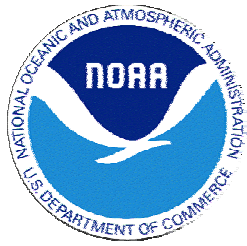


Update on NOAA Fisheries Striped Bass Draft EIS

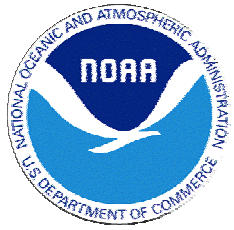
May 25, 2004

Striped Bass Management Board



Status of Activities

- Drafting EIS
 - Identified preliminary alternatives
 - Analyzing Impacts of alternatives
 - Biological
 - Environmental
 - Economic
 - Social



Alternatives Being Analyzed

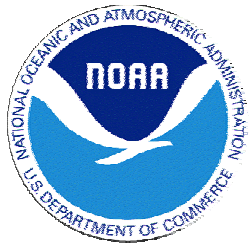
Alternative 1

- Open entire EEZ to Atlantic striped bass harvest following the recommendation from ASMFC
 - **28” minimum size**
 - **allow states the ability to adopt more restrictive rules for fishermen and vessels licensed in their jurisdiction.**



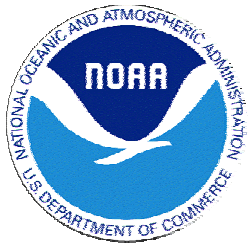
Alternative 2

- **Open entire EEZ to Atlantic striped bass harvest**
 - **28” minimum size**
 - **allow states the ability to adopt more restrictive rules for fishermen and vessels licensed in their jurisdiction**
 - **require circle hooks for all hook & line bait fishing**
 - **adopt a 2-fish bag limit for recreational fishing**
 - **adopt one of the following sub-alternatives for commercial fishing:**
 - **commercial trip limit of 100 fish per trip; or**
 - **restrict commercial harvest to bycatch-only by imposing a limit of no more than x% of the total catch or 100 fish per trip, whichever is less.**



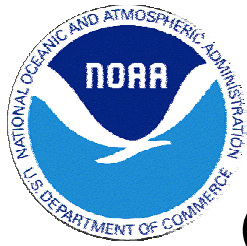
Alternative 3

- **Open entire EEZ to Atlantic striped bass harvest**
 - **hook & line gear, only**
 - **require circle hooks for all bait fishing**
 - **28” minimum size**
 - **allow states the ability to adopt more restrictive rules for fishermen and vessels licensed in their jurisdiction**
 - **adopt a 2-fish bag limit for recreational fishing**
 - **adopt one of the following sub-alternatives for commercial fishing:**
 - **commercial trip limit of 100 fish per trip; or**
 - **restrict commercial harvest to bycatch-only by imposing a limit of no more than x% of the total catch or 100 fish per trip, whichever is less.**



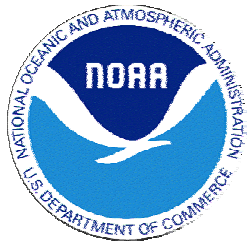
Alternative 4

- **No Action**
 - **Status quo**
 - **maintain moratorium in EEZ**



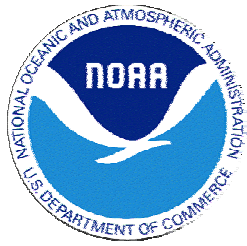
Other Alternatives Considered

- Open EEZ with no restrictions
- Recreational fishing, only
- Catch and release, only
- Other minimum sizes, besides 28”
- Season/area closures
- Prohibit gillnet
- Open EEZ and apply state regulations



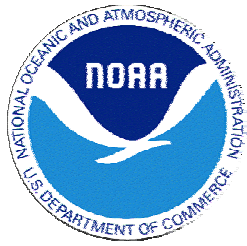
Next Steps

- **Finish analyses and the Draft EIS**
- **Announce availability of DEIS**
- **Open Comment period**
- **Hold Public hearings on DEIS and associated alternatives**
- **Determine whether to move forward with a proposed rule**



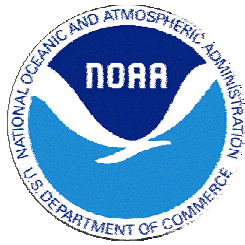
Input to Process

- **We are developing e- and postal mailing lists of interested parties so we can distribute the DEIS for public comments, as soon as it is available.**
- **However, since we are in rulemaking, we can not accept comments until we are in a public comment period which will be announced once the DEIS is available**



Options for DEIS Copies

- **We will have 3 options for distribution**
 - 1- We will email those interested that the DEIS is available on the web, and provide the web address (our first choice)
 - 2- We will mail a CD containing the DEIS to a postal address (our second choice)
 - 3- We will mail a hard copy to a postal address (our last choice- costly)



How to get on mailing List



- **Options**

- **Send an email* to: StripedBass.EEZ@noaa.gov**
- **Send a Fax* to: **301-427-2590****
- **Send postal mail to:**

Anne Lange

Chief, State Federal Fisheries Division

Office of Sustainable Fisheries- F/SF8

National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East-West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

***available until week before DEIS comment period begins**

Information to Include

- **Name**
- **State**
- **email and/or postal mail address**
- **Media you prefer for DEIS**
 - 1- **Email with the Web address of DEIS**
 - 2- **CD**
 - 3- **hard copy**