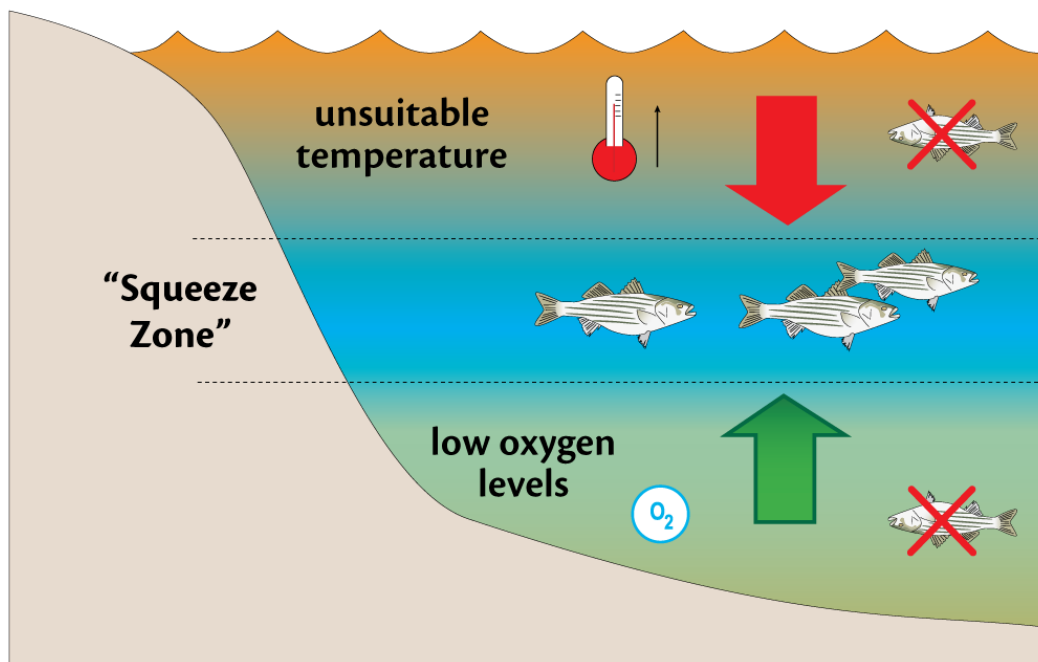


including striped bass.³ For example, warmer water holds less oxygen than cooler water, making hypoxic conditions worse and “squeezing” striped bass into stressful conditions where they are more susceptible to mortality and disease. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the availability of summer habitat for juvenile and young (age 1-4) striped bass between 1996 and 2019.⁴

Squeeze Zone for Striped Bass



Conceptual diagram illustrating the compressed habitat of the striped bass from the low oxygen levels from the bottom, and the unsuitable temperatures on the top waters.
Diagram courtesy of the Integration and Application Network (ian.umces.edu), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Source: Boesch, D.F. (editor). 2008. Global Warming and the Free State: Comprehensive Assessment of Climate Change Impacts in Maryland. Report of the Scientific and Technical Working Group of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Cambridge, Maryland. This report is a component of the Plan of Action of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, submitted to the Governor and General Assembly pursuant to Executive Order 01.10.2007.07.

Given the environmental challenges and mortality risk to striped bass are far greater during the summer than in the period proposed by SB 1053, we recommend amendments to the bill that would prohibit the targeting of striped bass from July 5 to Labor Day annually. This closure would help address the significant increase in mortality in the summer months while preserving fishing opportunities during the four summer federal holidays (Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day).

CBF urges the Committee’s FAVORABLE report WITH AMENDMENTS on SB 1053.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0272771409004582?via%3Dihub>

⁴ https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/c_sb_habitat_assessment_sfgit_july_2022.pdf