



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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THOMAS K. O'SHEA  
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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

February 14, 2025

### Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period on Striped Bass Management

Under the provisions of G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at G.L. c. 130 §§ 17A, 21, 100A, and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is taking public comment on a series of proposed regulatory amendments to the state's striped bass regulations at 322 CMR 6.07. Full text of the regulations may be found on [DMF's website](#) along with additional relevant background information.

#### Public Hearing and Comment Schedule

Monday, March 10, 2025  
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
DMF's Annisquam River Field Station  
30 Emerson Avenue  
Gloucester, MA

Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
6:00 PM – 9:00PM  
Admiral's Hall at MA Maritime  
1 Academy Drive  
Buzzards Bay, MA

DMF will accept written public comment through 5PM on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Please submit written comments to Director Daniel McKiernan by e-mail ([marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)). Additionally, DMF will host two in-person public hearings.

#### Proposed Regulatory Amendments

Striped Bass Management (322 CMR 6.07). To benefit striped bass conservation, DMF proposes to:

1. Amend how total length is measured by requiring commercial and recreational fishers squeeze the tail together to determine compliance with minimum and maximum sizes.
2. Establish a slot limit for the commercial striped bass fishery with a minimum size no smaller than 32" and a maximum size of up to 44".
3. Extend the recreational fishery prohibition on the use of gaffs and other injurious tools to the commercial fishery.
4. Delete outdated language regarding filleting restrictions.

## Initial Small Business Impact Statement

*(As required by M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 2, 3 & 5)*

**CMR No.: 322 CMR 6.07**

**Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation:** In 2024, DMF issued 4,716 commercial striped bass permits. Each of these permit holders may be impacted by these draft regulations.

### Select Yes or No and Briefly Explain

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports? <b>No. The proposed regulations will not result in additional reporting requirements.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures? <b>No. The proposed regulations will not result in additional record keeping procedures.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight? <b>No. The proposed regulations will not result in additional administrative oversight.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation? <b>No. The proposed regulations will not result in having to hire additional employees for the purpose of compliance.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, <b>No. The proposed regulations will not result in having to hire professional services for the purpose of compliance.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation? <b>No. The proposed regulations will not require capital investment.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective? (Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.)  <b>DMF regulations control the harvest of striped bass to comply with the interstate fishery management plan, manage state-quotas, and protect the marine environment. Performance standards are not appropriate without individual transferable quotas allocated to individual fishermen. Managing state-waters fisheries with individual quotas would have negative economic impacts across the seafood industry.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation? <b>No. There are no other duplicative or conflicting state regulations.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities? <b>All audits and inspections are done in accordance with M.G.L. c. 130. No additional inspections are required under this amendment.</b>

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements? <b>No. DMF does not anticipate the proposed regulations will require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>deter</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? <b>No. The proposed regulations do not address enhancing entry into the striped bass fishery.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>encourage</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? <b>No. The proposed regulations do not address enhancing entry into the striped bass fishery.</b>
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? <b>Yes. This draft regulation proposes a range of potential minimum and maximum sizes to be adopted to govern the commercial retention of striped bass.</b>
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? <b>Yes. This draft regulation proposes a range of potential minimum and maximum sizes to be adopted to govern the commercial retention of striped bass.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? <b>No. This is not addressed by these draft regulations.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective? <b>No. Operational standards are needed for consistent and clear notification, enforcement, and compliance.</b>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses? <b>No. Operational standards are needed for consistent and clear notification, enforcement, and compliance.</b>