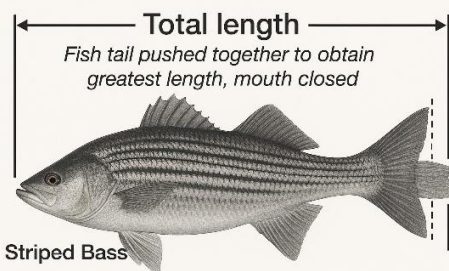


SMSC's "Fish Ladder" Contest

This fun & free annual contest is open to SMSC Members for Stripers longer than 35" caught at SML, with frame-ready Award Certificates for Top 5 entries for the year. To enter, just post your pics on GroupMe, or email pics to the address below. Upgrade your Fish Ladder entry when you catch a bigger fish by posting or emailing 2 new pics.

Fish Ladder Contest Rules – 2025

- **Fish must be caught at SML by SMSC member.** To enter, just post them on GroupMe, or email the pics to: SMSC@smithmountainstriperclub.com



Fish's lower jaw must be touching the vertical piece, top of fish oriented to top of the board. You may pinch the tail on the board - but DO NOT obscure the mouth at the vertical bump or the tail on the marker lines. Fish are measured to **the nearest ¼", rounding down**. If the tail ends on an inch line, that exact measurement is recorded. If there is space between the tail and the line, the measurement is rounded down to the nearest ¼".

- The **full fish** must be clearly visible with **measuring lines in focus** on a standardized measuring board. The board must have a vertical "bump stop" at the left end, touching the fish's lower jaw. Aluminum bump boards sold by Indian Point Marina, SML Tackleshack, and Striper Mafia are approved devices. Pics with fish tail against the vertical piece will NOT be considered.
- The 'measuring board' pic is required; a 'portrait pic' may be omitted if fishing alone. 'Portrait' pic should show the fish **held horizontally**, supported at the head and belly.
- The fish should be immediately photographed and show clear eyes and tail colors without fading. SMSC may disqualify any photo that appears altered. Do not crop, filter, or otherwise adjust the photo settings. Before releasing your fish confirm that the pic(s) taken meet these rules AND that the measurement is clearly in focus.
- The judgement of SMSC on fish measurements is final.
- Catch & Release required by DWR regulations for Stripers 30- 40" from 11/1 to 5/31.
- Recent Winners:
 - 2024 Walter Morrison 40.25"**
 - 2023 Tommy Campbell 37.75"**
 - 2022 Mike Ward 39.25"**

Thanks to Mike Ward & Striper Mafia Tournaments for input on contest rules. <http://www.stripermafia.com/rules.html>