

# **Massachusetts Environmental Police seize catch and fishing gear and issue criminal violations to group**

While investigating marine fisheries violations in the Cape Ann area, Officers observed 5 individuals fishing from the rocks. Within minutes, Officers witnessed multiple violations as the individuals landed several undersized striped bass without measuring them or returning them to the ocean.

Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers and Gloucester Police made contact and discovered 39 undersized striped bass ranging from 12-25 inches. All 5 individuals were issued criminal summonses for possession of undersized striped bass, striped bass over the limit, and fishing without valid saltwater licenses. All fishing gear was seized and the striped bass were donated to the Open Door, Gloucester Food Pantry.

Anglers are reminded current Massachusetts regulations only allow for 1 striped bass per person per day and the minimum legal limit is 28 inches.

MEP would like to thank Gloucester Police for their assistance, as well as Gortons Fish and Steve Connolly Seafood for donating ice and fishing totes to ensure the catch was not wasted and made it to families in the Gloucester area.