

HOUSE No. 00260

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas M. Stanley

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the conservation of Atlantic striped bass.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

Thomas M. Stanley

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

9th Middlesex

HOUSE No. 00260

By Mr. Thomas M. Stanley of Waltham, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00260) of Thomas M. Stanley that the advisory commission of the Division of Marine Fisheries adopt rules and regulations relative to the taking or possession of wild striped bass by recreational angling
□. Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to the conservation of Atlantic striped bass.

□.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by
- 2 the authority of the same, as follows:
- 3 SECTION 1. Section 110A of chapter 130 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official
- 4 Edition, is hereby amended by striking the section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the
- 5 following sentences:- (a) Commercial harvesting and sale of wild striped bass shall be prohibited
- 6 in the commonwealth.
- 7 The director, with the approval of the marine fisheries advisory commission, shall adopt rules
- 8 and
- 9 regulations relative to the taking or possession of wild striped bass by recreational angling,

10 provided that in no instance shall any rule or regulation authorize the taking or possession of
11 striped bass which are less than 20 inches in length or greater than 26 inches total length but less
12 than 40 inches total length. It is unlawful to take or possess striped bass unless the fish are whole
13 with head on and are between 20 and 26 inches total length or 40 inches and greater total length.
14 (b) It is unlawful to take or possess more than one (1) striped bass each day. (c) All aquaculture
15 raised striped bass for sale in the commonwealth shall bear the tag of the grower
16 or distributor of the fish. (d) Whoever violates any rules or regulations made pursuant to this
17 section shall be punished by a
18 fine of not less than two hundred dollars for each fish taken or possessed for the first violation,
19 five hundred dollars for each fish taken or possessed for the second violation and for each
20 subsequent violation shall be fined one thousand dollars for each fish taken or possessed or
21 imprisoned not more than sixty days or both. No part of any fine imposed for the taking or
22 possession of any striped bass in violation of any such regulation shall be remitted. (e) SECTION
23 2. The striped bass quota for commercial fishing provided to the Commonwealth of
24 Massachusetts by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission shall not be added to
25 recreational fishing quotas. Said quota shall be set aside for conservation and the Director of the
26 Division of Marine Fisheries shall use his best efforts in working with the Commission to see
27 that the amount of this quota is not given to other states but remains the property of the
28 Commonwealth to be used for conservation of striped bass.