

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2040

To designate the Atlantic striped bass as the National Fish of the United States.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To designate the Atlantic striped bass as the National Fish of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Striped Bass American  
5 Heritage Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS AS NA-**  
7 **TIONAL FISH OF THE UNITED STATES.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The striped bass, *Morone saxatilis*, is an  
2           anadromous species, frequenting and requiring both  
3           fresh water and salt water throughout its life.

4           (2) The Atlantic striped bass has played an im-  
5           portant role in the development and growth of the  
6           United States.

7           (3) The Atlantic striped bass is identified as  
8           playing a pivotal role in providing the Pilgrims of  
9           the Plymouth Colony sustenance in 1620.

10          (4) The Nation's first fishing conservation law  
11          was enacted in 1639, pertaining to the use of Atlan-  
12          tic striped bass.

13          (5) The Nation's first free public school was  
14          funded with income derived from the income accrued  
15          from Atlantic striped bass in 1670.

16          (6) Atlantic striped bass from the Navesink  
17          River in New Jersey were transported west to San  
18          Francisco Bay via railway car in 1879 during the  
19          country's great expansion west.

20          (7) Atlantic striped bass spawn in freshwater,  
21          the success of which is influenced by environmental  
22          conditions, habitat, and water conditions.

23          (8) Widespread pollution of coastal estuaries  
24          and rivers and overfishing in the 1960s and 1970s  
25          lead to dramatic decline of the Atlantic striped bass

1 population and the passage of the Atlantic Striped  
2 Bass Conservation Act in 1984 (16 U.S.C 5151 et  
3 seq.).

4 (9) Through Executive Order 13449, issued on  
5 October 24, 2007, Atlantic striped bass in Federal  
6 waters were afforded protection from sale.

7 (10) The Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation  
8 Act is a regional management success due in part to  
9 the moratorium authority vested in both the Sec-  
10 retary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Inte-  
11 rior who can declare jointly a moratorium on fishing  
12 for Atlantic striped bass within the coastal waters of  
13 any coastal State if the Secretaries determine that  
14 coastal State to be out of compliance with any regu-  
15 latory measures necessary to fully implement and  
16 enforce the Atlantic striped bass management plan  
17 within its coastal waters.

18 (11) The Atlantic striped bass population re-  
19 sponded positively to management measures and im-  
20 provements to water quality, and was therefore de-  
21 clared rebuilt in 1995.

22 (12) The Atlantic striped bass supports signifi-  
23 cant and sustainable commercial and recreational  
24 fisheries that provide income, employment, and food.

1           (13) The Atlantic striped bass, through its re-  
2           silience and persistence, represents the American  
3           ideals and spirit that helped shaped the Nation.

4           (b) DECLARATION.—The Atlantic striped bass,  
5           *Morone saxatilis*, is designated as the National Fish of the  
6           United States.

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