



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 929

LCO No. 3236



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR THE TAKING OF STRIPED BASS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 26-159a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 To establish and manage populations of marine and anadromous
4 finfish and marine arthropods and to facilitate the establishment of
5 unified coast-wide regulations in accordance with the provisions of
6 fishery management plans developed pursuant to the Fishery
7 Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-265, as
8 amended) or other regional fishery management authorities, the
9 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may adopt
10 regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 governing
11 possession of such species, sport fishing and commercial fishing by
12 persons fishing for such species in the waters of this state or landing
13 such species in this state, regardless of where such species were taken.
14 Such regulations may: (1) Establish the open and closed seasons; (2)
15 establish hours, days or periods during the open season when fishing

16 shall not be permitted in designated waters or areas for all or limited
17 species by all or limited methods; (3) establish legal lengths; (4) prescribe
18 the legal methods of sport fishing for all or limited species; (5) establish
19 for sport fishing the daily creel limit, the season creel limit and the
20 possession limit; (6) restrict sport fishing from boats and other floating
21 devices and sport fishing from designated areas; (7) determine the
22 species which may be taken by commercial fishing methods, provided
23 striped bass, Atlantic salmon, other anadromous salmon, brown trout,
24 rainbow trout and brook trout may only be taken by angling and, if
25 taken in the waters of this state, shall not be sold, bartered, exchanged
26 or offered for sale, barter or exchange; (8) prescribe the legal methods of
27 commercial fishing; (9) determine the specifications, materials and
28 dimensions of nets, seines, fykes, traps, pounds, trawls, trolling gear,
29 long lines, set lines and other commercial fishing gear used in the waters
30 of this state; (10) regulate the use and marking of commercial fishing
31 gear, including boats used to conduct activities authorized pursuant to
32 section 26-142a; (11) determine the number and size of finfish and
33 marine arthropods which may be taken by commercial fishermen; (12)
34 determine the total number and pounds of finfish and marine
35 arthropods, by species, which may be taken by commercial fishing
36 methods or for commercial purposes during a calendar year or lesser
37 period; (13) prohibit the landing of protected species; (14) for a fishing
38 derby or tournament, require that such activity be registered and that
39 an accurate report of all fish tagged, marked and taken, time spent on
40 an area and any other data required by the commissioner for
41 management purposes be returned within a specified period of time.
42 Any person who violates any regulation concerning sport fishing
43 adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 and this section
44 shall have committed an infraction and may pay the fine by mail or
45 plead not guilty under the provisions of section 51-164n. [, except that
46 any person who violates any regulation adopted in accordance with the
47 provisions of chapter 54 and this section pertaining to the taking of
48 striped bass shall be fined one hundred dollars for each fish taken or
49 possessed for the first violation, be fined two hundred dollars for each
50 fish taken or possessed for the second violation and be fined five

51 hundred dollars for each fish taken or possessed or imprisoned not more
52 than thirty days, or both for each subsequent violation. No part of any
53 fine imposed for the taking or possession of any striped bass in violation
54 of any such regulation shall be remitted.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-159a
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Statement of Purpose:

To make the enforcement of striped bass fishing regulations more effective.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]