



**Maryland Fishing and Hunting, LLC  
P.O. Box 31  
Stevensville, MD 21666**

**Letter of Support: SB755 Natural Resources- Striped Bass Recreational Seasons and Fisheries Regulations**

The Charter Boat Captains, Watermen, and Recreational Fishermen of Maryland have suffered from the most recent Fishery Management decisions. SB 755 establishes a structured season that one of the most historic industries in Maryland has lacked and adds additional protective measures that are for the betterment of the Atlantic's Striped Bass Population.

**SB 755 Establishes:**

- A season that is consistent with Maryland's Seasonal Striped Bass Commercial Fishery Management Plan. The current commercial season does not allow commercial harvest of Striped Bass during the historical Spawning months of March and April when the Spawning Stock Biomass is most fecund and vulnerable (unless emergency action is taken). The Atlantic Coasts Striped Bass Spawning Stock Biomass is of the utmost importance for the future of our fishery and promoting this activity during this time period has numerous consequences.
- Establishes a Season that promotes seasonal access to the Striped Bass population that mostly targets a Male resident stock.
- Promotes access to the fishery and provides the most economic benefit to local communities when Maryland FACTS Reporting System, MRIP, and NOAA have deemed the most fishing effort to be practiced in Maryland.
- Establishes a season that the Professional Fishermen of Maryland currently lack.
- Takes preventive measures to limit gear type and improve navigational hazards on the Chesapeake Bay.
- Establishes the opportunity for the passengers of the Charter Boat Industry of Maryland's to harvest two Striped Bass per person per day. This regulatory changes purpose is to help the Professional Fishermen of Maryland recover from the economic peril that the previous reductions have had on the industry.

**SB 755 reinforces the current position of Maryland DNR who previously took protective action to protect the Striped Spawning Stock over the past several seasons. In DNR's most recent March Newsletter "Striped Bass Spawning Success Not Limited by Zooplankton, DNR Study Suggests"**

"DNR biologists have emphasized the need to enforce protective regulations for adult striped bass in order to maintain a healthy breeding population. When the environmental conditions are right, a good stock of spawners could bring a large year class into the Chesapeake.

*By Joe Zimmermann, science writer with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources"*

In a recent article about “**Dozens of Fish, Crabs and Birds Was Ashore at Calvert Cliffs State Park In “Nexus Event”**” by Bay Net **MDE investigator Chris Luckett** said during a recent fish kill “that fish suffered from temperature stress related to catch and release fishing.” “a sudden temperature change, even of just a few degrees, can be a huge shock to the fish’s system.”

Source: <https://thebaynet.com/dozens-of-dead-fish-crabs-and-birds-wash-ashore-at-calvert-cliffs-state-park-in-nexus-event/>

It is important for Maryland to remember at the 2025 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Winter Meeting the overwhelming concern was **how additional reductions would impact the fishermen** in the room and **if they could survive** to make it to the next Amendment. The result was that Commission voted to decline additional reductions. **SB 755** in the initial step in providing stability to the Charter Boat Industry of Maryland that it currently lacks and hopefully **will be the first step in revitalizing this Legacy Industry & the others that have been consequently affected.**

Since the adoption of the last ASMFC Addendum, Fifty Four Charter Boats have been listed or sold and Five Tackle Stores have closed in the State of Maryland due to economic hardships. For perspective, last season the Maryland Charter Boats harvested 34,985 Striped Bass (2024), down from 100,997 the year before (2023). As of September 15, 2025 from Public Information Request the Charter Boats of Maryland had harvested via the FACTS Reporting System 26,566 Striped Bass. The total number of trips were reduced from 11,362 (2023) to 5,412 (2024) and the numbers are projected to be lower in 2025. The number of anglers on Maryland Charter Boats also declined from 78,839 (2023) to 50,955 (2024) by the end of 2024. Year to date (9/15/2025) in 2025 the reporting Charter Fleet has only hosted 35,117 passengers in Maryland.

Recruitment of the Striped Bass Spawning Stock Biomass and Accessibility to one of the Atlantic's greatest resources is of the utmost importance. It is the greatest concern to the Charter Boat Captains and Watermen of the Chesapeake Bay.

We appreciate your support and willingness to help the Fishing Community of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Captain Jason Seman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Captain Jason Seman  
Maryland Fishing and Hunting, LLC  
Vice President of Maryland Charter Boat Association  
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