

Menhaden and Striped Bass



Menhaden



Young-of-Year Striped Bass

In 2003, the average number of striped bass caught per haul was 12 fish, a record year for this survey. Due to the moratorium in the 1980s, striped bass populations bounced back at a rapid rate. Since the early 1990s, striped bass numbers have continued to increase. On the other hand, while striped bass numbers are increasing, the average numbers of Atlantic menhaden are decreasing. This development concerns biologists because menhaden are a key food source for striped bass. One possibility is that due to the increasing striped bass population, there is not enough food to go around. Menhaden numbers will be monitored closely over the next few years to determine if the striped bass population starts to decline due to lack of food.

