



## Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

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### **ASMFC to Extend Striped Bass Season**

(PASADENA, MD) - MSSA Executive Director Richard Novotny and Past President Bill Windley attended the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) meeting on Monday, October 20, 2008 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. They attended the meeting to hear the fate of Maryland's recreational trophy season for 2009. Although the Striped Bass Management Board removed the quota base system for the 2008 season, they only made it for a one year period.

Maryland proposed basically the same season as last year but with no closures for the 15th and 16th of May. The proposal will allow for one fish over a minimum size of 28" from the third weekend in April to May 15th. Starting May 16th through December 15th the creel limit will be two fish a day over the minimum size of 18", however, only one of those fish can exceed 28". Maryland also asked for an extended season to go through December 31st, which was passed by the Management Board.

Finally, Maryland made a motion that they would no longer be tied to a quota base system and would fish as other states along the coast with no cap on the fisheries. This motion passed after much discussion from several states. This motion will stay in place for 2009 and subsequent years until corrective action is required for the coastal migratory striped bass population.