



# DNREC Virtual Public Hearing

## Striped Bass Size Limits and Possession Limits (Docket #2020-R-F-0015)

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**Computer Audio:** Use the **audio connections menu** to turn audio on or off.

**Telephone Audio:** DIAL-in Number: **1.408.418.9388**

Access code: **710 615 638**

No comments will be taken in person during this hearing. Comments will be accepted using the DNREC Comment form, via email, or by USPS mail as noted on the hearing event page ([de.gov/dnrechearings](https://de.gov/dnrechearings))

Proposed Amendments to 7 DE Admin. Code 3503 Striped Bass Recreational Fishing Seasons; Methods of Take; Creel Limit; Possession Limit and 7 DE Admin. Code 3504 Striped Bass Possession Size Limit; Exceptions

- Addendum VI to Amendment 6 to the ASFMC Atlantic Striped Bass FMP (October 2019) requires all states to reduce removals of Striped Bass by 18%
- States can either adopt the default measures in Addendum VI or submit Conservation Equivalency (CE) measures for ASMFC approval
  - CE measures may reduce removals by the commercial and recreational sectors by requiring each sector take the same % reduction or a proportional reduction based on the sector's removals
  - The commercial sector is responsible for 10% of removals while the recreational sector is responsible for 90% of removals
  - The term 'removal' rather than 'harvest' is used because almost 50% of the estimated mortality from the recreational sector results from catch and release mortality

Proposed Amendments to 7 DE Admin. Code 3503 Striped Bass Recreational Fishing Seasons; Methods of Take; Creel Limit; Possession Limit and 7 DE Admin. Code 3504 Striped Bass Possession Size Limit; Exceptions

- Delaware submitted two CE measures, both were approved by ASMFC at the February 4, 2020 Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board Meeting
  - The first reduces removals proportionally by sector resulting in a 1.8% reduction to the commercial sector and a 20.4% reduction to the recreational sector
  - The two measures, labelled as Options 1 and 2 in the proposed regulation, differ in commercial quota and in recreational slot size limits
  - Due to the extremely limited time to get a regulation in place for the 2020 Striped Bass fishing season, Delaware implemented Option 1 by Secretary's Emergency Order on February 15, 2020
    - The Advisory Council on Tidal Finfisheries approved a motion to recommend that DNREC implement Option 1 at their November 20, 2019 meeting
- **BOTH OPTIONS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THIS PROPOSED REGULATION**

# Proposed Amendments to 7 DE Admin. Code 3503 Striped Bass Recreational Fishing Seasons; Methods of Take; Creel Limit; Possession Limit and 7 DE Admin. Code 3504 Striped Bass Possession Size Limit; Exceptions

Fishery	Open Season	Lawful Size	Pos. Lmt.	Annual Quota
<b>Option 1</b>				
Recreational	All year	<b>28" - &lt; 35"</b> ; except 20"- 25" in DE Riv, Bay & their tribs from Jul 1 - Aug 31	1	N/A
Commercial Gill Net	Feb 15 - May 31 (Mar 30 in Nant R.); Nov 15 - Dec 31	≥ 28"; except ≥20" in DE River, Bay & their tribs. from Feb 15 - May 31 or from Nanticoke River & its tribs Feb 15 - Mar 31	N/A	<b>135,350 lbs.</b>
Commercial H&L	Apr 1 - Dec 31	28" min. size limit	N/A	<b>7,124 lbs.</b>
<b>Option 2</b>				
Recreational	All year	<b>28" - &lt; 38"</b> ; except 20"- 25" in DE Riv, Bay & their tribs from Jul 1 - Aug 31	1	N/A
Commercial Gill Net	Feb 15 - May 31 (Mar 30 in Nant R.); Nov 15 - Dec 31	≥ 28"; except ≥20" in DE River, Bay & their tribs. from Feb 15 - May 31 or from Nanticoke River & its tribs Feb 15 - Mar 31	N/A	<b>113,021 lbs.</b>
Commercial H&L	Apr 1 - Dec 31	28" min.	N/A	<b>5,948 lbs.</b>



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Thank you for joining us. We will accept comments on this matter through July 10, 2020.

Comments may be submitted in writing

via [DNREC Comment form](https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-hearings/comment-form/) - <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-hearings/comment-form/>

via [email](mailto:DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov)- [DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov](mailto:DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov)

or by USPS mail:

Theresa Newman, Hearing Officer

DNREC – Office of the Secretary

89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901

A recording of this hearing as well as a full, verbatim transcript, will be posted as they become available.

For more information, find the event page for this hearing on the DNREC Public Hearings page

[dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-hearings/](https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-hearings/)