

Scott's Bait & Tackle 2nd Annual Striped Bass Survey 2008 Season



SCOTTS B&T Striped Bass Survey (2008)

Preface

For several years, the staff of Scotts B&T wanted to take a survey of the anglers fishing for striped bass in our area. Last year we finally accomplished that goal, and performed a survey for the 2007 season. A total of 44 anglers participated in 2007 by answering a rather comprehensive set of survey questions, which were tabulated, organized, and presented in a graphical sort of way. Based on the feedback we received, we believe it was a successful first attempt. We hope that you enjoyed the last year's survey report.

So we decided to do it again this year, but with a much-reduced set of survey questions. A lot of things such as fishing sites, bait/lure selection, weather preferences, and a few other questions have been omitted, since there is probably not much change from year to year. This year we concentrated primarily on the success rate of the anglers. Also, this year's survey data is compared with the data gathered last year. Since there are a different number of survey participants for the two years, the data has been compared using a "Per-Angler" basis, or a "Percentage" basis.

This year, we reduced the number of survey questions and made the survey form easier to fill out with the hope that it would significantly increase in the number of responses. This was only moderately successful, with 58 anglers (33% increase) participating this year.

The information gathered and tabulated herein does not have statistical significance since it represents a small sampling of only a few people out of the many thousands who probably fish for stripers in New Jersey. Furthermore, the data collected appears to be weighted more toward anglers who fish often, and have better-than-average success. The many casual anglers seem to be reluctant to participate.

As you can see from the data collected, the bass fisherman's success rate this year was significantly worse than last year. More anglers reported catching a lot less keeper-size fish, and a lot less total bass overall.

This report provides several different methods of presenting the survey data (Text, Tables, & Charts). The next-to-last page contains a summary of the processed data for those of you who would rather read it in this form. Participant's names and associated E-mails are listed on the last two pages of this report.

In any event, we hope you enjoy reading the results of this year's survey for the year 2008. We welcome your comments and feedback. Send them to Mail@Scottsbt.com.

Thank you to all the anglers who participated in this survey.

Tight Lines,
Miz Mo & Scotty

Scott's 2008 Striped Bass Survey Results

Survey Participants:

- A total of 44 anglers responded to this survey in 2007
- While 58 anglers responded in to the survey in 2008
- An alphabetical listing of the 2008 participants is at the end of this survey

- **Fishing Trips:**

- In 2007, the average number of fishing trips taken = 26.6
- In 2008, the average number of fishing trips taken = 22.9

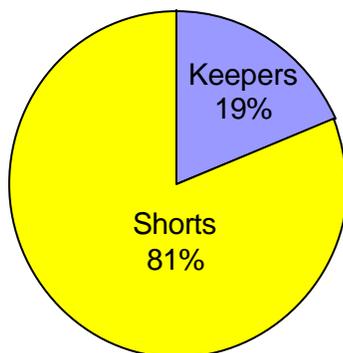
- **Overall Success Rate :**

- In 2007 44 anglers caught a total of 4569 bass
- In 2008, a greater number of anglers (58) caught only 3678 bass total

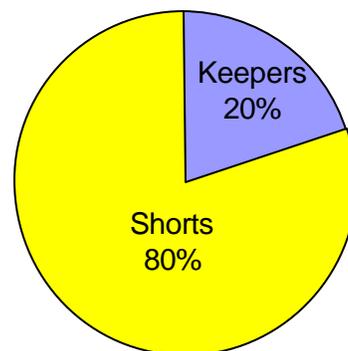
- **Success Rate on Keeper-Size Bass:**

- In 2007, 44 anglers reported catching 900 keeper-size bass
- Thus, 19 % (about 1 of every 5 bass caught) was a keeper.
- While in 2008, 58 anglers caught only 725 keeper-size bass
- However, the ratio is essentially identical to the previous year, with 20 % (about 1 every 5 bass caught) being a keeper.

Year 2007
Percent of Keepers & Shorts



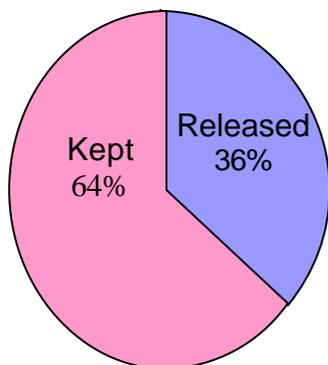
Year 2008
Percent of Keepers & Shorts



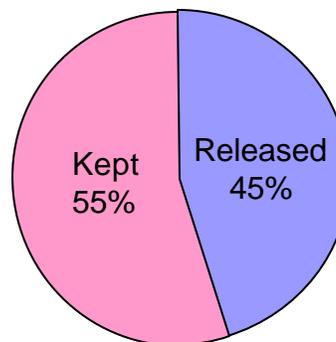
Release Rate on Keeper-Size Bass:

- In 2007, 44 anglers reported releasing 324 keeper size bass (About 36%)
- Thus, they released about 1/3 of all the keepers they caught
- In 2008, 58 anglers released 327 keeper-size bass (About 45 %)
- Thus, they released almost 1/2 of all the keeper-size bass they caught

Year 2007
Percent of Keepers Released



Year 2008
Percent of Keepers Released



The Most Successful Anglers :

As expected, the table below shows that there were far fewer bass in each category caught by the most successful anglers this year. However, this year, one angler released an exceptionally-large number of keeper-size bass.

Year	Most Total Bass (Keepers + Shorts) Caught by any ONE Angler	Most Keeper Bass Caught by any ONE Angler	Most Short Bass Caught by any ONE Angler	Most Keeper-Size Bass Released by any ONE Angler
2007	1121	225	1100	38
2008	405	140	387	120

The Least Successful Anglers:

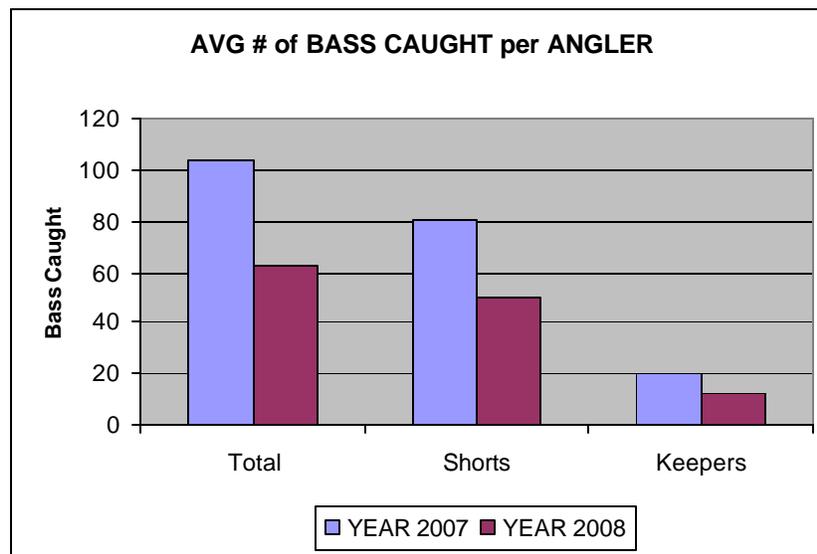
The data for 2007 and 2008 is exactly the same. Some individual anglers caught no fish at all.

Year	Fewest Total Bass (Keepers + Shorts) Caught by any ONE Angler	Fewest Keeper Bass Caught by any ONE Angler	Fewest Short Bass Caught by any ONE Angler	Fewest Keeper-Size Bass Released by any ONE Angler
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0

The Average Angler:

Based upon 44 anglers in 2007 and 58 anglers in 2008, the average number of bass caught during the whole season by each angler was significantly less this year than last year. Specific averages are shown in the Table below, while a visual comparison of the same data is shown in the Bar Chart below it.

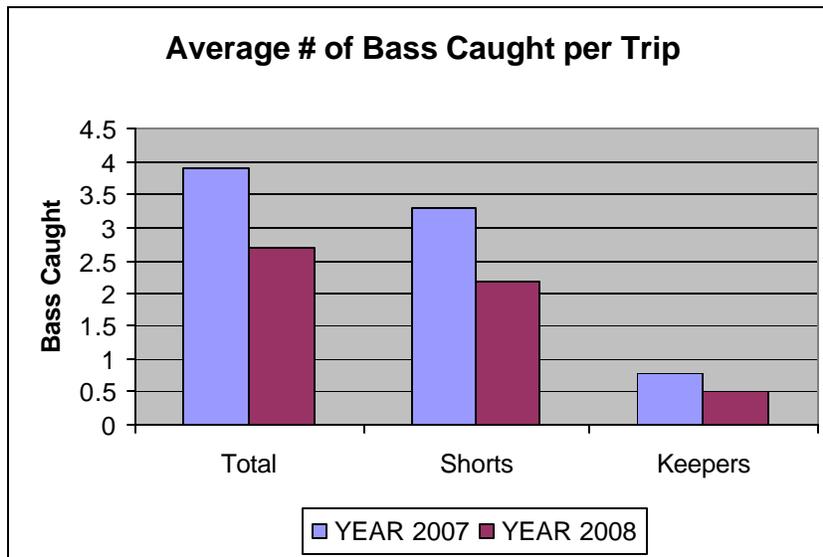
Year	Average # Total Bass (Keepers + Shorts) Caught by Each Angler	Average # Keeper-Size Bass Caught by Each Angler	Average # Short Bass Caught by Each Angler	Average # Keeper-Size Bass Released by Each Angler
2007	103.8	20.5	83.4	7.4
2008	61.5	12.3	49.8	5.6



Fishing Success on a Per-Trip Basis:

In 2007, 44 anglers went on a total of 1172 fishing trips. While in 2008, 58 anglers went fishing on 1350 trips. Thus, this year on the average, there were less trips per angler, and a much lower success rate for each trip. The specific average catch per trip for all anglers is shown in the Table below, and a visual comparison of the same data is shown in the Bar Chart below it.

Year	Total # Fishing Trips Taken	Average # Trips per Angler	Average # Total Bass Caught per Trip	Average # Keepers Caught per Trip	Average # Shorts Caught per Trip	Average # Keepers Released per Trip
2007	1172	26.6	3.9	0.77	3.1	0.28
2008	1350	23.3	2.7	0.50	2.2	0.20



Skunksville:

Both last year and this year’s survey data shows that there were some anglers who caught no keeper-sized bass during the entire year, and even a few anglers who caught no bass at all during the entire year. Once again note in the table below that there was a larger % of anglers “Skunked” in both categories this year.

Year	Percent of Anglers who Caught NO Keeper Size Bass for the Entire Year	Percent of Anglers who Caught NO Bass at all for the Entire Year
2007	9.1%	2.3%
2008	22.0%	5.0%

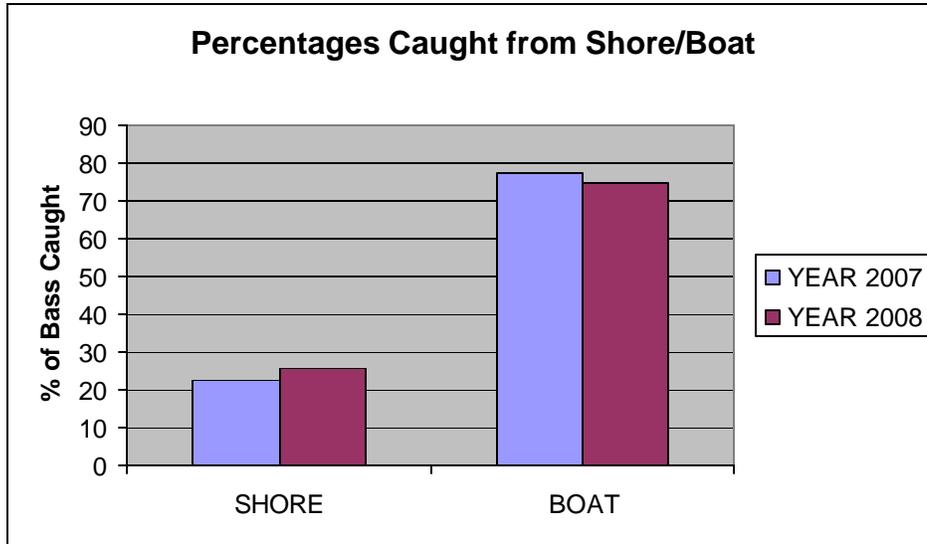
Keeper Bass Quality Results:

In 2007, 39 of the 44 anglers surveyed kept at least one bass. While in 2008, 48 of the 58 anglers surveyed kept at least one bass. Comparisons are shown below. The average bass sizes are almost identical for the two years.

Year	Percent of Anglers who Kept at Least One Bass	Largest Bass Kept	Smallest Bass Kept	Average Size of All Bass Kept
2007	89%	51 lbs, 48 inches	9 lbs, 33 inches	24 lbs, 39 inches
2008	83%	47 lbs, 48 inches	9 lbs, 29 inches	25 lbs, 38 inches

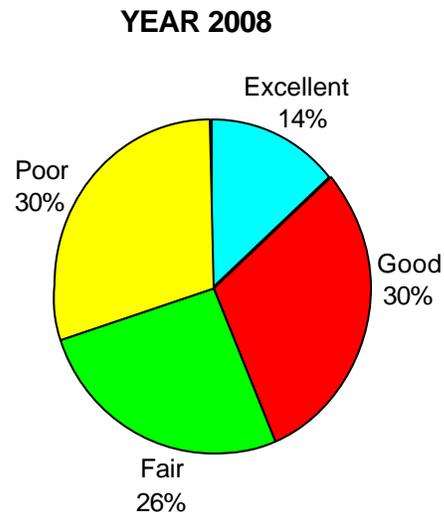
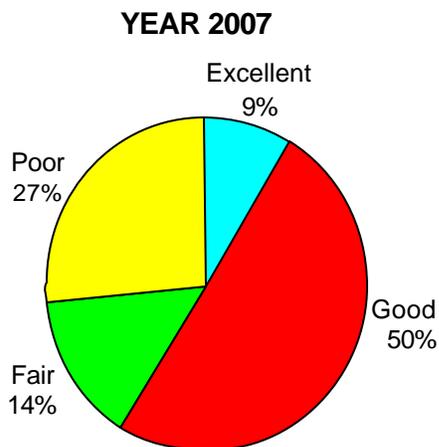
Boat/Shore

In spite of the different number of anglers, and a worse season in 2008, the ratio of bass caught from shore and from boats was almost exactly equal for 2007 and 2008. About 3/4 of all bass reported were caught from a boat, and only about 1/4 from shore.



Overall Season Assessment:

This year, most anglers judged the season to be not as good overall as last year, as shown in the comparison Pie Charts below. However, the strange thing is that more 2008 anglers (15%) thought the season was "Excellent" compared to the 9% who said so in 2007.



SUMMARY OF PROCESSED SURVEY DATA

Number of Survey Participants	58
Total # Bass Caught by all Anglers	3678
Total # Shorts Caught by All Anglers	2953
Total Keeper-Size Caught by All Anglers	725.0
Total Keeper-Size Released by All Anglers	327.0
Total Keeper-Size Kept by All Anglers	398.0
Total # Trips by all Anglers	1350
Average # Trips per Angler	23.3
Average # of Bass Caught per Trip	2.7
Average # Shorts Caught per Trip	2.2
Average # Keeper-Size Bass Caught per Trip	0.5
Average # Keepers Released per Trip	0.2
Average # Keepers Kept per Trip	0.3
Average # Shorts Caught per Angler	50.7
Average # Keepers Caught Per Angler	12.5
Average # of Keepers Released per Angler	5.6
Average # Total Bass Caught per Angler	62.6
% of Anglers Who Caught No Keepers	22%
% of Anglers Who were Totally Skunked	5%
Average Size for 48 Anglers Who Actually Kept Bass	N/A
Weight Lbs	25.1
Length (Inches)	37.8
Average # Bass Caught per Angler (From Boat)	46.6
Average # Bass Caught per Angler (From Shore)	15.4
% of Anglers Who Caught Bass from Shore	41%
% of Anglers Who Caught Bass from a Boat	83%
% of Total Bass Caught from Boat	74.6%
% of Total Bass Caught from Shore	24.6%
% Angler's Season Assessment	N/A
Poor	22.4%
Fair	29.3%
Good	32.8%
Excellent	15.5%

ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

1.	Allen, Joseph
2.	Bash, Edward
3.	Baugh, Ted Sr.
4.	Bean, Jack
5.	Beck, Frank
6.	Bednarczyk, Eric
7.	Bragitikos, John
8.	Brewer, Willis Jr.
9.	Brill, Gary W
10.	Chase, Steve
11.	Cummings, Bud
12.	Czehut, Al
13.	Davis, Dennis
14.	Dunleavy, Jack
15.	Dymond, Joseph
16.	Everett, Ronald
17.	Fuller, David
18.	Gainfort, Gordon
19.	Gates, Gregory
20.	Goan, Pat
21.	Grochowski, Jim
22.	Haines, Ryan
23.	Hutchinson, Jim Sr.
24.	Hutchison, Bob
25.	Khan, Ajmal
26.	Koenig, Ted
27.	Kurelko, Bob
28.	Lane, Kevin
29.	Lauer, Denny

30.	Longcoy, Dennis
31.	Madison, Mike
32.	Miller, Earl
33.	Miller, Steve
34.	Minard, Bryant
35.	Neuweiler, A.R.
36.	Nhon, Bui
37.	Nordberg, Craig
38.	O'Connell, Greg
39.	Ogden, Gregg
40.	Parzych, John
41.	Phillips, Glen R
42.	Porchik, John
43.	Rinear, Dave
44.	Robinson, Matthew
45.	Saraullo, Rocky
46.	Saunderson, Ray
47.	Sheldon, Dave
48.	Smith, Rod
49.	Sutter, Dave
50.	Szulczewski, Ray
51.	Talarico, Jerry
52.	Tiller, Robert
53.	Tristram, William
54.	Van Horn, Bill
55.	Varrasse, Joe
56.	Yahr, Jonathan
57.	Zaccaria, Joe
58.	Zmijewski, Daniel