

Striped Bass

Morone saxatilis

STATUS

BAY OF FUNDY POPULATION

Endangered



GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE POPULATION

Special Concern



No Status



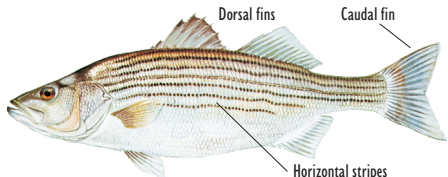
No Status



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Species Description

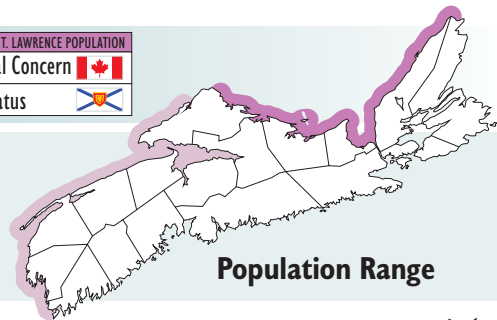
The Striped Bass is a large, elongate, laterally-compressed fish that can reach lengths up to one metre in Canadian waters. It has silvery sides with horizontal dark stripes, an olive green back, and a white belly.



- Triangular head and large mouth
- 7-8 dark horizontal stripes; some extend to the tail
- 2 dorsal fins (first has spines)
- Lower jaw protrudes over top

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The two populations of Striped Bass in Nova Scotia are at risk.



Population Range

Habitat

The Striped Bass uses many habitats throughout its life cycle and moves between fresh and salt water. Striped Bass spawn in the spring in fresh or brackish waters. Juveniles and adults can be found throughout the summer and fall in saltwater, coastal and estuarine habitats and are often reported to be found in eelgrass. They generally migrate to estuaries or freshwater rivers and lakes to overwinter from December to March, however they may also stay in the marine environment.



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Freshwater habitat



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Marine habitat

Striped Bass are found in coastal, estuarine and freshwater waters in areas with abundant food sources.

Interesting Points

- Can live over 30 years and generally spawn every year after 5-6 years old!
- They are an important part of the ecosystem because they are at the top of the food web.
- Historically they spawned in five rivers in Atlantic Canada, but now only spawn in the Miramichi River (NB) and the Stewiacke River (NS).



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TRACK STRIPED BASS!

www.trackmyfish.ca
Report your catches and any tagged Striped Bass on www.trackmyfish.ca. This site tells you where your fish was originally tagged and other information about catches in Atlantic Canada.



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Similar Species

White Perch (*Morone americana*): Part of the bass family and found in fresh and brackish water. Grows up to 50 cm long, is deeper bodied, and it has a lateral line, but no prominent horizontal stripes.



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Threats to Survival

- Overfishing (direct, by-catch, poaching).
- Abandonment of historical spawning grounds.
- Habitat degradation and loss (physical alteration, reduction in water quality, changes to water flow).
- Chemical contaminants (agricultural and industrial).
- Competition from freshwater alien invasive species.



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Young steward aging fish scales



© ALICIA PRAY-LESLIE

Striped Bass research

How You Can Help

Become a STRIPED AmBASSador and provide catch information, help with conservation efforts, and provide details of your angling practices. Anglers can complete a striped bass angler survey at www.stripedbass.ca. Return Striped Bass to the water gently and remember to aerate its gills. A healthy fish will swim away quickly!

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture inland@novascotia.ca

Info: www.stripedbass.ca, www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes

Sighting Reports: www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings, www.trackmyfish.ca

Stewardship: STRIPED AmBASSador Program: www.stripedbass.ca