

THE WATCH (from page 3)

Striped Bass Stock Assessment

The prepublication *Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment* for 2018 was also released with the Summer Flounder report. As expected, the conclusion is that the stock is “overfished and overfishing is occurring.”



The projected population through 2023, if the fishery is kept at status quo, is that the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) **will not recover and decline of the population will continue.**

The new estimates of recreational catch indicated by the MRIP recalibration also resulted in higher estimates of recruitment and biomass compared to the 2016 assessment update that used old data; however it did not change the population trend showing a decline since 2003.

It was also noted that the recreational Atlantic Coast “catch and release” since the 1980’s has accounted for 85 to 90 percent of the annual catch in most years and in 2015-2017 only 9 percent of the total catch was landed. There is a 9 percent mortality rate assumed for live released fish which impacts recreational mortality.

The report also outlined that striped bass landings (all sectors) in the Chesapeake Bay for 2017 accounted for 35% of the overall harvest and estimated removals from 2014-2016 were near 50% of the harvest. That would seem to be an issue that needs to be addressed by the ASMFC.

MATE SCHOOL

Designed by a Fisherman
for Future Fishermen

2 Classroom Lectures
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM April 20th and 27th

1 Boat Practical
5 1/2 Hr. Session Week of May 11th

\$225 for all 3 Sessions
Includes lunch during classroom lectures

MAJOR TOPICS

- Knots • Boat Safety • Man Overboard
- Splicing • Offshore & Inshore Fishing
- Boat Washing • Anchoring & Berthing
- Filleting • Fire on Board/May Day
- Customer Service/People Skills
- Applying for a Mate Job

SPECIFICS:

- Greeting customers, orientation and common sense on a boat
- Bait rigging, gear preparation and maintenance
- Clam shucking, netting, leadering, gaffing, teaching fishing methods, trolling, bottom fishing, rig making, packing reels, knife and hook sharpening, seamanship
- Docking and tying a boat to a dock,
- Mate safety & gear requirements
- Drug testing requirements, preventing lawsuits,
- Life raft emergency procedures
- Fish identification & handling
- Local knowledge and port history

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Learn how to become a mate on a charter boat or a party boat. It is open to males and females of any age and skill level, or to any boaters who would like to sharpen their seamanship skills. Job placement will be attempted for all attendees on party and charter boats in the Pt. Judith area.

Previous Mate School Placement 75%

For more information or to make a reservation,

contact Charlie Donilon

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Snappacharters@cox.net

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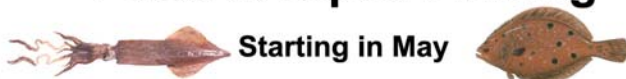
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