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Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Striped bass stocks over fished

Re: Striped bass stocks over fished

Author: : Mike

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URL:

Recreational anglers account for 90% of the striped bass harvest; commercial fishing accounts for 10%. Even if there would be a 10% error, recreational anglers still would dominate the harvest.

Disconcerting is the revelation that now the estimated number of stripers killed by catch and release (using a 10% delayed mortality rate applied to the release numbers) is greater than that taken in the harvest. It is a factor that in my mind needs to be addressed and I hope will be. Requiring circle hook usage for all bait angling might be one avenue, although they are no panacea, and another would be the eliminating live-lining of eels, white perch, live bunker (menhaden) etc.

Given that the American eel population coastwide is in relatively poor shape, terminating eel usage as bait would be beneficial to the eel population as well. One need not use eels as bait in order to have success overall; cut bait, clams, and lures work just fine, thank you very much. I, for one, would not knowingly use representatives from one fish population that is in trouble, and with a live lining technique to boot, to capture members of another fish population that is having some difficulties.

I'll save the discussion of chicken liver usage a bait in nursery waters for another time.