Gulf Region Striped bass
Recreational fishery questionnaire
November 8 – December 10, 2017
Q. 5: Are you a Canadian Citizen?

Yes 95%
No 5%
Q. 6: In which county do you mostly angle for Striped bass?

- Kings (PEI)
- Queens (PEI)
- Prince (PEI)
- Other (NS)
- Inverness (NS)
- Antigonish (NS)
- Pictou (NS)
- Cumberland-Colchester (NS)
- Other (NB)
- Kent-Westmorland (NB)
- Northumberland (NB)
- Gloucester (NB)
- Restigouche (NB)
Q. 7: Where do you reside?

- United States of America: 59%
- Canada - New Brunswick: 16%
- Canada - Nova Scotia: 18%
- Canada - Prince Edward Island: 3%
- Canada - Other: 4%
- Outside Canada or USA: 1%
Q. 8: Did you angle for Striped bass in 2017?

- Yes: 87%
- No: 13%
Q. 9: If yes, how many days did you go angling for Striped bass? (one outing equals one angling day)

- 1 to 5: 35%
- 6 to 10: 50%
- More than 10: 15%
Q. 10: How many striped bass did you retain in 2017?
Q. 11: How many Striped bass did you release in 2017?
Q. 12: In what month did you fish with the best results?
Q. 13: If you fished coastal areas, how close to the shores did you mostly fish?

- Within casting distance from the shore: 80%
- Within 1 km from the shore: 18%
- Further than 1 km from the shore: 2%
Q. 14: Did you angle for Atlantic salmon in 2017?

- Yes: 45%
- No: 55%
Q. 15: Should DFO modify the daily bag limit and possession limit in the Gulf Region Striped bass recreational fishery?
Q. 16: If you answered yes, what should the bag limit / possession limit be?
Q. 17: Comments

I am OK with current bag limits yet if stocks are strong enough I feel 2 per day is warranted for the entire season.

There is a lot of bass and DFO should share the fishery with the entire public. Do not give a commercial fishery to natives (...)

The bag limit is ok. I think a higher legal possession limit would be beneficial to anglers who would like to store fish for the off season

My choice is an effort to simplify regulations. 2 fish over length of season... Simple.

Reduce the bag limit to zero. The fish is now being commercially exploited and will suffer from incompetent management due to lack of proper science proper enforcement and political interference. If a recreational fishery must have fish retention then tags should be mandatory.

They are a large fish, one per day is sufficient. Don't want to over exploit the resource.

I think it should be illegal to keep anything over 28 inches they are the breeders

3 allows for enough fish to feed a family, but more than 3 per day will lead to waste.

Should be at least 5 fish considering the numbers that are being caught. And the possession limit should not be limited, this is a way to get your fish for winter eating.

obviously the fishery is healthy and can easily handle more fish being removed. Also, the salmon need all the help they can get from competition and predation

I want the department to continue making science-based decisions to manage striped bass and reject political pressures to increase the harvest. The striped bass population needs to be protected and changes made slowly and with study/reflection on previous changes.
Q. 18: For the next Striped bass management plan, should DFO adjust the legal size window (minimum and/or maximum total lengths) for the retention periods during the recreational fishery?

- Yes: 70%
- No: 30%
Q. 19: If you answered yes, how should the size window be modified? (2 choices maximum)
Q. 20: Comments

Taking a smaller bass would result in very small fillets.

Small bass in upland waters eating salmon juveniles.

The current size limit is satisfactory

One fish under should be allowed, to give the fisher a good chance of taking one for the pot to try One fish over to have the chance for a trophy Only done as stocks allow, I believe they now meet that

I would like to see no maximum size limit for a short period of time within the season. It could be at the end of the season when there is less people on the water if you are concern about conservation.

Since there already appears to be an abundance of striped bass in the 50-65 cm range and these fish continue to grow in size each year, I see no harm in increasing the upper size limit for this age class as each year passes - provided that a new cohort of similar numbers of juveniles is produced each year

I don’t see any reason to adjust the slot size. It’s working well enough in my opinion

Retaining all sizes of fish will not hurt the species as long as there is a closed season in the spawning areas when they spawn
Q. 21: Do you think management measures should be implemented to protect the spawning of Striped bass?
Q. 22: If you answered yes, what protection measure should be implemented?

- The limited portion of the Northwest Miramichi River where spawning occurs should be closed to all angling during the spawning period
- No retention angling should be allowed anywhere during the spawning period (catch and release only)
- No retention angling should be allowed during the spawning period (catch and release only), but only in the portion of the Northwest Miramichi River where spawning occurs
Q. 23: Comments

There are too many bass in the gulf and they need to be thinned out

When there is a need to protect the spawning population regulations can be implemented at that time, but not now with the huge surplus.

Spawning is essential to maintain healthy populations, they should not be disturbed/exploited at such a critical time. There is plenty of opportunity prior and after spawning. Restricting for a week or two during a 6 month season is acceptable and proper management.

Just like the bay of fundy stewiacke population angling should be allowed but no retention during the spawning should be implemented.

The area where spawning occurs should be closed to ALL motorized boats during the spawning period. (...) I can see opening the area up for catch and release only to shore fishing or canoes/kayaks, etc.

Designate a set period, i.e.. June 1 - 10, so outfitters know when the river is closed at Red Bank. Hard to develop a fishery if the closure bounces around year to year. I know we could fish above the Red Bank bridge but that is restricted water and we would have needed additional fly gear and more boats. Was easier to just cancel!

I have personally seen significant striped bass spawning activity at Quarryville on the MSW last June and have heard of spawning behaviour in other parts of the river. (...)
Q. 24: Please indicate in the comments box below if there is any particular conservation concern or issue not mentioned in this survey and that should be addressed in order to improve the sustainable management of the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Striped bass population.

I think we need to cull the striped bass population to do what we can to help the salmon and trout populations.

There are too many hybrid bass and not enough natural bass.

Tidal waters licence (conservation stamp) should be instituted with proceeds going to conservation efforts - similar to the Migratory Bird stamp or Prov. hunting conservation stamps.

It's an excellent fishery, we don't want to destroy it by over exploiting. We must think long term. My experience from my friends is the majority of fish kept are never eaten. One fish per day is plenty.

More enforcement for the coastal fishery.

Please don't allow a commercial fishery. Children have started to fish again. Families are spending time together (...) Children don't fish salmon but they definitely spend a lot of time on the water fishing for Striped bass.
Q. 24: Comments (continued)

like the current regulations as they stand... I do not support a commercial fishery I also do not support increasing bag limits.... I think the 2017 season regs should be the blueprint moving forward at least for the next 2 or 3 years to monitor things. I enjoy this fishery and hope that it continues to flourish. To me the biggest area of concern is the spawning grounds I totally support the closing of the fishery in that area during the spawn.

Please protect this world-class striped bass fishery by putting measures in place to ensure that it continues. I also believe that more enforcement is needed to protect this species.

Even though I am primarily a salmon angler, I am starting to enjoy the option of the recreational striped bass fishery and have invited several of my salmon angling friends to join me. I would hate to the this ruined by an aggressive commercial fishery.

Do not agree with the opening date of April 15th. North of the Miramichi Bay, anglers are using this loophole to target Black Salmon (kelt) using big lures. I have never heard, nor seen anyone catching Strippers north of the Miramichi in April. I feel as a Conservationist, May 1st would be more than adequate as this would coincide with other fisheries such as trout which opens May 1st. This is an important message here! Spring Kelt NEED protection.
Questions?
Comments?