

Mike Avery
32 Mizzen Circle
Hampton, VA 23664
757-329-5137
Email: mike@averys.net

Mr. Rob O'Reilly
Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament
Virginia Marina Resource Commission
2600 Washington Ave. Third Floor
Newport News, VA 23607

Dear Mr. O'Reilly

19 Mar 2015

I am both a recreational angler and charter captain and can offer perspectives from both groups.

Coastal Striped Bass Regulations. I support the FMAC recommendation of 2 fish per person 33 inches or over during the coast striped bass seasons. The coastal stocks rarely come inside 3 miles anymore. The last time I caught a coastal striped bass was 2012 despite attempts each year. I feel that Virginia will meet (and exceed) all targeted goals in the coastal zone with the 2 fish limit at 33 inches. Few boats even attempt to target striped bass during the coastal season anymore but when we do make an attempt a 2 fish limit is not an unreasonable outcome.

Chesapeake Bay Spring and Fall Seasons. I support the VMRC and FMAC recommendations as stated.

Tile Fishery. Strongly encourage VRMC representatives to do all actions necessary to prevent SAFMC recommendations to extend the 1 fish limit northward to VA and north. That would essentially shut down all deep dropping off Virginia. The combined 7 fish pp (golden and blueline combined) is reasonable and VA should keep that in place. VMRC should also follow up with MAFMC to ensure all northern states adopt similar regulations like VA to keep the northern states from overfishing our stocks.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mike Avery