

Opposition to Senate Bill 755 – Natural Resources – Striped Bass Recreational Seasons & Fisheries Regulations

Honorable Members of the Senate EEE Committee,

On behalf of the undersigned recreational fishing, boating, and conservation organizations, we write to express our **opposition to Senate Bill 755 – Natural Resources – Striped Bass Recreational Seasons & Fisheries Regulations.**

This legislation is inconsistent with overarching coastwise management plans for striped bass, and if passed, **could trigger action to shut down all of Maryland's striped bass fisheries; recreational, for-hire/charter, and commercial.**

Maryland's striped bass fishery is central to the culture and economy of Chesapeake Bay communities. Anglers, guides, marinas, tackle retailers, and coastal businesses depend on responsible, science-based management of this iconic species to fuel recreational access to our state fish.

For decades, striped bass management has been guided through coordination between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources(DNR) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission(ASMFC) to ensure regulations remain aligned with coast-wide conservation goals and responsive to stock conditions. Senate Bill 755 would override this established science-based framework by legislating season structures and fisheries regulations that are normally developed through a stakeholder and partnership driven regulatory and interstate management process.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to **not advance Senate Bill 755** and instead allow striped bass management decisions to continue through the established regulatory process led by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in coordination with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission(ASMFC).

Sincerely,

Respectfully submitted,

David Sikorski, Executive Director
Coastal Conservation Association Maryland
Legislative Proxy- ASMFC

Mike Waine, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Policy Dir.
American Sportfishing Association

Chad Tocowicz, Govt. Relations Manager
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas

John Stefancik, Executive Director
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Mike Ebersberger
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Chris Linetty, President
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Phil Zalesak, President
Southern MD Rec. Fishing Org.

Dave Stith, President
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Capt. Tom Weaver
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Capt. Jonathan Bland
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Capt. Frank Bonnano
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Capt. James Clough
Eastern Shore Light Tackle Charters LLC

Michael & Brian Conner
Rhode River Marina Inc.

Capt. Pete Dahlberg
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Capt. Dennis Fleming
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Chesapeake Fishing Adventures

Capt. Michael Gardner
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Capt. Lawrence Geipe
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Capt. Pat Love
Backcreek Charters

Capt. CL Marshall
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