

HOUSE No. 4169

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to the conservation of 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 SECTION 1. There shall be a special commission to examine the status of wild striped
2 bass in the Commonwealth.

3 SECTION 2. The commission shall examine and assess the impact that commercial
4 harvesting and recreational fishing have upon the population and viability of wild striped bass in
5 the Commonwealth.

6 SECTION 3. The commission shall consist of a member of the Senate appointed by the
7 President of the Senate; a member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
8 the House of Representatives; a member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
9 a member of the House of Representatives appointed by the House Minority leader; the Secretary
10 of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs or his designee; the Secretary of
11 the Executive Office of Health and Human Services or his designee; the Secretary of the
12 Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development or his designee; a representative from
13 the commercial fishing industry; a representative from the sports fishing industry; 3 independent

14 representatives from the marine science industry who are experts in fisheries, to be chosen by the
15 governor. The members of the commission shall be appointed not later 90 days after the
16 effective date of this act and shall serve until the completion of the report.

17 SECTION 4. The commission shall hold public hearings in Gloucester, New Bedford,
18 Boston, and on Cape Cod to assist in the collection and evaluation of data and testimony.

19 SECTION 5. The commission shall prepare a written report detailing its findings and
20 recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry those
21 recommendations into effect. The commission shall submit its report to the governor, the
22 secretary of the commonwealth, the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, the house
23 and senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on environment, natural
24 resources and agriculture not later than December 31 of 2017.