

Striped Bass feed on Shad, alewives and invertebrates, including worms, squid, menhaden, anchovies, eels, and crustaceans. The Striped Bass is Maryland's State Fish. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest Striped Bass nursery on the Atlantic coast. Seventy to 90 percent of the Atlantic Striped Bass population uses the Bay to spawn. The largest recorded Striped Bass was caught in 1995 off Bloody Point, just south of Kent Island, Maryland. It weighed 67.5 pounds.

Striped Bass have been hybridized with White Bass to produce a hybrid Striped Bass, also known as Wiper, Whiterock Bass, Sunshine Bass, and Cherokee Bass. These hybrids have been stocked in many freshwater areas across the U.S. The hybrid does not get as big as a Striped Bass, but it will have a lot of girth and a wider larger tail, which makes this fish a very strong swimmer, and thus a very good fight for the angler.

When I was president of the Striper Club, we worked with the state of Virginia, posting notices asking anglers to catch their limit and then quit fishing. We asked them not to catch and release large Striped Bass (fish over 20") in the warm water months, so as to help protect the resource. Some lakes in the mid Atlantic area have "barred" some anglers from their lake in order to prevent "catch & release" of Striped Bass in warm water months.(Fish can drown if here is not enough oxygen in the water.

Regardless of what you call this fish, I would hope that you would respect and help protect it as a resource. In order for a Striped Bass to become a "trophy" fish, it must live for a good while. If an angler does "catch & release" on this fish and it dies, it can not get to be a BIG fish. Striped Bass can live as long as 30 years; they have been known to grow to as much as 6 feet in length, and weigh up to 125 pounds. The oldest recorded Striped Bass was 31 years old; the largest recorded Striped Bass was 125 pounds, caught on the North Carolina coast in 1891.

Striped Bass are often seen as the greatest success story of the Chesapeake Bay. Not only is the Striper a great fish for eating, it is also a great sport fish. It is very elusive, and a very strong fighter. Populations of the this iconic sport fish plummeted in the 1970s and early 1980s , but then rebounded because of tightened catch restrictions in a dozen states from 1985 to 1990, including a moratorium on catching them in Maryland, Virginia and other states. The fish population was at a peak in 2004 and since has been in a slight decline. In 2015, the Atlantic states lowered the creel limit, and continue to warn against releasing adult fish in warm water months.

Usually on or about September 1st, the Striped Bass begin to move to the center of the channel in the lake, where the deeper water and warmer water is. This makes it a very good time to troll for these giants... Pulling jigs and spoons seems to work best. Run long lines, very slowly. Lead core line allows you to troll at a depth that is easy to measure by paying attention to the color of the line. Watch for fish on graph and troll just over the fish; pull the lines up when trees appear on screen.

Beginning about November 1st , the water temperature should reach 50 degrees, and the fish will be in the coves where you'll catch them on top water minnows (Redfins, Long As, Rebels, etc----about 6 or 7 inch lures). Remember to retrieve your casts very slowly on the surface before the sun comes up. After the sun comes up, the fish will return to the channels, and trolling or jigging will be the rule.

Pay attention to the moon phases for daytime fishing ...7 days before to 7 days after a full moon , skip the first 3 hours of the day and fish the next 3 hours, repeating the cycle. From 7 day before to 7 days after a new moon, fish the first 3 hours of the day and skip the next 3 (go to lunch or breakfast) and again, repeat the cycle.



“**Good Luck & Take a kid fishin’!**  
**BOB KING**”

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