

THE NEGLECTED ONE BILLION DOLLAR MA RECREATIONAL STRIPED BASS FISHERY

The following economic summary was compiled by Frederic B. Jennings Jr., Economist (Harvard B.A. *magna cum laude*, Stanford Ph.D.) using the most recent NOAA data available. The methodologies employed to reach these conclusions were peer reviewed and vetted by NOAA Fisheries Economists Sabrina Lovell and Scott Steinback.

- Each year the MA recreational striped bass fishery rivals our scallop fishery as our most economically valuable marine resource.
- The MA recreational striped bass fishery is economically far more valuable than all of our other fin-fisheries combined.
- In 2003 the total economic contribution of the MA recreational striped bass fishery to our economy was estimated to be in excess of \$1.1 billion dollars, with direct recreational expenditures in this fishery of \$650 million dollars.
- In 2007, the direct recreational expenditures attributable to the MA recreational striped bass fishery were estimated to be about \$500 million dollars.
- By 2016, the direct recreational expenditures in this fishery had diminished to just under \$350 million dollars in economic value in only nine years.
- If the MA recreational striped bass fishery were brought back to as healthy a condition as it was in 2007, direct recreational expenditures would rise by 80 percent (or \$276 million) to about \$623 million dollars per year in economic value.
- The decline in the economic value of the recreational striped bass fishery in MA directly coincides with the decline in the quality of, and consequently the participation by anglers in, the recreational wild striped bass fishery.
- The value of a wild striped bass caught recreationally (harvested or released) is worth roughly 20 times more to the economy of the Commonwealth than the same fish when harvested commercially.
- Currently the 800,000 pounds of wild striped bass that is annually allocated for commercial harvesting is costing the Commonwealth close to \$100 million per year in unrealized economic activity in the recreational fishery.
- Legislatively redirecting the MMFAC to manage the wild striped bass fishery for its greatest economic value to the Commonwealth would help to rebuild this fishery and increase direct recreational spending by \$250 to \$300 million dollars per year, and restore almost 7000 jobs in the recreational striped bass fishery that have been lost since 2007 due to commercially biased management goals and objectives.
- Establishing a policy directive requiring the MMFAC to reprioritize their goals and to implement same will involve zero cost to the Commonwealth and generate around \$300 million dollars' worth of additional economic activity in this state each year.

