

GEHR Watershed Minute #6

Striped Bass: (183 words)

The striped bass, also known as striper, linesider, bass, or rockfish, is native to most of the East Coast including the Great Egg Harbor River and Bay. The Striped Bass is the largest member of the sea bass family. Males can reach a maximum length of 45 inches, and females can grow to about 72 inches. The maximum recorded weight is about 125 lbs.

Striped Bass swim upstream to spawn. Spawning migrations typically begin in March, when water temperatures exceed 58° F, and continue through early summer, with males arriving at spawning grounds before females. The females' semi-buoyant eggs are released in flowing water and fertilized by several males in a thrashing event known as a "fight".

Striped Bass have historically been America's most important recreational and commercial fish. The unique angling qualities of this trophy fish attract many recreational fishermen.

Due to over-harvesting, degraded water quality and degraded breeding habitat, striper populations began to decline significantly in the late 1970s. An Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass was started in 1981 to monitor and protect the long term sustainability of Striped Bass.