



STRIPED BASS AMENDMENT 7 ASGA'S POSITION

After enduring a lengthy and tedious period working through the Public Information Document, we have reached the time to finalize Amendment 7 for striped bass. With four significant issues still on the table, the need for public engagement has never been greater. In total, there are 18 different sub-options to choose from. The following document represents a summary of the American Saltwater Guides Association's official stance on all remaining options for Amendment 7. You can find a full-length audio breakdown of each topic on The Guide Podcast - available now on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts. You can find additional blog content focused on Amendment 7, instructions for submitting your comment and the details of the ASGA Public Comment Raffle at linktr.ee/ASGA.

SUMMARY

4.1 MANAGEMENT TRIGGERS

4.2.2 MEASURES TO ADDRESS RECREATIONAL RELEASE MORTALITY

4.4 REBUILDING PLAN

4.6.2 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EQUIVALENCY



AMENDMENT 7

4.1 MANAGEMENT TRIGGERS

TIER 1: FISHING MORTALITY (F) TRIGGERS

OPTION A

ASGA Supports Sub-Option A1 (status quo):

Reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within one year.

OPTION B

ASGA Supports Sub-Option B1 (status quo):

If F exceeds the F threshold, the striped bass management program must be adjusted to reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within the timeframe selected under Option A.

OPTION C

ASGA Supports Sub-Option C1 (status quo):

If F exceeds the F target for two consecutive years and female SSB falls below the SSB target in either of those years, the striped bass management program must be adjusted to reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within the timeframe selected under sub-option A.

TIER 2: SPAWNING STOCK (SSB) BIOMASS TRIGGERS

OPTION A

ASGA Supports Sub-Option A2:

Two-Year Deadline to Implement a Rebuilding Plan.

The Board must implement a rebuilding plan within two years from when an SSB-based management trigger is tripped.

OPTION B

ASGA Supports Sub-Option B1 (status quo):

If female SSB falls below the SSB threshold, the striped bass management program must be adjusted to rebuild the biomass to the target level within an established timeframe [not to exceed 10-years].

OPTION C

ASGA Supports Sub-Option C1:

If female SSB falls below the target for two consecutive years and the fishing mortality rate exceeds the target in either of those years, the striped bass management program must be adjusted to rebuild the biomass to a level that is at or above the target within an established timeframe [not to exceed 10-years].



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4.1 MANAGEMENT TRIGGERS

TIER 3: RECRUITMENT TRIGGERS

OPTION A

ASGA Supports Sub-Option A2:

The recruitment trigger is tripped when any of the four Juvenile Abundance Indices (JAIs) used in the stock assessment model to estimate recruitment (NY, NJ, MD, VA) shows an index value that is below 75% of all values (i.e., below the 25th percentile) in the respective JAI from 1992-2006, which represents a period of high recruitment, for three consecutive years.

OPTION B

ASGA Supports Sub-Option B2:

If the recruitment trigger is tripped, an interim F target calculated using the low recruitment assumption is implemented, and if F from the terminal year of the most recent stock assessment is above the interim F target, the striped bass management program must be adjusted to reduce F to the interim F target within one year.

TIER 4: DEFERRED MANAGEMENT PLAN

OPTION A

ASGA Supports Option A (status quo):

No Deferred Management Action.

If any (or all) of the management triggers are tripped following a benchmark stock assessment or assessment update, the Board is required to respond to that trigger regardless of when the last management action was implemented in response to any management trigger.



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4.2.2 MEASURES TO ADDRESS RECREATIONAL RELEASE MORTALITY

OPTION C. ADDITIONAL GEAR RESTRICTIONS

OPTION C

ASGA Supports Sub-Option C1:

Recreational anglers would be prohibited from using any device other than a nonlethal device to remove a striped bass from the water or assist in the releasing of a striped bass.

OPTION C

ASGA Supports Sub-Option C2:

Striped bass caught on any unapproved method of take would be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury.

OPTION D. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

OPTION D

ASGA Supports Sub-Option D2:

It is recommended states continue to promote best striped bass handling and release practices by developing public education and outreach campaigns. States should provide updates on public education and outreach efforts in annual state compliance reports.



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TAKE A DEEPER DIVE!

Scan or [click here](#) to access an in-depth, four-part podcast series that walks through every major option in Amendment 7 with the ASGA team!

The Guide Post podcast is available on Apple Podcasts & Spotify.



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4.4 REBUILDING PLAN

4.4.1 RECRUITMENT ASSUMPTION FOR REBUILDING CALCULATION

OPTION B

ASGA Supports Option B:

Rebuild female SSB to the SSB target level by no later than 2029. F rebuild is calculated to achieve the SSB target by no later than 2029 using the low recruitment regime assumption as identified by the change point analysis.

4.4.2 REBUILDING PLAN FRAMEWORK

OPTION B

ASGA Supports Option B:

If the 2022 stock assessment results indicate the Amendment 7 measures have less than a 50% probability of rebuilding the stock by 2029 (as calculated using the recruitment assumption specified in Amendment 7) and if the stock assessment indicates at least a 5% reduction in removals is needed to achieve F rebuild, the Board may adjust measures to achieve F rebuild via Board action.



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4.6.2 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EQUIVALENCY

OPTION B. RESTRICT USE OF CONSERVATION EQUIVALENCY (CE) BASED ON STOCK STATUS

OPTION B

ASGA Supports Sub-Option B1-a:

CE programs would not be approved when the stock is at or below the biomass threshold (i.e., overfished). CE programs would not be considered until a subsequent stock assessment indicates stock biomass is above the threshold level.

OPTION C. PRECISION STANDARDS FOR MRIP ESTIMATES USED IN CE PROPOSALS

OPTION C

ASGA Supports Sub-Option C3:

CE proposals would not be able to use Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) estimates associated with a percent standard error (PSE) exceeding 30%.

OPTION D. CE UNCERTAINTY BUFFER FOR NON-QUOTA MANAGED FISHERIES

OPTION D

ASGA Supports Sub-Option D2:

Proposed CE programs for non-quota managed fisheries would be required to include an uncertainty buffer of 25%.

OPTION E. DEFINITION OF EQUIVALENCY FOR CE PROPOSALS WITH NON-QUOTA MANAGED FISHERIES

OPTION E

ASGA Supports Sub-Option E2:

Proposed CE programs would be required to demonstrate equivalency to the percent reduction/liberalization projected for the FMP standard at the state-specific level.