

## **STRIPED BASS — Chesapeake Gill Nets**

### **What was proposed?**

The Department proposed to reauthorize the ability for individuals who are licensed and permitted in the Chesapeake Bay Individual Transferrable Quota commercial striped bass fishery to set attended drift gill nets in the Chesapeake Bay for striped bass on Saturdays and Sundays during the striped bass gill net season.

### **Why is this change necessary?**

The Department previously authorized this activity on Saturdays during December in 2018 and both Saturdays and Sundays in December in 2019 and 2020 by issuing a public notice, then expanded the allowance to the entire drift gill net season by regulation in 2021. The provision that allowed drift gill nets to be used on Saturdays and Sundays during the open drift gill net season in the Chesapeake Bay Individual Transferrable Quota commercial striped bass fishery was inadvertently removed from regulation when the Department eliminated the Chesapeake Bay Common Pool commercial striped bass fishery at the end of 2024. The Department originally allowed this activity in order to provide additional flexibility for commercial harvesters to conduct their fishing activities. It did not result in additional harvest of striped bass, as permittees in the Individual Transferrable Quota fishery are assigned a set number of pounds they are allowed to harvest. Providing additional flexibility allows these harvesters to time their activities to market and weather conditions.

### **Who will this affect?**

Commercial striped bass permittees in the Chesapeake Bay Individual Transferrable Quota striped bass fishery who use gill nets.

### **What is the specific regulatory action?**

Amend Regulations .09 and .12 under COMAR 08.02.15 Striped Bass.

### **Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies or other interested individuals?**

- This was previously adopted in regulation in 2021. That process included discussing the topic with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission, as well as scoping the topic with the public and taking 30 days of comment during the regulatory proposal period.
- The mistake and need to re-add the provision to regulation was explained to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission at their meetings in April 2025.
- This topic was scoped with the general public April 24-May 11, 2025.

### **What is the regulatory process?**

- The Department followed our normal [procedures](#) as this concept moved forward.
- At the conclusion of the scoping process, the Department determined that the action is necessary and appropriate. The rules are being promulgated following the Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article Annotated Code of Maryland.

- The General Assembly's Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for fiscal and legal analysis.
- The proposal was printed by the Division of State Documents in the Maryland Register on September 5, 2025.
- A 30-day public comment period begins on the day of publication. The comment period will close at 11:59 p.m. October 6, 2025.
- After review of the comments, the Department may adopt the changes.
- If the Department adopts the changes, they become effective after a notice is published in the Maryland Register that announces approval and the effective date.