

S.Y.C. 2021 FIFTEENTH SEASON-LONG STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENT

THE TOURNAMENT WILL START 6:00 A.M., FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2021, AND END 6:00 P.M., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021. THE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021, AT 6:00 PM AT THE SYC.

Rules (Stripers must be caught in Massachusetts waters. All state laws apply.)

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** A. **MEMBERS** Members and their immediate family, and guests fishing with a member on a member's boat, or from Swampscott's pier, or beaches.
B. **FISH** After the first three stripers are entered in the tournament, an additional striper must displace a striper already in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in order to be entered on the Standings sheet. This is for conservation. Stay up-to-date. Standings are posted at the SYC. Call Gene O'Brien if you have any questions.
2. **ENTRY FEE:** \$30.00/person. Give it to Gene O'Brien. If you enter the tournament after it starts you must wait 24 hours before entering an eligible fish.
3. From the moment a fish takes the bait or lure, that angler alone must hook and fight the fish, and no other person may touch the rod, reel, or line to assist the angler in any way, except another person may grasp the line, leader, or fish, so as to land the fish.
4. Here's how to measure your fish:
 - Measure from the tip of the lower jaw (with the mouth closed if possible) to the farthest extremity of the tail. Measure to the nearest 1/4".
 - Photograph the striper with the measuring tape in full view below or above the fish (not under the fish or on top of it).
 - The longest fish wins. (Recommended in the event there is a tie: Tie breaker: take a second measurement/pic of the girth of the fish. Start with the tape at the front of the dorsal fin. If there is a tie, e.g., two fish weighing in at 44" apiece, the one with the largest girth will win.)
5. The weigh slip must be filled out and given to Gene O'Brien promptly. If there is a witness please have the witness sign your weigh slip (Recommended, but not required).
6. **WINNERS** There will be four winners, the first three by length, and the fourth by "luck of the draw" which is drawn from a hat containing the names of all individuals in the tournament. The split: 40/30/20/10. You can only win one place. You must be present at the awards presentation to win "luck of the draw" and available door prizes, if any.*
7. All weigh slips and photographs must be given to Gene O'Brien. No weigh slip/photo = no prize. Stripers caught during another SYC tournament are eligible – and all Season Long Tournament Rules apply.

Entry forms and weigh slips will be available at the Club, online at the SYC website, and from Gene O'Brien. Any questions call Gene O'Brien at 617-271-6509. Deliver entry fees and weigh slips in hand to Gene O'Brien at the SYC/pier, the beach, boat-to-boat, 11 Fuller Ave., Swampscott, etc.

* Exceptions: members of the military who for service reasons cannot attend, and college students who are away at school. You must notify Gene O'Brien at least seven days before the tournament ends.

TIGHT LINES

S.Y.C

2021

SEASON LONG TOURNAMENT

ENTRY FORM

NAME(S) _____

(If not a member include name of member with whom you will be fishing.)

TELEPHONE _____

BOAT NAME _____

\$30.00 PER PERSON

(Cash, or check made payable to Gene O'Brien.)

You must make sure your weigh slip and photograph(s) are delivered to Gene O'Brien. No weigh slip and photo = no prize.

WEIGH SLIP FOR SYC SEASON LONG TOURNAMENT

ANGLER'S NAME _____

DATE AND TIME CAUGHT _____

LENGTH* _____ INCHES

* From the tip of the lower jaw (with the mouth closed if possible) to the farthest extremity of the tail.

WITNESS'S SIGNATURE _____

PRINTED NAME

OF WITNESS _____

You must make sure your weigh slip/photos are delivered to Gene O'Brien. Send photos to Gene at: geneardri@hotmail.com or text them to Gene at: 617-271-6509. PLEASE: Follow up with a call to Gene to be sure he has received your photos.

WEIGH SLIP FOR SYC SEASON LONG TOURNAMENT

ANGLER'S NAME _____

DATE AND TIME CAUGHT _____

LENGTH* _____ INCHES

* From the tip of the lower jaw (with the mouth closed if possible) to the farthest extremity of the tail.

WITNESS'S SIGNATURE _____

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You must make sure your weigh slips/photos are delivered to Gene O'Brien. Send photos to Gene at: geneardri@hotmail.com or text them to Gene at: 617-271-6509. PLEASE: Follow up with a call to Gene to be sure he has received your photos.

April 16, 2021

Revised Circle Hook Requirement for 2021

Beginning this 2021 fishing season, all recreational anglers—including those fishing onboard for-hire vessels—who are fishing for striped bass with bait are required to use inline (non-offset) circle hooks. This shall not apply to any artificial lure with bait attached. Bait is defined as any marine or aquatic organism, live or dead, whole or parts thereof. Striped bass caught on an unapproved method of take (while targeting other finfish species)—such as a baited J hook or treble hook—must be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury.

This circle hook requirement is mandated coastwide through the interstate fishery management plan to increase the survival of striped bass caught and released in the recreational fishery. Recreational discard mortality has grown to be the greatest source of fishing mortality on the striped bass population given the great popularity of the fishery along the eastern seaboard. When used during bait fishing, inline circle hooks reduce the likelihood of “deep hooking” a fish, which in turn decreases the chance that a released fish will die due to injuries sustained from being caught.

Please note that this requirement applies to all recreational anglers, whether fishing from shore, a private vessel, or a for-hire charter or party boat. The exemption in place in Massachusetts during 2020 for anglers aboard for-hire vessels has been rescinded for compliance with the interstate plan.

The hook of an artificial lure does not need to be an inline circle hook to have bait attached. This allowance provides for the continued use of tackle such as a tube-and-worm rig, a bucktail jig tipped with a pork rind, and an eel skin plug. Conversely, a rigged eel (a whole dead eel with hooks threaded through its body) cannot be used unless the hooks are inline circle hooks, and a menhaden snagged on a treble hook cannot be used as bait until transferred onto an inline circle hook.

An inline circle hook is defined as a fishing hook designed and manufactured so that the point of the hook is not offset from the plane of the shank and bend and is turned perpendicularly back towards the shank to form a circular or oval shape. Inline circle hooks are available at most of the bait and tackle shops where you currently purchase other tackle. While they vary by manufacturer, inline circle hook sizes of 7/0 to 10/0 are generally well-suited to catching striped bass within the recreational slot limit of 28” to less than 35”. Refer to DMF’s [Circle Hook Brochure](#) to make sure you are purchasing true inline circle hooks that are non-offset.

While it’s understandable that striped bass may be inadvertently caught on an unapproved rig when other species are being targeted, such fish must be returned to the water as quickly and gently as possible. If you are targeting other species but keep catching striped bass, consider switching to an inline circle hook or moving to a different location to avoid unnecessary catch and release mortality on striped bass. It is the responsibility of anglers to use inline circle hooks when fishing in a time, place, or manner where catching a striped bass is possible. Refer to the Division’s [Responsible Angling Techniques](#) for additional guidance that will help ensure your released fish live to be caught another day. A little knowledge goes a long way in protecting our resources.

For more information, please visit our website:
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries