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DNR-FS-2023-06

SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Amendment to Subtitle 02 Fisheries Service

Regarding the Department's Regulations for Striped Bass — Elimination of Commercial Chesapeake Bay

Common Pool Fishery

COMAR 08.02.15.04, .05, and .07, Striped Bass

Released April 28, 2023

Updated October 6, 2023

Updated April 19, 2024

This Guide is prepared in accordance with the requirements of State Government Article, §10-110, Annotated Code of Maryland. It is intended to help small businesses comply with the revised rules adopted in the above-referenced sections of the Code of Maryland Regulations. This Guide is not intended to replace or supersede these rules, but to facilitate compliance with the rules. Although we have attempted to cover all parts of the rules that might be especially important to small businesses, the coverage may not be exhaustive. This Guide cannot anticipate all situations in which the rules apply.

The Department will clarify or update the text of the Guide as an idea moves through the regulatory process. Direct your comments and recommendations, or calls for further assistance, to Fishing and Boating Services Regulatory Division:

410-260-8300

410-260-8DNR; toll free in Maryland 877-620-8DNR; TTY Users Call via the Maryland Relay

I. SUMMARY & FAQs

What has been proposed?

The Department proposed eliminating the Chesapeake Bay Common Pool commercial striped bass fishery. Doing this will mean that all individuals participating in the commercial striped bass fishery in the Chesapeake Bay will participate in the Individual Transferrable Quota fishery.

Why is this change necessary?

The Chesapeake Bay Common Pool fishery represents a small fraction of the striped bass commercial industry overall. This derby style fishery depends on timely harvest reporting to adhere to quotas. As the common pool continues to get smaller, it becomes increasingly difficult to manage and puts us at risk of overharvesting.

Who will this affect?

This change will affect Commercial striped bass harvesters in the Chesapeake Bay.

Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?

This idea was discussed with the Striped Bass Industry Advisory Group at their November 2022 meeting and unanimously recommended to proceed. This idea was also scoped with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission at their April 2023 meetings.

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulations .04, .05, and .07 under COMAR 08.02.15 Striped Bass.

II. RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

This action will not create new recordkeeping or reporting requirements.

III. IMPLEMENTATION DATE

This regulation change is effective December 31, 2024.