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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : NJ Stripers Regs 2015

Re: NJ Stripers Regs 2015

Author: : marcq

Date: : 2014/3/24 23:47:16

URL:

this has been discussed so much on so many other forums and everyone has their own thoughts. Not that that's a bad thing although I think some are not the best plan of action. the question what do we do to fix it is so loaded.

its not just one problem that we are dealing with its several. ill state the obvious. yea people are taking to many fish and the big one that are important. nutrient overload in the Chesapeake. one of largest nurseries for young stripers and all the runoff from farms is causing massive alga blooms killing everything. then there is the commercial menhaden fishery which the stocks are down to a fraction of what they were 20 some years ago.

so what do you do? honestly I don't know. id say if its as bad as everyone thinks put a moratorium on them for a year or two. then you make a slot. that's my idea. my size would be 25 to 34 inches one fish a day. all live bait fishing should be done using only circle hooks. or change the season to march through june catch and release. protect the spawners. in reality if you eat striper the small ones are better. the goal is that you are keeping the big spawners in the system and they will keep producing and there is always an abundance of fish in that slot. you are cutting peoples bag limits in half. its worked for redfish it would probably work for bass.

to address the other things like bunker its to hard to manage that in a way that makes everyone happy. pollution is another big problem and how do you take care of that? I can think of one thing and that is to restrict the bunker fishing. if you didn't know they are really good at cleaning water. reported that they can filter between 4 and 8 gallons of water a minute. if we had a higher stock I think it would take care of some of the alga bloom issues. but there are a lot of other industries that depend on the omega three protein that comes from bunker.

I personally don't think its as bad as people think it is. they all fear what happened back in the 80's I don't think we can get it down that far with the management that we have now. I like the concern from everyone but ill let you know how I truly feel after this spring.

marc