

# CONNECTICUT RIVER ATLANTIC SALMON COMMISSION

## Connecticut River

# Striped Bass

*The Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission and its member agencies are working with partners to restore Atlantic salmon, American shad, and other migratory fish to the Connecticut River basin through fisheries management including hatchery production and release of salmon, harvest management, habitat restoration, fishway construction, dam removal, research and public education.*



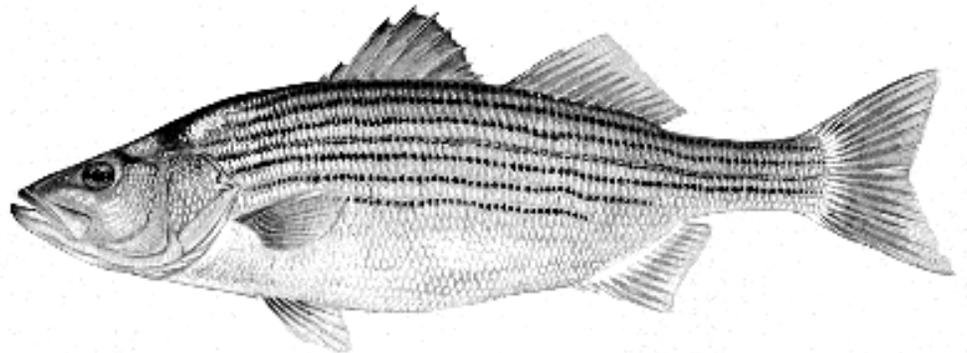
CONNECTICUT RIVER  
ATLANTIC SALMON  
COMMISSION

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### Striped Bass Trivia

- (1) Striper females average how many pounds in size (a) 10-20 (b) 25-30 (c) 30-50 (d) 65
- (2) Adult stripers spend most of their time in (a) the ocean and coastal estuaries (b) streams (c) lakes and ponds
- (3) The largest proportion of harvested stripers is taken in MD, NJ, VA and what other two states? (a) NY (b) CT (c) NC (d) MA
- (4) Adult striped bass are usually found how close to shore? (a) 1-3 mi (b) 6-8 miles (c) 10-15 miles (d) 20-30 miles

Trivia Question Answers: (1) c (2) a (3) a&d (4) b

## Striper Facts: Did You Know?

- Once in the Connecticut River, adult stripers key in on and voraciously feed on the most abundant prey available which at any one time may be juvenile Atlantic salmon, river herring, perch, American eel, or sea lamprey;
- Female stripers mature between the ages of 4 and 8, and males mature in half that time;
- Spawning usually peaks in the estuary or lower portion of large rivers in April, May or June, when the temperatures are in the 60s;
- 70-90% of the East Coast stocks of striped bass originated in the Chesapeake Bay though stocks also originate from the Roanoke and Hudson Rivers;
- The number of eggs produced by a female ranges from 500,000 to 3 million eggs, depending on the size of the female;
- The eggs hatch into tiny larvae in the tidal portion of the river;
- Juveniles school and grow in the estuaries for 2-4 years before they move out into the ocean;
- Once in the ocean, stripers migrate to feed, sometimes traveling thousands of miles along the East Coast;

The largest striped bass ever recorded was taken in 1891 and weighed 125 pounds; The oldest striped bass ever recorded was 31 years old;

### Striper Geography

- Striped bass are found mainly along the East Coast from Maine to North Carolina but they actually range all the way from Canada to Florida;
- Adults enter the Connecticut River in late winter or early spring to feed (and maybe to spawn);
- They spend the summer and early fall in coastal waters around New England;
- Stripers winter off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina;

### Status of Striped Bass

- The East Coast striped bass population dropped dramatically in the 1970s and 1980s because of overfishing, poor water quality, and loss of habitat;
- Since 1990, the population has rebounded because of strict regulations adopted by all of the coastal states from Maine to North Carolina;
- In 1995, the striped bass population was declared to be successfully restored and some commercial and recreational harvest regulations were adjusted upward;
- Now, about 1.0-1.5 million striped bass can be found in the river downstream of the Holyoke dam every spring;

Striped bass counts monitored at the Holyoke fish lift do not reflect the size of the striper population since stripers have no need to migrate further upstream.