

Bonus Striped Bass Fishing Program

2017 Program Highlights

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is again conducting the **Bonus Striped Bass Fishing Program, which will run from May 1 through December 31 in 2017**. DEEP will be distributing TWO Harvest Tags and harvest Report Cards per license holder this year. The tag must be securely affixed to the jaw of the fish immediately upon harvest and must remain on the fish until you arrive home. The harvest report card must also be completed upon harvesting a qualifying fish. The report card must be returned to DEEP within two days of harvest. The cards are pre-addressed to Marine Fisheries and are also postage pre-paid. You simply need to drop the completed card in any mail box.

Tags will be available beginning Thursday, April 20th at the DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below. There is a limit of TWO TAGS annually per Connecticut fishing license holder. However, for convenience, one person may pick up at most FOUR tags by presenting valid Connecticut fishing licenses for two anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a tags by signing up for a free [Youth Fishing Passport](#). **Tags will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.**



DEEP Offices/Facilities	Address	Town	State	Zip
Marine Headquarters , M-F 8am-4pm, 860-434-6043	333 Ferry Road	Old Lyme	CT	06371
Eastern District , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-295-9523	209 Hebron Ave	Marlborough	CT	06447
Western District , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-485-0226	230 Plymouth Rd	Harwinton	CT	06791
Franklin WMA , 860-642-7239 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm	391 Route 32	Franklin	CT	06254
Sessions Woods WMA , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-675-8130	341 Milford Street (Rte 69)	Burlington	CT	06013
CTDEEP Main Office M-F 9am-4pm, 860-424-3105	79 Elm Street	Hartford	CT	06106

Program Objectives / Ways to Use the Voucher

The striped bass bonus fishery is an opportunity to harvest a limited number of smaller (22 inch to less than 28 inches) striped bass during May through December, both in the Marine and Inland Districts of Connecticut state waters only. The Bonus fishery was approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Striped Bass Management Board which oversees the conservation of the species throughout its range. Addendum IV to the Striped Bass Fishery Management, adopted in October 2014, allocates a 17,813 pound commercial striped bass quota to Connecticut (25% reduction from previous years -effective in 2015) which is being used in this program to provide this additional recreational fishing opportunity since commercial striped bass harvest is prohibited in this state. **The unused commercial quota equates to 3,018 fish available for harvest under this program.**

Anglers are also encouraged to use this program to introduce a friend, neighbor or child to fishing: "Share the Experience – Take Someone Fishing". The department is also interested in encouraging and enhancing urban and shore fishing opportunity which the bonus striper program is especially well suited for. Bass fishermen generally may want to hold onto a tag to use if an undersized fish intended for release is deep hooked or otherwise unlikely to survive. Alternatively, anglers should consider taking a smaller bonus fish home for a meal and releasing the larger (28"+) "spawner" fish.

BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM

2 Report your Catch

Marine Fisheries Program (deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or phone: 860-434-6043)

2017 Connecticut Bonus Striped Bass Reporting Card

To be completed upon harvest of a qualifying fish

Date: / **2017**

(mm) (dd)

Total length: 22" 23" 24" 25" 26" 27"

Please circle one length. Drop fractional lengths: for example, mark 25 3/4" as 25"

The bonus striped bass must have a tag immediately attached upon harvest of a qualifying fish.
Please return this reporting card to DEEP Marine Fisheries within 48 hours of harvesting a bonus striped bass.

Conservation ID #

A bonus striped bass is a striped bass at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches in total length harvested from Connecticut waters between May 1 and December 31, 2017 and accompanied by a valid reporting card and tag.

- Fish must be tagged immediately.**
- ONE (1) bonus fish may be harvested per day.
- Valid May 1 through Dec. 31, 2017.
- Valid only in Connecticut State Waters.

Questions?
www.ct.gov/deep/saltwaterfishing
 Phone: 860-434-6043
 E-mail: deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

Program Regulations

- A bonus striped bass is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- Open Season: May 1 through December 31, 2017.
- **Only one bonus striped bass may be harvested daily.**
- The fish must be tagged immediately upon harvest, with the tag securely affixed to the lower jaw.
- The tag must remain on the fish until you have returned to your home or other location where the fish is to be consumed.
- Anglers are also required to complete a bonus striper report card provided with the tag immediately upon harvesting a qualifying fish.
- Mail the report card back to Marine Fisheries within two days of harvesting the fish. The card is already addressed and postage pre-paid for return on the reverse side. It's free, so please mail it back to assure continuation of this program.
- Tags are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of one (1) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

Bonus Tag Distribution

A total of 3,018 Tags will be made available at DEEP offices/facilities, distributed by ENCON Officers, and CT DEEP Marine Angler Survey creel agents. There is no fee for the tags. A limited number of tags will be reserved for programs such as *"Take a Kid Fishing"*, *"Take a Veteran Fishing"*, Municipal youth and urban fishing programs. Please contact Marine Fisheries (deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or telephone: 860-434-6043) if your organization supports such a program and you would like to receive tags.