



# Striped or Palmetto Bass Fact Sheet



Image courtesy of Ohio Division of Wildlife

## Basic Biology

Latin name: Striped bass are *Morone saxatilis* and Palmetto bass are *Morone saxatilis* x *Morone chrysops* (a hybrid cross of striped bass and white bass)

Availability: Striped and Palmetto bass are farmed through the southeast with most production in Mississippi, North Carolina, Texas, Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina. Both are raised locally at Swimming Rock Fish Farm, a division of South Santee Aquaculture, in Meggett, SC: 1-888-254-2387.

Growth: Palmetto bass grow quickly during their first two years of life, reaching to 2-3 pounds in their second year. Striped bass grow more slowly and weigh only 1 lb at 18 months of age.

## Sustainability

- Juvenile fish are reared in hatcheries then complete their first year of growth (reaching approximately 0.5 lb) in a nursery pond. The fish are then moved to a grow-out pond, tank or raceway for the second year. These closed systems minimize the impact of aquaculture on the surrounding environment.
- Palmetto and striped bass are fed a commercial salmon or trout feed and exhibit feed conversion ratios of 2 to 1 or less (*highly* efficient in comparison to most livestock.)
- Very few chemicals are used in these aquaculture operations and any that are used must be reported to the Department of Health and Environmental Control.
- Discharge of waste water and pollutants is highly regulated.
- Escapes are unlikely, and in the event that they do occur impacts are minimal because stocking programs release the exact same species into the wild for fisheries enhancement.
- Zoning and permitting of fish farms is regulated by the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and is designed to minimize impacts on the state's natural resources.

## Info for Chefs

- To harvest, the pond is seined and fish are herded into a holding net. They are weighed and immediately put on ice for transport, yielding an extremely fresh product.
- In the wild, these fish are classified as game fish and cannot be sold in the state of South Carolina. Only those raised by licensed aquaculture operations may be sold, and the restaurants must obtain a free Aquaculture Gamefish Retail License from the DNR.

## Info for Servers

- The Palmetto bass is larger than the white bass and quicker growing than the striped bass and can tolerate warmer temperatures. This hybrid cross is known as the Palmetto Bass because the first successful hybridization and culture techniques were done by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources at Lake Marion, SC.

Ohio Division of Wildlife – [www.ohiodnr.com](http://www.ohiodnr.com)

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources – [www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov)

Hodson and Hayes. 1989. Hybrid Striped Bass Pond Production of Foodfish. Southern Regional Aquaculture Center Publication No. 303.

Hodson. 1989. Hybrid Striped Bass Biology and Life History. Southern Regional Aquaculture Center Publication No. 300