



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary  
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

May 2020

Dear Striped Bass Permittee,

We'd like to remind you that the Commercial Striped Bass Season will be opening June 1.

Due to the current State of Emergency put into effect by Governor Hogan as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our offices still remains **closed to the public** and staff will be working remotely until further notice. This will affect our regular operations. The following should provide you the information necessary to complete quota transfers and tag requests.

### **Transfers**

- Transfers will be mail only while we are under a State of Emergency. Please be prepared for this process to take a few weeks, plan accordingly. Quota transfers through the FACTS™ E-Reporting system will still proceed as usual.
  - o All transfer paperwork (transfer form, tag transfer affidavit) must be signed and notarized by both parties.
  - o Transfer paperwork (transfer form, tag transfer affidavit) and all associated permit cards should be mailed to:

MD DNR Fishing and Boating Services  
Striped Bass Transfers  
580 Taylor Ave B-2  
Annapolis, MD 21401

- o Once all paperwork is received, staff will complete the transfer and mail new permit cards to the appropriate parties. Staff will be able to receive mail and send updated permit cards only once a week.

### **Tag requests**

- Tag requests will be mail only while we're under a State of Emergency. Please be prepared for this process to take a few weeks, plan accordingly. Staff will only be mailing out tags once a week, so please plan accordingly.
- Please do not wait until the last minute as that will increase the probability that you do not receive the tags you need to fish.

### **Fishery Summary Rules**

Below are brief summaries of both the Individual Transferable Quota and Common Pool fisheries. For the complete rules, please refer to the Code of Maryland Regulations.

#### **Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) Fishery Summary Rules**

- The pound net and hook and line seasons will open on **Monday, June 1, 2020.**
- You may fish for your allocation using any legal gear that your license allows.
- No daily/weekly catch limits.
- No closures.
- Fish must be tagged prior to landing.
- Fish must be checked in by 9 AM the next day at a department approved check station.
- You should have already received your tags. If you use all of your tags and still have allocation left, please contact the department to request more.
- You may complete in-season transfers of quota, including partial transfers.
- All harvest must be reported on a department issued-permit card, or through the FACTS™ E-Reporting system.
- You are responsible for the harvest reported on your permit card. Please be vigilant in confirming the number that the check station writes on your permit card is accurate. This is the number that will be used to calculate any overages that may occur.

- Any overages may be deducted from a subsequent year's quota.
- If you run out of space on your permit card, you must call the department to request an additional card.
- **Hook and Line**
  - o Open Monday-Thursday
  - o Fishing Hours: 1 hour before sunrise to sunset
- **Pound Net**
  - o Open Monday-Saturday
  - o Fishing Hours: 12:01 AM to 5:59 PM
  - o Once the State of Emergency is lifted, you must go to your local Licensing and Registration Service Center to activate and pay for each of your nets in the water.
  - o **Pound Net Co-Users**
    - A pound net owner may name one or more appropriately-licensed individuals as co-users on each pound net site.
    - Co-users are required to mark the net with their license number in addition to the owner's license number.
    - If you wish to add or remove a co-user you may do so by providing the individual's name and DNRid at a regional service center when the net is activated.
    - A co-user would be authorized to harvest from a pound net without the owner being present.
    - Each pound net site may have unique co-users.
    - You may add or delete a co-user at any time.
    - Co-users are only authorized to use the specific pound net for which they have been registered.
    - The pound net site owner is still responsible for the net and all of the associated requirements to ensure that the department has one point of contact for the net.
    - You may also call Chris or Savannah at the phone number below to request to have a co-user added or removed.

### Common Pool Fishery Summary Rules

- The 2020 commercial striped bass common pool hook and line fishery will open on **June 2, 2020. The common pool hook and line fishery would close on June 3, 2020, one hour before sunset, with a catch limit of 250 lbs/permittee/week and a vessel limit of 500 lbs/vessel/day. There is no overage tolerance for these catch limits. Final announcement of the fishery opening will be announced via Public Notice as is customary for this fishery. Please monitor the hotline, text messages and website for up to date information.**
- The quota for June is 3,081 lbs.

#### **2020 Hook and Line Common Pool Quota Distribution**

Total Common Pool Quota: 16,215 lbs					
June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
19%	19%	19%	19%	14%	10%
3,081	3,081	3,081	3,081	2,270	1,621

- Vessels may not participate in both the common pool and ITQ fisheries in the same trip.
- All weekly harvest limits and daily vessel limits will also be announced by Public Notice.
- Fish must be tagged immediately, and checked in by 9 AM the next day at a department approved check station.
- Fishing Hours: 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.
- The season will be open as the quota allows.
- Any other season changes or closures will be done through Public Notices.
- Everyone in the Common Pool received 100 tags. If you have less than 50 tags left, you may contact the department for additional tags. Please include a copy of your permit card to verify that you are in need of tags.
- All harvest must be reported on a department issued-permit card, or through the FACTS™ E-Reporting system.
- You are responsible for the harvest reported on your permit card. Please be vigilant in confirming the number that the check station writes on your permit card is accurate.
- If you run out of space on your permit card, you must call the department to request an additional card.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



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