

How is disease affecting striped bass?

We need your help.

Look for fish with green tags.

Mycobacteriosis is a serious bacterial disease that has been found in large numbers of striped bass in Chesapeake Bay. Catching bass like the diseased fish pictured below is common.



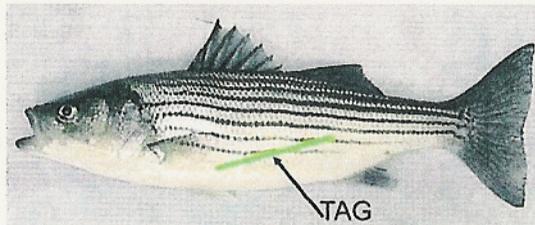
The Virginia Institute of Marine Science is conducting a tagging study to assess the effects of mycobacteriosis on the health of striped bass. To do this, both healthy-appearing and diseased fish will be tagged and released, and the tag return rates for each group will be used to estimate relative mortality.

Your help with this scientific study is essential, and will provide important information about the effects of this disease on striped bass populations. The success of this program depends on people who care about the future of striped bass in Chesapeake Bay.

Tagged Fish:

Fish tagged during this study will have a fluorescent green streamer tag implanted in the body cavity behind the pectoral fin (see below). This tag will read:

VIMS Gloucester Pt. VA
866-845-3379



If you catch a striped bass with a green tag:

Option 1 (\$20 REWARD):

Keep fish cold with ice (DO NOT FREEZE) and call the number below. Someone from VIMS will arrange pickup.

Option 2 (\$5 REWARD):

Clip the tag off the fish close to the body, and call the number below.

Toll Free Number:

1-866-845-3379

Please report ALL green-tagged fish whether they are healthy or have sores.

When you call, please have the following information ready:

- Tag number
- When and where the fish was caught

Special Exemption for Green Tags:

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission has issued an exemption for all striped bass tagged with the bright green streamer tag described in this brochure. Tagged fish landed by either commercial or recreational fishers will not count against daily bag limits or tag quotas, respectively. Additionally, size and seasonal restrictions will not apply to fish with a green tag. This special exemption will be in effect from 2005-2008.

You may also catch striped bass carrying a pink streamer tag. These fish were tagged under a different program, and we do not offer a reward for their return. Also, the special exemptions described in this brochure DO NOT apply to fish with pink tags.

If you have any questions about this program, please call 1-866-845-3379.

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