

## DROP IN STRIPERS (from page 21)

I'm not totally sure of just how many people realize that their data and information is almost TWO YEARS BEHIND on what is exactly happening out there. TWO YEARS!!! What we see this season in 2009, they won't have an assessment on it until 2011! The data that they cite as being FACTUAL is already close to TWO YEARS OLD. Do you realize how many things can happen and go wrong in two year time?

The only current data they have is the Young of the Year Survey that is done each year. That's it.

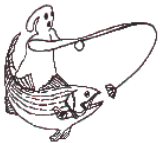
Even then, they changed the computer "model" numbers and the way the statistics are figured in 2007. If they were still using the models from 2006 on back, we'd already be under strict landing limits and the numbers would almost certainly show that we are WAY OVERFISHING THIS FISHERY. But, we aren't currently using that model. We are using the new and improved version. New and improved: by whose standards?

If you change the triggering mechanisms, how do you ever stop over fishing from occurring? None of this is ever reported either by anyone.

In Rhode Island we are blessed with having most of our fish coming from the Hudson River and Delaware Bay systems. However, those two systems combined are not going to support a coastwide fishery for very long. They aren't big enough and don't contribute enough to the overall numbers within the Atlantic Coast stock as well. By the way, it was Rhode Island whose vote made the tie possible on increasing the commercial quota, and Rhode Island should be congratulated, more likely *honored*, for taking that stand within the midst of such stupidity.

They should not be managing this fishery (or any fishery) under the old standby of Maximum Sustainable Yield, which, when put in layman's terms, translates into "kill as many as possible and HOPE that the ones that remain can rebuild the fishery". This is no longer an option that is going to be used under the new set of rules put forth by the reauthorization of the Magnuson/Stevens Act. It's about time that the ASMFC gets in line with other fisheries (particularly the groundfish fishery) and realizes that there are way too many people and not enough fish to support all those who pursue them. Sticking with the old way of doing things will eventually lead to NO FISH for anyone.

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