

From: [Bill Barbour](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] :
Date: Sunday, February 20, 2022 1:31:11 PM

Sent from my iPhone. I concur with mark . Also those island should follow mass no sale of stopped bass except by rod and reel

From: [Lake, John \(DEM\)](#)
To: [Kathy Carros](#)
Cc: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] : Gill net opposition
Date: Friday, February 25, 2022 12:32:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

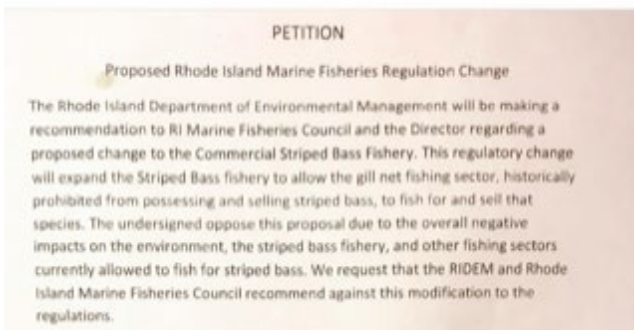
Hi Kathy,

Thank you for your comment, it will be added to the record.

Sincerely,

John Lake
Supervising Marine Biologist
Division of Marine Fisheries
3 Fort Wetherill Rd
Jamestown, RI 02835
401-423-1942

From: Kathy Carros <kcarros2464@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 12:26 PM
To: Lake, John (DEM) <john.lake@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Gill net opposition



I oppose the opening of gill net fishing for striped bass in RI waters.

Kathy Carros
305 Charlie's Way
Westerly, RI 02891

Sent from Kathy's iPhone

From: [Richard Reich](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Gill Net Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 10:22:01 AM

Peter,

I'm totally against allowing gill nets to sell striped bass. Florida banned gill nets in 1994 and 70% of the population were against gill nets. This restored many species of fish, like red fish. We can't put anymore pressure on stiped bass.

Thank you, be safe.

Richie Reich
50 Southwest Rd
Narragansett, RI 02882
401 742-2020
Gansett Custom Tackle

From: [Snug Harbor Marina](#)
To: [Lake, John \(DEM\)](#)
Cc: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Gillnet Striper Proposal
Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 12:42:20 PM

Hi John,

The recent proposal to allow the gillnet fishery to participate in the harvesting of striped bass is only supporting the waste gill nets produce.

Gill nets have no way of controlling the number of fish that can be caught in a period of time, thus creating multiple specie mortality. This participation is the exact reason why they want this regulation change is to sell their **bi-catch**, what happens to the additional fish that are discarded. This fishery is by no means consistent with the current conservation efforts.

By allowing another gear type to land striped bass will increase the fishery effort and cause gill nets to infringe on the other user groups participating in the general category. Not to say what else could happen in the future if this is allowed.

Plus, gill nets are left fishing unattended interfering with other fishing gear types in addition to the recreational angler. What happens on closed days? Will they have to remove their nets when striper fishing is closed?

One more reason, the rod and reel commercial anglers in Point Judith have tolerated the early opening of striped bass and the late May opening only supports the Bay anglers and the quota will be closed by the time our anglers can successfully participate. This will cause economic impact on our business losing the sale of the stripers in addition to the loss of fuel, bait and tackle sales. Employee shifts will also be cut back.

For the above reasons, Snug Harbor Marina does not support the addition of the gill netters to the General Category.

Elisa Cahill

Snug Harbor Marina

dba Snug Harbor Lobster

From: [Seth Dionne](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RI Striped Bass Gill Netting
Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 10:49:05 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Peter,

Please do NOT allow gill net fishing for striped bass. The fishery is already in bad shape.

Thanks,

Seth Dionne

Fire Protection Designer

Aero Mechanical, Inc. 10 Leah St., Johnston, RI 02919

C 401-480-7577

Please visit our website at www.aeroinc.com [[aeroinc.com](#)]



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From: [Bruce Kindseth](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RE: Gill Net Proposal
Date: Friday, February 25, 2022 5:15:06 PM

Good Morning Mr Duhamel,

I am recreational fisherman and I am opposed to allowing commercial gill net fishermen to sell striped bass that they catch in their gill nets. I feel that this would serve as an incentive to target striped bass rather than try to avoid striped bass.

Bruce Kindseth

Narragansett RI

February 24, 2022

Mr. Terry Gray, Acting Director
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Re: Public Comment - Marine Fisheries Proposed Regulation Amendments

Dear Director Grey,

I am writing to express the position of the Rhode Island Commercial Rod and Reel Association (RICCRA) on proposed regulatory changes presented at the public hearing held on February 7, 2022.

Regulation 3.11-2 Commercial Striped Bass Management
A. General Category

We are in support of Industry Proposal 2. The goal of this proposal is to provide all General Category (GC) fishers with an equitable opportunity at harvesting the quota allocation by moving the first sub-period opening to June 1, 2022, and the second to July 6, 2022. This proposal also distributes the quota equally (50/50%) between both periods, giving fishermen in all parts of the State an equitable opportunity to harvest fish based on the June 1st opening. Past sub-period quota allocations of 60/40 % have typically resulted in overfishing in the first period, leaving the second period with less poundage and less opportunity than set by rule. We recognize the difficulty the Department faces in managing the limited amount of quota and the ease of running the periods together, but that limits the opportunity of fishers fishing the coastal areas. The move to a 50/50 % allocation will give all fishers an equitable opportunity and, if there is overage in the first period, give the second period a better chance of actually opening with close to 50% of the poundage remaining. The July 6th start date for the second period provides a defined pause between both periods and reduces effort on the busy holiday weekend.

This proposal also sets a date by which a portion of unharvested Floating Fish Trap (FFT) quota would be transferred to the General Category. The FFT currently receive 40% of the State quota, to the sole economic benefit of only 3 or 4 fishermen. Past years have seen the FFT leave up to thirty thousand pounds, approximately 1/5 of the total State quota, unharvested. This is a significant economic loss to the approximately 280 bass fishermen in the GC who should be given a realistic opportunity to harvest those fish. It also represents a significant income loss to our State fish buyers and processors. Past attempts to negotiate a transfer of the unharvested poundage to the GC have occurred too late in the season for most fishers to harvest the fish, as legal fish are difficult to find in State waters that late in the season. Hence the need for a fixed transfer date and protocol.

C. Gill Netting for Striped Bass

We oppose this modification to allow gill net harvesting and possession of Striped Bass in the General Category quota. Gill netting of Striped Bass has been historically prohibited by regulation. That was done for reason, and lacking signs that the Striped bass biomass has significantly increased it is hard to fathom why the Department would want to promote additional effort on that fishery. As previously stated, in the GC there are approximately 280 fishers allocated 90,822 pounds of fish. The GC regulations allow

fishing four days/week and the season lasts about 30 days. Fishing days are often limited by weather. Discard mortality for this predominantly rod and reel fishery is low. There are currently 199 fishers holding gill net endorsements and approximately 25 are actively gill net fishing. Gill nets are in the water every day, seven days a week. Discard mortality is high. The position of the supporters of this proposal was that it would be an incidental fishery and would reduce discard mortality. We find that hard to believe that it would not turn into a targeted fishery as the value of five legal striped bass typically exceeds the value of 50 pounds of summer flounder and 75 pounds of black sea bass combined. It is logical that the value of the fish would draw latent effort into the fishery along with additional net deployment, resulting in increased Striped Bass discard mortality.

While we object to this proposal others may think it has merit. If the Department believes it will be an incidental fishery and decides to allow it, gill net harvest should be part of the 40% allocated to the Floating Fish trap quota. As they are both net gear types it would make sense to modify the management tracking method to accommodate both. The GC will see additional effort from the 24 new PELs the Department is issuing this year. It is unfair and inequitable to push gill net effort on the GC quota along with the new PELs, while protecting the FFT from sharing any of the hardship. If the gill net harvest is truly incidental it would be able to be absorbed into the usual underage that the FFT turns back each year, with no economic harm to the fishers in either the FFT or the GC. If instituted, the program should be a pilot program with a sunset date of December 31, 2022 with results evaluated prior to continuance.

The Rhode Island Commercial Rod and Reel Association
Kenneth Booth, Pres.

From: rickbellavance@gmail.com
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Striped Bass Gill Net proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 9:24:04 AM

Hi Pete,

Please accept these brief comments regarding a proposal to allow gill net as a gear type allowed in the general category striped bass fishery. First, I would like to thank Division staff for taking the time to answer several questions I had about the proposal and clarifying current gill net regulations. I am not opposed to the concept raised in the proposal as a tool to reduce dead discarded striped bass. I still have continued concerns about the possibility of inactive gill net endorsed fisherman entering the fishery, even in a small way. As you know the striped bass fishery is overfished and subject to overfishing. At a time when every other user group is being asked to reduce mortality, it concerns me that any latent effort could be added to the fishery. If the Director ultimately decides to approve the proposal, I will offer two modifications that would go a long way to ease my concerns. First, I would treat the proposal as a pilot program with a sunset clause that would allow for an evaluation, to include accounting for any changes in effort and monitoring of landings and discards. Possibly a requirement to report discards. Secondly, I would consider a lower daily trip limit for the gill net gear fishery, with the potential to be raised if the program continues. This could act as a disincentive for latent gill net endorsement holders to get into the fishery to target striped bass. Easing into this gear allowance may be a prudent thing to do.

Thanks,
Rick Bellavance

ITS TIME AGAIN TO FIGHT FOR OUR STRIPED BASS FISHERY!

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SUPPORTED
US IN THE PAST

PROPOSAL FOR 2022:

May 19 - June 30:

Allocation: 60% of general category quota (unchanged from 2021)

July 1 - Dec 31:

Allocation: 40% of general category quota (unchanged from 2021)

Continue current prohibition on striped bass caught by gill net.

If floating fish trap quota not met by **Sept 1**, DEM to work with that fishery to determine if and when part of their quota to be moved to general category.
(Current process now begins Sept 30)

Please sign below if you wish to support these options. Thank you! Bo Christensen

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	LICENSE NUMBER
WAYNE CLIPKA	Wayne Clipka	1648
John Stevens III	John Stevens III	1527 PEL
Frank Munteferre	Frank Munteferre	1416
NORMAN B ZWOLINSKI	Norman B Zwolinski	193 MP
JAMES ROBERG E	James Roberg E	1859 PEL
Andrew Ford	Andrew Ford	1616 PEL
Douglas Shehan	Douglas Shehan	976 MP

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2 Pages

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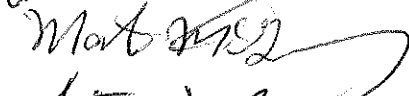








July 1 - Dec 31:

Allocation: 40% of general category quota (unchanged from 2021)

Continue current prohibition on striped bass caught by gill net.

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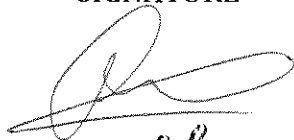
PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	LICENSE NUMBER
RICHARD BERUNG		0356
Adam McGovern		1609
MARTIN MCGURRY		MP 205
STEVE BARRY		1588
Richard Loutg		1775
MARK SHERER		M.P. 1186
Charlie Rayhill		835
TIM ROVINELLI		1864
Jeff Hall	JEFF HALL	67
RICK MINOR		130 MP
WHEN FULL, USE ATTACHED PAGE		1559
RAIP PETRARCHA		106 MP
Philip B. Spadoca Philip B. SPADOCA		

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

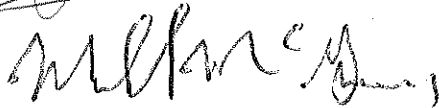
LICENSE NUMBER

Anthony Delo Laxo



493

Mike McQuerry



MP 401

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	LICENSE NUMBER
Allan Dunklee	Allan Dunklee	MP 1502
Scott Capwell	Scott Capwell	MP 160
THOMAS PARA	Thomas Para	MP 326
David Arnold	David Arnold	PEL 1774
JOSEPH PARA	Joseph Para	MP 564
FREDERICK SMITH	Frederick Smith	MP 156
David Dunklee	David Dunklee	PEL 1844
Robert Sevigny Jr.	Robert N. Sevigny Jr.	PEL 1818
Stephen Parker	Stephen Parker	PEL 1779

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	LICENSE NUMBER
Bo Christensen	Bo Christensen	MP 429
Peter Reo	Peter Reo	PEL 001829
William Lee	William Lee	DEL 1834
DMITRI ANTOCICIA	DMITRI ANTOCICIA	REL 770
PAUL NEUMERLIN	PAUL NEUMERLIN	PEL #1759
Ralph Ibbello	Ralph Ibbello	MP 0038
Christopher Heilborn	Christopher Heilborn	FL 579
Gerald Schey	Gerald Schey	MP 00334
WALTER CARROW	WALTER CARROW	MP 142
Mike McElroy	Mike McElroy	MP 0087
CAROL DAWLEY	Carol Dawley	MP 168

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	LICENSE NUMBER
MANUEL VICINA	<i>Manuel Vicina</i>	MUPR 1311
Zak Zoller	<i>Zak Zoller</i>	Mupr 001370
Arden Gestoren	<i>Arden Gestoren</i>	1863
Wayne Cartick	<i>Wayne Cartick</i>	1424
Alton EMERY	<i>Alton Emery</i>	MU17569
BENJAMEN KEARNS	<i>Benjamin Kearns</i>	1809
Calvin L Ventera	<i>Calvin L Ventera</i>	305
Robert Simmons	<i>Robert Simmons</i>	147

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	LICENSE NUMBER
RONALD FORREST	Ronald Forrest	001319
CHARLES JOBIN	Charles Jobin	94 MF
EDWARD P. TREVITT	Edward P. Trevitt	#383
BRIAN MORRIS	Brian Morris	1268
Russell Field	Russell Field	906
ZACHARY ANDREWS	Zachary Andrews	1357
Jody F King	Jody F King	516
Mark Lewis	Mark Lewis	1833

WHEN FULL, USE ATTACHED PAGE

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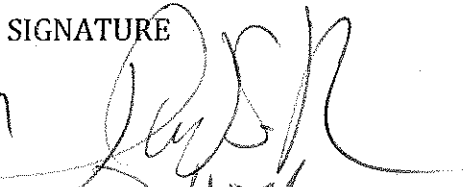
Please sign below if you wish to support these options. Thank you! Bo Christensen

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

LICENSE NUMBER

David S. Niddson



355

DONALD MARTIN



177B

John Hanvey



000915

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From: [Peter Chang](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Gill Net Proposal.
Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 12:32:32 PM

Hi Peter,

I am writing to oppose allowing gill net boats to possess and sell striped bass. I am RISAA member and find that I see way too many bycatch instances with “net boats.” Adding this “fishing modality” to a declining biomass in conjunction with the inefficiency a net produces in terms of 5 fish per day limit is asking for a large detrimental effect (dead discards of striped bass.) Rhode Island is known for our prized Striped Bass sport fishery. People from all over the world visit to experience Striped Bass fishing. If this wasn’t true, then why was the Striped Bass named the state fish in 2000? Let’s not kill off our State Fish.

Thank you for allowing us a voice in this matter.

Peter Chang

From: [David Fewster](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#); [Lake, John \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Comments DEM meeting 2/7/22
Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022 8:47:10 PM

Good evening folks . I'd like to comment on the meeting from Monday night. Thanks David Fewster

#1- I'm in favor of Proposal #1 for commercial Bass season. Early season

#2- I'm in favor of the fish trap proposal to transfer unused quota.

#3- I strongly oppose the gillnet proposal. This is no time to add a user group to Harvest striped bass and create even more pressure on a very small quota. Unfortunately this method of fishing will also create a fishery that is almost impossible to police. Nets will be moved to take advantage of a species that was not previously targeted in recent years. Hopefully we will remember what caused the collapse years ago. I release my by By-catch and it swims away. Unfortunately a net doesn't and never will.

#4- I am in favor of status quo for Tautog proposal. Same quota/limits/season.

#5- I'm in favor of tagging before off loading

6#- pilot program.

I'm in favor of adding 10 new users

I'm in favor of including original participants. (equipment investment)

I'm in favor of including sea bass

I'm in favor of choosing winter or summer for fluke.

This program allows me to fish safely (Choosing days)

This program creates less by-catch, allows fewer fuel costs, gives us time for proper repairs, Allows for quality time with family....

By extending this program we will get more data to make better decisions. Perhaps a questionnaire if people would participate ?

I prefer 7 days limit. But 6 days would cover expenses and be acceptable.

I prefer the program runs all season to harvest sea bass and fluke. This will also give us more DATA. If not Spring and early summer would be better than the fall when the weather is more unsettled for the program. Or first and second weeks of the month of the season.

Thank you for accepting my comments. David Fewster MP753

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Fewster](#)
To: [Lake, John \(DEM\)](#); [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Gillnet problem comment
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:25:37 AM

Good afternoon Folks,

During a recent striped bass conversation. The Gill net proposal came up. Many of the commercial group use gillnets to get bait (Pogies) in Narraganset bay Including myself. We get striped bass mixed in almost all the time all this is done at night. I don't know the numbers but allot of people use the 100' nets. I have personally seen multiple nets used in the bay and Bristol Harbour by a single vessel, no license is required. So we are not talking about 15 guys as stated at the Monday meeting the number is unknown... A 100 lbs of Pogies on your boat to equalize your "by-catch allowance" is a quick set in the spring. A quality gillnet For Pogies is \$175, a cheap investment to get 100lbs of Striped Bass "by-catch".

We all agree in a perfect world, there should be no wasted fish but unfortunately. The wheels are already turning to maximize on this Potential opportunity.

Please consider these facts when deciding on this proposal. Thankyou in advance.

David F

Sent from my iPhone

To The Rhode Island Fisheries Management Council,

My name is Dean Pesante, owner/operator of F/V Oceana based out of Point Judith, R.I. I am writing to you on behalf of myself and fellow Rhode Island gillnet fishermen to propose the inclusion of gillnets and gillnet fishermen in the General Category Striped Bass Fishery south of the line, outside of Narragansett Bay.

At the present time, gillnets are the only gear type not allowed to land striped bass in Rhode Island state waters south of the line stated above. NO user group or gear type should be more entitled to participate in this fishery than another user group or gear type. Not allowing gillnets and gillnet fishermen to land striped bass is arbitrary and discriminatory.

As gillnet fishermen, we DO NOT specifically target striped bass. However, while fishing within our main fisheries (bluefish, scup, dogfish, seabass, bonita, etc.), we inevitably catch a small percentage of striped bass. The current regulation has created a regulatory discard problem that we would like to address and resolve. The change we propose is to allow a given number of striped bass (as dictated by the general category trip limit) that we catch to be landed as bycatch with other fish from the day's catch. Specifically, we propose that the allowed total weight of striped bass landed (measured in pounds) to be equal to or lesser than the total combined weight of all other fish landed. In other words, striped bass would account for at most 50% of the total catch. Striped bass would not be landed exclusively.

This change in current regulation will allow us to fish in a more responsible manner without having to waste the resource by being forced to discard dead fish. Additionally, this change would provide us equal opportunities as other fishermen.

We feel this proposal is fair, equitable, and in the best interest of conservation and the gillnet fishery.

Respectfully,

Dean Pesante F/V Oceana

01/06/2022

From: [Parkins, Christopher \(DEM\)](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] : Strip bass quota
Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 9:10:39 AM

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From: Ian Cam <soups33@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 8:36:45 AM
To: Parkins, Christopher (DEM) <Christopher.Parkins@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Strip bass quota

My name is Ian Campbell as a fish trap owner I am against the September 1st rollover date. Also I support jeff grants comments on the Gill net proposal

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joe](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Gill Net Striped Bass proposal
Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 7:47:50 AM

Mr. Duhamel,

I relocated to Wakefield, RI 6 years ago and have been in awe of the south county shoreline fishing opportunities. To take steps that will present more challenges to the health of the striped bass population is a bad idea. Please consider ideas that will ensure a healthy striped bass population for years to come. Our children and grandchildren will appreciate your forward thinking.

Thank you for listening.

Joe Coppola

7 Misty Court

Wakefield, RI 02879-1631

From: [Jason Ferschke](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Support for Proposal #1 (Fluke, Seabass, Tog)
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 5:47:54 PM

Mr. Duhamel,

Please accept this email as my vote/voice of support for the following:

Black Sea Bass: Proposal #1
TauTog: Proposal #1
Fluke: Proposal #1

I believe that these proposals are a great step towards protecting our fisheries well into the future. No matter the species, on my boat they are all treated with respect with the hopes that my grandchildren will someday be able to enjoy saltwater fishing (In line with these proposals). I believe these proposals also seek to maintain balance with a give and take approach.

I appreciate the challenges of your agency and thank you for accepting the input.

Respectfully,

Jason Ferschke

Sent from my iPad

From: [micheal mcelroy](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Gill Nets
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 7:14:27 PM

Hi Peter

I,m 1000% against them // by catchif they have a 1000# on deck & they have moved a new to [catch] stripersthen they can take 1000# as by -catch

actually they know where to set an not to set . that would quickly change if this was to happen

the bass are already getting slammed by commercial at BI the NY charter an head boats that fish there

a n the EEZ an don,t give a damn about any laws , also the recs the pull large bass from the deep

while continuing to troll releasing them expecting them to surviveREALLY ??

thank you sir

Mike McElroy M/P 0087

From: [bruce bain](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Cc: [Andrea Chartier](#); [Joe Coppola](#); [Rich Heffernan](#); [Adam Jastrzebski](#); [Bruce Kindseth](#); [Richie Reich](#); [Mike Rogers](#); [Al Williams](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Gill netting
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 6:14:12 PM

Greetings mr duhamel,

My name is Bruce Bain and I'm currently president of Narragansett surf casters club we are a nonprofit group of like minded fisherman in south county ri, and I speak for our roughly 120 members that we strongly oppose the use of gill netting in ri or any coastal New England state. After witnessing the serious decline in the striped bass and bluefish stocks in recent years and considering these species are coastal migratory fish we feel that the use of gill nets will be devastating to our fishery. Thank you, BRUCE R BAIN president Narragansett Surfcasters
Sent from my iPad

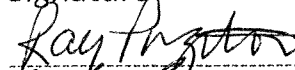
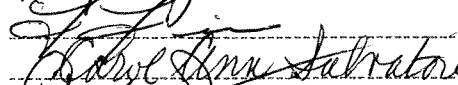
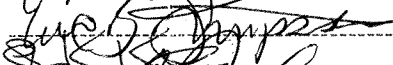
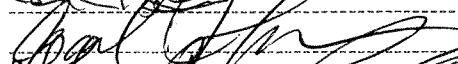
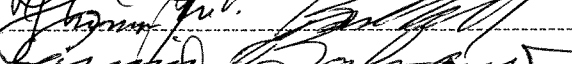

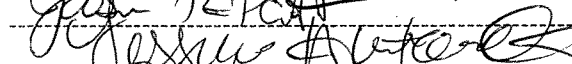
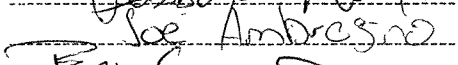
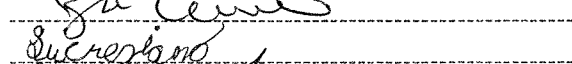
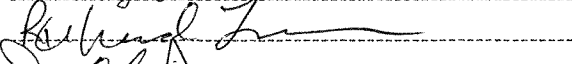
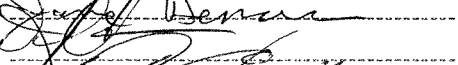






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Proposed Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Regulation Change

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	RAY PINGITORE
	F. FINA CAROL ANN SALVATORE
	ERIC STIMPSON
	R. Kevin King
	CARL JOHNSON
	THOMAS O. BRECKEL
	CARMINE BALZANO
	PAT SPITZER
	JASON PATRONO
	JESSICA ANTKOWIAK
	JOE AMBROSIO
	BRYAN CESARIO
	RICHARD LERNER
	JAMES DONOHUE
	ARTHUR CARDENTE
	PETER VESELLO
	KARL BIERMEIER
	ZACH BERNIER

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John F. Almagno Jr.
Stephen Almagno
Robert Cioffi
Richard Voccio
Ryan Voccio
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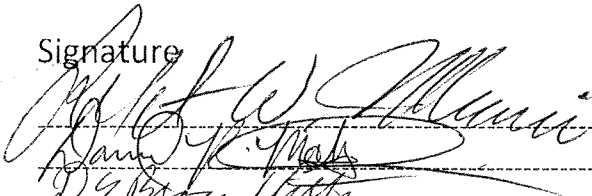
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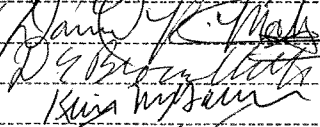
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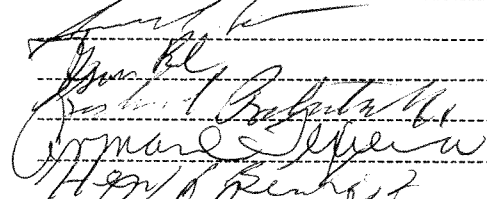
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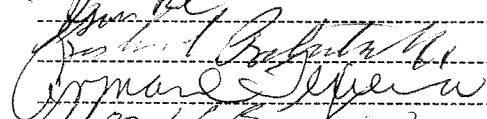
ROBERT W. MACCIONI



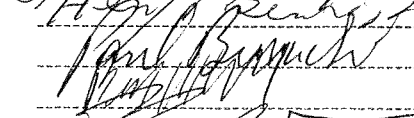
Daniel R. McGAHAN
DONALD BROUILLETTE
KEVIN MCGAHAN



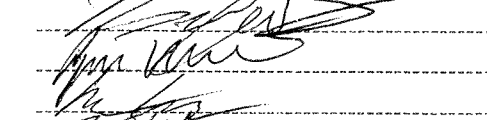
Donal Brouillette



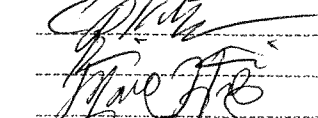
BRYAN BLUMBERG
RICHARD ROBERTAUX
ARMAND TEIXEIRA



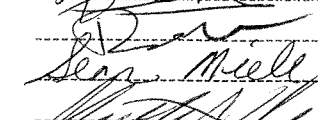
HENRY P. BERNACKI, JR.



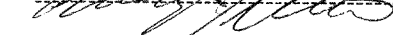
PAUL BERNACKI
BRUCE WEINSTEIN



BRUCE WEINSTEIN



Brad Bush
Ryan Mangini
Matthew Miner
Charles Keller



Brian Lappin
manuel herrera



RICHARD VALES, J.



SEAN J. MIDDLE

CHRISTOPHER J. CACCIA

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Joe Scichilone Jr
~~John~~
~~John~~
S. P. C.
Kurt Kurt
Kurt Kurt
Buana Scichilone
Una Mahoney

Keith Gorman
Joe Scichilone Jr
Greg Mahoney
Ryle Kellin
Scott Carson
Scott Wright
Scott Martin
Bridget Scichilone
Tina Monney

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John Martini
Rita Martini

John MARTINI

Rita Martini

Richard Sparrow
Daniel Northrup

RICHARD SPARROW

DANIEL NORTHROP

Pasquale Dinonsie

DANIEL NORTHROP

PASQUALE DINONSIE

Anthony Nero

ANTHONY NERO

Bill Wall

BILL WALL

Jack Stanley

JACK STANLEY

John J. Sheldon

JOHN SHELTON III

Greg Caira

GRUBA

Al Dion

AL DION

Rosetta Rao

ROSETTA RAO

Raymond Morocco

RAYMOND MORRISCO

Joe Goodness

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Raymond G. Rao

RAYMOND G. RAO

Bill Allen

BILL ALLEN

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Cliff Richer
Kevin Stone
Robert L. Grillo
Albert J. Vickers
BV
Tara Valles
Gary Hazard
Dick Murphy
Nancy Stefano

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David R. Rocchio	David R. Rocchio
Michael Flek	MICHAEL FLEK
Anita Whelan	ANITA WHELAN
Michael Scichilone	Michael Scichilone
Susan M Scichilone	Susan M Scichilone
Michael Rocchio	Michael Rocchio
Phillip P Bocchio	PHILLIP BOCCHIO
Phillip Lomastro	Phillip Lomastro
Linda Lomastro	Linda Lomastro
Bryan Kelly	BRYAN KELLY
Brian Campbell	Brian Campbell

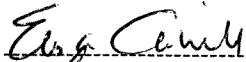
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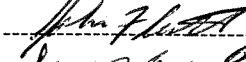
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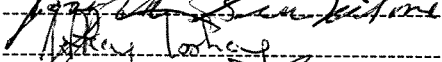
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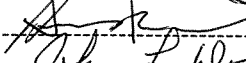
Elisa Camill



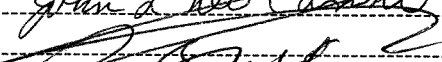
John Sartbeer



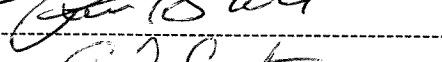
Joseph A. Scialdone



Jeffrey Tashay



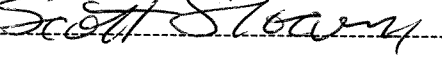
H.R. Bob Smart



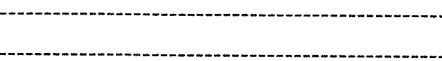
John N & D. Panni



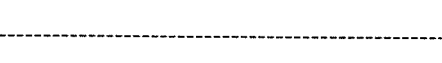
Michael Blatt



Al Conti



DAN WALTER



SCOTT SLOCUM

From: [Rich Hittinger](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Cc: [Greg F Vespe](#); [Dawn Wood](#); [McManus, Conor \(DEM\)](#); [Lake, John \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Comments regarding Gill net proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 4:01:16 PM

I am writing these comments in addition to the comments that RISAA provided at the Public Hearing held on February 7, 2022 relative to Proposed amendments to commercial striped bass management regarding the gill netting prohibition (section 3.11.2(C)).

As Chair of the RISAA Legislative Committee these comments reflect the voice of the RISAA membership. At the February 7 hearing Greg Vespe spoke on behalf of the RISAA membership in opposition to allowing gill net boats to possess and sell striped bass.

This email supports that comment. Since the hearing we have heard from more of our members why this is not a good idea for striped bass at this time. Here are some reasons for our conclusion:

1. The striped bass biomass is already on the decline and any additional fishing pressure could cause a negative impact on the population.
2. Gill nets have a history in RI (when gill nets were allowed for striped bass harvest) of setting and hauling nets very close to shore where they have been in conflict with recreational fishing both from shore and from small boats.
3. Allowing the sale of striped bass by gill net fishers could actually increase dead discards because if nets are placed in an area where striped bass may be caught there may be far more dead discards considering that only 5 fish per day can be retained.
4. Any further benefit to gill net fishing may increase the number of commercial fishers who actively fish gill nets.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Rich Hittinger
1st Vice President
Legislative Committee Chairman
Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

Captain Mark Sherer
Gannet Outdoor Adventures
1059 Frenchtown Road
East Greenwich, RI 02818

February 20, 2022

Mr. Pete Duhamel
3 Ft. Wetherill Rd
Jamestown, RI 02835

Dear Mr Duhamel:

With regard to recreational Black Sea Bass, Fluke, Tautog and Scup, I support the Proposals set forth in the RI Charter and Party Boat Association letter dated February 15, 2022.

With regard to Commercial General Category Striped Bass, I support the Division proposal. In addition, I support changing the floating fish trap rollover provision to roll 50% of any remaining floating fish trap allocation on September 1.

My opinion of the industry proposal to remove the gillnet prohibition on Striped Bass is that this would motivate gill net fisherman to target Striped Bass and result in more dead discards than we are currently experiencing. There are approximately 190 gill net endorsements with 25 active. If the prohibition is lifted, some number of the 165 inactive will choose to put nets in the water.

If the Council, Department and Director ultimately choose to allow this prohibition, I propose a sunset clause with an evaluation period before continuing in future seasons. I also propose that the daily limit for gillnet should be 2 fish. This would deter gillnet fisherman from targeting Striped Bass and also deter inactive fisherman from becoming active.

Respectfully Submitted

Captain Mark Sherer

Good Evening Mr. Duhamel

My name is Stesha Campbell. I am part owner of a fish trap company operating out of Point Judith. It has been brought to my attention that the DEM is considering making a hard rollover date of September first, moving all remaining trap quota of striped bass to the general category. I am strongly opposed to this amendment and am in favor of the current status quo.

Regards,

Stesha Campbell

From: [Jeff Grant](#)
To: [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#); [Ballou, Robert \(DEM\)](#); [McManus, Conor \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Fwd: Striped Bass Regs
Date: Friday, February 18, 2022 12:55:59 PM

Striped Bass quota management comments:

As a floating trap owner, I am against a mandatory rollover of quota to the general category on sept 1. This is well before we even have an opportunity to catch bass during the fall run, usually from sept 20-oct 10. It would completely remove any chance of having a successful fishery.

Also, if there was little quota left it would take away at least half, giving us no chance to fill our allocation. While the system we use is not perfect, it has worked well up until the last couple years when a fall run of bass never materialized. The comments I have herd all relate to not leaving fish on the table. If the council/director does not allow gillnetting for bass as currently proposed year round under the GC quota, I believe a solution to many of the issues brought forward for striped bass could be solved by adopting the following language:

For section 3.11.2 C
change to:

C. Gillnet Prohibition for Striped Bass: No person shall take or possess any striped bass while gillnetting, or while hauling a gillnet from 1/1 to 9/30 nor from 10/1 thru 12/31 without an equivalent weight of other fish on board

This allows for the harvest of striped bass by gill net under the general category fishery from 10/1 thru 12/31 as an incidental fishery

This accomplishes the following goals/alleviates these concern:

- 1) Gill nets are capable of harvesting striped bass later in the year, after the general category has greatly reduced harvest rates. This would allow gill netting to harvest remaining general category quota that could otherwise go unharvested. There would be no competition with rod and reel fishermen, as they have mostly stopped harvest by these dates as seen in the harvest rates from the prior 2 years
- 2) It would eliminate the need to roll over floating fish trap quota to the general category at an early date. This would allow the floating fish traps to fish into the fall without having quota removed from the category prior to the "fall run" of bass. It would give the trap operators the greatest chance for success, while simultaneously reducing the chance of leaving fish unharvested from the states overall quota
- 3) It would allow the ONLY gear type not permitted to harvest striped bass access to a valuable fishery, one they were once allowed to participate in historically.
- 4) The general category quota would be unaffected by such a change.
- 5) Fits into the standard set in Title 20 to fishery management that states:
(G) Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable: (I) Minimize by-catch and (II) To the extent by-catch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of the by-catch;

By allowing harvest of striped bass by gillnets, fish that were required to be discarded may now be kept, sold and counted against the state quota, all while having a negligible impact on existing fisheries.

6) Would give a "soft opening" for gillnetting striped bass that would be much easier to monitor for the state and act as a trial run to see the effects of gill netting on the general category landings

Thank you,
Jeff Grant

From: [Joe Macari](#)
To: [Lengyel, Nicole \(DEM\)](#)
Cc: [Lake, John \(DEM\)](#); [McNamee, Jason \(DEM\)](#); [Ballou, Robert \(DEM\)](#); [Duhamel, Peter \(DEM\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Removal of Gillnet prohibition on striped bass
Date: Saturday, February 19, 2022 3:49:55 PM

I would like to address the Industry Proposal that was brought forth at the RIDEM Workshop held on Jan 4, 2022, i.e., concerning the RI Commercial Striped Bass fishery:

Industry Proposal #1-

- **Remove gillnet prohibition on striped bass**
- **Gillnetters encountering striped bass resulting in unnecessary discards**
- **Request allowance for a small number of fish**
- **Considerations:**
 - **Possession Limit**
 - **GC or FFT quota**

I do not believe that the above proposal is good for the Commercial Striped Bass fishery in Rhode Island.

As it is, General Category (and Floating Fish Trap fishery) has seen its RI quota reduced over the past several years due to changes made by the Atlantic Coast Marine Fishery Council relative to management measures to reduce mortality, etc.

We DO NOT need another user group to participate in the fishery with the little amount of fish available to the established user groups historically involved with the fishery at this point in time.

The gillnetters claim in their proposal that "Gillnetters encountering striped bass resulting in unnecessary discards";

I do not believe that is justification to include them in a commercial striped bass category (General) that is already seeing their viable catch availability being reduced on a somewhat consistent basis.

RIDEM has indicated that there are currently 199 gillnet endorsements in Rhode Island. Currently, catch and effort data indicates that about 25 gillnetters are actively fishing. With a 5 fish limit per day, four days a week, it is possible that 2500 pounds (based on 20 pound average fish weight) of striped bass could be caught and sold daily or possibly 10,000 pounds per week. AND with the gillnet fishery legally allowed to land bass, there will be an incentive for additional, previously inactive gillnetters to actively participate in the fishery. For sure, added pressure will be directed to an already diminished fishery. AND that added pressure will create EVEN MORE dead-by-catch. I do not believe that is the way Rhode Island would want to be represented in the current striped bass fishery.

The General Category Quota is a mostly rod and reel fishery; we must be an ACTIVE participatory fishery in order to be successful; as is, the rod and reel fishery only has several viable commercial fish that we can direct our efforts towards. I believe it would be prudent on the Department to let the present General Category striped bass fishery REMAIN AS IS.

In summation, I am NOT in favor of Industry Proposal #1

Secondly, I am in support of Status Quo for the commercial Striped Bass General Category, i.e.,-

” **2022 Management:** The Division is not proposing changes to commercial GC Striped Bass management for 2022”.

I would suggest that the opening be moved to May 23, which is a Monday

I would also support **part** of Industry Proposal #2-

FFT ROLLOVER:

- **On September 1, a minimum of 50% of the remaining FFT allocation shall be transferred to the GC and the GC fishery shall be opened until that allocation is estimated to be harvested.**

Sincerely,

Joe Macari

jmacari1@cox.net

PEL# 793