



## *SMSC Preservation Committee – “The Voice of SML Anglers”*

This group will be comprised of 3-5 SMSC members and 1-2 leaders from SMSC Board. It will also be open to other SML fishing club leaders, fishing guides, & reps from SML stakeholder groups. Its purpose:

1. provide leadership as strong voice for the SML anglers on the health of SML fishery
2. expand SMSC’s foundational conservation and preservation work with members & DWR, which helped establish SML as one of the top striped bass and bass fisheries on the East Coast
3. work with public and private stakeholders to preserve SML’s ecosystem to benefit today’s outdoor enthusiasts as well as future generations.

### Activities & Initiatives

- Meet with **DWR** in-person or online as needed (Committee and/or Board meetings) to discuss SML fishery trends, striped bass data analysis, and build consensus for fishery management objectives. Understand & actively support DWR budget process & funding for resources.
- Support **DWR’s SML field operations** programs & research: stocking, angler otolith collections, gill net surveys, angler diaries (printed and online), related programs
- Work with DWR fisheries biologists & stakeholders on **proposed fishing regulation** changes (eg, size limits, creel limits) when needed for striper fishery improvements.
- Support **Brookneal Hatchery** operations for striper fingerlings through pelagic stocking assistance, annual visits, other initiatives
- Communicate SMSC’s priorities with staff and Board of **SML stakeholder groups** such as DWR, TLAC, SMLA, AEP, State and County government reps & entities, and with **press & local media**.
- Conduct online, telephone and in-person meetings & events to raise awareness and build consensus on **SML angler community** objectives & initiatives.
- Provide **Catch/Photo/Release (CPR)** and best practices materials and support conservation programs to SMSC members and SML striper fishermen.
- Engage & involve other **SML fishing clubs and tournaments** (striper, bass, crappie), retailers (tackle shops, marinas) and fishing guides to include their priorities for SML fishery management.