



# Atlantic Striped Bass

Scientific name: *Morone Saxatilis*

**TRY FILLING IN THE BLANKS ABOVE BY DRAWING OTHER STRIPED BASS, OR MAYBE THINGS THAT THEY LIKE TO EAT. HAVE YOU CAUGHT A STRIPED BASS? MAYBE YOU CAN DRAW A FISHING LURE OR BAIT THAT WORKED FOR YOU!**

*The striped bass, locally known as a Rockfish, is Maryland's official state fish. Do you know why striped bass are called rockfish? Some say it is because oyster reefs are also called oyster rocks, and striped bass are often found living or feeding close to oyster "rocks" or other structure. Other's say it is because they feel like a rock on your line when you catch a big one!*

*Rockfish are the most popular gamefish on the east coast, and millions of anglers go fishing for them each year. They are also caught by commercial fishermen, so you can find them at your local seafood market, or on a menu at a restaurant. Rockfish traditionally range from eastern Canada to North Carolina, and many of them have been transplanted to areas throughout the country. Striped bass are anadromous fish, meaning they spawn in fresh water rivers, and spend the remainder of their lives in brackish(a mix of fresh and salt water) or in the Atlantic Ocean.*

*Scientists believe that more than 70% of the Atlantic Striped Bass population is born in the rivers of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. They spawn each spring, and live in the Bay for anywhere from 4-7 years before beginning a migratory life. They love to eat menhaden, and other baitfish, as well as crabs, worms, clams and more.*

*Because striped bass are such an important fish for so many people, their population is managed by scientists and hard working fisheries managers to make sure that striped bass can be shared by many people. You can find out more about striped bass management, and the work CCA Maryland is doing on behalf of recreational anglers at [ccamd.org/stripedbass](http://ccamd.org/stripedbass).*

*The Maryland striped bass record is 67lbs. 8 oz. , caught in 1995 and the world record is 81lbs. 6oz. caught in Long Island Sound in 2011. Do you think you could catch a fish that big?*