



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 382

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5333

House of Representatives, April 2, 2026

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF STRIPED BASS FISHING IN THE STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any
2 provision of title 26 of the general statutes, any person who violates any
3 regulation concerning the taking of striped bass, whether in the marine
4 or inland waters of the state, shall have committed an infraction and
5 shall pay a fine of one hundred fifty dollars for a first offense, three
6 hundred fifty dollars for a second offense and five hundred dollars for
7 a third or any such subsequent offense, by mail, or plead not guilty in
8 accordance with the provisions of section 51-164n of the general statutes,
9 provided for any infraction imposed pursuant to this section, the
10 amount of such fine shall be paid to the municipality where the
11 infraction occurred.

12 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding any
13 provision of title 26 of the general statutes, for the period commencing
14 December first of each year and ending March thirty-first of the

15 following year, no person, while on the waters of this state or on any
16 parcel of land, structure or portion of a roadway abutting the waters of
17 this state, shall take, possess or land striped bass, regardless of where
18 taken.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>October 1, 2026</i> | New section |

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 27 \$ | FY 28 \$ |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------|----------|
| Various Municipalities | Potential Revenue Gain | Minimal | Minimal |

Explanation

The bill prohibits striped bass fishing in the state between December 1 and March 31 annually and establishes graduated penalties for violating any regulation regarding striped bass taking. This could result in a minimal revenue gain to municipalities where the violations occur. The bill imposes a fine of \$150 for a first offense, \$350 for a second offense, and \$500 for subsequent offenses. Fines for infractions must be paid by mail to the municipality where the infraction occurred.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5333

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF STRIPED BASS FISHING IN THE STATE.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits striped bass fishing (including catch and release) in Connecticut between December 1 and March 31 annually. The bill makes it an infraction to violate any regulation on striped bass taking (killing, fishing, or other means of trapping) and imposes a fine of (1) \$150 for a first offense, (2) \$350 for a second offense, and (3) \$500 for subsequent offenses. Under the bill, fines for this infraction must be paid by mail to the municipality where the infraction occurred.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision on the infraction is effective upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/18/2026)