

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 467**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Thomas M. Stanley*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve protecting the legal harvest of striped bass.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Bradford R. Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>

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By Mr. Stanley of Waltham, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 467) of Thomas M. Stanley and others relative to protecting the legal harvest of striped bass. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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Resolve protecting the legal harvest of striped bass.

1           **Resolved**, Whereas the illegal harvesting of striped bass has the potential to undermine  
2 the sustainability of striped bass populations on the Atlantic Coast; and

3           Whereas the illegal harvest of striped bass has the potential to reduce the economic  
4 opportunities of commercial fisherman who are legally participating in the fishery; and

5           Whereas at the February 2012 Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC)  
6 Striped Bass Management Board meeting a motion was passed to initiate the development of an  
7 addendum to incorporate the recommendations made by the Interstate Watershed Task Force  
8 (IWTF) and the ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) on reducing the illegal harvest of  
9 striped bass; and

10           Whereas the IWTF and LEC recommended that all Atlantic States and jurisdictions  
11 implement a uniform commercial tagging system where striped bass are harvested and landed for  
12 sale; and

13           Whereas the IWTF and LEC recommended that all fish harvested for sale be tagged  
14 immediately upon possession at the point of harvest; and

15           Whereas the IWTF and LEC recommended that the States and jurisdictions issue a set of  
16 number tags based on a sound scientific sample of the average (mean) weight of legal-sized fish  
17 harvested in open season for that type of gear divided into the weight quota; and

18           Whereas the IWTF and LEC recommended requiring all unused tags to be returned on  
19 annual or seasonal basis and prohibit license renewal if unused tags are not returned; and

20           Whereas the IWTF and LEC recommended the implementation of license revocation or  
21 suspension as a primary penalty for state or federal violations;; and

22           Whereas the IWTF and LEC recommended that states and jurisdictions' law enforcement  
23 officers have real-time access to tag numbers issued to each fisherman; and

24           Whereas at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 2012 Summer Meeting a  
25 motion was made to approve the IWTF and LEC recommendations for a uniform commercial  
26 tagging program at the point of harvest; and

27           Whereas a motion was made by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to substitute for  
28 this option to tag at the point of harvest; and

29           Whereas this motion was practically for no action to be taken now and for the states to  
30 act at their own discretion at a later date; and

31           Whereas that motion passed by an 8 in favor, 7 opposed and 1 abstention and thus a  
32 motion for no action was accepted;

33           Therefore be it resolved that the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Commission working  
34 with the Massachusetts Director of Marine Fisheries adopt the recommendations made by the  
35 Interstate Watershed Task Force and the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission Law  
36 Enforcement Committee to implement a striped bass commercial tagging program at the point of  
37 harvest.