



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

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Atlantic Striped Bass Board Initiates Addendum to Consider 2026 Management Measures

Arlington, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board has initiated Draft Addendum III to consider recreational and commercial management measures for 2026 to support rebuilding the stock by 2029. Options will consider a range of reductions for the recreational and commercial fisheries. Recreational reductions will consider season and size limits that take into account regional differences, including no-harvest and no-targeting closures. Final action is planned for no later than October 2025 with implementation in early 2026.

“We want to thank the thousands of members of the public who took the time to provide thoughtful comments ahead of this Board meeting,” said Board Chair Megan Ware from Maine. “We understand that many will be disappointed in the Board’s decision to initiate an addendum versus taking immediate action. However, after deliberating for more than three hours about the path forward, the Board came to the conclusion that the best course of action is to proceed with an addendum which will allow for clarity on 2024 removals and additional analyses.”

The action responds to the results of the [2024 Stock Assessment Update](#), which indicates the resource remains overfished but is not experiencing overfishing. Short-term projections estimate an increase in fishing mortality in 2025 due to the above average 2018 year-class entering the current recreational ocean slot limit combined with the lack of strong year-classes behind it. This action is intended to increase the probability of rebuilding the stock by adjusting subsequent 2026 management measures to ensure the stock is on the necessary rebuilding trajectory.

At the meeting, the Board considered two possible paths forward. The first was to take immediate Board action to reduce fishing mortality in 2025. The second was a longer, more comprehensive process given one of the primary options being considered is seasonal closures, which represents a new management approach for the Board. Ultimately, the Board chose the second path by initiating an addendum that would provide the Board more time to develop a fuller suite of management options, allow for the incorporation of full 2024 fishery removals data, and afford the public with a more robust opportunity to provide input. The Board noted preliminary data indicate the current measures

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.

implemented through Addendum II are on track to reduce 2024 removals from 2023 and 2022 levels. The Board also recognized the importance of the thousands of public comments submitted for this meeting and the upcoming public input through the addendum process on 2026 management measures.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org.

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PR24-40

Motions

Main Motion

Move to initiate an addendum to support striped bass rebuilding by 2029 in consideration of 2024 recreational and commercial mortality while balancing socioeconomic impacts. Options should include, if needed, a range of overall reductions, consideration of recreational versus commercial contributions to the reductions, recreational season and size changes taking into account regional variability of availability, and no harvest vs no target closures. Final action shall be taken at the Summer 2025 meeting to be in place for the 2026 recreational and commercial fisheries.

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Clark

Motion to Amend

Motion to amend to replace “at the summer” with “by the annual”

Motion made by Mr. Luisi and seconded by Mr. Geer. Motion passes (12 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Main Motion as Amended

Move to initiate an addendum to support striped bass rebuilding by 2029 in consideration of 2024 recreational and commercial mortality while balancing socioeconomic impacts. Options should include, if needed, a range of overall reductions, consideration of recreational versus commercial contributions to the reductions, recreational season and size changes taking into account regional variability of availability, and no harvest vs no target closures. Final action shall be taken by the 2025 Annual Meeting to be in place for the 2026 recreational and commercial fisheries.

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute to take Board action to implement in 2025 recreational season closures to achieve a 9% reduction and decrease the commercial quotas by 9%. The recreational season closures will be implemented regionally, as follows:

- **Maine–Rhode Island: no-harvest closures of 22 days in Wave 3 plus the number of days needed in Wave 5 to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region.**
- **Connecticut–North Carolina: no-harvest closures of the same number of days in Wave 2 and Wave 6 needed to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region.**
- **Chesapeake Bay: Maryland no-targeting closure of 22 days in Wave 4 to lengthen the existing closure [9% reduction as calculated with “striped bass only trips eliminated” assumption]. Virginia no-harvest closure of 18 days at the end of Wave 6 [9% reduction].**
- **New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware area-specific fisheries: seasonal closures to achieve 9% reductions.**

The regions/states will submit implementation plans for Board approval at the Winter 2025 Meeting Week. If a region can't decide on uniform dates, the Board will make the selection. The implementation deadline is April 1, 2025.

Motion made by Ms. Meserve and seconded by Ms. Patterson.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend the commercial reduction by replacing 9% with 1%.

Motion made by Mr. Kaelin and seconded by Mr. Hasbrouck. Motion fails (7 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Motion to Substitute

Move to substitute to take Board action to implement in 2025 recreational season closures to achieve a 9% reduction and decrease the commercial quotas by 9%. The recreational season closures will be implemented regionally, as follows:

- **Maine–Rhode Island: no-harvest closures of 22 days in Wave 3 plus the number of days needed in Wave 5 to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region.**
- **Connecticut–North Carolina: no-harvest closures of the same number of days in Wave 2 and Wave 6 needed to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region.**
- **Chesapeake Bay: Maryland no-targeting closure of 22 days in Wave 4 to lengthen the existing closure [9% reduction as calculated with “striped bass only trips eliminated” assumption]. Virginia no-harvest closure of 18 days at the end of Wave 6 [9% reduction].**
- **New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware area-specific fisheries: seasonal closures to achieve 9% reductions.**

The regions/states will submit implementation plans for Board approval at the Winter 2025 Meeting Week. If a region can't decide on uniform dates, the Board will make the selection. The implementation deadline is April 1, 2025.

Motion made by Ms. Meserve and seconded by Ms. Patterson.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend the commercial reduction by replacing 9% with 5%.

Motion made by Mr. Hasbrouck and seconded by Mr. Kane. Motion passes (10 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Motion to Substitute as Amended

Move to substitute to take Board action to implement in 2025 recreational season closures to achieve a 9% reduction and decrease the commercial quotas by 5%. The recreational season closures will be implemented regionally, as follows:

- **Maine–Rhode Island: no-harvest closures of 22 days in Wave 3 plus the number of days needed in Wave 5 to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region.**
- **Connecticut–North Carolina: no-harvest closures of the same number of days in Wave 2 and Wave 6 needed to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region.**

- **Chesapeake Bay:**
Maryland no-targeting closure of 22 days in Wave 4 to lengthen the existing closure [9% reduction as calculated with “striped bass only trips eliminated” assumption]. Virginia no-harvest closure of 18 days at the end of Wave 6 [9% reduction].
- **New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware area-specific fisheries:** seasonal closures to achieve 9% reductions.

The regions/states will submit implementation plans for Board approval at the Winter 2025 Meeting Week. If a region can’t decide on uniform dates, the Board will make the selection. The implementation deadline is April 1, 2025.

Motion to Amend

For the area specific fisheries, move to amend to add after seasonal closures “or size limit changes”

Motion made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Ms. Meserve. Motion passes (13 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Motion to Substitute as Amended

Move to substitute to take Board action to implement in 2025 recreational season closures to achieve a 9% reduction and decrease the commercial quotas by 5%. The recreational season closures will be implemented regionally, as follows:

- **Maine–Rhode Island:** no-harvest closures of 22 days in Wave 3 plus the number of days needed in Wave 5 to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region.
- **Connecticut–North Carolina:** no-harvest closures of the same number of days in Wave 2 and Wave 6 needed to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region.
- **Chesapeake Bay:**
Maryland no-targeting closure of 22 days in Wave 4 to lengthen the existing closure [9% reduction as calculated with “striped bass only trips eliminated” assumption]. Virginia no-harvest closure of 18 days at the end of Wave 6 [9% reduction].
- **New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware area-specific fisheries:** seasonal closures or size limit changes to achieve 9% reductions.

The regions/states will submit implementation plans for Board approval at the Winter 2025 Meeting Week. If a region can’t decide on uniform dates, the Board will make the selection. The implementation deadline is April 1, 2025.

Motion to Amend

Under Maryland Chesapeake Bay, move to amend to add “and or no harvest” and strike of 22 days.

Motion made by Mr. Sikorski and seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion approves by consent.

Motion to Substitute as Amended

Move to substitute to take Board action to implement in 2025 recreational season closures to achieve a 9% reduction and decrease the commercial quotas by 5%. The recreational season closures will be implemented regionally, as follows:

- **Maine–Rhode Island:** no-harvest closures of 22 days in Wave 3 plus the number of days needed in Wave 5 to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region

- **Connecticut–North Carolina:** no-harvest closures of the same number of days in Wave 2 and Wave 6 needed to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region
- **Chesapeake Bay:** Maryland no-targeting closure and or no harvest in Wave 4 to lengthen the existing closure [9% reduction as calculated with “striped bass only trips eliminated” assumption]. VA no-harvest closure of 18 days at the end of Wave 6 [9% reduction].
- **New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware area-specific fisheries:** seasonal closures or size limit changes to achieve 9% reductions.

The regions/states will submit implementation plans for Board approval at the Winter 2025 Meeting Week. If a region can’t decide on uniform dates, the Board will make the selection. The implementation deadline is April 1, 2025.

Motion to Amend

For Maine—Rhode Island, Connecticut—North Carolina, and Virginia Chesapeake Bay, move to amend to add “and or no targeting closures” and strike “of 22 days,” and “of 18 days” and “of the same number of days.”

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Hasbrouck. Motion passes (9 in favor, 5 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Motion to Substitute as Amended

Move to substitute to take Board action to implement in 2025 recreational season closures to achieve a 9% reduction and decrease the commercial quotas by 5%. The recreational season closures will be implemented regionally, as follows:

- **Maine–Rhode Island:** no-harvest closures and or no targeting closures in Wave 3 plus the number of days needed in Wave 5 to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region
- **Connecticut–North Carolina:** no-harvest closures and or no targeting closures in Wave 2 and Wave 6 needed to achieve a combined 9% reduction across both Waves, to be implemented in uniform dates across the region
- **Chesapeake Bay:** Maryland no-targeting closure and or no harvest in Wave 4 to lengthen the existing closure [9% reduction as calculated with “striped bass only trips eliminated” assumption]. Virginia no-harvest closure and or no targeting closures at the end of Wave 6 [9% reduction].
- **New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware area-specific fisheries:** seasonal closures or size limit changes to achieve 9% reductions.

The regions/states will submit implementation plans for Board approval at the Winter 2025 Meeting Week. If a region can’t decide on uniform dates, the Board will make the selection. The implementation deadline is April 1, 2025.

Motion fails (4 in favor, 11 opposed, 1 null)

Main Motion as Amended

Move to initiate an addendum to support striped bass rebuilding by 2029 in consideration of 2024 recreational and commercial mortality while balancing socioeconomic impacts. Options should include, if needed, a range of overall reductions, consideration of recreational versus commercial contributions to the reductions, recreational season and size changes taking into account regional variability of availability, and no harvest versus no target closures. Final action shall be taken by the annual 2025 meeting to be in place for the 2026 rec and comm fisheries.

Motion passes (14 in favor, 2 opposed).