

# Striped Bass Tag Recovery Program

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## Latest Prize Drawing Winners!!!

**\$1000 - Dorothea Spano, Pleasant Valley, NY**  
**\$1000 - Bob Sullivan, Huntington, NY**  
**\$500 - Kyle Glencross, Bedford, NH**  
**\$500 - Dan Smart, Naples, ME**  
**\$100 - Richard Ferland, Barrington, RI**  
**\$100 - Captain Matt Gifford, East Norwalk, CT**  
**\$100 - Howard Leemann, Bogota, NJ**  
**\$100 - Eugene O'Neill, Oak Ridge, NJ**

## What is the Hudson River Foundation Striped Bass Tag Recovery Program?

The Striped Bass Tag Recovery Program was set up in 1984 under an agreement among regulators, environmentalists and Hudson River electrical utility companies. As part of this agreement, the utilities conduct biological monitoring of Hudson River fish stocks, including striped bass. The role of the Hudson River Foundation is to coordinate the recovery of the tags, and to record and analyze the data they provide.

In accordance with this settlement, each winter striped bass are tagged in the Hudson River off Manhattan. Anglers who catch these tagged fish cut off the tags and send them to HRF. In return, HRF will send them a \$5 or \$10 check and a questionnaire. A check will be issued **ONLY** if the exterior section of the tag is returned.

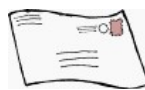
When an angler returns a completed questionnaire, his or her name is entered into an annual drawing for nine prizes: **two \$1000 prizes; two \$500 prizes; and five \$100 prizes.**

In addition, each angler is sent a certificate of participation, stating when and where the fish was originally tagged.

## What to do if you catch a striped bass with an HRF tag.

When you catch a striped bass with an HRF tag, regardless of whether you intend to keep the fish or not, please:

- Cut off the tag
- Print and fill out the [tag questionnaire](#). *If you cannot print out the questionnaire, please write a note with the following info:*
  - The **date and location** of the fish catch;
  - The total **length** of the fish (the distance from the tip of the upper jaw to the tip of the tail);
  - The **condition of the tag insertion site**; and
  - **Whether or not the fish was released in good condition.**
- Attach the tag to the questionnaire or the note and send it to:



**Hudson River Foundation**  
**Box 1731**  
**Grand Central Station**  
**New York, NY 10163**

[Download the Tag Questionnaire](#)

## Common Questions About the Striped Bass Tag Recovery Program.

[Why are fish tagged?](#)

[Tagged Striped Bass Release Sites](#)



Fish are tagged to get answers to a wide variety of questions concerning their abundance and behavior. Much has been learned about the migrational patterns of Hudson River striped bass through this program.

*Where are tagged fish released?*

Tagged striped bass are released at several sites located in the lower Hudson River and New York Harbor. See map at right.→

*How many fish are tagged?*

Each winter from November to April approximately 10,000 - 25,000 striped bass are tagged in the Hudson River. Over 400,000 fish have been tagged through 2004.

*How long are the fish when they are tagged?*

In the HRF program, most striped bass are between 7 and 12 inches when tagged.

*How are the fish tagged?*

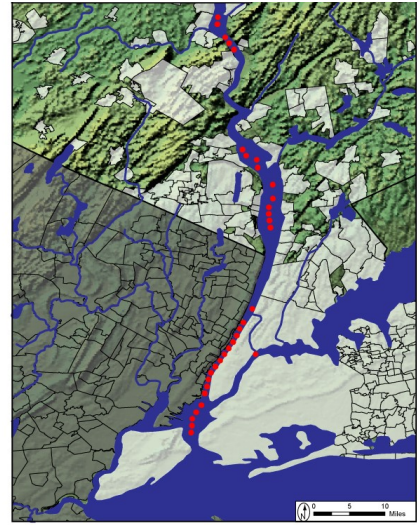
The tag is placed into a small incision made in the area of the fish's belly. The wound is treated with a disinfectant and the fish is quickly placed back into the river.

*Can I tag fish for the Hudson River Foundation?*

HRF does not have a tagging kit for recreational anglers. Anglers can tag a wide variety of fishes through programs of the:



**American Littoral Society**  
**18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite #1**  
**Highlands, NJ 07732 732-291-0055**  
<http://www.littoralsociety.org>



### Striper Facts:

- Striped bass eggs hatch in about two days and young grow to 6 inches in one year
- Female striped bass can mature as early as age 4, but do not reach full productivity until age 8. Males reach maturity by age 2 or 3. On average, of the 600,00 eggs a young female may lay, only 600 will hatch. Of those, only 3 will reach age 2. Older females may produce over 3 million eggs.
- The oldest striped bass ever caught were estimated to be between 31 and 36 years old.
- Striped bass are considered "true" bass. Smallmouth, largemouth, rock and spotted bass are all members of the sunfish family.
- Although striped bass are found from the Saint Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico, only three populations migrate along the Atlantic: Hudson River, Delaware River, and Chesapeake Bay.
- The all-time angling record is 78 lbs 8 oz, taken off Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1982. The commercial record is 125 lbs, near Edenton, NC in 1891.
- Angler returns of tags have shown that Hudson River striped bass travel as far north as Nova Scotia, and as far south as North Carolina.
- The first striped bass fishing clubs were organized just after the Civil War, and used carrier pigeons to correspond with one another.
- At one time, striped bass were so plentiful, they were used to fertilize farmer's fields.
- According to the Hudson River Foundation's records of tags returned, some of the most productive fishing spots in the NY area are [Liberty Island](#); [South Street Seaport](#); [Coney Island](#); [69th Street Pier, Brooklyn](#); and [Liberty State Park, NJ](#).

### Related Links

- [New York State Department of Health](#)
- [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)
- [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [National Marine Fisheries Service](#)
- [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#)
- [American Fisheries Society](#)
- [American Littoral Society](#)



Nathan M. (age 4)  
 with a 14-inch striped  
 bass in Connecticut.  
 (Photo used with permission)

### [Striped Bass Tag Recovery Program Records](#)

**Hudson River Foundation**

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