GUIDELINES FOR STRIPED BASS CULTURE[1]

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Information on the natural range, life history and value of the striped bass is well documented. The culture of stripers started as early as 1884 when a federal hatchery was built at Weldon, N. C.

In 1954 South Carolina Biologists discovered that stripers which were trapped in Santee-Cooper Reservoir completed their life cycle without returning to saltwater. Biologists were quick to foresee advantages of this land locked striper in freshwater reservoirs. But the demand for this species could not be met until 1966 when methods were developed to increase production by inducing spawning through the use of hormones.

Conservation agencies in most Southern states were already anxious to establish striper populations in their own waters. This resulted in organizing a Striped Bass Committee of the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society. Representatives of 11 states and 2 Federal Agencies attended the first meeting in July 1967. The purpose of the Committee was—"interest in all phases of hatching, rearing,stocking and management of striped bass and hybrids in suitable environments".

Since then the Committee has met two or three times each year and exchanged information concerning both successes and failures. It was decided that this information should be documented and in August 1975 a work shop was attended by more than 40 striped bass workers from some 25 agencies. An outline of subjects was prepared and critiqued by the entire group.

Information is presented literally and pictorially with 3 tables, 6 line drawings, and 31 photographs. There are seven major chapters in the 125 page publication. They include:

I. HATCHING FACILITIES
- Water supply
- Facilities

II BROODSTOCK SOURCES, CAPTURE AND HANDLING
- Sources
- Capture methods
- Handling broodfish

III SPAWNING, INCUBATION AND TRANSPORTATION OF EGGS AND LARVAE
- Holding broodfish at the hatchery
- Egg staging
- Spawning
- Egg incubation
- Holding and feeding larvae
- Preparations for shipping fry

IV POND CULTURE
- Pond preparation
- Water quality
- Pre-stocking checks
- Preparation for introduction
- Stocking
- Survival
- Plankton control
- Vegetation control
- Insect control
- Supplemental feeding in ponds

[1] Copies of the entire manuscript are available from the senior author for $5.00 each to cover printing and mailing.

Harvest
Transportation and acclimation of fingerlings

V INTENSIVE CULTURE
Receipt and acclimation of fry
Culture facilities
Filters
Water quality
Stocking rates
Feeding
Problems
Advantages of intensive culture
Intensive culture of pond-reared fingerlings

VI HYBRIDS
Broodfish
Spawning and hatching
Young

VII PARASITES AND DISEASES
Common pathogenic organisms
Description and diagnosis
Treatments
Precautions
Sources of chemicals
Tolerance to various chemicals

The publication also includes 3 Appendicies:

A— Possible sources of supplies and equipment used in striper culture.

B— Conversion Tables
Length, Area, Volume, Weight, Temperature.

C— Suggested Report Form for Striper Culture.

This publication is not a bible for striped bass culture and workers must adjust their methods to their own needs, equipment, facilities, and budgets. We also recognize the fact that striped bass culture is not at its ultimate, but we hope to keep this publication current as new techniques and equipment are developed.