

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR STRIPED BASS — ATLANTIC COMMERCIAL FISHERY

After discussion with the Coastal Commercial Fisheries Forum on October 2, 2017, the department would like to allow partial in-season transfers of a commercial striped bass permittee's share or remaining allocation.

The Coastal Commercial Fisheries Forum was held on October 2, 2017 and discussed the need for tools to allow more of the Atlantic quota to be harvested. Allowing in-season transfers would potentially allow more of the Atlantic striped bass quota to be harvested. For this discussion, a “transferor” is the person sending away the share/allocation and a “transferee” is the person receiving the share/allocation. These rule suggestions only apply to partial transfers of the transferor’s share or remaining allocation and do not change the rules for pre-season transfers or in-season transfers of the entirety of a person’s remaining allocation/share.

1. In-season Permanent Transfers of Shares – Use a pre-season public notice to set the time period in which partial in-season permanent transfers of the transferor’s share is transferred. In-season transfers of the transferor’s entire business would not be affected and could still be done at any time.
2. In-season Temporary Transfers of Allocation (Pounds)
 - a. Use a pre-season public notice to set the time period in which partial in-season temporary transfers of the transferor’s allocation is transferred. In-season transfers of the transferor’s entire allocation would not be affected and could still be done at any time.
 - b. If the transferee in an in-season allocation transfer began the quota year with zero pounds, the transferor is responsible for any overage incurred by the transferee.
 - c. If the transferee in an in-season allocation transfer began the year holding a share of the commercial striped bass fishery, the transferor is responsible for any overage in excess of the share held by the transferee.
3. Use a pre-season public notice to establish the increment in which an individual’s share or allocation would need to be transferred in a partial in-season transfer of the transferor’s share/allocation. Increments would be established in cooperation with the industry based on the average number of pounds of striped bass that could be tagged by a sealed, unbroken bag of tags. Transfers would have to be done in these increments. If an individual wanted to transfer less than the established increment, the entire amount of the individual’s remaining share/allocation would need to be transferred.
4. An individual transferring a share/allocation in a partial in-season transfer must transfer striped bass tags in the original factory-sealed bag, in unbroken form.