



ASA Guide to Draft Addendum II for Atlantic Striped Bass
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Overview:

- Because these management documents are incredibly complex, we developed this guide for use in combination with [Draft Addendum II](#) to assist in providing comments to ASMFC by the December 22 comment deadline. Attending a [public hearing](#) is a great way to participate in the public comment process.
- There is a lot of nuance that is difficult to convey in a guide like this. The most effective advocacy relies on being informed and engaged. Therefore, although we are producing this guide as a support tool, it simply cannot replace developing a relationship with your [ASMFC commissioner](#).
 - Connect with me if you need help! mwaine@asafishing.org
- In Addendum II, ASA is advocating for (1) maintaining the 28-31" slot for the ocean fishery, (2) implementing a maximum size in the Chesapeake Bay, (3) complementary reductions in the commercial fishery and (4) no mode splits meaning same regulations for private and charter.

3.1.1 Ocean Recreational Fishery Options (all jurisdictions) - the options listed in the table below would specifically apply to the recreational ocean fishery.

Ocean Recreational Options	Overall Reduction	Harvest Change	Rec. Release Mortality Change
Option A. 1 fish at 28" to < 35" with 2017 season dates (all modes) or approved CEs.			
Option B. 1 fish at 28" – 31" with 2022 seasons (all modes).	-14.1%	-49.9%	+2.0%
Option C. Private vessel/shore: 1 fish at 28" – 31" with 2022 seasons. For-hire: 1 fish at 28" – 33" with 2022 seasons.	-14.0%	-49.5%	+2.0%
Option D. 1 fish at 30" – 33" with 2022 seasons (all modes).	-12.8%	-45.4%	+1.8%
Option E. Private vessel/shore: 1 fish at 30" – 33" with 2022 seasons. For-hire: 1 fish at 28" – 33" with 2022 seasons.	-12.8%	-45.0%	+1.8%

ASA's take:

- ✔ Option B maintains the Emergency Action slot limit which would provide management stability in 2024
- ✘ Option D would put more fishing pressure on the strong 2015-year class as most of that year class is in the 30-33" size class.
- ✘ Options C & E provide conservation passes to the for-hire mode (charter/party boats) by allowing them to harvest a wider slot range. If ASMFC hands out conservation passes to the for-hire mode, what incentive does any one individual angler have with a mentality that if you're a small percentage of the overall pie your slice doesn't need to bear the burden of conservation? Oppose mode splits!

3.1.2 Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery Options (MD, PRFC, DC and VA) - The options in the table below would specifically apply to the recreational Chesapeake Bay fishery. All the options besides status quo would implement a maximum size limit for the Chesapeake Bay.

ASA's take:

✔ Option B and its sub-options are preferred because it would establish consistency between private and charter modes which is the most important aspect of these options. Options B1 and B2 achieve the targeted 14.5% reduction, but take all the specific percentages with a grain of salt considering recent [recreational catch data announcements](#).

Chesapeake Bay Recreational Options							
	Min. Size	Max. Size	Bag Limit	Season	Overall Reduction	Harvest Change	Rec. Release Mortality (RRM) Change
Option A	1 fish at 18" minimum size with 2017 seasons, or approved CEs.						
Chesapeake Bay Options with Consistent Minimum Size, Maximum Size, and Bag Limit							
	Min. Size	Max. Size	Bag Limit	Season	Overall Reduction	Harvest Change	RRM Change
Option B1	19" (all jurisdictions)	23"	1 fish (all modes)	same as 2022*	-22.4%	-38.4%	+6.7%
Option B2	19" (all jurisdictions)	24"	1 fish (all modes)	same as 2022*	-15.9%	-27.5%	+4.8%
Option B3	19" (all jurisdictions)	25"	1 fish (all modes)	same as 2022*	-12.1%	-21.1%	+3.7%
Option B4	19" (all jurisdictions)	26"	1 fish (all modes)	same as 2022*	-10.3%	-18.1%	+3.2%
Chesapeake Bay Options with Consistent Minimum Size, Maximum Size, and Mode-Specific Bag Limits (P/S=private vessel/shore anglers and FH= for-hire)							
	Min. Size	Max. Size	Bag Limit	Season	Overall Reduction	Harvest Change	RRM Change
Option C1	19" (all jurisdictions)	23"	1 fish P/S 2 fish FH	same as 2022*	-17.9%	-31.4%	+4.9%
Option C2	19" (all jurisdictions)	24"	1 fish P/S 2 fish FH	same as 2022*	-11.0%	-19.3%	+3.0%

3.2.1 Commercial Ocean and Chesapeake Bay Quota Reduction Options

ASA's take:

- ✔ Option B and specify that ASMFC reduce ocean and Chesapeake Bay commercial quotas by 14.5%.
 - Conservation efforts should be shared equally between the recreational and commercial sectors because everyone that uses the resource has a shared interest in its future.
 - The reductions for the commercial sector are based on Amendment 7 quotas instead of 2022 harvest potentially allowing for an increase in removals if the quotas are fully utilized. This contradicts the intent of the Addendum.

3.3 Response to Stock Assessment Updates

This is a tricky one. Read below as this selection depends on your level of experience with ASMFC.

ASA's take:

✔ Option A – This maintains the Addendum process allowing ample time for public comment. If you don't have a working relationship with [ASMFC commissioners](#), we recommend choosing this option. With this option, management response can still be accelerated through a fast implementation timeline -- emergency action in 2023 demonstrated what fast implementation would look like.

✔ Option B – If you already established credibility through the ASMFC process, allowing management changes via Board Action is a workable option. However, this process is unclear in the Addendum, and therefore, ASA recommends the following example process. Stock assessment results in October 2024, Board action management response in January 2025. Given where current regulations stand, I do not see the opportunity to do both at the same meeting.