



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission*  
2600 Washington Avenue  
Third Floor  
Newport News, Virginia 23607

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

John M.R. Bull  
Commissioner

March 18, 2015

On February 10, 2015 the Virginia Marine Resources Commission sent letters to fishing clubs requesting recommendations on four management options for Virginia's recreational coastal striped bass fishery, for the remainder of 2015. Options C and D did not have the correct slot size information. The corrected options and background information are included below, and the Public Hearing Notice published as of March 9, 2015 is attached and contains the accurate slot sizes. We are still requesting your club's input on this important recreational fishery issue for striped bass. The Commission will hold a public hearing on this matter Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at the Virginia, Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Newport News. Your written comments are important. Public comments should be provided to Robert L. O'Reilly, Chief of Fisheries at: [rob.o'reilly@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:rob.o'reilly@mrc.virginia.gov) or Lewis Gillingham, Director of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament at: [lewis.gillingham@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:lewis.gillingham@mrc.virginia.gov) by 12:00 PM, Monday, March 23, 2015. If you have any questions please call Lewis Gillingham at 757.508.4768.

## Background:

In late fall of 2014, the ASMFC mandated that all coastal states from Maine through North Carolina must reduce their recreational and commercial harvest for striped bass in 2015. A 25% reduction is required for the coastal fisheries (0-3 miles). States desiring to open their recreational coastal striped fishery in January were only allowed one option, a 28-inch minimum size limit with a reduction in possession limit from 2 fish to one fish. The VMRC adopted this option to allow fishing January 1, 2015. All states were given an opportunity to submit alternate proposals to meet the required 25% reduction, for their coastal fisheries, to the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board that met during the first week of February 2015 in Alexandria, VA. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission may adopt any one of the four ASMFC approved options provided below.

These Options apply to the coastal recreational striped bass fishery

	Minimum size	Possession limit
Option A	28 inches	1 fish
Option B	33 inches	2 fish
Option C	(1) 28-34" slot, (1) $\geq$ 36"	2 fish
Option D	(1) 28-36" slot, (1) $\geq$ 38"	2 fish

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