

November 20, 2020

Dear Striped Bass Community Member:

As 2020 winds down and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our daily life, we would like to share with you the latest developments of the Striped Bass Conservation license plate. According to the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), the license plate is on track to be distributed in March or April of 2021.

Getting a plate established and through the RMV approval process typically takes 6-8 months in a normal cycle. Because of the pandemic there were many obstacles to overcome in procedures. The RMV instituted new pandemic restrictions, which halted the production at the Walpole Correctional Facility where the plates are printed, the 3M company wasn't able to provide the necessary materials and resources in a timely manner, and the enhancement of the herring and striper images needed to be re-approved. All these circumstances held up the original delivery date in August. The good news is the RMV has indicated to us that you will receive your iconic, low number license plate early this spring!



Also, for a limited time only, we would like to extend another opportunity to secure a low number plate before general distribution. Any new application will result in a number in the 900s. This offer will end on December 20, 2020. If you are interested, please contact Kim Tilas or Susan Lanza for applications. In the future, we anticipate having an auction of our reserved low plate numbers, so stay tuned!!

On behalf of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) and the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), we would like to thank you - friends of the striped bass community - for your unwavering support during these difficult times. Your commitment and dedication to protect the conservation of the striped bass in Massachusetts is impressive and welcome. We will continue to update you with any new developments until you have received your plate. If you have further questions or are interested in the special plate offer, please contact me by email at Kim.Tilas@mass.gov or Susan.Lanza@mass.gov.

Wishing you a happy, healthy holiday season!



Daniel J. McKiernan
Director, MA Division of Marine Fisheries



Kim Tilas
Director, Mass Environmental Trust