

HOUSE No. 3998

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 2, 2014.

The committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 412) of James E. Timilty for legislation relative to the legal harvest of striped bass, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 413) of James E. Timilty for legislation relative to the conservation of striped bass, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 659) of Matthew A. Beaton and Kimberly N. Ferguson for legislation to implement a striped bass commercial tagging program at the point of harvest, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 660) of Matthew A. Beaton and Kimberly N. Ferguson relative to the taking and possession of wild striped bass, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 811) of Thomas M. Stanley relative to the atlantic striped bass, and petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 812) of Thomas M. Stanley relative to the striped bass population, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 3998) ought to pass.

For the committee,

ANNE M. GOBI.

HOUSE No. 3998

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act relative to the conservation of striped bass.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. There shall be a special commission to examine the status of wild striped
2 bass in the Commonwealth.

3 SECTION 2. The commission shall examine and assess the impact that commercial
4 harvesting and sale have upon the population and viability of wild striped bass in the
5 Commonwealth.

6 SECTION 3. The commission shall consist of a member of the Senate appointed by the
7 President of the Senate; a member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
8 the House of Representatives; a member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
9 a member of the House of Representatives appointed by the House Minority leader; the Secretary
10 of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs or his designee; the Secretary of
11 the Executive Office of Public Health or his designee; the Secretary of the Executive Office of
12 Housing and Economic Development or his designee; a representative from the commercial
13 fishing industry; a representative from the sports fishing industry; 3 independent representatives
14 from the marine science industry who are experts in fisheries, to be chosen by the governor. The
15 members of the commission shall be appointed not later 90 days after the effective date of this
16 act and shall serve until the completion of the report.

17 SECTION 4. The commission may hold public hearings to assist in the collection and
18 evaluation of data and testimony.

19 SECTION 5. The commission shall prepare a written report detailing its findings and
20 recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry those
21 recommendations into effect. The commission shall submit its report to the governor, the
22 secretary of the commonwealth, the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, the chairs

23 of the house and senate committees on municipalities and regional government not later than
24 December 31 of 2015.