is in depleted condition and there appears no justifiable reason to up the quotas. As I was fishing off the shore in northeastern Massachusetts, I was struck by limited size of the stock and the existence of bait in the water. Porgy's as far as the eye could see, until on about the 6th of August, a trawler scooped up everything. No Bait, never any bass of size and really limited fishing opportunities.

I realize we need to share and that recreational needs are only a portion of the story, but I believe we all need to give back. I do not take fish, period. I practice safe handling and avoid by kill as a practice. That is not possible for these commercial teams.

They are not villains, but they are also not helping the situation by skirting the game plans for the fishery, by continually asking for quota expansion.

Please consider rejecting this expansion. It is unwarranted, unhealthy for the fishery and ultimately destruction. Let's close the season according to plan. Some of us got our limit, some did not, that is the name of the game.

Regards

Vito V Foderaro

603-560-2610

Licensed for SW via NH License

From: [Kayak Fish New England](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:48:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not extend the commercial season for bass . They need a break and you control that . Do the right thing for the future . Mike baker

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matthew Risser](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:42:48 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to any increase in commercial (or recreational) increase in harvest pressure for Striped Bass. Specifically, I wish to encourage you not to allot additional days to the commercial season.

I am not a MA resident, but for the last 15 years I have visited MA every season to pursue Striped Bass from your beautiful coasts. I have spent money on license, accommodations, food, tackle, and clothing (among other things) in your state, and I very much wish to in the future. A healthy and abundant Striped Bass fishery is key to my visits.

I wish to tell you that during the last 3 seasons, although allowed and having the opportunity to, I have not harvested a single Striped Bass in MA. I have also encouraged those with me to do the same, and they have.

Please do everything in your power to rebuild this fishery in MA and along the east coast. Your waters are the summer resting place for the breeders of this population, please give them every opportunity to return. They are much more valuable alive than harvested.

Thank you,
Matt Risser

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [Dennis Plaster](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:41:33 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attention: Director Dan Mckieman

Dear Mr Mckieman;

I have been around the Striper fishery in Massachusettes for 50 years I have seen it go from abundant to non-existent back to recovered. From my own observation it is on a downward trend again. Given significant increased fishing pressure over the last 50 years it seems absurd that we have a commercial fishery for Stripers even more absurd that it is going to be increased. The Striper fishery is by far the best fishery in the state and truly a treasure to put more pressure on it than it already has is very short sighted and not necessary. Stripers are truly a valued game fish and should be treated as such. On the short term do not increase the commercial fishing for Stripers; better yet take a long term view and eliminate it completely,

Sincerely,
Dennis Plaster

From: [Andy Boynton](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:28:47 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Director Dan McKiernan

I oppose extending the commercial striped bass fishing time duration.

Massachusetts' failure to catch its full commercial quota is an indication of the declining quality of the fishery.

The quota is a limitation on catching -- it should not become a shifting target where days are expanded to meet said target number.

In past years the entire quota of over a million pounds of striped bass was caught within a few weeks. Furthermore, the minimum commercial size limit of 35" means nearly all striped bass harvested in Massachusetts are mature, breeding female fish—the very fish needed to propagate the species back to abundance.

Why did this occur? Why was the quota not reached this year? It is evidence of a shortage of fish! Why up the time to reach the quota. It is only beneficial to the commercial interests, and goes against all the intent of a quota and bass conservation.

Please oppose the proposal to expand the days to reach the quota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andy Boynton

--

Andy Boynton
John and Linda Powers Family Dean

Carroll School of Management
Boston College
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

boyntona@bc.edu

617-552-8420 (p)

617-552-8738 (f)

From: [Peter Maher](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 5:12:10 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I oppose these plans and will vote against any administration that permits them.
Peter S. Maher
Falmouth, MA

From: [John Moy](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Opposed to adding days to the commercial striped bass season
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:11:47 PM

Dear Director Dan McKiernan:

I am opposed to adding days to the commercial striped bass season. As you know, the striped bass population is overfished. That is why we went to stricter size limits this year, for both recreational and commercial fishermen. And when a species is overfished, you fish less, not more.

I participate in SADCT for the DMF. This year there are again fewer large striped bass, at least on Nantucket where I fish. The most likely reason that I can think of for the commercials not meeting their quota is that there just aren't enough 36-inch fish to catch. Give the stripers a chance to come back, and leave those remaining 36-inch fish in the water.

John Moy
25 Eel Point Road
Nantucket, MA 02554
jmoy@ospf.org
617-784-1872

From: [Tim Higgins](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Opposed to Massachusetts Proposal for Adding Commercial Striper Days
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:10:19 AM

It's already hard enough to catch slot keepers this year as a recreational fisherman. Please give the big breeders a chance to repopulate the species and disallow the commercial fishermen added days this year.

Thanks,

Tim Higgins
284 Water St
Newburyport MA 01983

From: [Capt. Brian Coombs](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to commercial striped bass extensions.
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:30:31 PM

Hello Director Mckiernan.

I'm writing this to oppose the extension of the commercial striped bass season in MA. As a full time for-hire operator, I have seen our local stocks slide into major decline. With the commercial striped bass fleet coming well shy of their quota yet again this year. It has become very clear that the current state of the fishery cannot sustain the current striped bass quota. There just isn't enough fish! I believe extending the commercial striped bass operations in any way would be detrimental to our fishery. This year I have seen more commercial pressure than ever before, On The Water. You should know this because permit sales. Please advise the commercial striped bass fishing in Massachusetts is destroying the stock! We need to reduce commercial striped bass fishing, not expand it.

Sincerely.

Captain Brian Coombs

Get Tight Sport Fishing

www.gettightsportfishing.com

7818663367

From: [WILLIAM SAVAGE](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [Stanley Moszka](#); sailsavage@comcast.net
Subject: Opposition to Plan to Increase Additional Commercial Stripped Bass Harvest
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:23:56 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan

I write this email to oppose additional commercial fishing days for Stripped Bass! There are many reasons for this, but the most important is that the minimum commercial size limit of 35" means nearly all Stripped Bass harvested in Massachusetts by commercial fishermen will be mature breeding female fish- the very fish needed to propagate the species back to abundance.

Please stop this heedless assault on one of the most important species in Massachusetts!

Bill Savage
6 Apple Mews
Sandwich, MA 02563

From: [Frederic B. Jennings, Jr., Ph.D.](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to the recent DMF proposal to extend the commercial 2020 season for the harvest of wild striped bass
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:03:23 PM
Attachments: [CEEEE Letter to Director of MA DMF McKiernan on additional days for commercial WSB season 10 August 2020.pdf](#)

Center for Ecological Economic and Ethical Education

*Post Office Box 946
2188 (w) or 617-605-3150 (c)*

Phone: (978) 356-

*Ipswich, MA 01938
ecologicaleconomics@yahoo.com*

email:

10 August 2020

RE: The recent DMF proposal to extend the commercial season for wild striped bass with additional days

Director Dan McKiernan
Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
By email to marine.fish@mass.gov

Dear Director McKiernan:

I am adamantly opposed to any extension of the commercial season for wild striped bass. This fishery is already in some jeopardy, and the recent reductions in the quota for recreational and commercial fishing for wild striped bass has been in response to the finding that this fishery is being overfished. The whole idea behind these recent quota reductions is to curb the mortality of these valuable fish. What is being proposed will not contribute to this important effort to protect and restore this fishery.

Indeed, in your announcement of and call for public comment on this proposal, you indicate that as of the first of August only 25 percent of the quota for wild striped bass has been met. This is an obvious indication that this fishery is in a state of drastic decline, where there are very few fish and those remaining are very hard to catch.

And yet, your reaction to this shortage of fish is simply to offer commercial fishermen additional opportunities to catch even more of them? With all due respect, this is arrant foolishness. The message is that these fish are very scarce because of the recent decline in the number of fish, and your reaction is to make it easier to harvest more of these fish rather than what you should be doing, which is to tighten the restrictions even more to limit their harvest sufficiently to further reduce their mortality!

Furthermore, the whole concept of only allowing the commercial fishery (and the recreational fishery, for that matter) to take what are almost exclusively the largest female breeders – thereby effectively culling the brood stock of this species – is also extremely foolhardy. These are the most important members of the spawning stock biomass, so we should be taking extra precautions through measures designed to protect these females rather than selectively harvesting them! These large fish are also loaded with PCBs and methyl mercury, and we shouldn't be eating them anyway, at least without any warnings to the MA consuming public about them!!!

Please do not adopt these measures to extend the commercial fishery for wild striped bass.

Most sincerely and respectfully,

Dr. Fred Jennings

Frederic B. Jennings Jr., Ph.D.
President, CEEEEE

From: [Michael Formichella](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Overfished Striped Bass 2020
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:47:46 AM

Mr. Dan McKiernan, I am totally against opening more commercial fishing days for striped bass. It's no secret that striped bass are in trouble. Killing more 35 inch plus bass doesn't help the problem. My suggestion is to totally shut down both recreational and commercial striped bass fishing effective [September 1st 2020](#) and give these fish a chance to recover. Or continue down this path and wipe out the species, and no one will benefit neither recreational or commercial.

Michael J. Formichella
539 Bakers Pond Road
Orleans, MA 02653

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michael Formichella](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Overfished striped bass.
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:58:29 AM

Super Job! Keep killing more fish, and soon they all will be gone. Great choice to open up more commercial days. Another well-informed decision. Do you see the numbers?

Michael Formichella
539 Bakers Pond Rd
Orleans, MA 02653
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brian Corville](#)

To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)

Subject: Please do not add days to commercial stripped bass as they compete for the same location as recreational stripped bass as a license charter captain I see this first hand.there is fewer places to fish strippers in the warmer weather. Also untill summer ...

Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:36:04 PM

From: [DAVID REVILLE](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Please do NOT allow additional pressure on striped bass from Commercial fishers
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 6:46:01 PM

Director McKiernan,

As a long-time fisher of the Massachusetts coast, I have witnessed first-hand the decline in our striped bass population. I have not harvested a fish in years, although I have landed many - and I discourage everyone I know from taking stripers.

The meager year-to-date commercial catch compared to the generous quota is simply more evidence of this suffering fish population.

Adding more commercial fishing days is an absurd response to the problem - we need to harvest less of the remaining population, not more of it.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the reckless policy of increasing fishing days for Mass commercial fishing.

Respectfully yours,
David Reville

David M. Reville
646-256-1388

From: [Russ Delaney](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Please do NOT allow for extended commercial fishing days for Striped Bass, Fluke or Black Sea Bass
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:19:49 AM

To whom it may concern:

Please do not increase the commercial fishing days for Striped bass, Fluke or Sea Bass.

The reason commercial fisherman are not catching their quotas is because the populations are down.

Your department knows this, yet you still allow for quotas that are way too generous.

Your department does not account for the impact of poaching / illegal catch, and underestimates by-catch. Your department knows this, but does not make appropriate changes to your models.

Sports fishing for the above species provides MUCH more economic benefit vs. commercial fishing. Your department knows this, but habitually & grossly favors commercial fishing.

In short, your department has a long history of allowing fisheries to be overfished. At some point your department needs to understand that doing the same thing over & over again is not going to get a different result.

From: [Surdel, Dave](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Please do not expand commercial striped bass season
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:17:38 PM

Dan McKiernan,

I saw a notice online that Mass is considering expanding the commercial striped bass fishing days. PLEASE DO NOT DO THAT! The reason the commercial sector is unable to make quota is because the striped bass have been fished to the brink of extinction (once again). The idea that Mass would pander to a very small special interest group (many of whom are out of state) at the expense of the general public is crazy. The commercial lobbyists tried to pull the wool over our eyes last fall when they tried to extend the season. Mass DMF did the right thing by shutting that down, and they should shut down this proposal as well. The 'recremercial' commercial fishery for striped bass in Mass is a joke and everybody knows it. It's a huge problem that leads to overcrowding at the boat ramps and on the water. These are state-funded resources that should not be ruined by the greedy few, many of whom do not pay mass taxes. It also encourages poaching, which is rampant due to zero enforcement at the boat ramps and on the water. Multiple charter captains were stacking coolers full of commercial sized-fish yesterday (Sunday) right off the beach in Chatham. Everyone saw what was happening but ZERO ENFORCEMENT.

Mismanagement of the striper stocks by Mass and the ASMFC are the reason we have seen a decline in the striped bass population. Extending the bounty season on the few breeder-size striped bass that remain could be the last nail in the coffin. Mass needs to take a leadership position of conservation and back up the claims they make on the license plates for sale. Continuing to slaughter the dwindling population of adult fish sends the wrong message. The majority of fish on the cape are sub-35" so there will be an increase in release mortality to boot. It's clear at that point that Mass and the ASMFC have not learned their lessons from the last time they drove the bass population to the brink.

The resource-grab attitude by the individual states is sickening. Every year I see tourism decline on cape cod, recreational charters go under and tackle stores go out of business. There is no enforcement on the water or at the ramps. If Massachusetts really wants to 'conserve striped bass', they will implement a moratorium and create strict-no kill rules for all sectors (including the charter fleet). Mass needs to institute heavy penalties for poachers and increase enforcement on the water and at the boat ramps.

Extending the slaughter season is not the answer. The fishery needs to be managed for abundance so everyone can enjoy it, not so charter captains can double-dip and make some gas money. Please do the right thing and stop this madness before it's too late.

Dave Surdel
6 Bayberry Road
Acton, MA

From: [Bob Campbell](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Please do not extend commercial fishing days for Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:16:55 PM

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Director Dan McKiernan:

I'm writing to ask you to please not grant the commercial fishing industry additional days in which to increase their harvesting of our most important game fish, striped bass.

I no longer go on vacation or make weekend trips to Cape Cod as I used to, when I was a long-time Massachusetts resident and now that I'm not, because the striper fishing is no longer anywhere near what it was. They have been and continue to be overfished, not by recreational fishermen/fisherwomen like me, but by commercial and "recommercial" interests and individuals who seek monetary/business gains from this natural treasure.

But stripers are more than a natural treasure, they're an economic engine of recreational dollars and tax revenues for Massachusetts and all the East Coast states the ASMFC represents. There's overwhelming data that tells us clearly that these dollars, from hotel/motel lodging, restaurant receipts, gear purchases, guiding, spouse/family member purchases, etc., far outstrip the monies and state revenues realized by commercial fishing.

It's hard to let a business suffer or close. I've been there. We had a family farm that low milk prices made untenable, and we had to find another better way. If that's the fate of commercial striper fishing, that's hard but that's in their families' long-term interests and security. That's real.

Prolonging the destruction of, or at best the continual tenuous struggle of, our Striped Bass fishery is not a sensible alternative economically, scientifically, morally, or practically.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this very important issue, Director McKiernan,
Bob Campbell
Holmdel, New Jersey (past resident of Wellesley Hills and Newton, Massachusetts)

From: [Matt Cleary](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Please do not open more days for commercial striped bass fishing
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:18:38 PM

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Attention: Director Dan McKiernan

I fish for Striped Bass from southern Maine to the north shore of Massachusetts. I'm licensed in both ME and MA. Fishing this year has taken a dramatic downturn from last year. I caught 50 fish over 40" last season in Maine. I've caught zero this year and have put in more time. Please do not open more days for commercial Striped Bass fishing.

Thank you,
Matt Cleary

From: [Rich Littauer](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Please reconsider extending the season and times for killing the breeders ..
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 2:36:27 PM

https://www.dailypress.com/news/environment/dp-nw-striped-bass-trophy-plan-killed-20200814-c343fpgrpfae7dsp2mvrfxgt2m-story.html?outputType=amp#referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&_tf=From%20%251%24s

I am a shore fisherman who lives on Social Security....the current regulation make it all but impossible to catch something to eat in salt water.. ..i do catch clams on New and Full Moon tides. We need to get the fish population restored so that we can get to the point as in Maryland where a person from shore can harvest one fish he can eat out of reasonable slot limit.

Florida has a reasonable slot limit for individual species. I can catch a whiting or a pompano for dinner most days.

I live alone, and out of my car, a 28" fish is much too big for me to eat...

Maybe something could be allowable for people such as me who get food stamps.

Obviously I can not afford a boat or even to buy striped bass or most fresh fish ..

A few weeks ago a woman who fishes regularly, virtually every day, told me she had caught 315 stripers this year. I asked her how many keepers?."NONE" (0).

Such is the State of the shore fishery with all the seals around.

Thank you.

Rich Littauer

From: [Timothy Armstrong](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Possible extension of striped bass commercial season
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:21:20 AM

To whom it may concern:

I have become aware of the possibility of extending the commercial striped bass season.

This doesn't appear to make much sense when a fishery is admittedly under stress and provisions (slot limits) have been enacted previously to help reduce this stress.

I understand that there are many factors that have contributed to the reduction in striper population. Some of the factors, i.e. ocean temperature, seal population increase, etc...require long-term fixes with worldwide cooperation. The actions that commercial AND recreational anglers practice at state and regional levels can assist in restoration of a species for generations to come.

I have never harvested a striped bass that I've caught but I do miss the days when landing "keeper size" stripers off the beaches in Dennis were not such a rare event.

Please reconsider any action(s) that would extend the commercial striped bass season in Massachusetts.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tim Armstrong
Dennis, MA.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Hunter Thayer](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: proposal for adding commercial striped bass days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:16:49 PM

Director Dan McKiernan,

My name is Hunter Thayer and I am a long time volunteer of your department's Sportfish Angler Data Collection Team for over 6 years. I graduated from Unity College in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Law Enforcement and have 13 years of experience in striped bass surfcasting. It is my understanding that your department is currently considering adding days to the commercial striped bass season which come October, would allow for all 7 days of the week to be commercial days.

I find this news completely disturbing! When I think of the department, I think of an organization that first and foremost stands for the conservation and sustainability of our marine resources. After all, your department's mission statement reads as follows:

Manage the Commonwealth's living marine resources in balance with the environment resulting in sustainable fisheries and contributions to our economy, stable availability of diverse, healthy seafood and enriched opportunities that support our coastal culture.

By even considering this action, you are contradicting your entire mission statement. Last year, the quota was reduced by 18% due to OVERFISHING. In 2015, it was reduced by 25% due to OVERFISHING. This is all data that is obtained and found by your department. There seems to be a common trend going on here.

Striped bass are being overfished and have been for several years. Massachusetts remains the only state to have a commercial season for our beloved striped friends. Why? I still wonder to this day...

I urge you to not allow this to pass and **to completely shut down the commercial fishery for the remainder of the 2020 season**. The reason the quota is not being fulfilled is that the fish are experiencing a decline. If you allow for the continuation of a commercial fishery, your department is going to be responsible for wiping out the remainder of our 35+ inch size class fish, resulting in a decline in successful breeding. This will completely ruin this fishery for the long term.

I am disappointed of this consideration and if passed, I will withdraw from being a volunteer for the SADCT, as I can not support your department's actions. I hope you understand my frustration and please respond to this email so we can speak further.

Respectfully,

--

Hunter Thayer
Unity College Class of 2019

B.S in Conservation Law Enforcement

From: [Chuck Atkinson](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to commercial fishing season
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:06:33 PM

After all the years trying to protect certain fish species you want to create a larger opportunity to kill off more fish, I regard that as a typical pretty stupid move. If quotas have been obtained, stay with them. Extending and adding to the season will just mean fewer fish for the next several seasons. Lets have some common sense here for a change.

From: [Jeff M](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: proposed changes to striped bass regulations.
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 6:46:06 PM

attn. Dan Mckiernan,

I am a recreational striper fisherman, but I have several friends who fish for bass commercially. One of them, who is one of the "best" has stopped fishing for stripers because of the difficulty finding enough to make the effort worthwhile. That would indicate to me that the numbers of stripers is or has diminished, and the remaining population should be protected. Why would you open more days for the harvest of a diminishing population. The quota is behind, because the fish aren't there to be caught. Another factor to consider is the lack of demand for stripers by the restaurant industry due to the effects of the coronavirus, which will not change in the fall. If you open more days to fishing, the demand for stripers will be even less due to greater numbers flooding the markets. I appeal to you to leave the striper regulations as they are. This fishery has been on a steady decline for years - both recreational and commercial fishermen will attest to that fact. Thanks for the chance to voice my opinion, Jeff Mendall, Middleboro, Ma.

From: [ALAN GONSALVES](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed changes tp commercial regs
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:28:33 AM

Director Dan McKiernan,

Given the stated goal of protecting the large striped bass breeders, this makes no sense at all. The DMF lost credibility with the new size limits. While most recreational fishermen accepted the new slot, the larger slot for commercial fish goes against the idea of protecting larger fish. Expanding the days defeats that argument entirely .

Alan Gonsalves
Melrose, MA

From: [Michael Kowaleski](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Commercial Striped Bass In-season Adjustment
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:40:44 AM

Daniel J. McKiernan
Director
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Dear Director McKiernan,

I have been a commercial striped bass fisherman for over 25 years. As such, I feel I can speak to the historical and current state of the fishery as well as the economics of the fishery. I would like you to carefully consider my comments regarding the proposed in-season adjustments to the commercial striped bass fishery.

I am vehemently against the proposed in-season adjustment for the following reasons:

- The Division of Marine Fisheries reduced the weekly limit from 95 fish (30 each day for three days and 5 on Sunday) to 30 per week (15 each day for two days) in order to better manage the striped bass fishery. This led to better prices for fishermen due to lower weekly supply, and extended the commercial season into the late summer. This was a very economically sound decision.
- In order to manage the declining striped bass stock the commercial quota was reduced twice with reductions of 25% in 2015 and 18% for 2020. This was done to reduce overfishing of the resource, because striped bass were declared overfished.
- Recently, changes to the recreational fishery were also made to reduce overfishing of the resource.
- The Division of Marine Fisheries increased the minimum size for commercial striped bass from 34" to 35" in order to separate the recreational and commercial fisheries, better manage the resource and facilitate enforcement of the regulations.
- The scarcity of fish, which are greater than 35", is contributing to the poor fishery performance. This is direct and incontrovertible evidence that the striped bass stock is overfished.

- The fish that are greater than 35" are the breeding stock, and in the face of overfishing, as many of these fish as possible should be saved.
- According to my commercial fish buyer there is currently a low demand for striped bass due to the COVID19 pandemic, since restaurants are closed or open with stringent guidelines and reduced capacity, as well as fewer tourists traveling to seaside destinations. Many people are avoiding public gatherings altogether. After Labor Day the vacation season winds down and demand for fresh, local, line caught striped bass declines as well.
- The proposed in-season adjustment will increase striped bass supply in the face of decreasing demand. This will lead to low prices for commercially caught fish, minimizing the economic benefit for commercial fishermen.
- The large, greater than 35" fish are much more economically valuable as breeding fish in the overfished striped bass biomass. Preserving as many of these fish as possible will improve the viability of the fishery for future recreational, charter and commercial fishing activities. This future economic benefit far outweighs any short term economic benefit derived from the proposed in-season adjustment.

Considering the above, please do not make any adjustments to the commercial striped bass open fishing days, because an adjustment would contribute to overfishing of the striped bass resource, and would not be economically beneficial to commercial fishermen.

Please prioritize the management the striped bass resource, not the commercial quota.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Kowaleski
Harwich, MA

From: [Michael Kelleher](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed expansion of striped bass commercial days
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:29:41 AM

To DMF Director Dan McKiernan:

DMF has noted that the commercial striper harvest is currently only 24.5% of quota, and has proposed increasing commercial fishing days in two steps to 7 days/week. I have been fishing as a non-commercial angler out of Duxbury for over 50 years and can attest to the remarkable decline in the most efficient breeders over 35 inches...matched only by the steep declines we saw in the 1980s. The more logical remedy for the weak current commercial catch would be to end the commercial season, or limit it to slot size fish. These measures saved the fisheries for snook and redfish in Florida and should be implemented in Mass waters. With striped bass now selling at \$22 -\$25/lb the average person can't afford to buy it, and those high prices will push the breeder population to the brink. We don't want to duplicate the cod disaster.

Michael Kelleher MD
425 Bay Rd, Duxbury, Ma. 02332
cell 508-667-5034

Sent from my iPad

From: [Nat Bottigheimer](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [Nat Bottigheimer](#)
Subject: Proposed extension of commercial striped bass fishing season
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:35:38 AM

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Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to oppose the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) recent proposal to add open fishing days to the commercial striped bass fishing season.

The failure of fishery participants to fill the annual quota of 735,240 pounds by the original date is clear evidence of the insufficiency of the striped bass biomass to support the proposed harvest level.

If anything, even greater protections of the striped bass population are called for, including protections for breeding size bass whose presence in the population is critically needed to sustain and grow the population.

For your background, I am a New Jersey resident who travels annually to Massachusetts to fish for striped bass. I have an annual license, and my visits to the state contribute to the Massachusetts tourism and recreational economies. A reduced ability to catch striped bass in Massachusetts waters, as your proposal to extend the commercial season would do, would threaten these aspects of the Massachusetts economy.

Yours sincerely,

John Bottigheimer
26 White Pine Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540

From: [Ryan Dwelly](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed in Season Adjustments to Commercial Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 5:27:25 PM

Hello,

Adding open fishing days to the 2020 commercial striped bass fishing season is absurd. The market may have been affected by the outbreak of COVID 19 but it's time to recognize that the population is in decline and adding more commercial fishing days year after year will only compound this issue and lead to more unmet quotas. The 2019 Quota was not met, the 2020 quota will not be met, the 2021 quota, and beyond will also likely not be met. It's time to accept that and stop treating the quota as a population control target. These resources do not need to be harvested. Let's give this one to the resource and give them some relief from commercial pressure in a year when they are facing increased recreational pressure.

The addition of so many commercial days will almost definitely lead to additional instances of poaching, wasn't this part of the reason commercial fishing was banned at the Cape Cod Canal? Do the DMF and MEP really have enough resources to police hundreds of additional commercial trips? It seems that they are struggling and spread thin as it is. Unless significant policing resources are also added, I don't see how it is appropriate to add so many additional fishing days.

Let's be realistic about the current situation. Lets not compound a problem with a resource that is so valuable to both recreational and commercial fishermen. Temporarily unmet quotas may be a painful hardship, or bruise ego's, but they are not nearly as painful or costly as a moratorium. Let's not repeat the past. Give the Striped bass a relief package in 2020.

Make the hard choice, the right choice, do not add open fishing days to the 2020 commercial striped bass fishing season.

Best,
Ryan Dwelly

From: johnhauck101@aol.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed increase to commercial striped bass harvest days
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 2:47:48 PM

Dear Marine Fishery

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposal to increase the commercial bass harvest days. As a recreational bass fisherman for over 40 years, I have seen the availability of the species vary greatly from year to year. This year I have witnessed an amazing change. There are more large bass (36" and up) than ever before in and around the Boston Harbor islands.

This is undoubtedly due to the amount of forage fish (poggies/macks) that are available this year. I do see less fish in the 28-34" slot for reasons unknown. I can only think that increasing the commercial fishing will reduce the breeding cows that are now abundant and upon which the species depends.

Please record my objection to any changes in the commercial season days or harvest quota.

Sincerely,

John Hauck
12 Hillside St
Boston, Ma 02120

From: rakennedy16@comcast.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Increases in Commercial Days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:26:26 AM

Director McKiernan,

I am in favor of DMF's proposed increases in commercial striped bass fishing days in 2020.

Thank you,

Rick Kennedy
17 Bay View Ave
Nahant, MA 01908

--

Sent from Outlook Email App for Android

From: [Frank Torbey](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed In-Season adjustment feedback
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 3:20:10 PM

Director Dan McKierman,

As an avid fisherman I directly witness the impact to the striped bass stock. I believe that increasing the commercial days is going to damage the breeding stock of female striped bass. The reason the commercial fishermen are not hitting the quota is because of the reduced number of striped bass over 30 inches.

I would recommend cancelling the rest of the striped bass commercial season to allow the stocks to improve.

Frank Torbey
Osterville Anglers Club Tournament Co-Chair

From: [Katie Almeida](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed In-Season Adjustments
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 11:04:23 AM

Dear Dir. McKiernan,

Several of our vessels hold MA state permits for summer flounder and black sea bass and are in support of the DMF's proposed in-season adjustments for both of those species. This would be a positive change for the industry.

Thank you,
Katie

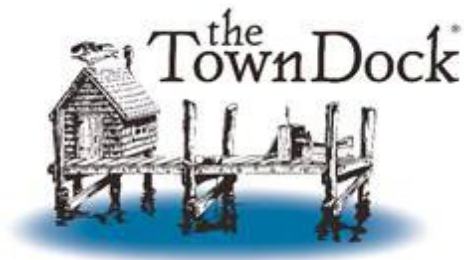
Katie Almeida

Fishery Policy Analyst

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From: [Jack Creighton](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed In-Season Adjustments to Commercial Fishing Limits for Certain Quota Managed Species
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:39:04 PM

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August 17, 2020

Dear Director McKiernan,

I strongly disagree with the recommendations proposed regarding extending the commercial days of fishing for striped bass and increasing the poundage limits for black sea bass and summer flounder for the 2020 season. Regarding striped bass, the fact that the commercial fishermen cannot meet their quotas is, in my opinion, a strong indication that the striped bass are in decline again. Yes, there are many 24" bass in MA waters. However, I would love to see any 35" and over striped bass presently in MA waters have the opportunity to spawn in the spring. It is my understanding that 35" and over fish are the best breeders. Yet we target them as the fish to take, commercially.

Number 2 – the black sea bass. Black sea bass appear to be very prevalent in MA waters; however, larger fish have moved to deeper waters and are thus harder for the commercial people to catch. My biggest fear is that for all fishermen, recreational and commercial, sea bass will be slaughtered because of their numbers. I am led to believe that because of the coronavirus, there are more people fishing recreationally than ever. Thus, I worry that the numbers being kept around the state will be much higher and not reflect the danger the fish might be in until it is too late. An example would be the bluefish that scientists claim are a cyclical fish. When the striped bass catch was limited, bluefish were targeted commercially, and their numbers are down considerably, in my opinion.

Thirdly, the summer flounder. Because I am on the waters on a regular basis, I see the summer flounder numbers are down considerably and it is my understanding that within the last three weeks, commercial draggers have rounded approximately 12,000 pounds off of Nantucket (The bycatch must have been phenomenal.) Commercial fishing obviously took a beating this year because of the virus and restaurants not being open, thus a much lower demand. We hope that is a one-year situation. My real fears are that with the additional recreational fishing done this year and extending commercial fishing to the end of the year, the consequences for those fisheries will probably be immense.

On the Water Magazine, Fisherman Magazine, the MV Derby, and the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club, to name a few, all encouraged taking photos and releasing instead of killing

striped bass this year. I think the residents of the Northeast would be better served by a one-year reduction in the number of striped bass they eat for the preservation of the species. Something I would like to see you do in your tenure as director is to get agreement from all Atlantic seaboard states to all follow the rules.

Although this is not one of your proposals, I urge you to encourage Gov. Baker to appoint two so-called fish judges, one in the Gloucester area and one in the New Bedford area, to have all fishing and related crimes come in front of a fish judge who would deal just with like cases and thus better understand them.

Sincerely,

Jack Creighton, South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club President

From: [F.Kudarauskas](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed In-Season Adjustments to the Striped Bass
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 7:00:33 AM

Director Dan McKiernan Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

I am a commercial fisherman fishing for striped bass for over 30 years and would like you to consider my comments regarding the proposed in-season adjustments to the commercial striped bass open days.

I am vehemently against this proposal for the following reasons:

- The DMF cut the weekly take from 95 fish (30 each day for three days and 5 on Sunday) to 30 per week (15 each day for two days) in order to manage the stripers.
- In order to manage the stripers the quota was reduced twice with reductions of 25% in 2015 and 18% for this year because striped bass were declared overfished.
- The DMF increased the minimum size from 34" to 35" in order to separate the recreation and commercial entities to manage the resource and help enforcement of the regulations.
- The scarcity of plus 35" fish is contributing to the fishery performance.
- The plus 35" fish are the breeders and should be saved.
- According to my commercial fish buyer there is a low demand for the bass most likely due to Covid19 implications with restaurants being closed or open only with stringent guidelines. Many people are avoiding public gatherings altogether. After Labor Day the vacation season winds down and demand for the stripers typically follows.

With the above factors considered, please do not make any adjustments to the commercial striped bass open fishing days.

Manage the striped bass resource, not the quota.

Thank you,
Frank J. Kudarauskas
East Dennis, MA

From: [Michael Lacey](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed in-season adjustments
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:47:36 AM

I find this unacceptable, for all of the recreational fishermen the increase in commercial take rates and days makes it worse for us. This has been one of the best fishing years I have experienced in recent years and I contribute much of that to the fact that the draggers could not fish for the first few months. The fisheries seem better this year than they have been in years past. Give the fisheries a chance to bounce back a bit. Please don't allow the draggers to increase takes at the end of the season.

Thank you,
Mike

From: [CAROL SCHMALTZ](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed regulation changes for Commercial Striper Fishing
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:28:16 PM

Attn: Dave McKiernan

I read the proposed regulation changes with interest, as I am a Cape Cod resident who deals daily with a distinct shortage of Striped Bass whether recreational or commercial. The lack of time to catch fish is not the problem at all, and allowing more time to access the resource is just going to make the shortage worse. None of us are catching fish because they are so limited in numbers, for all the species listed in this plan, and many of my friends who do fish commercially have given up because it is just not worth their time. And yes, I do understand and I have a biology degree ... lets not be stupid.

Robert M. Rifchin
19 Carriage Lane
Barnstable, MA. 02630

From: [Russell V. Iuliano](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment adjustments to commercial fishing limits
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:04:25 AM

Dear Dan,

I fish in Buzzards Bay, Vineyard Sound, and Nantucket Sound where I fish Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday. Since so little of the quota could be due to reduced time at sea, but also reduced available fish to catch. I oppose opening the fisheries to commercial fishing Friday, Saturday, Sunday. All three fishing stocks show signs of improving. I'd like to give them another year to mature and increase their numbers. It will help both of us in the future.

My experience:

- Striped bass: While the schoolies have been plentiful, finding "slot-sized" fish has been much harder (I've not caught any to date.. Continue to limit fishing to four days a week to ensure the fishery recovers
- Black Sea Bass – Last year was not a great year for black sea bass. This year has been better. However, for every seven black bass I catch, only one is above the legal limit. Continue to operate unchanged to give the fish a chance to mature.
- Summer Flounder: The fluke season for the last two years has been slow. Last year I didn't catch anything. This year I've caught plenty of shorts (in the 8 to 10 inches), but only two above the legal limit. As with above, continue to limit the days on the water and catch size.

Thanks

Russ Iuliano

27 Rockland St, So Dartmouth, MA 02748

781 820 3677

From: [Mike Jones](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Expanded Striped Bass days
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 3:16:12 PM

Dan McKiernan

As an avid angler and former commercial permit holder, I fully support expanding the number of commercial days for Striped Bass. The current plan for the rod and reel season was a good switch when we had good numbers of accessible fish. Unfortunately, those stock numbers are dwindling and in order to aid those that rely on commercial fishing to make a living we should do everything possible to keep them gainfully employed.

Moving forward the state should enact the control date for a limited entry and open the season on January 1st and close it when 90% of the quota is reported. Reducing the number of permits and increasing the access should maintain a steady supply of fresh Bass without having a glut which will drive the price down.

As I alluded to before I am a former commercial permit holder that maintained the permit and endorsement just in case I needed some additional money. This is no longer the case and I didn't renew.

I was raised in the commercial fishing community even though I currently advocate conservation measures on both sides of the aisle when it comes to recreational and commercial interest I truly believe we need to help a struggling commercial fishing industry. I do not consider the For Hire Fleet as a part of the commercial fishing industry, The money generated by them is in the same category as a marina or bait n tackle shop. Purely recreational.

Thank you and DMF for the hard work!

Regards,

Mike Jones
Carver, MA

- Past President, Massachusetts Striped Bass Association
- Carver Sportsmen's Club, Board of Directors

From: [Stephen Madden](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public comment in-season adjustments to 2020 commercial fishing limits for striped bass.
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:24:43 PM

To: Director Dan McKiernan

Subject: Public comment in-season adjustments to 2020 commercial fishing limits for striped bass.

Sir;

I am against the proposing of an in-season adjustments to 2020 commercial fishing limits for striped bass.

I believe adding open fishing days to allow for commercial fishermen to have greater access to the remaining quota.

Beginning on September 1, 2020 Tuesdays and Thursdays being added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing four days per week (Mondays – Thursdays). Then, effective October 2, 2020, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays will be added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing seven days per week.

If the Commercial anglers cannot meet the required allotments required by laws established in the begining of this year then that is unfortunate but this is what was set forth and established. Leave the remainng stock quotas unmet and unmolested. The Striped Bass need a break and way to much pressure from Recreational Anglers and Commercial fisherman alike.

Thank you

Stephen Madden
7 Susan Cir, Carver, MA 02330
Recreational Angler
Fishing Enthusiasts

From: [Gerald Audet](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public comment on increasing number of commercial Striped Bass harvest days
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:48:00 PM

Hello Daniel McKiernan

I want to voice my very, very strong opposition to extending the number of commercial days a fisherman can harvest striped bass. This seems like even a worse idea than re-opening the canal to commercial harvest. The fishery is literally overfished, new regulations are in place we haven't even seen the impact of, and the state wants to ADD MORE DAYS to harvest? This flies directly in the face of logic, data, and scientific analysis. Yes, they have not reached their "available quota" for years now. But doesn't that just mean we should be REDUCING the number of days, because there aren't even fish to be caught? The commercial fleet may be small in comparison to the number of recreational anglers, and as such potentially have less of an impact, but the impact they do have is unfairly done by a tiny group. That is, there is an unjust and inequitable allotment of a public resource to a small group- the commercial fisherman get far more bass per person than the public. This is a species, an animal of inherent worth, not a product to be sold and bought with impunity.

Don't extend the number of days this season. It is wrong, and makes absolutely no sense.

Thank you
Dr. Gerald Audet
Douglas, MA

From: [Pat Sadr](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public comment on In-Season Adjustments to Black Sea Bass, Striped Bass, and Fluke
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:39:56 AM

I would like to thank DMF and commission members for taking action on managing the commercial quota's so that fishermen are able to maximize the available set quota.

Regarding Striped Bass I agree with increasing the open days per week. However I think adding 2 days should take as soon as possible in order to have the best chance at filling as much of the quota that we can. Then, after labor day weekend go to 5 days a week.

I think going to 5 days for Commercial Striped Bass before Labor Day Wknd could pose too much for LEO (law enforcement officers) to handle, and possibly more conflict between user groups because more recreational boaters/fisherman are on the water.....

This is not an easy decision however more days certainly need to be added in order to maximise taking of the quota. One thing to consider is Tautog will open Sept 1st and with the added Sea Bass days also it will most certainly detract from fisherman's effort to fishing for striped bass because of the other options. So maximized availability may be the way to go early on.

Regarding Black Sea Bass I also agree to adding more days to the current commercial fishery to maximise quota.

However I disagree and don't see it right, or fair that the Pot Fisherman get a daily increase in possession and Rod and Reel gets NO increase in daily possession.

The fact that they (potters) got a 100 lb. increase and Rod and reel only got 50 lbs. this season makes no sense to me.

I would like to know why this was decided and I see no basis.

If the rod and reel fishermen were allotted 100 lb. Increase as the potters were, we may not be in the situation of having to add days and possession limits.

I propose 300 lbs. For rod and reel if potters get 500 lbs.

Thank you and All the Best

From: mhstarsiak@gmail.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Proposal to Extend Commercial Striped Bass Fishing Days
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 8:32:09 AM

Please register this email as being opposed to the proposal to extend the “commercial” Striped Bass fishing days and season!

From all reports—especially from both Federal and State Agencies—Striped Bass are OVERFISHED! Additionally, for the past two years the “commercial” guys have not met their quota (surprise, surprise...!) in the time allotted. Yet, you folks at DMF—who are supposed to be protecting the Striped Bass stock are proposing that the “commercial” fishing days be extended—so that the “commercial” folks can take more fish from an OVERFISHED stock of Striped Bass. What type of insanity has possessed you?

An appropriate analogy would be: A winemaker had a barrel with some valuable wine and the barrel had a leak due to some wood-boring insects—the barrel was leaking a few cups of wine a day. So, to stop the small leak the winemaker takes his portable drill and a 3-inch hole cutting bit and bores another hole in the barrel to get rid of the small leak! Obviously you can see the absurdity of what the winemaker did—and also of your proposal to decimate the Striped Bass population—further and faster!

If anything, any way to REDUCE the taking of fish from an OVERFISHED should be the goal of your TAXPAYER financed agency!!! (“commercial” Striped Bass fishing should be banned—not only in MA, but also nationwide!)

From: [Captain Joe LeClair](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#); [Kessler, Ross \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed In-Season Adjustments through August 24
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:36:17 AM

The lack of large Striped Bass in the region i am currently fishing is not do to the market price or Covid 19. in the last 8 weeks there has been more fisherman and boaters on the water than usual. The number of recreational fishermen and the amount of fishing pressure on Striped Bass has been increasing over the last 20 years and i have seen it increase again. i have been fishing the waters from Westport ma. to Falmouth Ma including Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound since 1995 for striped bass on my own vessel. i have very few places left where i can target large Striped Bass (over 35"). I have an amazing amount of small striped bass (under 28"). If we extend or increase the number of days we will be taking the last remaining stocks of large female Striped Bass that are our resident fish population. This would be a mistake! These groups of fish are easy to target and everyone knows where they are.

Thanks
Captain Joe LeClair
North Eastern Anglers
www.flyfishsalt.com

From: bdoheny@aol.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed In-Season Adjustments
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:23:10 AM

Dear Mass Marine Fisheries,

This letter represents 5 Massachusetts residents and recreational saltwater license holders (Brian Doheny, Paul Doheny Sr., Eamon Doheny, Abaigeal Doheny, Tara Doheny) so please count this as 5 votes and opinions against extending the commercial striped bass season in any manner. I am 55 years old and have witnessed the striped bass fishery from not being allowed to possess them to opening up a commercial fishery for them. My father has logs when catching more than 1,k striped bass from the shores of cape cod to catching less than 200 in a season in recent years. In the past several years since commercial striped bass fishing has been allowed we rarely see keeper sized striped bass. We think it's ironic that recreation fisherman can not keep striped bass over 35 inches to protect the fishery but you are allowing the commercial fishery to keep those same fish and now disappointingly you want to extend that season. Our thoughts are the reason that they are not catching the commercial quota is because the larger fish are not as abundant as they once were and not because they didn't have enough time to fish for them. I used to catch cod fish at the herring run in the cape cod canal when I was younger but unfortunately my children have not been able to experience that or the live lining of herring to keeper sized striped bass off of the beach. Those are some of my fondest memories so please do not extend the commercial fishery for striped bass so that maybe the thrill of catching a keeper striped bass will be there for the next generation. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,
Brian Doheny

From: [Michael Pavlov](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Striped Bass Commercial Harvest Extended Days
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2020 1:11:58 AM

To: Director Dan McKiernan

Please do not add additional commercial days for the harvest of Striped Bass.

The precipitous decline of Striped Bass in the last two years, especially of fish over 30 inches, has been absolutely astonishing and depressing. And it is mind boggling to me and everyone I've talked with, that the guardian of this resource is considering action to increase harvesting measures. If anything, there should be more protective actions taken across the board, commercial and recreational alike.

Thank you,
Mike Pavlov
Brewster, MA

From: [Jim Kelly](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public comment Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:27:50 PM

Hi Dan,

This is in regards to the proposed increase to commercial fishing for striped bass. I thought that the elimination of commercial taking of fish at the canal, along with implementation of slot limits was to protect the species. If we were under the quota allowed, that would be good for the fish population and would have accomplished what you set out to do. Why change for this year?

--

Thank you.

Jim Kelly
15 Holly Lane
Centerville MA 02632

508-328-1839

From: [Edward Lee](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:23:14 PM

I disagree with the increased opening of striped bass fishery for commercial purposes. Rules were change to help with the overall stock, so increasing pressure on the largest fish does not make sense. If the efforts of recreational fishermen are undone by commercial fishermen, then conservation efforts will be for nil. i do not think striped bass should be fished commercially at all if we are serious about preserving the stock, eliminate commercial striped bass fishing and as well as the netting of menhaden.

Edward Lee
31 Forest St
Hanover, MA 02339

From: [Mike Spinney](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment/Proposal to Add Days to Commercial Striped Bass Season
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:41:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director McKiernan

I am writing in response to the DMF's announcement on August 10 seeking public comment on the proposed in-season adjustment to the 2020 commercial striped bass fishing season.

I oppose this measure.

While I recognize that Massachusetts is on pace to fail to meet its quota for the third year in a row, and that the measure is intended to help commercial striped bass fishermen to catch more during a time of hardship, doing so runs counter to the goals of the recent changes to the striped bass management plan. If striped bass are "overfished, and overfishing is occurring," it makes no sense to add days to the 2020 season.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out on this issue.

Mike Spinney
Townsend, Mass.
978 660 4053

From: sjselden@seldenservices.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Public Commentary Period
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:54:42 AM

Dan,

As a 50 year direct observer of the of populations of marine fishes along the nearshore coastline of Nauset Beach (points north & south), Monomoy Island and Nantucket Sound, out 12 miles. It has my direct observation that populations of near shore species may be impacted by adult and juvenile grey seal populations. It is known that adult Grey Seals can consume between 35 and 55 pounds of fish per day. So i.e. 100 adult Grey seals could consume 4,500 lbs of fish per day or 31,500 lbs per week. We know that the Grey Seal population is in excess of 100 adults. I am concerned that the Grey Seals are not part of the conversation regarding recreational fishing (dead loss ~ 9-10%) and the extension of commercial harvesting days at sea for Striped Bass, Black SeaBass and Summer Flounder. I am concerned with the downward commercial harvest trends of these species, Specifically, the Mass coastwise quota for Striped Bass has feel short and not been filled in recent years. I am concerned that this downward trend will result in limited access or result in a direct closure of this and other fisheries. I do acknowledge that recent year classes of striped bass along the mid Atlantic coast have been thready at best. And that new regulations governing recreational and commercial harvests of Striped Bass (slot size for recreational and 15 fish >35" commercial) were best management practices. With all the management tools in place the one mathematical variable missing or not discussed is the Grey Seal interference. I believe it would be eye opening to be able to try and measure the impact to coastal fisheries the grey seals have had to date.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please contact me if I can be of help to Mass Marine Fisheries.

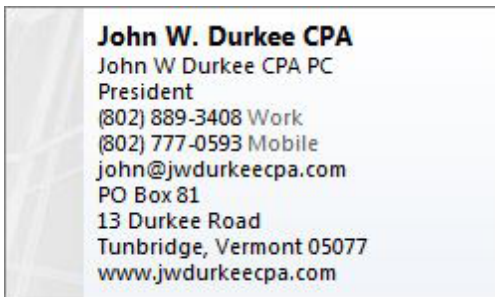
Sincerely,

Steve Selden

From: [John Durkee](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: public comments
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:21:20 AM

The stiped bass are in trouble so why are we extending the commercial fishing by adding two more days and then another three days?

This makes no sense at all.....if anything they should be cutting back, including specific days that are catch and release only for recreational fishing as well.



STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

The information contained in this electronic message and any attachments to this message are intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s) and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify John W Durkee CPA PC immediately at either (802) 889-3408 or at john@jwdurkeecpa.com and destroy all copies of this message and any attachments.

To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication, unless expressly stated otherwise, was not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding tax-related penalties under the Internal Revenue code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any tax-related matter(s) addressed herein.

From: [DOUGLAS SHEELEY](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: quota changes
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 11:19:26 AM

In reference to the proposed extension of commercial striped bass fishing:

The 2020 changes in recreational stripped regulations to institute "slot" limits was to preserve the breeding stock of fish to restore the population. Commercial fishing favors taking the larger breeding female fish. Adding more days to the 2020 commercial season will negatively impact the overall fish population.

Regards,

Douglas Sheeley
53 Salt Meadows Rd.
West Dennis, MA 02670
dsheeley@comcast.net

From: [Bill Balaschi](#)
To: vinnyf18@verizon.net
Cc: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#); michaelgerrity@me.com; ron.reif.jr@gmail.com; Salar02@aol.com; Chellafoods@gmail.com; Rickjwils@hotmail.com; capeflyfish35@gmail.com; harry.graff3@gmail.com; tinyllynch@comcast.net; outcastcharters5@aol.com; flyfisher2012@live.com; godinfam@comcast.net; ccunsworth@comcast.net
Subject: Re: New proposed commercial regs.
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 1:00:27 PM

Perfect Vin.
Hi Dan. Hope all is well.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 10, 2020, at 12:10 PM, vinnyf18@verizon.net wrote:

>

> Dear Mr. McKiernan,

>

> In a year when we've seen our world turned upside down with a pandemic and social unrest, you and the members of Mass Fisheries are in the unique position to do something to restore our faith in the powers that be. Please do not extend the number of commercial fishing days. As a matter of fact, as a board member of the Cape Cod Flyrodders, I can unequivocally state our membership would vote tomorrow for a limited moratorium on striped bass fishing all together ASAP. This would give these fish a chance to recuperate their breeding stock numbers, and increase their chance to survive for future generations. It is not often a few people have the power to do something that is genuinely good, rather than unquestionably for the financial gain of a few. Believe me when I say, so many people are waiting and watching what happens on this vote. Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Vincent Foti

> 21 Hinkley Pond Drive, South Dennis MA 02660

>

>

> Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

From: [Taylor Vavra](#)
To: [Gary Mirando](#)
Cc: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#); [Dean Clark](#); [Mike Spinney](#)
Subject: Re: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:19:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Gary!

Thanks so much for your support and sending off your letter. Hopefully we can put an end to this again this year.

Taylor Vavra
National Board Member
Stripers Forever
www.stripersforever.org
stripers@stripersforever.org

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 2:15 PM 'Gary Mirando' via stripers@stripersforever.org <stripers@stripersforever.org> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

At this time there is a decline in the number of striped bass on the East Coast. The decline is most evident in the group of larger mature bass. Large fish taken via commercial striper harvest are often breeders important to restore the fishery to a sustainable level.

With current commercial fishing days unable to fill the poundage quota it is obvious there is a shortage of striped bass numbers. This is due to overfishing.

I am asking Mass DMF to stop the commercial overfishing of striped bass and to not increase the days for commercial harvest of the species.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary Mirando
PO Box 666
West Tisbury MA 02575
508 693-8380
g.mirando@verizon.net

From: cryonic316@aol.com
To: [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Re: Period 2 Fluke Pilot Program - Updated LOA
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:32:34 AM

I like to comment on fluke and hcrab . I like to see hcrab at 300 ct I also like to see some way now or in the future to pick my five days of fishing by either call in or tx or open it up to seven days. Because my vessel is only 36 ft in length. Because of weather I am home commenting now, and in the past four weeks I have not fished more than two days in a single week. Thank You F/V Sarah Ann

-----Original Message-----

From: Silva, Jared (FWE) <jared.silva@state.ma.us>
To: cryonic316@aol.com <cryonic316@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Jul 22, 2020 4:07 pm
Subject: Period 2 Fluke Pilot Program - Updated LOA

Hi Phil,

DMF is amending the P2 Fluke Pilot Program to similarly accommodate the multi-day trip retention of black sea bass and horseshoe crabs. Your revised LOA is attached. You may continue to use the tags previously provided. Please contact me if you have any questions or need to acquire additional tags.

Jared

From: [Taylor Vavra](#)
To: [Bob Campbell](#)
Cc: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#); [Dean Clark](#); [Mike Spinney](#)
Subject: Re: Please do not extend commercial fishing days for Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:29:46 PM

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Hey Bob!

Thank you so much for sending in your letter! This is exactly the kind of thing the DMF needs to be aware of.

Thanks again for your support!

Taylor Vavra
National Board Member
Stripers Forever
www.stripersforever.org
stripers@stripersforever.org

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 12:16 PM Bob Campbell <bobcampbell2010@gmail.com> wrote:

Director Dan McKiernan:

I'm writing to ask you to please not grant the commercial fishing industry additional days in which to increase their harvesting of our most important game fish, striped bass.

I no longer go on vacation or make weekend trips to Cape Cod as I used to, when I was a long-time Massachusetts resident and now that I'm not, because the striper fishing is no longer anywhere near what it was. They have been and continue to be overfished, not by recreational fishermen/fisherwomen like me, but by commercial and "recommercial" interests and individuals who seek monetary/business gains from this natural treasure.

But stripers are more than a natural treasure, they're an economic engine of recreational dollars and tax revenues for Massachusetts and all the East Coast states the ASMFC represents. There's overwhelming data that tells us clearly that these dollars, from hotel/motel lodging, restaurant receipts, gear purchases, guiding, spouse/family member purchases, etc., far outstrip the monies and state revenues realized by commercial fishing.

It's hard to let a business suffer or close. I've been there. We had a family farm that low milk prices made untenable, and we had to find another better way. If that's the fate of commercial striper fishing, that's hard but that's in their families' long-term interests and security. That's real.

Prolonging the destruction of, or at best the continual tenuous struggle of, our

Striped Bass fishery is not a sensible alternative economically, scientifically, morally, or practically.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this very important issue, Director McKiernan,

Bob Campbell

Holmdel, New Jersey (past resident of Wellesley Hills and Newton, Massachusetts)

From: [Jonathan Black](#)
To: [Michael Kelleher](#)
Cc: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed expansion of striped bass commercial days
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:24:00 AM

Well done Mike.

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS

Jonathan R. Black, P.C.
10 Cordage Park Circle, Suite 224
Plymouth, MA 02360
(Tel) 781-740-4250

Nothing in this email is intended to provide tax advice and this email may not be relied upon for that purpose.

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 10:29 AM
From: "Michael Kelleher" <mhkelleher72@gmail.com>
To: marine.fish@mass.gov
Subject: Proposed expansion of striped bass commercial days

To DMF Director Dan McKiernan:

DMF has noted that the commercial striper harvest is currently only 24.5% of quota, and has proposed increasing commercial fishing days in two steps to 7 days/week. I have been fishing as a non-commercial angler out of Duxbury for over 50 years and can attest to the remarkable decline in the most efficient breeders over 35 inches...matched only by the steep declines we saw in the 1980s. The more logical remedy for the weak current commercial catch would be to end the commercial season, or limit it to slot size fish. These measures saved the fisheries for snook and redfish in Florida and should be implemented in Mass waters. With striped bass now selling at \$22 -\$25/lb the average person can't afford to buy it, and those high prices will push the breeder population to the brink. We don't want to duplicate the cod disaster.

Michael Kelleher MD
425 Bay Rd, Duxbury, Ma. 02332
cell 508-667-5034

Sent from my iPad

From: [William Prodouz](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Recommending agsinst expanding commercial days from 2 to 4, 5,6 or 7 for striped bass in Massachusetts
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 3:25:03 PM

I am writing to recommend against extending allowable days for commercial striped bass fishing in MA.

Presently we are at 27.7 % of the quota. This is not because these hardworking fisherman are having too few days to fish.i believe it is because there are too few of these porential breeders to catch.

It is NOT logical to extend the number of days to catch these fish if there are already too few of these breeders available to catch.

Why fish a fishery with too few fish into oblivion by adding more days to catch and kill an already depleted stock?

The percentage of quota caught year to date is telling us the stock is in even worse shape then we fear.

Please count me as supporting NO INCREASE IN COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS FISHING DAYS IN 2020.
increase in commercial Striped Bass days in 2020.

Sincerely
Bill Prodouz

From: [Mark Sibley](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: recreation fishing for stripers
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:42:23 PM

how about giving the rec guys a chance to catch some stripers? our present regs are awful. i fish a few times per year for stripers i am lucky to get 1 keeper per year. i dont think i am hurting the stock. yet you are giving the commercial guys the green light.does not seem fair at all.

thank you mark sibley

From: ljcolella@verizon.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: stripe bass
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 5:54:57 PM

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It is plain to see the reason for the low catch no is because the stocks are depleted Not because we forgot how to catch. so if you want to destroy the breaders left contunion this madness fish every day till there gone. This is tipical of goverment when the problem gets real bad then make more stupid decisions like fish more days and seehow bad we can depleat the breeding stock. after all what are we more concerned about the quota or to preserve the stocks for future generations. I could go on & on but i don't think anyones cares. It would be sad to see this fish go away Lou Colella

If i were a stripe bass I would only say HELP

From: [Helen Sledzik](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped bass
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:52:05 PM

Director Dan Mckieman,

I want to express my feelings on the proposal to ADD
More Commercial fishing days.
Don't you people understand the problems that face our
Striped bass ? Listen to your own fisheries people for updates.

Harvesting the prime breeding fish by the commercials is
Incredibly stupid. Most if not all commercials are fishing for
Beer money and could care less about conservation. Their
Goal is to catch the very last Striper in our waters.

Thomas SLedzik
20 Courtney Rd.
Harwich, MA.
02645
Sent from my iPad

From: [Thomas Koerber](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass / no additional days
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:21:50 PM

I am not in favor of any additional days being added for the commercial fishing for striped bass . I believe that there is a reason that the commercial fishermen are not reaching there quota, and that is that this is a species in trouble. This species needs to recover , we should be lowering there quotas and not extending the season for these commercial fishermen .

Regards

Tom Koerber

Sent from my iPad

From: [Michael LaMontagne](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Adjustment
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:04:07 AM

I am a recreational fisherman who fishes out of Provincetown. I've only landed one keeper this season. I think the reason the commercial boats haven't filled the quota is that there are no fish. Extending the number of commercial days will just decimate a dwindling stock.

Shut down the commercial season. Do not extend it.

Michael LaMontagne, Ph.D.
617-331-3214

From: [GABRIELLE SLEDZIK](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [Helen & Tim Sledzik](#)
Subject: Striped Bass change in Commercial Policy
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:24:23 PM

I was shocked when I saw the proposed open days for Commercial fishing. With the decline in Bass population over the last few years and the bad year this year ,it makes no sense to increase the fishing days in the fall when fishing gets better. Also with restaurants being required to cut tables ,the market for Bass has to be down. Please do not increase the days and protect the stock for the future.

Gaby and Paul
Sent from iPad

From: [Mike Piper](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Commercial Adjustments comment
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 3:35:33 PM

Director McKiernan,

It was with great dismay that I heard of the proposal to add more days to the commercial fishing for striped bass. I am a recreational fisherman from Marblehead and stripers are the only game fish we have in local waters. When the AMFSC finally called for a coastwide reduction, the slot limit was created to protect the larger breeders. Since commercial fisherman in Massachusetts are only allowed to target these larger fish, it does not make sense to alter the rules and allow for more harvesting than was happening organically. The reason the landings are so far below the quota is not because of bad weather. The fish have been decimated over years of overfishing. Let's give them a break and a chance to recover so that our kids and grandkids can enjoy fishing for them.

Sincerely,
Mike Piper
Marblehead

From: [Raymond west](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Commercial Days proposal - comments
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:11:25 PM

Dear Director Dan McKiernan,

I am writing you in regards to the proposal for adding Commercial Days to the Striped Bass season. Please leave the commercial program as is, do not add any more days or extend the season 2020

While I know the commercial folks are entitled to their quota, adding days to facilitate more quota taken feels wrong. Why change the rules mid game? The fact the commercial folks are having trouble meeting the quota is further evidence the striped bass bio mass is in bad shape in my opinion. I would hope the science comes to the same conclusion.

Please do not extend or add days to the 2020 Striped Bass commercial program,

Thank you

Ray West
30 plain st
East Bridgewater ma 02333
508-690-1382
rrrwest@yahoo.com

From: [Al Williams](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [Armstrong, Michael \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass commercial days
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:17:54 AM

To: Director Dan McKiernan.
From: Al Williams / commercial striped bass fisherman / Gloucester
Subject: Additional Commercial striped bass fishing days.

Hello Dan

I am responding to the DMF proposal to add Tuesday's and Thursday's in September and Fridays, Saturday's; and Sunday's in October.

I support adding only one day, Tuesday; for the balance of 2020.

Rational: Unfortunately, the practice of commercially targeting striped bass significantly before midnight prior to an open day is becoming visibly common.

Law enforcement has limited resources available to address the problem in a meaningful way. This is not meant to detract from their efforts in any way. They do a terrific job with what they have.

In my opinion, open days should be consecutive; irregardless of how many open days are decided upon.

My preference for the balance of 2020, starting on September 1st, is for Monday's, Tuesday's; and Wednesday's to be the open commercial days. No further additions in October.

This structure will minimize the issue of "early fishing" to just one day, and three consecutive days of landings should sustain prices better than four or more days.

Thank you for reviewing my comments and all efforts to effectively manage the striped bass fishery in the Commonwealth.

Al Williams
5 Orchard Way
Gloucester, Mass
Email: al.nightshift@gmail.com

From: [Detwiler, Jeff](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Commercial Fishing Days
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:59:28 PM

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Dear DMF and Director McKiernan,

I support the proposed changes to the striped bass commercial season open fishing days. In fact, I would support going to seven days a week earlier than 10/2 (for example 9/18), given that September can see extended periods of unfavorable weather due to tropical systems.

- Striped Bass. DMF is proposing to add open fishing days to the 2020 commercial striped bass season. Beginning on September 1, 2020 Tuesdays and Thursdays will be added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing four days per week (Mondays – Thursdays). Then, effective October 2, 2020, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays will be added to the commercial fishery. This will allow commercial fishing seven days per week.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment,

Jeff

From: [Jeff Murphy](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Commercial Fishing
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:43:46 AM

DMF,

I thought we are trying to expand the population of Striped Bass with slot limits for non commercial fishermen. Expanding commercial fishing will reverse all that benefit and continue to deplete the stock. Also most commercial fishermen gaff all their fish no matter the size since netting and releasing takes too much time. I have seen it happen every time I am on the water in and around Gloucester. Commercial fisherman do not care about the limits, they take everything and try to make money off of it.

I am not in favor of expanding commercial fishing days. Please don't do this.

Thank you

Jeff Murphy

From: [Jonathan Krah](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Commercial Fishing
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:19:29 AM

Dan,

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration. The state of striped bass fishing is reeling and the consideration of taxing further is not a wise decision. I fully understand that people need to make a living etc etc. however, at what cost? If the fishery is worse next year will we fish it more? Based on the fact that 25% of the quota has been hit, it should be glaringly obvious that the fishery has been over burned for the last few years. I would think the DOF's number one goal would be protecting the species for longevity. Hopefully the DMF does the right thing.

Thank you,

--

Jonathan Krah

Cell: (860) 416 - 2283

From: [Scott Farrel](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped bass commercial quotas
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 12:42:41 PM

Please do not extend fishing days to facilitate attainment of a quota on a fish population deemed overfished. Thank you. Scott Farrell MD

Sent from my iPad

From: [Liam Rosati](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Commercial Season
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 3:36:23 PM

Dear Director McKiernan,

I hope you're doing well.

I'm writing you today to ask that extra commercial days are not added to help fishermen reach the striped bass quota, and consider ending commercial striped bass fishing for the 2021 season. As you know, striped bass are "Overfished and Overfishing is Occurring," and the female breeder biomass has fallen to levels not seen in 25 years. Particularly disturbing is Massachusetts commercial limit of 15 fish, all greater than 35", almost all of which are female breeders- the fish we must protect.

On August 9th, 2019, Massachusetts commercial striped bass fishermen brought 32.8% (285,299 pounds) of the 869,813 pound quota brought to market.

As of August 16th, 2020, only 28.9% (212,484 pounds) of the 735,240 pound has been brought to market. That's about 73,000 pounds less than last year at this time. Less than 10 years ago, a million plus pound quota could be reached in just a weekend.

2018, 2019 and now 2020's poor quota performance is reflective of the precipitous decline of the striped bass biomass, as documented in the ASMFC's 2019 Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment. I will not remind you how valuable the recreational striped bass fishery is or of how little financial significance commercial striped bass fishing is to actual career commercial fishermen.

I and many other recreational saltwater fishermen believe the State of Massachusetts by allowing this unsustainable, old-timey commercial fishery to carry on is playing a significant role in the destruction of this cherished American fishery.

Thank you for your time and considerations, and I look forward to again striped bass fishing in Massachusetts when the stocks recover.

Regards,

Liam Rosati
115 Hillcrest Drive
Amston, CT 06231

From: [Emmons Whited](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Conservation
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:31:44 AM

Dear Director Dan McKiernan,

Please don't up the commercial fishing days to seven days a week. The population is already struggling greatly as it is, and this will only worsen the situation.

I live in Maine, and greatly enjoy fishing for striped bass around my home town of South Portland. It is one of my favorite past-times. I'm in high school, and try to get out there whenever I'm not too busy with school or other things. Still trying to catch that one big bass!

When you approve a seven day fishing week, it affects not only Massachusetts. It will also affect the Maine fishery. Striper are migratory fish, and change territories year to year, even month to month. This order will affect all of the East Coast.

I really enjoy my fishing. And I'd like to enjoy it for as long as I live. So please don't make this change. I'd hate to witness a severe population drop in front of my own eyes, as a 16 year old.

Thank you for your consideration.

Emmons Whited

From: [Spencer Scaife](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped bass fishery
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:34:04 AM

Hello,

My name is spencer scaife and i am a resident of cape cod. I am 26 years old and i am an avid surf casting fisherman of the area. I have seen a steady decline of the striped bass population over the last few years and i am upset because im not sure what the future holds for me or my next generation. Striped bass mean the world to me and many fishermen that i know, we are concerned with how the limits are being handled for commercial fishing. I believe strongly that we need to put an end to commercial striped bass fishing otherwise there will be none left for future generations to catch. The bio mass can only handle so much pressure. Ive seen many breeding fish get killed because of commercial fishing and that only hurts the population. Taking those fish out of the biomass only hurts the spawn for the future years. Something needs to be done ASAP, otherwise it will be too late. You wonder why only 24% of the quota has been caught...there aren't any fish to catch. Please do not extend commercial days. End the season if you know whats good for this fragile species.

Thank you for reading this.

Spencer w scaife

From: [Dale Hubbard](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass in Mass and proposal to increase Comm fishing days
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 3:32:17 PM

Good day:

I have been fishing Plum Island for > 50-years. Fifteen to twenty years ago the **then resurgence** of the striped bass fishery was being hailed as a major victory! But not too many years later, we all knew the fishery was once again in trouble.

What did you do? **The answer is ... NOTHING!** And now you force inline circle hooks on Recreational fishermen claiming "release mortality" as the #1 killer of striped bass? No problems really, I get it, it will help the fishery, but what about Commercial fishermen ... do they need to use the SAME inline circle hooks? **No, they don't!** They can use ANY hooks they want and we see guys we know to be Comm fishermen even using treble hooks!

Now here in Mass they cannot keep 'smaller' bass ... so what about the "release mortality" for all of their undersized bass that we see them catch? Do you really think a high percentage of the fish they catch are actually large enough for them to keep? Really? As out at a local hotspot the other day, we observed only 1 Comm legal fish caught and yet we observed dozens of small fish after small fish being hoisted boatside by the Comm guys using J-hooks and trebles, only to be released (?), or where many fish were even cut off along-side their boats ... where one presumes the fish was probably DEEP HOOKED.

Great, I am sure that J-hook or treble deep inside the gut of a small striped bass does wonders for the striped bass recovery. We have called the Environmental Police repeatedly about this and they state that they *"Understand the situation, but unfortunately cannot do anything about it."* **So ... what do you do?** You are proposing to open up **MORE days** to this senseless slaughter of striped bass, small or not, possibly deep-hooked with J-hooks or treble hooks to die later ... where YOU will continue to blame the Recreational fishermen for any small dead fish!

You all really have your heads up your asses! You might have Masters degrees and PhDs, but you are incredibly ignorant and STUPID with the management of the once great Striped Bass fishery on the East Coast. It is absolutely disgusting ... you all should be ashamed of yourselves! If you really want to protect the breeders of the Striped Bass fishery ... you would allow the Comm season to stand 'as is', **whether or not their quota is met or not.**

Dale Hubbard
Parker River - Newbury, MA

From: [Stewart Holt](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass public comment
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:52:26 AM

Director Dan McKiernan,

Please don't add any more Striped Bass commercial fishing days.

We have a serious problem With the fish Class between 28"-35" inches. I have mated on several Boston Charter boats and have also fished on commercial Striped Bas boats this summer. The big fish 35" or bigger have been there to catch. The recreational Keeper fish have not.

With COVID-19 and the market not being the greatest. It would be prudent to leave the fishing days as is. Changes can be made with 2021 regs.

If you have any questions you can call me on my cell phone. I would be happy to discuss this issue with you.

Regards,
Stew Holt
83 Middle Street
West Newbury, MA 01985
Cell: 781-983-2586

Sent from iPhone

From: [Steve Kivlehan](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass Quota
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:50:10 PM

Greetings,

As someone who has fished and grew up during the first crash in the late 80s, I implore you shut down the commercial season and take further actions if necessary to save the few breeders that are left.

Doubling the days for the comm fishermen is just counter-productive. Obviously, this fish is in trouble and drastic action needs to be taken

Lead by example before it's too late: Shut the comm fishery down or leave things as are. If the quote doesn't get filled, so be it.

Thank you,
Steve Kivlehan

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [peter elenbaas](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: striped bass quota
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 8:59:26 AM

Dan McKiernan
DMF

Hi Dan,

I am writing regarding the proposal to expand the commercial season for striped bass in MA. I am an avid boater and fisherman. My dad first got a sailboat almost forty years ago and I have been fishing from the stern, the dinghy or from shore for stripers, blues, summer flounder and scup ever since.

Currently I fish and sail out of Padanaram harbor in Dartmouth. I have been an educator for twenty-plus years at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, thirteen of which I spent teaching biology.

The decline in fishing "effort" which may be the result of COVID-19 this year does not alone explain the failure of fishermen to come close to the DMF quotas. This trend has been at least a decade in the making. There are simply not as many fish. The following large, breeding striper schools have vanished as a viable fishery during my time on the water. Elizabeth Islands, Devils Bridge, Squibnockets/Nomans, Chatham, Provincetown. In addition, for every large striper most of us catch five bluefish. I can assure you that these are also gone. The ecological balance is now tipped a bit against both stripers and blues recovery. Specifically the gray seal, which in my experience only hunts hooked fish. I observe the three species foraging together near Cuttyhunk. It is true that a seal will take a hooked fish, particularly a small one. But the real ecological issue is competition for forage. So stripers and blues are now being caught excessively by fishermen and they have to battle a larger, more intelligent predator for prey. That's a tough spot. Look at how cod have failed to recover in spite of commercial closures because the competitive balance was shifted in the favor of other species. Do not expand the commercial season for any of our coastal species, especially the iconic, keystone, striped bass. In fact, the DMF should ban commercial fishing for stripers for at least two years or we will lose the fishery, and their partner the bluefish, forever.

sincerely yours,
Peter Elenbaas

From: [JAMES LAMPHEAR](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: striped bass quotas
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:38:23 PM

Director McKiernan

I read an article in On the Water magazine about your proposed alterations to the commercial striped bass fishing days and am concerned as a recreational striped bass fisherman that the added days of fishing are going to deplete the resource even further as the fish they are harvesting are ALL breeders and isn't that the reason for the restrictions in the first place, maybe they aren't catching their quotas because

there aren't that many breeders left and the commercial fisherman call this a down year and give the bass a fighting chance to recover.

I assume you limited the rec. fisherman to keeping only 1 fish from 28in to 35in. to protect the breeders so why give the commercial fishermen card blank to harvest even more breeders.

I guess this is a long winded way of asking you to reconsider opening up the commercial fishing days.

Sincerely

James Lamphear

From: [Douglas Amorello](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass rules
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 1:05:32 PM

To whom it may concern.

As I said in my comments at that meeting in Hanover the current size limit is restricting the quota from being caught. 35 inches is too big at the current state of what's available for fish. Adding more days and with the summer ending will not get us close to the quota. A smaller fish would have in this situation been better to sell and market through the off the boat sales pitch that we have due to Covid.

Doug

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Deborah Viglas](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:27:15 AM

Dan,

Am I reading the article in the Vineyard Gazette correctly?! Extending the bass fishing season?! Not sure where you get your data or for what purpose that you think it's ok to extend the season for bass. I read that they haven't caught enough bass, the quota is 20% less. Do you think it may be because there just aren't many?! Crazy!

Deborah Viglas
Edgartown MA

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Elizabeth Perry](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped bass
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:24:57 AM

Opposed to increasing commercial limits. Please increase recreational limits that were reduced dramatically this year!

Beth Perry
Swampscott, MA

From: [RickENZ](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped bass
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:59:17 PM

Close the commercial season down and allow one fish over 34 for anyone. That's how the stocks recovered in the 80s. What about recreational sea bass and fluke why can't those seasons be extended. People need to eat and can't afford to buy fish

RickENZ. Yarmouth Massachusetts
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Riptide](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 8:21:58 PM

For the love of God DON'T extend the Commercial season for stripers! They are being killed off and it will be the 80s all over again. I've run a charter boat for 21 years, the fishing is going to hell and you're pouring on gasoline.

Capt Terry Nugent
Riptide Charters
Cape Cod

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [Chris Jensen](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped bass
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 6:48:38 AM

I believe the striped bass are being overfished. I think the idea of having heavy regulations is extremely important to save the striped bass population. With that being said I'm concerned about the commercial fishery in Massachusetts. I don't think a commercial fishery should exist anywhere. I don't think it makes sense to ask anglers to limit their catch, or release all of their catch, then allow commercial anglers to catch them and sell their catch. I feel as though the smartest thing to do is put a moratorium on all bass fishing and possibly call for catch and release on all striped bass fishing for the next few years and see if we can see a rebound in the stock. I can tell you that I have seen the stock diminish over the past 15 years throughout the northeast. Please think this suggestion over and look at all of the comments posted over the years of a drop in striped bass stock as you make your decisions.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,
Christopher M. Jensen
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Paul Ruzala](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped Bass
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:59:48 AM

Dan McKiernan,

I am 37 years old and am irate at your department. Over my short life span the fisheries have been mismanaged across the board. Striped bass have crashed twice, blueback herring populations have completely crashed and are struggling to return to historic numbers, cod have crashed and continue to be mismanaged, atlantic salmon are GONE, weakfish are just about gone, bluefish numbers are down and it goes on and on. Your department has shown that it is incapable to manage a sustainable fishery for any length in time and it's always too late too little. I see that you are looking to add two more commercial days a week to the striped bass fishery, which is already struggling at 25% of the quota. WHY??? One last attempt at a tax money grab? Last year the quota was failed to be reached and it's not on track to be reached this year. Not even close. Where is the common sense in your management? We all want SUSTAINABLE commercial and recreational striped bass fishing and it's anything but that. I have an extensive network of fisherman and we saw this coming 10 years ago. You have failed to adapt to modern fishing. Too many boats, too many high end electronics, too much social networking, instant reports - the fish don't stand a chance. In the end we the public will be left with nothing. I don't want to settle for 15 pound trophy fish in my Massachusetts waters due to mismanagement. I want schools of 30 and 40 pound fish like there used to be.

Thanks,
Paul Ruzala

From: [Paul Cuzzupe](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: striped bass
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:25:06 AM

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are our fisheries managers high? are you trying to eliminate stripers from the ocean?. do you people even fish? are you motivated by money? I think so ,anybody with half a brain knows that these fish are over fished.You should be eliminating commercial fishing for them all together. I have been fishing for them for over 30 yrs. Not a single legal fish this year. i spend hundreds if not thousands of dollars every season on gear, and fuel. eliminate stripes and watch recreational revenues plummet. I would love a response from one of my employees who i pay taxes for so we can discuss this further. 781-999-3404. Thanks, i hope my email at least gets read. oh, also , i would love to have my grand kids expierence what i was able to back in the 90"s . thanks, Paul c Cuzzupe

From: [Paul Sarkisian](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: striper bass
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:36:48 AM

please leave thing as they are now .let the system work for a year or two .its hard to find slot fish now.

From: [Amberson, Jeff \(US\)](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striper commercial days Att: Dan McKiernan
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:42:01 PM

Director McKiernan

I would like to go on record in opposition to adding any additional days to the 2020 commercial striped bass season. Striper stocks are at an all time low and it makes zero sense to put additional pressure on the fish that remain by increasing the days that commercial fisherman are allowed to harvest them. The fact that less than 25% of the 2020 quota has been reached this late in the season is evidence of the critical situation these fish face. Increasing the take at a time of declining numbers is counterproductive to maintaining a sustainable resource.

Thank you for your time, it is appreciated

Jeff Amberson

Senior Supply Chain Manager - UGV

FLIR Systems, Inc.

Government and Defense Business Unit

19 Alpha Road, Suite 101 Chelmsford, MA 01824-4237 USA

Office: +1 978 769 9345

Mobile: 339 201 1010

Email: jeff.amberson@flir.com www.flir.com

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From: waynew3738@verizon.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striper limit changes
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:41:19 PM

Sirs,

Increasing fishing days for commercial striped bass seems to contradict the intent of the slot limit for recreational fishermen.

It makes no sense to limit recreational fishing to keeping only fish less than 36 inches and at the same time allowing commercial fishermen to take even more fish than they currently are.

If I release a 40 inch striper on Sunday and it is taken on Monday the fishery has not gained anything and I have given up a big fish.

Wayne Wilson
7 Spring Rd. Nahant, Ma.
781-844-7145

From: [Bruno Oliveira](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striper Quota
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:03:06 PM

Hello,

Instead of adding a day, I personally would like to see the quota cut in half.

Ideally, I believe commercial fishing of striped bass should be banned but I know that is a pipe dream.

I also believe the price of the recreational saltwater fishing license should be increased to \$25 per year and the additional funds put towards conservation and law enforcement.

We need more rangers doing rounds and making sure people are not poaching.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Bruno Oliveira

From: [Rob](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: stripped bass season
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:47:48 AM

To Director Dan McKiernan ; I have been in the seafood business for 49 years as a fish market owner operator , oyster grower and commercial harvester and commercial fisherman. I also enjoy catching and releasing stripped bass with my fly rod. I know you are trying to rebuild the stripped bass population. If the commercial fishermen have been having trouble catching the quota for the last few years wouldn't it tell you that the fish are not as plentiful as your managers think and maybe letting the season play out with no changes could help the fishery rebound a lot quicker ? Also, at the end of the season the demand for stripped bass will be much less and the price will fall to a point that begs the question, are these big fish not much more valuable to leave in the ocean to help rebuild the population sooner ? I think I have a perspective that comes from many angles and the bottom line is that the health of the stripped bass population should always come first, otherwise there will be nothing to manage. Thank you in advance for considering my opinion. Robert McClellan. Former owner of Hatch's Fish Market in Wellfleet. (30 years, started in 1971)

From: [Kristina Thorpe - NOAA Affiliate](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: subscribe
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:53:03 AM

Hello,

I wouldlike to subscribe to Mass marine fisheries updates. Could you please add me to your mailing list?

Thanks,
Kristina

From: [Aaron Uehara](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: To Director Dan McKiernan
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 2:19:24 PM

Hey Dan,

Why increase the commercial quotas?

Isn't it clear how poorly the fishery is doing? You must have environmental data at hand. The commercial fisherman haven't hit their quota bc the fish are not in abundance. Increasing commercial days will further decimate the population.

To say that this is to support the commercial industry is absolutely bogus. Commercial guys know that they will have no industry if they have no fish to harvest. I've heard from commercial guys that it costs more to hunt for striped bass than it is for tuna. Why? Bc they are having a very hard time finding stock without having to travel all over. Increasing the days this year will only compound this same issue for next year.

If the population is not properly managed there will not be anything left.

Mahalo,

Aaron

From: [Michael Toole](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: To: Director Dan McKiernan comment on commercial striped bass season changes.
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:15:54 PM

Director McKiernan

I am writing as the representative Executive Board Member of the Plum Island Surfcasters, a 400 member North Shore Massachusetts fishing club. Our membership is opposed to adding any additional days to the commercial striped bass season. As our club expressed during the 2019 ASMFC hearing on striped bass over fishing, a much greater level of protection is needed. As a club we were very disappointed in the recent Size limit changes and do not expect them to accomplish what is needed. We see the current reduced commercial catch as one more example of the reduced number of striped bass. Based on this and membership input on declining fishing, we as a club, oppose any increases to the commercial striped bass season.

Michael Toole
PLum Island Surfcasters
Legislation Executive Board Officer
PO Box 1585
Newburyport, Ma 01950

From: [Mark Worster](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [Tony Boynton](#)
Subject: Upcoming Commercial Quota Increases
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:39:58 PM

Good afternoon,

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed upcoming quota increase for commercial fishing of Striped Bass, Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass. These species have traditionally experienced population fluctuations and this year is no different. I have fished for Striped Bass, in particular, for the last 30 years and know full well the effect of proper management. When I first started fishing for Bass the limit was one fish at 36 inches. We were lucky to catch a Striper. The proper management had a huge positive effect and within 5 years we were catching significantly more and larger fish. That has not been the case the last few years. The average size of Striper being caught has declined and this year we are lucky to catch any fish over 36 inches. Although this evidence is anecdotal in nature it is still extremely valuable in managing the populations.

I urge you to leave the current restrictions in place and allow the three species to continue to rebound.

Best,

Mark Worster
118 Bayview Ave
Berkley, MA 02779

From: [trevor gowdy](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: URGENT!
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:26:08 PM

Hello Dan, I just read the proposed added days to commercial striper fishing and simply cannot believe what I just read. You do not have an easy job by any means with so many different opinions, recreational versus commercial comments and mainly alot of greedy people. I am hoping you will give the following some very deep thought please. First, for the last 3-4 years, commercial quota has not even come close to what the actual quota was. 62%, 52% and most likely this year high 40's%. Why are days going to be increased, when all of the data and facts are right in our faces of a major depletion in striper population? The fish population is down drastically.....bottom line. The Cape and P town have had terrible fishing this year for stripers.....New Jersey is wiping out major schools, then New York etc.etc... They wiped out Chatham a few years ago and now it has happened here from Boston to Ipswich Bay. I ask when is Mass Fisheries going to wake up? Too little too late? Next, 99% of commercial fisherman in our area all have full time good paying jobs.....it becomes greed to make that extra money hence while depleting the population and no one will argue that with you. The influx of pogies into our area here Boston north in the last three years has been outstanding [like the jersey shores] and that alone has changed the way commercial fishing has been happening. Use to be two years ago just 5-6 boats in a school or area now we have well over 100 boats on one or two pogy schools or small areas that they are in. The SNAG HOOK and drop the bait works great.....EXCEPT.....all recreational fisherman now do this technique cause it is so easy and effective BUT.....the majority of fish are gut hooked by so many recreational fisherman.....I am an outdoor film producer and have done close work with Greg Skomal, your former president and many others at Mass fisheries for over 18 years and have now finally begun to voice my grave concerns as I know these fish and waters well for over 40 years.....no, this is not a time to increase days.....this is a time to put more stringent rules on recreational and keep commercial what it is or eliminate all together. It is a joke to Mass fisheries that these so called commercial fishermen do this for a living.....they dont at all.....so why destroy a depleted population year after year after year? Mike Pierdnock is a dear friend from Atlantic fisheries board and he simply throws his hands up. Enlist us to help.....to help keep and grow what makes these New england waters so special.....remember, for the last 4 years your quota numbers have plummeted for striped bass.....DO NOT WIPE THEM OUT AGAIN.....Be nice to hear from you about this if you can make the time.....its a good idea. Best to you and your family during these times....please keep safe and healthy. Trev Gowdy

Trevor Gowdy
Curt Gowdy Film/ Broadcasting
978-927-1776 (office)
978-764-3169 (cell)
958 Hale street
BEVERLY, MA 01915

From: [pcuzzupe](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Attn Dan Mckeirnan
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:06:49 PM

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Please read this it was published in on the water magazine. The commercial fisheries are wiping out the population, there are year classes of fish missing.yesterday I cruised thru the commercial fleet of 40 boats off of revere beach.killing female breeders.make zero sense.dont extend the season ,obviously if the quota hasn't been met there are not enough fish.stop the greed! These guys all have beautiful boats n trucks do they really need the \$\$\$\$. Give the fish a break,learn from history, its crashing.Paul Cuzzupe

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Jake Shactman](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Days
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:28:20 PM

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Mr. Dan McKiernan,

Please do what is right and stop increasing commercial fishing pressure on striped bass. This is the wrong direction to go. Instead, please put in your effort to understanding why the quota is not being met. This is a sign! This does not mean kill more fish! I strongly urge you to rethink this decision. Striped bass are an incredible game fish and see enough pressure up and down the coast. More dead breeding class bass is not the answer to ensuring a sustainable fishery. The recreational anglers have been hit with tighter restrictions, time to do the same for commercial.

Respectfully,
Jake Shactman

From: [John Lefebber](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commercial Striped Bass Plan Increase Opposition
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:44:40 PM

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This email is directed at Director Dan McKieman,

Director McKieman,

My name is John Lefebber I am an avid recreational fisherman for striped bass here in Massachusetts.

I want to voice my opposition to the proposed extension of the commercial fishing season for Striped Bass. If my understanding is correct, the commercial striped bass industry in the commonwealth is current at 25% of their annual quota. An extension of their season will only further put the remainig breeding stock of stripers at risk.

This is the third year in a row that the commercial fishery has fallen short of their quota. This is a clear indication that the biomass is depleting. If you ask anyone who is worth their salt in the industry, commercial or recreational, they will say the same thing - there are almost no big fish and what big fish are left are podded up into tight schools which are easy to target. This is the exact same pattern that the large stripers fell into right before the stock crash in the 70s. I cannot stress enough, the extension of the commercial fishing season will put the entire stock and industry at risk.

Massachussetes has been a leader in the sustainable regulation of Striper fishing, for example we are the first state on the East Coast to mandate circle hooks with the rest of the states starting next year. Massachussetes should continue in this fashion and lead the charge against the commercial fishing interest and save the Striped Bass.

I am proud to be an angler in this state, please do not let us down.

Thank you
John Lefebber

From: [Terry Ryan](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Commerical striped bass extension
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:25:08 PM

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1. Striped bass populations are on a decline across the East Coast. Spawn and population studies indicate the downward trend. Further harvest should not be permitted.
2. Stripers over 34" are prime breeding species and should be preserved for future bass production.
3. The commercial harvest only being at 25% this late in the season is a sign of population troubles. Why would we continue to pursue further harvest?
4. The commercial fleet is amongst the most efficient and productive group of individuals harvesting stripers. If they are struggling this bad, it's a sure sign to shut it down.
5. Management of prime species in many states has effectively prohibited commercial harvest of fish such as snook, sea trout, red fish, etc. These states have seen strong population increases and a robust fishery for the recreational group. The economic impact is far more beneficial to the economy as a recreational management tool.

The commercial striped bass season should not be extended.

Thanks,

Richard Ryan

From: [STEPHEN TIRRELL](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Director McKeirnan - Opposition to extending commercial striped bass fishing
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:49:56 AM

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Dear Director Dan McKiernan,

I oppose the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries proposal to extend the 2020 commercial fishing season by adding open fishing days to the commercial striped bass fishing season. I believe the increased commercial fishing pressure on striped bass is a mistake. In October of 2019 the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission declared that the population of wild Atlantic striped bass was "overfished, and overfishing is occurring. As an avid salt water fisherman I, and several associates, have seen the steady decline in recreational striped bass caught from the shores of Martha's Vineyard. The recreational and commercial regulations were changed to reduce fishing pressure and begin the process of rebuilding a healthy, sustainable striped bass fishery. I fully agree with the 2019 changes and hope the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries maintains these existing regulations. Massachusetts' failure to catch its 2020 full commercial quota is an indication of the declining quality of the fishery.

I understand the impact this may have on the commercial fishing industry this year but hope and believe staying the course will help rebuild and maintain the fishing industry for years to come.

Best regards,

Stephen Tirrell
40 Upson Road
Wellesley, MA 02482

From: [Josh Swasey](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: In-Season Adjustment to Striped Bass Quota
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:40:23 PM

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Dir. Dan McKiernan,

I respectfully submit my **opposition** to the proposed in-season adjustment to the quota and addition of open commercial fishing days for striped bass. As a recreational angler and steward of the outdoors, it is evident that that striped bass population as it currently stands cannot support additional commercial fishing. This move plus the re-regulation of “keeper size” with the slot limit imposed this year will have a severely negative impact on the overall stock of fish. If the commercial quota is not being met with current fishing days then the season should end as scheduled with no extensions or additions to open fishing days.

AGAIN, I AM STANDING IN OPPOSITION TO THE DMF PROPOSED IN-SEASON ADJUSTMENT TO 2020 COMMERCIAL FISHING LIMITS ON STRIPED BASS.

Thank You,
Josh Swasey, AIA
Goody Clancy
420 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
617 262 2760 (main) 617 850 6548 (direct)
josh.swasey@goodyclancy.com
www.goodyclancy.com

GOODYCLANCY
ARCHITECTURE / PLANNING / PRESERVATION

From: lrc8@me.com
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: MA commercial striped bass
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:00:55 AM

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Hello director McKinnon,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing this to tell you I am very concerned about the proposal to add open fishing days to the commercial season. I write this as a worried 16 year old who loves to fish and would hate to see to striped bass population decline any further. As you know it is getting harder and harder to find larger fish. These larger fish that commercial boats are catching are vital to the well being of the species. It would be detrimental to the species. I would like you to please consider the impacts of this proposal.

Thank you,
Leo Castro
10th grade student and concerned fisherman.

From: [Will Cassella](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: MADMF striped bass commercial season extension
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:15:22 PM

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Hello I just wanted to voice my thoughts on the commercial season extension of striped bass. There should not be an extension of the commercial striped bass season due to the fact that striped bass are being targeted more by recreational anglers now than they ever have before. A commercial season extension would severely damage and begin to deplete the striped bass populations in our state. A commercial season extension would make it much harder to maintain a target population level for the striped bass. Since the bass are being targeted to be caught more than ever before by recreational anglers, why expand the commercial season?

-Will Cassella

From: [James Goodhart](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:57:46 PM

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Attn: Director Dan Mckiernan

Hi Director,

I am writing to express my adamant opposition to the expansion of fishing days in regard to the commercial striped bass fishery. I'm very familiar with the argument that the commercial fishery is a fraction of the size of the recreational fishery, but please don't underestimate the commercial fisheries impact on the fishery. As a guide/charterboat captain I spend a great deal of time immersed in this fishery. Even though I don't fish stripers commercially many of my friends do. The serious commercial fisherman are very good at what they do and when they find a congregation of large fish, they hit them hard! A number of spots that held large fish in good numbers in past no longer do. That's because they have been heavily targeted and eventually fished out. The great spots on the Cape, Nantucket, and the Vineyard have been wiped out and now the fishermen from down south are crowding into the waters I fish, Merrimack River, Plum Island, the Northshore, and Boston Harbor. The quota isn't even close to being filled because we're running out of fish. If you're on the water all of the time, this is the obvious conclusion. As you may know I was not in favor of having rec anglers and commercial anglers targeting different classes of fish. The reason being that we need to protect at least some of the breeding age fish! Giving the commercial guys more fishing days is directly in opposition to the number one goal, which is rebuilding the stock! Having the commercial fishery target and wipe out the last few aggregations of large breeding females is a tragedy in the making.

With the mandate of rebuilding the stock in mind, the prudent move would actually be to shut down the rest of the commercial season. I wasn't born yesterday and realize that that's unlikely too happen, but please do the fish and the fisherman a favor by not increasing the commercial days. Please don't take your eye off the ball and let's work together to rebuild the stock! (Hopefully in my lifetime, I'm 61 yrs old)

Best Regards,

James

Capt. James C. Goodhart
Shadowcaster Charters
56 Boardman St.
Newburyport, MA 01950
(978) 463-7755
www.shadowcastercharters.com

From: [Ken Washburn](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:43:40 PM

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Hello,

Let me go on record as opposing all commercial fishing for striped bass. It should be designated a game fish. Reason is preservation of the species.

Thanks

Ken Washburn
104 Foster Rd
Swampscott, Ma

From: mollypic@comcast.net
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Fishing Pressure on Striped Bass
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:20:03 AM

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To Director Dan McKiernan,

Extending the season for commercial season for striped bass is a travesty and not what the Striped bass need to recover. This is compounded by the fact that the demand for fish is way down because of the pandemic so it would be an ideal time for them to be allowed to recover although it will certainly take more than one year. A more appropriate moratorium on commercial fishing for this species would be 5 or more years. We have seen the stocks decline significantly over the past 20 years for recreational fishing and it is very clear that for the fish to survive in the future they need time to recover.

Please reconsider this extension and allow the stocks of bass to build for the future survival of the species.

With Great Concern,

Molly Pickett
40 Upson Rd
Wellesley MA 02482

From: [Hayden Hanes](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to increase commercial fishing pressure on striped bass
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:36:51 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am a 16 year old angler. Every summer I look forward to fishing for stripers with my family and friends. Some of my best quality time with my father, has been spent fishing for bass. Over the years, striped bass have become an important part of my life. They are beautiful fish! As their population numbers continue to decline at setting rates, I can only help but feel worry for the future. Fishing for striped bass is something I've spent lots of time doing. One day I would like the opportunity to fish for stripers with my own children. Our practices today, simply cannot continue. The striped bass fishery will become non existent before we know it if we don't take action today. Here I am taking action in my own way by attempting to give you an insight as to why the striped bass fishery is important to me. I hope someone takes my words into consideration when making a decision in the future.

Best,
Hayden Hanes

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tyler McPherson](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Plans to Increase Commercial Striped Bass Fishing
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:46:20 PM

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Director Dan McKiernan,

I am writing to oppose increasing commercial striped bass fishing and the current plan to add additional commercial days. The fishery is clearly over fished and if anything commercial fishing days and quotas should be reduced.

Thank you,
Tyler McPherson
Cohasset, MA
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ben Deming](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposal to add open fishing days
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:39:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dan McKiernan,

Adding open fishing days to the commercial fishing days is not a good choice considering the current state of the striped bass population. I think it's fairly obvious that the fact that the striped bass quota was not met is a good indication of how poorly these fish are doing. I ask you please consider the future of these fish and limiting the fishing pressure on them for a year or two now, could mean great fishing for years to come.

Regards,
Ben Deming

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Randy Fairbanks](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Striped Bass Regulatory Changes
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:43:14 AM

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Hi Dan,

One thing about about the proposed increase in fishing days that I find troubling is the possible impact of this action relative to supply and demand. It may not be a good idea to be putting more and more on the market at precisely the same time that the summer season is winding down along with the demand for striped bass in fish markets and restaurants. The resulting decline in off-vessel price could well render the entire process moot to the commercial fisherman if he needs to land twice the poundage to sustain his current income.

Something to think about.

Randy Fairbanks
fisherxp85@fastmail.us

From: [James Mcmanus](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striped bass commercial fishing.
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:13:01 PM

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Hello,

As you are aware, many are opposed to the increased days of proposed commercial fishing for striped bass. Opening more days for commercial fishing is a mistake, as the striped bass are already at very low numbers. The fact that the fishing quota has not been met for what will be coming up on the third year in a row is indicative of that.

Please do the right thing for this valuable resource.

James

From: [Ben Carlisle](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Striper Quota
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:59:11 PM

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Hi There,

I vehemently disagree with the increased days for commercial fishing. Someone who goes out each weekend and never catches striper this is such a bummer you're even considering the extension.

Thanks for understanding and I hope you don't do this.

Thanks,
Ben

From: [Matthew Feroli](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Stripers Forever.
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:00:01 AM

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I'm backing a social media group that claims they'd like to keep our local marine ecosystems in tact by sustaining one of our top predatory fish in the area. This "what's the word outdoor" group promotes fishing in Massachusetts and actively participates in the catching of Striped Bass. They also practice catch and release a fishing practice that inhibits the safety of fish by releasing the fish back into the ecosystem no matter the size in order for it to live on. They have created a movement called Stripers Forever that vouches for the protection of Striped Bass. I am 17 and have been fishing for "stripers" since I was 5 years old and they are not the type of fish that I believe should be commercial fished as much as they are being. A simple reduction of 5 or 10 percent commercial would drastically effect the numbers of striped bass left in the ecosystem after the fishers hit their quota. Striped Bass are a flourishing species however they are overfished and the ASFMC is being quoted as announcing that "overfishing is occurring" in the striped bass communities in October of 2019. If stripers were commercially overfished then why would the next years quota go up 25%? I'd appreciate a response as to why the quota went up if the bass are being overfished. Thank you

-Matt Feroli

From: [Daddy Lombardo](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: To Director Dan McKiernan
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:30:40 AM

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Please do not extend the commercial fishing days. If the quota is not being filled now, when it was easily filled in the past, its because we have lost a substantial amount of fish in the population. This is not a fluke year. This has been the trend for the last few years now, we need to do something to protect these fish from overfishing. Obviously you know what is the right thing to do. Please don't let this go back to how it was in 80's when i was growing up, with hardly anyone fishing and no striped bass around. I want these things to be here for my kids to enjoy. Taking more now is the last thing we need to do. If the quota cant be filled in the 2 days, o well, maybe next year they should try harder than j parking just off the east and west ends of the canal and hoping the fish swim by.

Anthony Lombado