

LAPP Concepts for Striped Bass

NC DMF Striped Bass Workgroup

Current laws

- Limited entry is restricted to 2-of-3 years qualification (see flounder)
- Individual allocations may or may not be permissible, but trading is probably not permissible
- Striped bass permit is open-access and hence unable to restrict harvest (and may in fact increase it further).

Committee perspective on LAPP

Any changes to current management should meet the following objectives:

1. Stay within ASMFC TAC (480,480 lbs)
2. Reduce incentives to “bend the rules”
3. Minimize discards and bycatch
4. Provide maximum social and economic benefits to commercial fishing sector (ends the derby, reduces trip costs, increases price)
5. Maintain a consistent, stable long-term management policy

Committee's standards for LAPP

- Only SCFL holders can own shares (if SCFL is sold, then shares should either be sold or liquidated)
- All shares are transferable, measured in pounds, and tracked through modified trip tickets
- All share transfers conducted at DMF offices
- Website to facilitate posting of quota for sale and trade
- Four month season, December through March
- DMF will reserve an initial allocation of 2% of quota shares for appeals of the initial allocation, to be released after appeals are exhausted.

Proposed restrictions on LAPP

- Program should start with current sectors, but should eventually drop all gear restrictions (including hook-and-line)
- Fish must be tagged at moment of possession by fishermen, not at fish house by dealers
- Sliding scale of penalties for overages, subtracted from future quota. Additional criminal penalties as well.
- No one can own more quota than the person with the initial highest allocation.

Possible allocation for LAPP

- Allocation based on historical landings 1999-2005
- Using the longer period will include all participants, but give a “bump” to those fishermen who were also involved in the pre-derby years.
- Eligibility to be determined (2 of 3 years? minimum poundage?)
- Lottery for future increases, eligibility pools, and other methods for getting new entrants beyond

LAPP allocations elsewhere

- **Virginia striped bass:** minimum qualifying standard, then equal allocation within gear sectors
- **Alaskan halibut and sablefish:** issued shares to all vessel owners active in the fisheries from 1988 through 1990 based on historical catch.
- **Wreckfish:** issued shares to all participants, divided half of the initial shares based on historical catch from 1987-1990 and the other half were divided evenly
- **Mid-Atlantic Surf Clam and Quahog:** issued shares to all participants based on historical catch (and) vessel size

Potential Problems and Solutions

Problem

1. Too few people / corporations control all the shares.
2. No way to get into fishery without buying shares.
3. People will get unfairly left out of the initial allocation.
4. Fishermen may start with fewer fish than they had before.
5. Fishermen will be pushed out of the fishery.
6. Loss of flexibility.

Solution

1. Cap on share percentage, restricted to SCLF holders.
2. Create a lottery or eligibility pool for forfeited shares.
3. Include all participants during select time period.
4. Price of fish will rise at least 20%; fishermen can buy additional shares.
5. Choice to sell shares belongs to individual fishermen, not DMF.
6. Greatly increased season.

Courses of action

If the MFC wishes to further consider a LAPP for striped bass, how would it like to proceed?

Statutory and rule changes?

Fishermen workgroup?

More polling?