

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III: Excerpt of Options

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Public Hearings – September 2025

This document lists the proposed options from Draft Addendum III for reference. This document should be used in conjunction with the full Draft Addendum document, which provides more detailed descriptions and background information on the proposed options.

The full draft addendum document is available [at this link](#):



Please contact Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org with any questions.

Excerpt from Section 3.1 Method to Measure Total Length of a Striped Bass

Option A. Status Quo: No Definition of Total Length

No definition in the Interstate FMP for Atlantic Striped Bass related to the method of measuring total length of a striped bass.

Option B. Mandatory Elements for Total Length Definition

This option would establish mandatory elements for each state's regulatory definition of striped bass total length measurement for compliance with size limits. All states would require these four elements in their definition: 1) squeezing the tail; 2) a straight-line measurement; 3) the fish is laid flat; and 4) the mouth is closed. This applies to both the commercial and recreational sectors. States may implement the following language or submit alternative language in their implementation plans for Board consideration.

Total length means the greatest straight line length in inches as measured on a fish (laid flat on its side on top of the measuring device) with its mouth closed from the anterior most tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extremity of the tail with the upper and lower fork of the tail squeezed together.

Excerpt from Section 3.2 Commercial Tagging: Point of Tagging

Option A. Status Quo Point of Harvest or Point of Sale

States or jurisdictions with a commercial striped bass fishery may choose to implement their commercial tagging program at either the point of harvest or the point of sale.

Option B. Commercial Tagging At the Point of Harvest

States or jurisdictions with a commercial striped bass fishery would implement their commercial tagging program at the point of harvest (i.e., immediately upon possession or within specific parameters outlined by the state).

Option C. Commercial Tagging By the First Point of Landing

States or jurisdictions with a commercial striped bass fishery would implement their commercial tagging program by the first point of landing (i.e., before offloading and/or before removing the vessel from the water). If fishing from shore, tagging would occur immediately upon possession.

Note: If Option B or C is implemented for commercial tagging, the Board may consider delaying implementation of this measure until 2027 or 2028 to allow a delayed implementation plan to account for the extensive administrative and regulatory changes for those states that currently implement point-of-sale tagging.

Excerpt from Section 3.3 Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

Option A. Status Quo (No New Baseline Season)

If this addendum does not establish a coastwide reduction in removals (Section 3.4 Option A), Maryland would maintain the same Chesapeake Bay recreational seasons that were in place in 2022 (as specified by Addendum II). If a coastwide reduction in fishery removals is established through this addendum (Section 3.4 Option B), Maryland would maintain the same Chesapeake Bay recreational seasons that were in place in 2024 plus any additional season closures required by the new reduction.

Option B. New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

Maryland would implement the new recreational season in Table 1 calculated to be net neutral (i.e., not increase removals relative to 2024 levels) plus any additional season closures required by any new reduction in this addendum (Section 3.4).

Option C. New Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline Plus 10% Uncertainty Buffer

Maryland would implement the new recreational season in Table 1 calculated to be net neutral (i.e., not increase removals relative to 2024 levels) plus any additional season closures required by any new reduction in this addendum (Section 3.4) plus an additional 10% buffer of that reduction (e.g., 12% reduction + 1.2% buffer= 13% reduction).

If this addendum does not establish a coastwide reduction in Section 3.4, Maryland would implement the new baseline season with an adjustment in either wave 3 or wave 6 to be 2% more conservative than the 2024 season (i.e., shorten spring harvest season to start May 6 instead of May 1 OR shorten fall harvest season to end November 26 instead of December 5). This 2% buffer is 10% of the 20.6% reduction that Maryland implemented through Addendum VI conservation equivalency via the spring and summer no-targeting closures that are now being considered for changes through this addendum.

Table 1. Maryland Chesapeake Bay 2024 season baseline and new season baseline option.

Option A. 2024 Baseline	Option B/C. New Baseline
<i>Plus any additional closures to meet rebuilding reduction</i>	<i>Plus any additional closures to meet rebuilding reduction plus additional reduction from buffer (B. no buffer; or C. 10% buffer)</i>
Catch and Release Jan 1 – Mar 31	Catch and Release Jan 1 – Apr 30
No Targeting Apr 1 – May 15	
Harvest May 16 – July 15	Harvest May 1 – July 31
No Target July 16-31	
Harvest Aug 1 – Dec 10	No Target Aug 1 – Aug 31
	Harvest Sep 1 – Dec 5
Catch and Release Dec 11 – Dec 31	Catch and Release Dec 6 – Dec 31

Excerpt from Section 3.4 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding

Option A. Status Quo

The ocean commercial fisheries and Chesapeake Bay commercial fisheries would continue to be managed by their Addendum II quotas (Table 9) and commercial size limits.

Ocean recreational fisheries are constrained by a 1-fish bag limit and a slot limit of 28" to 31", with the following exceptions:

- New York Hudson River management area: 1 fish at 23" to 28"
- Pennsylvania Apr–May slot fishery in lower Delaware River/Estuary: 1 fish at 22" to <26"
- Delaware July–Aug slot fishery in Delaware River/Bay: 1 fish at 20" to 24"

Chesapeake Bay recreational fisheries are constrained by a 1-fish bag limit and a slot limit of 19" to 24". Chesapeake Bay recreational spring trophy fisheries are managed by the same size and bag limits as the ocean fishery (1 fish at 28" to 31") with the 2022 trophy season dates.

States would maintain the same recreational seasons that were in place in 2022.

Approved conservation equivalency programs would remain in place.

Option B: Even Sector Reductions: Commercial -12% and Recreational -12%

Commercial quotas would be reduced by 12% (Table 9). Options O1– O2 for the ocean and Options CB1 – CB3 for Chesapeake Bay in Table 8 specify recreational measures designed to achieve a 12% reduction via changes to size limits and/or season closures.

Note: If the Board specifies a less than 12% commercial quota reduction during final approval of the addendum, then the total combined reduction across both sectors would be less than 12%.

Table 8. Recreational Measures for Option B. Even Sector Reductions to achieve 12% Total Reduction (12% reduction for each sector). All fisheries are constrained by a 1-fish bag limit. Each option achieves at least 12% recreational reduction.

Option B. Ocean Recreational Fishery -12%				
	Modes	Size Limit	Season Closure	Season Closure Table
O1	All	Status Quo 28" to 31" [0%]	-12%	Table 10
O2	Split For-Hire Exemption	PS: Status Quo 28" to 31" FH: 28" to 33" [+1%]	-13%	Table 11
<i>Note: All ocean options maintain status quo size limits for NY Hudson River, PA lower Delaware River spring slot, and DE Delaware Bay/River summer slot unless those states propose alternative measures for these fisheries.</i>				
Option B. Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery -12%				
	Modes	Size Limit	Season Closure	Season Closure Table
CB1	All	20" to 23" [-12%]	Same seasons as 2024	NA
CB2	Split For-Hire Exemption	PS: 19" to 22" FH: 19" to 25" [-13%]	Same seasons as 2024	NA
CB3	All	Status Quo 19" to 24" [0%]	-12%	Table 10

Table 9. Commercial quotas (pounds of fish) for each option in the addendum. Status quo reflects current Addendum II commercial quotas.

State/Region	Option A. Status Quo No Quota Reduction	Option B. -12% Quota Reduction
Ocean Commercial Quotas (Pounds)		
Maine	143	126
New Hampshire	3,289	2,894
Massachusetts	683,773	601,720
Rhode Island	138,467	121,851
Connecticut	13,585	11,955
New York	595,868	524,364
New Jersey	200,798	176,702
Delaware	132,501	116,601
Maryland	82,857	72,914
Virginia	116,282	102,328
North Carolina	274,810	241,833
Ocean Total	2,242,373	1,973,288
Chesapeake Bay Commercial Quota (Pounds)		
Chesapeake Bay Total	2,791,532	2,456,548

Recreational Seasonal Closure Tables

Below are season closure tables accompanying recreational reduction options:

- Table 10: Closures for 12% reduction for all modes (Option B)
- Table 11: Closures for 13% reduction for all modes (Option B Ocean Mode Split O2)

Closure tables on the following pages.

Table 10. Recreational season closures for 12% reduction for all modes (number of days closed on top of 2024 season). This corresponds to options O1 and CB3 under Option B.

Closures for 12% Reduction for All Modes <i>RED cell indicates closing the entire wave will not achieve the reduction; partial reduction is listed. If two waves are listed, the season is closed for that number of days in EACH wave.</i>			
Region	Waves	No Targeting	No Harvest
All Ocean	Wave 3 & Wave 6	22	31
ME-MA	Wave 3	61 (-10%)	61 (-9%)
ME-MA	Wave4	39	41
ME-MA	Wave 5	51	61 (-8%)
ME-MA	Wave 3 & Wave 5	30	44
RI-NC	Wave 2	37	61 (-9%)
RI-NC	Wave 3	61	61 (-9%)
RI-NC	Wave4	62 (-4%)	62 (-3%)
RI-NC	Wave 5	61 (-8%)	61 (-6%)
RI-NC	Wave 6	26	36
RI-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 3	23	40
RI-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 4	31	57
RI-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 5	26	46
RI-NC	Wave 3 & Wave 6	18	25
RI-NC	Wave 4 & Wave 6	23	31
ME-RI	Wave 3	54	61 (-9%)
ME-RI	Wave4	40	44
ME-RI	Wave 5	48	61 (-8%)
ME-RI	Wave 3 & Wave 5	26	42
CT-NC	Wave 2	35	61 (-10%)
CT-NC	Wave 3	61 (-11%)	61 (-8%)
CT-NC	Wave4	62 (-3%)	62 (-3%)
CT-NC	Wave 5	61 (-7%)	61 (-6%)
CT-NC	Wave 6	25	34
CT-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 3	23	39
CT-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 4	30	56
CT-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 5	26	45
CT-NC	Wave 3 & Wave 6	18	25
CT-NC	Wave 4 & Wave 6	22	30

Closures for 12% Reduction for All Modes

RED cell indicates closing the entire wave will not achieve the reduction; partial reduction is listed.
If two waves are listed, the season is closed for that number of days in EACH wave.

Region	Waves	No Targeting	No Harvest
MD Bay	Wave 3	37	40
MD Bay	Wave 4	33	37
MD Bay	Wave 5	37	47
MD Bay	Wave 6	26	40
MD Bay New Baseline	Wave 3	30	33
MD Bay New Baseline	Wave 4	31(-11%)	31 (-10%)
MD Bay New Baseline	Wave 5	37	48
MD Bay New Baseline	Wave 6	26	35 (-10%)
MD Bay New Baseline + 10% buffer= 13%	Wave 3	32	36
MD Bay New Baseline + 10% buffer= 13%	Wave 4	31(-11%)	31 (-10%)
MD Bay New Baseline + 10% buffer= 13%	Wave 5	40	52
MD Bay New Baseline + 10% buffer = 13%	Wave 6	28	35 (-10%)
VA Bay	Wave 3	17	21
VA Bay	Wave 4	Already closed all of Wave 4	
VA Bay	Wave 5	28 (-5%)	28 (-4%)
VA Bay	Wave 6	16	22

Table 11. Recreational season closures for 13% reduction for all modes (number of days closed on top of 2024 season). This corresponds to Option O2 under Option B which is a mode split for the ocean.

Closures for 13% Reduction for All Modes Number of Days Closed on top of 2024 Season <i>RED cell indicates closing the entire wave will not achieve the reduction; partial reduction is listed.</i> <i>If two waves are listed, the season is closed for that number of days in EACH wave.</i>			
Region	Waves	No Targeting	No Harvest
All Ocean	Wave 3 & Wave 6	23	33
ME-MA	Wave 3	61 (-10%)	61 (-9%)
ME-MA	Wave 4	42	44
ME-MA	Wave 5	56	61 (-8%)
ME-MA	Wave 3 & Wave 5	33	48
RI-NC	Wave 2	40	61 (-9%)
RI-NC	Wave 3	61 (-12%)	61 (-9%)
RI-NC	Wave 4	62 (-4%)	62 (-3%)
RI-NC	Wave 5	61 (-8%)	61 (-6%)
RI-NC	Wave 6	28	39
RI-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 3	25	43
RI-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 4	33	61 (wave 2) 62 (wave 4)
RI-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 5	28	50
RI-NC	Wave 3 & Wave 6	20	28
RI-NC	Wave 4 & Wave 6	25	34
ME-RI	Wave 3	58	61 (-9%)
ME-RI	Wave 4	43	47
ME-RI	Wave 5	52	61 (-8%)
ME-RI	Wave 3 & Wave 5	28	46
CT-NC	Wave 2	38	61 (-10%)
CT-NC	Wave 3	61 (-11%)	61 (-8%)
CT-NC	Wave 4	62 (-3%)	62 (-3%)
CT-NC	Wave 5	61 (-7%)	61 (-6%)
CT-NC	Wave 6	27	37
CT-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 3	25	43
CT-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 4	33	60

**Closures for 13% Reduction for All Modes
Number of Days Closed on top of 2024 Season**

*RED cell indicates closing the entire wave will not achieve the reduction; partial reduction is listed.
If two waves are listed, the season is closed for that number of days in EACH wave.*

Region	Waves	No Targeting	No Harvest
CT-NC	Wave 2 & Wave 5	28	48
CT-NC	Wave 3 & Wave 6	20	27
CT-NC	Wave 4 & Wave 6	24	33

Public Comments

The final date comments will be accepted is **Friday, October 3 at 11:59 p.m. EST**. Comments may be submitted by mail, email or online:

1. **Mail:** Emilie Franke, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201
2. **Email:** comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum III)
3. **Online via the public comment form:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z3WLHF3>



4. **Online via comment box:** <https://asmfc.org/actions/atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-iii-2026-measures-to-support-rebuilding/>



If you have any questions, please contact Emilie Franke, FMP Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org.