



Newsletter April 2025

President's Message

The wind is blowing and it is a balmy 39 outside. I thought that it was Spring! When will it warm up around here? Trout stocking is on but I have been only out once. Even with many layers this old, 80-year-old bod doesn't like the cold anymore. It needs at least in the 60s, well maybe high 50's along with the warming sunshine; none of this overcast gray.

As I was daydreaming—happens a lot more often these days—about fishing the salt. Wondering how the coming season will be. Hopefully, a helluva lot better than last year. When will the stripers show up? When do you think they will make their appearance? I heard one person say April 29th.

Last month's presentation by Steve Voit on fly fishing collectibles was very well received. Steve provided a glimpse into the history the equipment, the flies, and the collectors along with several stories of his adventures.

Do you have one or two dozen freshwater flies (wooly buggers, hoppers, streamers, nymphs...) that you can part with? I betcha you we all do and I have the perfect place for them. Some great causes: The Mayfly Project, teaching foster children to Fly Fish, Casting for Recovery, and Project Healing Waters. So how can you get them to me: either bring them to our next meeting or put the flies in an envelope and mail them to me at:

Ed Rosenbloom, 62 Cabral Cir, Stoughton, MA 02072

I have only heard from a couple of you (thank you for your support) and we need lots more!

We are always looking for ideas and new members. Invite someone you know or don't know, who might be interested in fly fishing, to a meeting. At the meetings voice your opinions, we need your input, this is your club. Even if you cannot make the meetings, we are very interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas as well.

Tight lines and looking forward to seeing you and meeting new members.

ED

ATTENTION: ALL MEMBERS

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday April 22, 2025

**South Foxboro Community Center
382 South St. Foxboro, MA 02035**

Time: 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Calendar

- **April 22th Captain Brian Kelly**
"Albies and Stripers Tips, Techniques and Flies"
- **May 27th Annual BBQ**

Events

- **Spring Outing—Fearing Pond—Watch your emails for details**
- **May 9-11 Annual Spring Deerfield Outing with the Harrison Brothers whose float trips provide anglers with some of the best fly-fishing experience available in Western Massachusetts**

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER



"CAST, STRIP, SET" A JOURNAL OF THE FLY-SOAKED AND ROAD-WORN"

FROM CAPE COD TO CUBA AND READING IN
BETWEEN THE LINES. WE EXPLORE THE
TECHNIQUES AND SCIENCES FROM THE
FISHERYS WE EXPLORE.

CROSS ROAD ANGLERS
FOXBORO MA
382 SOUTH ST. FOXBOROUGH, MA 02035
APRIL 22, 2025

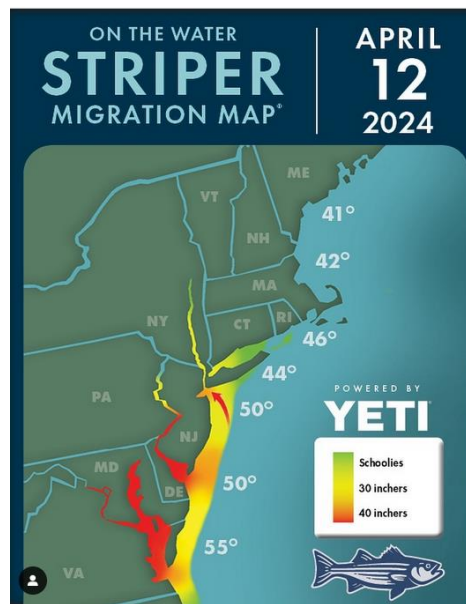
- Albie Tactics and Strategies
- Science of Stripers
- Mastering Environmental Factors
- How to Identify Structure
- Reading Water, Seasons, Baits,
- Moons, Tides, Birds and more.
- Flats to the Rivers
- Fishing and Travel
- Stripers, Albies, Steelhead, Red Fish,
- Bonefish and more!

Captain Brian Kelly
www.rpsfish.com

The Striper Migration OTW Staff

The Striper Migration Map is back for 2025! It's officially spring, and there are signs of it everywhere, from the return of ospreys and river herring to the slowly rising back bay water temperatures. Inshore areas of Chesapeake Bay are warming past the 50-degree mark and big bass are moving into tributaries to spawn.

The 2024 Striper Migration --When did the stripers come back last year? What is your guess for 2025?



In the Northeast fishing community, no event is as highly anticipated as the spring striped bass migration. Fishermen who bid farewell to these fish in the late fall or early winter eagerly await their return to our coast, watching the weather and fishing reports beginning in March to see when the bass will come back.

Recent History: The Spring Migration

2021: Big bunker schools returned to the Northeast in the late spring, but a lack of large bass with them left anglers worried about the future status of striped bass numbers. A noticeable shift in the presence of trophy stripers around popular summering grounds like Block Island and Montauk left anglers questioning what the 2022 spring migration would bring.

2022: Schoolie and slot-size stripers made a strong showing from Delaware Bay to eastern Long Island in the early spring. The large bunker schools that had congregated around Long Island and southern New England in years past were concentrated around Boston and the south shore of Massachusetts; trophy stripers gorged on them throughout the summer.

2023: The spring run was ahead of schedule, especially with large, post-spawn stripers from the Chesapeake. Fish as large as 50 inches reached New Jersey in the first week of May and Massachusetts by the second week of May. By the third week of May, there were even reports of 40-inch stripers in the rivers of Maine.

The 2024 Striper Migration

As we all eagerly await this year's spring run, let's look back at the 2024 striper migration.

March 29

It's a lukewarm start to the striper migration, with torrential rains dampening (literally and figuratively) fishing efforts. Fishermen later blamed the rains for keeping bunker out of Raritan Bay, which made spring striper fishing there a little slower than in the previous few seasons. Still, sizable stripers are seen staging outside spawning tributaries in the Chesapeake, with reports of decent numbers of schoolie bass in backwaters and estuaries from Delaware Bay to Long Island.

April 12

Cooler-than-average temperatures slows down spawning in the Chesapeake, but as the weather stabilizes, the spawning intensifies. Waves of larger fish hit both the Delaware and Raritan bays. Migratory stripers reach Connecticut and, within a week, fishermen in Rhode Island and Massachusetts report the first fresh schoolies of the season.

May 3

Raritan, Narragansett, and Buzzards bays are hotbeds of striper activity, with fish to 40 inches blasting baitfish on the surface. Fish to 50 inches are reported in New Jersey, and post-spawn bass are exiting the Chesapeake and heading north.

May 10

Bunker continues to be in short supply throughout the Northeast, but stripers find plenty of fuel for the migration in herring, squid, cinder worms, and rain bait. Stripers that left the Chesapeake are showing up along coastal beaches in Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and Long Island. Migratory fish to 30 inches reach Boston.

May 24

The May full moon kicks the migration into higher gear as 40-pound stripers are reported all the way up to Massachusetts. Big schools of very large bass are staging off the Western South Shore of Long Island and Northern New Jersey, and Montauk is inundated with schoolie and slot-size stripers. Post-spawn fish from the Hudson continue populating Long Island Sound.

June 7

The June new moon brings big bass into surfcasting range from New Jersey to Maine. The action continues to be widespread, but in parts of southern New Jersey, the fishing begins to wane as warming water temperatures send the fish north.

June 14

Warming waters push any lingering stripers in southern New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland north and offshore. Large stripers are reported chasing bunker in Massachusetts from Cape Cod Bay to Boston, while big schools of large bass continue to move east along the South Shore of Long Island.

June 21

The reefs of Long Island Sound load up with big bass as Hudson and Chesapeake fish converge on the sound. The fishing gets spotty in New Jersey as warming temperatures push the bass north. Fishing at Block Island, Boston Harbor, and Montauk ramp up as the fish settle in, while some stripers continue to swim toward Maine, where anglers at the northern edge of the striper's migratory route experience another great summer of fishing.

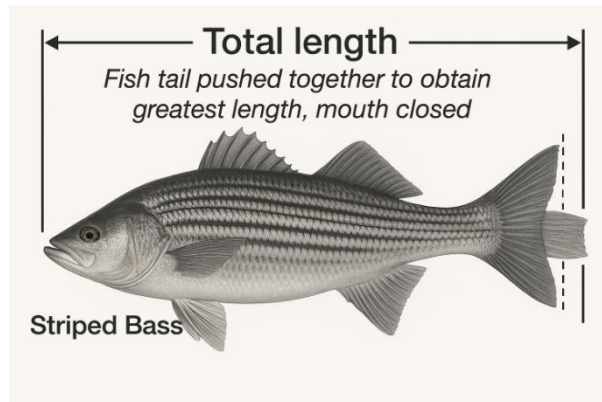
Revised rule changes the way anglers must measure striped bass.

OTW Staff April 9, 2025

Massachusetts has clarified how anglers should measure striped bass, and is encouraging other states to do the same.

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has made an important change to how striped bass must be measured—and it could improve the effectiveness of the stripers' slot-based regulations.

As of now, all striped bass caught in both commercial and recreational fisheries **must be measured with the tail lobes squeezed together**. This decision comes after the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) unanimously approved the DMF's recommendation to clarify and standardize the method for determining a fish's total length.



Why the Change?

Until now, it was unclear whether anglers could measure striped bass with the tail squeezed or fanned out. While this might sound minor, it created significant discrepancies—especially for recreational fishermen trying to stay within the narrow slot limit of 28" to less than 31".

DMF's 2024 investigation found that squeezing the tail can add about 0.3 inches to a fish's total length, while fanning the tail can reduce it by as much as 1.4 inches. That means the allowable 3-inch slot could effectively become a 4.7-inch range, depending on how the fish was measured.

This gap raised concerns about fairness and consistent enforcement, especially since recreational anglers are more likely to encounter fish on the edge of the slot limit. The change aims to eliminate confusion and help ensure that everyone is playing by the same rules.

What This Means for Anglers

When you measure your striped bass:

- Pinch the upper and lower fork of the tail together to get the official total length.
- Make sure your fish falls between 28 inches and just under 31 inches when measured this way to legally retain it.
- If the fish is under 28" or measures 31" or more after pinching the tail, it must be released.

Looking Ahead

DMF is also encouraging the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to adopt this tail-squeezing method coastwide, which could lead to broader consistency across state lines in the future.

Freshwater Fly Drive



We all have flies. Flies everywhere. We all have flies. Big ones, small ones and itsy-bitsy ones. Flies we tied way too many of. Flies that look great but we might never use, etc, etc, etc ...

So now there is something that you can do with them

We are continuing our

“Freshwater Fly Drive”

for some great causes

For Example:

Casting for Recovery & Project Healing Waters

I would like to get at least a dozen or more freshwater flies from each of you
(members/non-members)

With or without fly boxes

Bring them to a meeting or send them to me:

Ed Rosenbloom / 62 Cabral Cir. / Stoughton, MA 02072

Guided Charter Trip Raffle with Captain Ray Stachelek or Captain Brian Kelly

Are you still dreaming of catching that fish of a lifetime?

Now is your chance!

You could be the winner of a trip with
Captain Ray Stachelek or Captain Brian Kelly

Tickets for the Guided Trip Raffle are Available. Ask any board member. They are \$20.00 a ticket. Or 2 tickets for \$30.00.

Drawing will be for 1 raffle winner with 1 or 2 guests.

Don't forget to ask your fishing buddies
if they'd like to purchase tickets too!

**THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE
MAY 2025 BBQ MEETING!!**

The Trip includes 8 hours of fly and/or spin fishing with
Captain Ray Stachelek in Rhode Island
or
Captain Brian Kelly in the Plymouth MA / South Shore region

A thoughtful read for you

The River Doesn't Owe You Anything

by Domenick Swentosky



The river doesn't owe you anything.

It's been here for millennia. It has bent and grown, widened and shaped the surrounding mountains and carved the bedrock beneath. It will outlast you and everyone who carries your name hereafter. The river is a rolling time machine, carrying a history of the earth, the evolution of life, and yes, even the stories of fishermen.

The river will swell to full capacity. It will flood and wash away island braids that have stood since your grandfather first waded across the current to hunt whitetail on the other side. It will delay the hatches of mayflies and midges. It will run low for two years straight and then blow out during the Green Drake hatch. It doesn't care about you.

It doesn't care about your five-hundred dollar waders or your thousand dollar fly rod. It doesn't care that you spent a full paycheck in travel expenses to get here. The river follows no hatch chart, no timetable of expectations, nor any hopes and musings of a fisherman. The river doesn't care about your plans.

A lifetime of casts to the water are but a half-frame of time in the eons of life flowing with a river. And yet, here you are — part of it all.

This is the majesty of fishing a river: to be among something so grand, so full of life and death — future turned to history — to walk upstream through a perpetual flow, to be immersed in a forever cycle as water passes through, knowing that someday, somehow, those wet molecules will return to this very place to flow again. And all of it, every piece of it, every moment, is here for you and your children, as it was for your father and his father before him.

The river doesn't owe you anything. And yet, if you are humble, if you care for the river and protect it, if you are thankful for the experience, careful enough to learn its nuances, appreciative of the peace and the challenge it provides, the river will be kind in return. The river gives you what you need. The river gives you what you earn.

Full of wild and wonderful trout, this river is not easy. But it educates. It teaches and nurtures and offers endless opportunity.

The river doesn't owe you anything. But it is yours, if only for a short while.

Fish hard, friends.



2024-2025 Crossroads Anglers Officers	
Ed Rosenbloom	President
Steve Dewar	Vice President/Webmaster
Izzy Bettencourt	Membership Co-Chair
Doug Carver.....	Membership Co-Chair
Sumner Levine.....	Treasurer
Russell Glen.....	Advising Board Member
Gary Johnson.....	Advising Board Member
Dan Deneault	Newsletter
Bob Dewar.	RaffleMaster

Please visit our website:
www.crossroadsanglers.com
For contact info on any Club Officer

This is our monthly newsletter for the 2024-2025 season.
Best Wishes to All to Continue to Stay Safe and Stay Well!
See you Soon!!