

Please Handle Bass with Care and Respect



UMassAmherst



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Striped bass image courtesy of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

striped bass

CATCH AND RELEASE



Best practices to help boost survival rates

By utilizing best catch and release practices, anglers can ensure greater chances of survival of released striped bass thus increasing angler contributions to conservation of this important recreational species.

do



- Release the fish without taking it out of the water.
- Handle fish with wet hands or gloves.
- Cradle fish with one hand under the belly and one under the shoulder.
- Resuscitate bass by pulling it forward or in a figure eight through the water by the lower lip. Never move it backwards.
- Get the fish back in the water quickly! Try to limit air exposure to 15 seconds.
- Use barbless hooks for quick release.
- Use circle hooks when bait fishing.
- Leave deep hooks in the fish by cutting the leader off close to the hook.

Improper practices that may unintentionally injure striped bass intended for release.

don't



- Lift bass by the mouth or tail. This can cause serious internal injury.
- Handle bass with dry hands.
- Drag fish across dry sand or excessively handle fish in a manner that removes their protective mucous coating.
- Kick or step on fish. You will damage internal organs.
- Touch the red gill rakers or gill area. They are the equivalent of your lungs.
- Gaff a fish you intend to release.
- Release a bass without first resuscitating.

Photos by Bob Popovics and Tom Lynch