

**Striped Bass Spring Catch and Release Proposal  
For Public Scoping on November 16, 2009**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service will hold a Regulatory Scoping Public Meeting on November 16, 2009 from 6-7 pm in Calvary United Methodist Church, 301 Rowe Blvd., Annapolis, MD 21401. The scoping meeting will be held to discuss draft regulatory options for striped bass catch & release fishing during the time frame March 1 through the third Friday of April.

The Department will be scoping two regulatory ideas designed to mitigate the impacts of catch and release trolling for large pre-spawn striped bass between March 1 through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of April. Fishing effort has increased annually during the months of March and April, and the impacts of handling and releasing pre-spawn striped bass on the ability of those fish to successfully spawn are uncertain. These concerns and potential options were discussed on October 20, by the Sport and Tidal Fish Advisory Commissions. The Department has considered the public comment, and has drafted the following two proposals which are designed to reduce the impact of handling pre-spawn fish as a compromise between various stakeholder group positions. The Department is seeking public comment on the following proposals:

<b>Proposal 1.</b>	<b>Proposal 2.</b>
Prohibit stinger hooks	Prohibit stinger hooks
Require the use non-offset circle hooks or "J" hooks with a gap of less than 1/2 inch when using bait	Require the use non-offset circle hooks or "J" hooks with a gap of less than 1/2 inch when using bait
Limit the number of lines to 6 per boat when trolling	Limit the number of lines to 6 per boat when trolling
Require barbless hooks when trolling	Require barbless hooks when trolling
<b>Prohibit <u>trolling</u> on three days Mon, Wed., and Fri.</b>	<b>Prohibit fishing for (<u>targeting</u>) striped bass three days on Mon, Wed., and Fri.</b>

All interested parties are invited to attend and give their views. Sign language interpreters and other appropriate accommodations will be provided upon request