

# 2015 Striped Bass Management Measures Under Consideration

January 27, 2015

(with minor clarifying revisions made on 1/29/14)

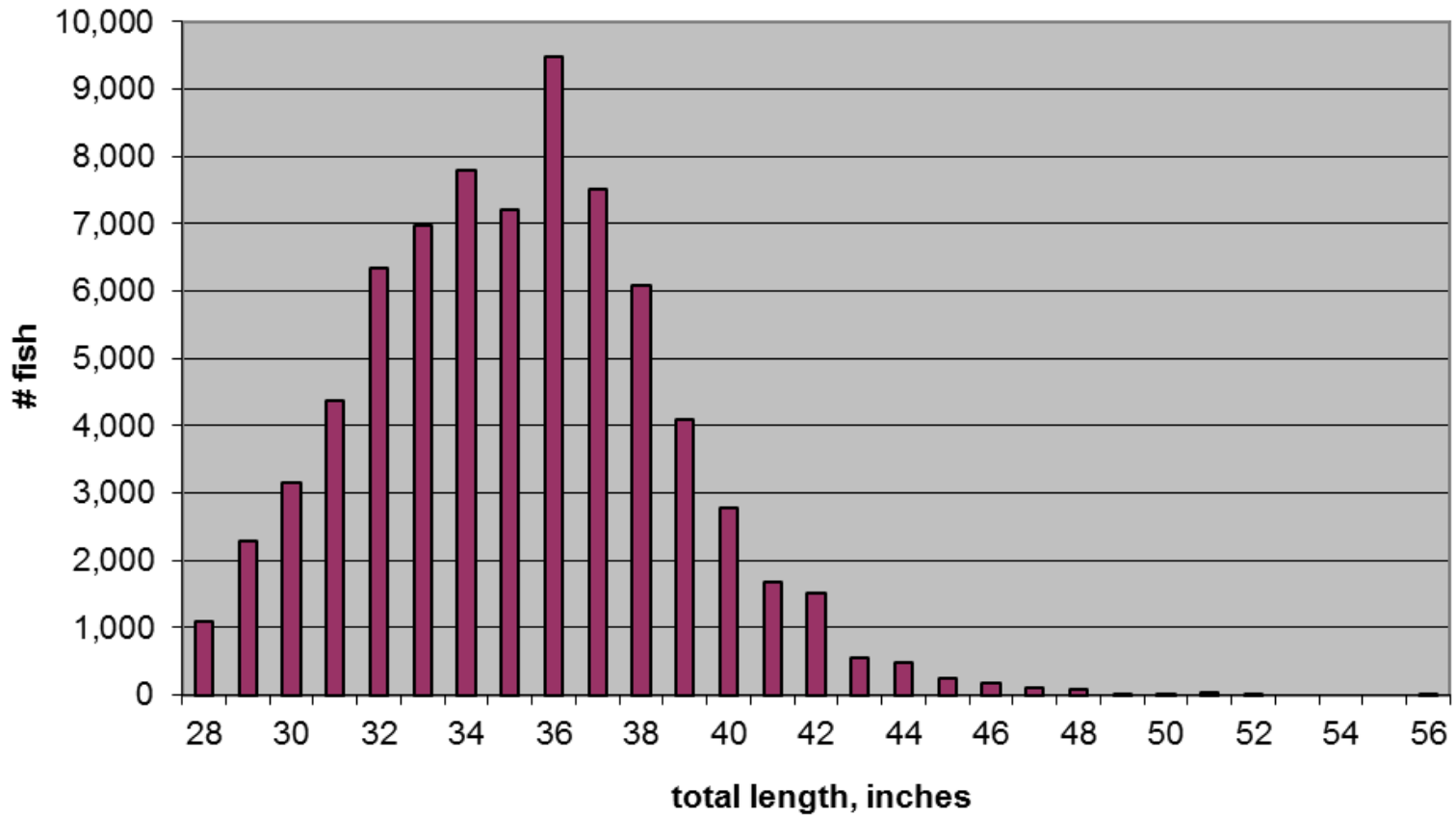
Sport Fisheries Advisory  
Commission Meeting

# Atlantic and Coastal Bays

- Season: Same, January 1 to December 31
- Minimum Size: Same, 28"
- Creel Limit: Reduced from 2 to 1 fish / person
- Approved by ASMFC Technical Committee

# Spring Trophy Fishery

2011-2013 trophy season striped bass size distribution



# Spring Trophy Fishery (STF)

**Option STF1** – APPROVED BY ASMFC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Sector	Season	Creel Limit	Size Limit
Private angler and charter boat	Same, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April to May 15	Same, 1 fish / person	Increased from a minimum of 28" to 36"

- Pros:
  - Maintains traditional trophy fishery. Minimum 36" in size limit when trophy fishery first opened.
  - Consistent with VA and PRFC spring trophy rules.
- Cons:
  - Focuses harvest on female spawning stock. Need to keep perspective that this fishery is a small fraction of the coastal migrant harvest.
  - Concern that there will be increased difficulty to catch a legal fish, especially during the first two weeks in May.

# Spring Trophy Fishery (STF)

## Option STF2 - APPROVED BY ASMFC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

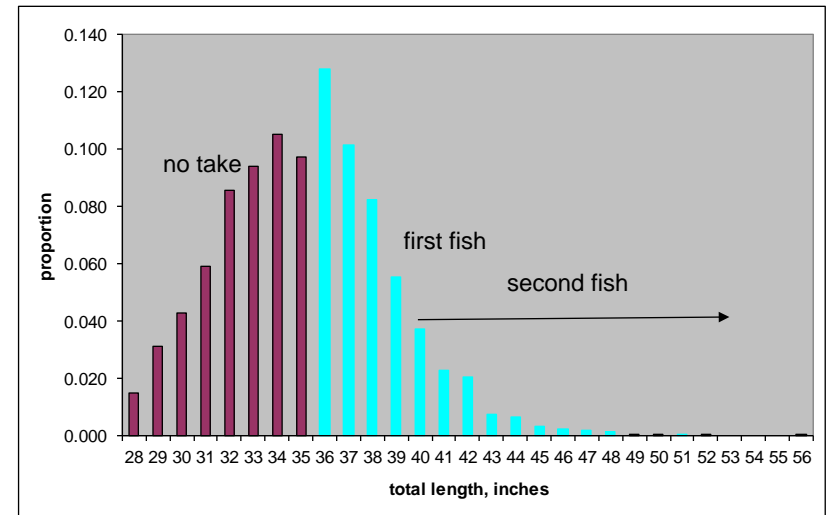
- Same as Option STF1 with one exception.
  - **Charter boats are allowed to have one angler aboard their boat to possess a fish between 28 and 36". This is not an additional fish but in lieu of a fish 36+".**
  - Request came from a member of the MD Charter Boat Industry Association who can explain the rationale behind this request.
- Pros:
  - Maintains traditional trophy fishery. Minimum 36" in size limit when trophy fishery first opened.
  - Allows charter boats an opportunity to allow passengers to bring home a fish when not able to catch a fish >36".
- Cons:
  - Focuses harvest on female spawning stock. Need to keep perspective that this fishery is a small fraction of the coastal migrant harvest.
  - Concern that there will be increased difficulty to catch a legal fish by anglers, especially during the first two weeks in May.
  - Inconsistent with VA and PRFC, and between private and charter.

# Spring Trophy Fishery (STF)

## Option STF3 – REQUIRES ASMFC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REVIEW

Sector	Season	Creel Limit	Size Limit
Private angler and charter boat	Same, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April to May 15	Increase from 1 to 2 fish / person	1 fish >36 and 1 fish >40"

- MD Charter Boat Industry Association requested examination of a 2 fish option to help address marketing disadvantages with options being considered in other coastal states (see handout in folder).
  - Pros:
    - Maintains opportunity to catch a trophy fish.
    - Mitigates 2 fish marketing disadvantages with other coastal states.
  - Cons:
    - Focuses harvest on female spawning stock. Need to keep perspective that this fishery is a small fraction of the coastal migrant harvest.
    - Inconsistent with VA and PRFC. However, they may consider this approach.

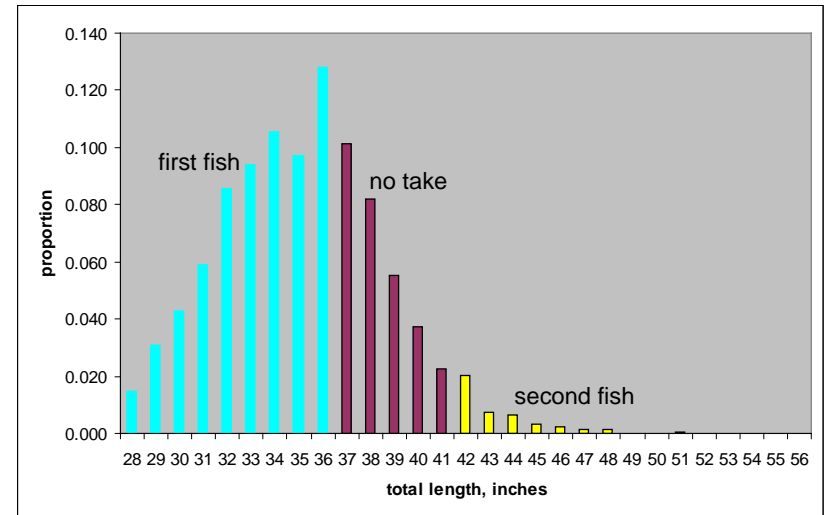


# Spring Trophy Fishery (STF)

**Option STF4** – REQUIRES ASMFC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REVIEW

Sector	Season	Creel Limit	Size Limit
Private angler and charter boat	Same, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April to May 15	Increase from 1 to 2 fish / person	1 fish 28-36" 1 fish >42"

- Solomons Charter Boat Association submitted this option via letter (1/26/15) to SFAC (see letter in folder). Vice- Chairman Dave Sikorski requested it be reviewed.
  - Pros:
    - Maintains opportunity to keep a trophy fish.
    - Mitigates 2 fish and size marketing disadvantages with other coastal states.
    - Adds further protection to female spawning stock, especially largest.
  - Cons:
    - Opportunity to catch a trophy fish (>42") will be uncommon.
    - Some anglers will have to throw back a fish of a lifetime (36-42").
    - Potential impact to tournaments.



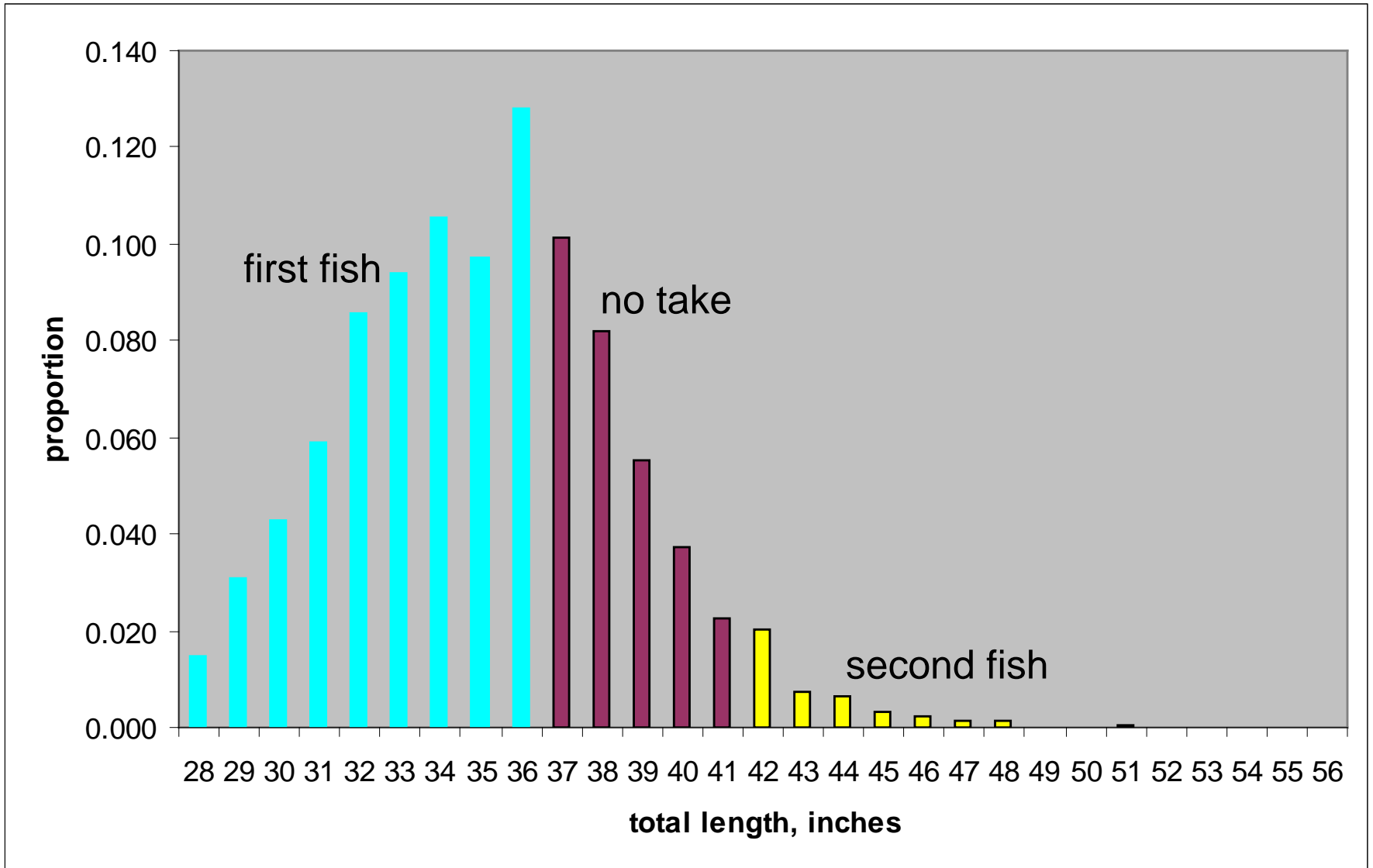
## Spring Tournaments:

- 2014: 5 tournament winners ranged from 43.25 to 50"
- 2013: 7 tournament winners ranged from 41 to 50"





# First fish 28-36", second fish 42" or larger



# Summer / Fall (SFF)

## Option SFF1 – APPROVED BY ASMFC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Sector	Season	Creel Limit	Size Limit
Private angler and charter boat	Same, May 16 to Dec 15	Same, 2 fish / person	Increased from a minimum of 18" to 20". Only 1 fish can be above 28".

- Pros:
  - Maintains season and creel which have been a priority expressed by anglers.
  - Allows lowest minimum size while still achieving required 20.5% reduction.
- Cons:
  - Will experience high discards of undersized fish, especially in 2015.

## Option SFF2 – APPROVED BY ASMFC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- Same as Option SFF1 with the exception of the season.
  - Season closure of December 15 extended to December 20.