SENATE DOCKET, NO. 358 FILED ON: 1/19/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 337

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Stephen M. Brewer

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the conservation of Atlantic striped bass.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Stephen M. Brewer	*Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin*

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 358 FILED ON: 1/19/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 337

By Mr. Brewer, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 337) of Stephen M. Brewer for legislation relative to the conservation of Atlantic striped bass. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to the conservation of Atlantic 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:

SECTION 1. Section 110A of chapter 130 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is herby amended by striking the section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following sentences:- (a) Commercial harvesting and sale of wild striped bass shall be prohibited in the commonwealth.

The director, with the approval of the marine fisheries advisory commission, shall adopt rules and regulations relative to the taking or possession of wild striped bass by recreational angling, provided that in no instance shall any rule or regulation authorize the taking or possession of striped bass which are less than 20 inches in length or greater than 26 inches total length but less than 40 inches total length. It is unlawful to take or possess striped bass unless the fish are whole with head on and are between 20 and 26 inches total length or 40 inches and greater total length. (b) It is unlawful to take or possess more than one (1) striped bass each day. (c) All aquaculture raised striped bass for sale in the commonwealth shall bear the tag of the grower or distributor of the fish. (d) Whoever violates any rules or regulations made pursuant to

14 this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred dollars for each fish taken or
15 possessed for the first violation, five hundred dollars for each fish taken or possessed for the
16 second violation and for each subsequent violation shall be fined one thousand dollars for each
17 fish taken or possessed or imprisoned not more than sixty days or both. No part of any fine
18 imposed for the taking or possession of any striped bass in violation of any such regulation shall
19 be remitted. (e)

20 SECTION 2. The striped bass quota for commercial fishing provided to the
21 Commonwealth of Massachusetts by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission shall not
22 be added to recreational fishing quotas. Said quota shall be set aside for conservation and the
23 Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries shall use his best efforts in working with the
24 Commission to see that the amount of this quota is not given to other states but remains the
25 property of the Commonwealth to be used for conservation of striped bass.