

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

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From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources), crabman31@aol.com

Comments on Docket #2023-R-F-0021 -- Striped Bass Commercial Fishing Regulations

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Organization: none

Comments:

The market conditions of Striped Bass are well known to be better in April and May due to less competition from other states during the period. Any other argument is a truly misleading observation in the purpose stated ,and can not be a valid consideration for this regulatory change. The month of May has been used in the past as a cushion period during which optimum market still exist during the season for over thirty years. This provides a smooth break down period as gear is removed from the Delaware Bay. Example: Most recently Covid did create such an instance during 2020 in which the May period was utilized effectively. There is no law that specifically dictates a framework of days, no matter how DNREC spins the conversation. A season from Feb 15 to May 10 should not be an issue and certainly would end controversy amongst the stakeholders. Scary stories of the ASMFC retaliating for this action are as likely as they were when we changed the tagging of Striped Bass from "time of possession" to "before landing"; which served the fishery as a better and safer practice. If our season framework is comparable to most other states in length, then we would as a State, fit into a general perspective. This would prove to be valuable information going forward and a question that most likely would not create waves. This question leads into the usage of Title 29 Chapter 9 ss 10404A of the Delaware Code requiring a regulatory impact statement under the Administrative Procedures Act : quote "that is substantially likely to impose additional costs or burdens upon individuals and or small businesses." This proposed regulation does in fact create a burden. Leave May 10th intact and extend the forward part of the season to February 15th.