

# Future Management of Striped Bass in Virginia

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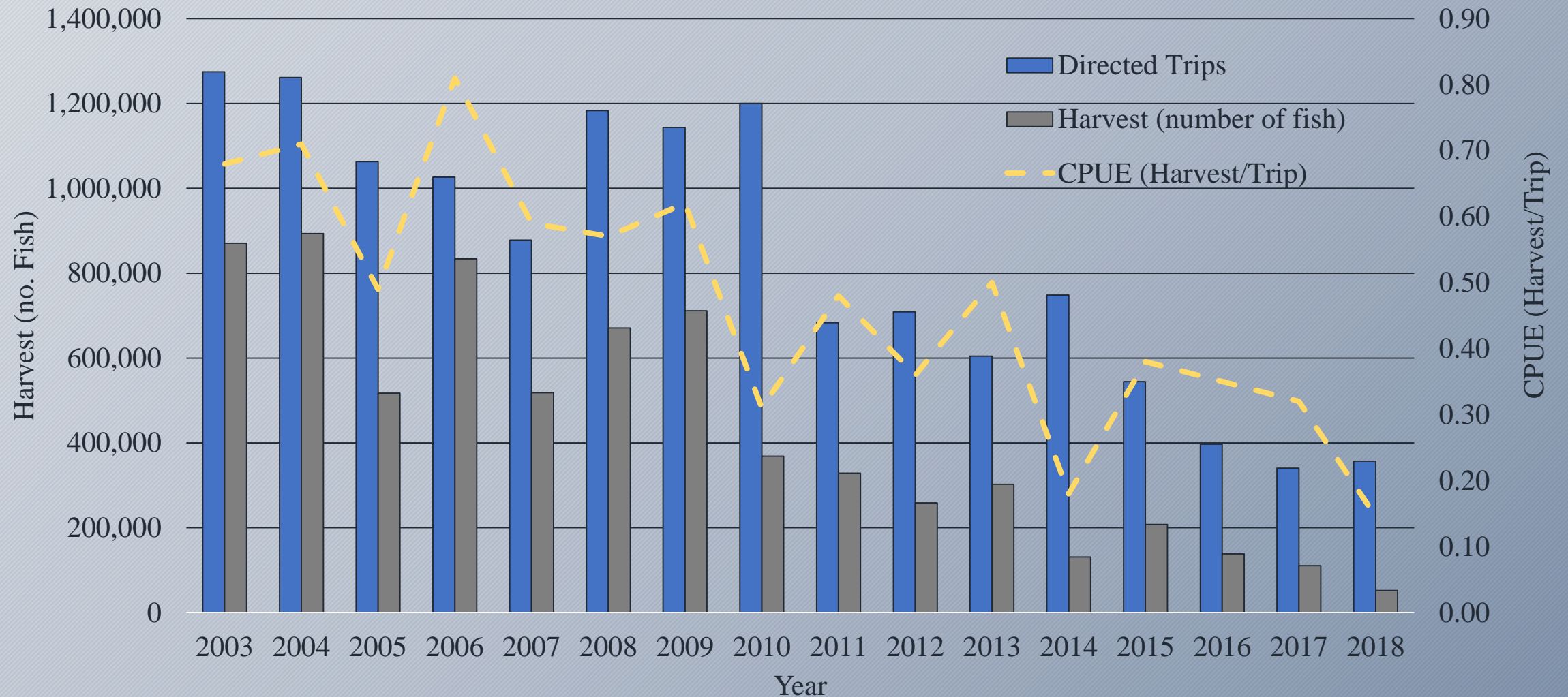


# Draft Addendum VI

- Results from the 2018 benchmark striped bass stock assessment indicate that the fishery is overfished and overfishing is occurring relative to 2017.
- The Board initiated Draft Addendum VI to lower fishing mortality to the target by 2020.
  - Rebuilding scheme (Amendment 6)
  - ~18% reduction in total coastwide removals (Plan Development Team)
  - Equal vs. Proportional approach
  - 62% Recreational/ 38% Commercial in Virginia (2017)
- The ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board approved an equal reduction approach (18%) for both the recreational and commercial sectors.



# Atlantic Striped Bass Recreational Effort (directed trips) and Harvest (number of fish) in Virginia, 2003-2018



## Virginia Recreational Harvest of Striped Bass in the Chesapeake Bay, 2003-2018

Year	Harvest (numbers of fish)	Harvest (%) relative to 2018	Harvest (pounds of fish)	Harvest (%) relative to 2018
2003	841,583	-93%	5,963,897	-93%
2004	817,380	-93%	4,940,828	-92%
2005	483,124	-88%	3,860,208	-90%
2006	752,957	-92%	5,071,254	-92%
2007	490,316	-88%	4,027,421	-90%
2008	576,110	-90%	4,876,536	-92%
2009	708,131	-92%	5,340,219	-92%
2010	343,239	-83%	2,058,894	-80%
2011	277,163	-79%	2,214,341	-82%
2012	258,100	-78%	4,669,501	-91%
2013	297,891	-81%	2,607,194	-85%
2014	131,231	-57%	988,763	-59%
→ 2015	207,666	-73%	957,083	-58%
2016	138,142	-59%	1,024,378	-61%
2017	110,304	-48%	627,391	-36%
2018	56,821	0%	404,001	0%



## Virginia Recreational Harvest of Striped Bass in the Ocean, 2003-2018

Year	Harvest (numbers of fish)	Harvest (pounds of fish)
2003	29,295	391,573
2004	75,922	1,067,104
2005	34,196	487,495
2006	80,586	920,827
2007	27,959	516,191
2008	94,433	1,690,126
2009	3,033	47,565
2010	25,345	206,384
2011	51,241	308,358
2012	276	1,741
2013	4,425	67,317
2014	0	0
→ 2015	0	0
2016	0	0
2017	98	1,750
2018	0	0

Virginia Commercial Landings of Striped Bass from the Chesapeake Bay Area, 2009-2018.

Year	Chesapeake Bay Quota (pounds)	Chesapeake Bay Landings (pounds)	Percentage (%)
2009	1,642,242	1,413,333	86.06%
2010	1,538,022	1,313,013	85.37%
2011	1,430,361	1,278,072	89.35%
2012	1,430,361	1,339,619	93.66%
2013	1,230,110	1,006,781	81.84%
2014	1,402,326	1,169,386	83.39%
→ 2015	1,064,997	967,638	90.86%
2016	1,064,997	902,284	84.72%
2017	1,064,997	827,849	77.73%
2018	1,064,997	950,724	89.27%

Note. The average commercial quota usage for the Chesapeake Bay Area (2009-2018) is 86%



Virginia Commercial Landings of Striped Bass from the Coastal Area, 2009-2018.

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Year	Coastal Quota (pounds)	Coastal Landings (pounds)	Percentage (%)
2009	184,853	140,420	75.96%
2010	184,853	127,836	69.16%
2011	184,853	158,811	85.91%
2012	184,853	170,788	92.39%
2013	184,853	182,427	98.69%
2014	184,853	183,668	99.36%
→ 2015	138,640	138,141	99.64%
2016	138,640	139,229	100.42%
2017	136,141	133,874	98.33%
2018	138,640	134,170	96.78%

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Note. The average commercial quota usage in the Coastal Area (2009-2018) is 91%



# Virginia's Finfish Management Advisory Committee

- Finfish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC)
  - 15 members
  - Recreational and commercial representatives.
- Advisory committee to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- Striped Bass: Updates on stock assessment results and discuss management alternatives to achieve required reductions (18%).
- Develop recommendations for consideration by Virginia's Marine Resources Commission.





# Proactive Recreational Management in 2019

- Implementation of state-specific measures for striped bass not required until 2020.
- VMRC eliminated the Virginia Spring Trophy Striped Bass Seasons in the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal areas.
  - Reduce directed harvest of the spawning stock (minimum size limit = 36")
  - ~70% of harvest occurred on fish > 40" TL
  - Recreational reporting rate was low ~ 40% (avg. 2016-2018)
- In October 2019, VMRC lowered the recreational possession limit from 2 to 1 -fish per angler with a 36" maximum size limit.
  - 23.3% reduction in VA recreational removals of striped bass relative to 2017.
  - Maximum size limits to protect the spawning stock biomass.



# Proactive Commercial Measures in 2019

- Virginia's Striped Bass Commercial Fishery
  - Individual Transferrable Quota (ITQ)
  - Quota adjustments not feasible during the 2019 season
- VMRC established a commercial maximum mesh size requirement for gill nets in the Chesapeake Bay (7") and Coastal areas (9").
  - Mesh size selectivity studies from the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences
- In November, the VMRC will be having a public hearing to extend the number of days for a commercial maximum size limit (March 15 –June 15).
  - Larger window of protection for the spawning stock
- Virginia's commercial quota will be reduced in 2020.





# Proposed Conservation Equivalency for Virginia

- Virginia will submit a conservation equivalency proposal for review by the Striped Bass Technical Committee.
  - Added flexibility to manage striped bass in Virginia
  - Account for additional uncertainty in management measures
- Total reductions in recreational and commercial removals will be 18% as required under Addendum VI.
  - 23.3% reduction in recreational removals (1- fish possession limit/ 36" max)
  - 9.3% reduction in commercial quota
- Conservation equivalency proposals will be reviewed by the ASMFC Management Board in February 2020.

Questions?

