



May 4, 2026

Honorable Members of the Connecticut State Senate Connecticut General Assembly

Legislative Office Building Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Strong Support for Raised Bill 5333 – Striped Bass Provisions

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the American Saltwater Guides Association and the thousands of professional fishing guides and captains we represent along the Atlantic coast, I write to express our full and enthusiastic support for the striped bass provisions contained in Raised Bill 5333.

We strongly support Section 1, which establishes clear infraction penalties for violating striped bass regulations. These tiered fines provide meaningful enforcement tools while directing revenue back to the municipalities where violations occur. Strong enforcement is essential to protecting the resource.

We also strongly support Section 4, which implements a catch-and-release-only season for striped bass from December 1 through April 30. This winter and early-spring closure protects fish during a critical period when they are concentrated in rivers and tributaries and are most vulnerable to harvest.

Finally, we strongly support Section 5, which prohibits bait fishing for striped bass in the Housatonic River downstream of the Derby Dam during that same December 1 through March 31 window. This targeted protection in a key spawning and staging area is common-sense conservation that will help the stock rebuild.

These measures demonstrate real leadership by the Connecticut legislature and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. They give the striped bass population the breathing room it needs while low recruitment continues to challenge the coastwide stock.

The American Saltwater Guides Association stands ready to assist in any way possible. We can help with public education, guide training, and outreach to ensure these new rules are clearly understood and supported by the angling community.

Thank you for your continued work to protect Connecticut's marine resources. We urge the Senate to pass Raised Bill 5333 without delay.

Sincerely,

Tony Friedrich