

## **SMSC's Year Long "Fish Ladder" Contest**

The legendary *Fish Ladder* contest is open to SMSC Members for Stripers longer than 30" caught at SML. The contest is free, no cost to enter. Just text or email one "portrait" pic and 1 "fish measuring board" pic of your catch. Members can upgrade their Fish Ladder entry with any bigger fish by sending in 2 new pics. Awards presented to Top 5 entries at SMSC's annual Holiday Party in December!

### **Photograph Requirements – 1/23/23**

- Text or email pics to: [SMSC@smithmountainstriperclub.com](mailto:SMSC@smithmountainstriperclub.com)
- Catch & Release required by DWR regulations for all Stripers 30" to 40" from 11/1 to 5/31.
- The full fish must be visible in the picture, along with clearly visible & in focus measurement lines, placed on an a standardized and approved measuring device. The measuring device must have a vertical stop at the left end against which the fish's head must be in contact. No pics of fish submitted "upside down" (with tail against the vertical piece) will be considered.
- The 'measuring board' pic above is required. The 'portrait pic' may be omitted if fishing alone. 'Portrait' shows the angler holding out the fish horizontally, supported at the head and mid-section.
- Aluminum measuring boards sold by Captain's Quarters, SML Tackleshack, and Striper Mafia are approved for Fish Ladder pics.
- The fish should be immediately photographed. Photos of each fish must be in "live" condition: clear eyes, red gills, clear tail without fading. Fish that appear questionable to SMSC Director(s) may be disqualified.
- Fish must be placed on the measuring device with the mouth against the vertical "bump board" portion on the left, with top of the fish oriented to the top of the board. It is recommended to pinch the tail on the board - but do not obscure the mouth of the fish against the "bump-board" nor the tail of the fish in the photo. There is no specific requirement regarding open/closed mouth of the fish.
- Fish will be measured to the nearest 1/4", *rounding down*. For clarity, if the measurement is deemed ON the measurement line, that will be the measurement recorded - if there is ANY visible space between the fish and the next line the measurement will be rounded down.
- SMSC Director(s) will disqualify any photo that appears altered. Do not crop, filter, adjust the color /contrast or other settings of the photo. Confirm prior to releasing the fish that the pic(s) taken conform to these rules and that the measurement is clearly visible and in focus. The decision of SMSC Director(s) on any disputed measurement is final. Any protests must be submitted in writing.
- Fish must be caught at SML by SMSC member to be eligible as Fish Ladder entry.

\*Measurement guidelines adapted from SML Striper Mafia Tournament - <http://www.stripermafia.com/rules.html>