

## STRIPED BASS — Gill Nets

### **What is being considered?**

The Department would like to re-add 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 allowed this activity in December only from 2018-2020 by public notice, then expanded the allowance to the entire gill net season by regulation in 2021. The provision that allowed gill nets to be used on Saturdays and Sundays during the open 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.

### **When would this be effective?**

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the fall of 2025. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal [procedures](#) if this concept moves forward.

### **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 January 2025.