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Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Striped bass stocks over fished

Re: Striped bass stocks over fished

Author: : SurfCowboyXX

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URL:

The trawlers don't help the cause, for certain. That said, the math is such that, once you consider the sheer volume of fishermen exclusively targeting trophy stripers (all the recs are looking to catch the biggest fish they can, just like the rest of us-I don't drive to the shore to fish unless I hear of fish larger than 32" being caught), there would have to be many times more trawlers and commercial fishermen to account for the disparity in numbers. Social media has really hurt, as well. Now the payoff for a six-pack charter being able to post trophy fish photos every day during the season is a full book of chartered trips every year. What's worse are just cell phone fishermen in general (the striper clubs), where when one guy finds some fish, he calls his entire club so that they can come out and drive up a bunch of scores for their weekly tournaments. These are the "sharpies" who live near the shore and can fish every day or night. They know what they are doing out there in a big way. Show up an hour late for one of those rushes, and all you'll see are drag marks from the tails as wide as your foot is long coming up from the shore and 200 cigarette butts all over the parking area. Nobody believes the stocks are going to crash again, and nobody is willing to take any responsibility whatsoever, so it's definitely going to occur again unless draconian action is taken. This whole "regulation won't work unless we know exactly what the problem is" sounds quite a bit like the climate change controversy over the last 40 years, where, had some reasonable regulations been enacted, even on the basis of what was yet not exact understanding, we probably wouldn't have seen the changes in climate that have moved much of the striper stocks to Maine and Canada. By the time we feel comfortable enacting the regulations, the regulation is a moratorium, because now, it doesn't matter what the exact problem was-there is only one answer remaining. Probably one of the worst examples of human nature-literally having to put our hand in the fire rather than admitting that the heat above it is directly resulting from the flame.