

Comparison of chemical composition of striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) from three Chesapeake Bay tributaries with those of two aquaculture hybrid striped bass types

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Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) from three tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay (Potomac, Choptank and Upper Bay regions) and two commercial hybrid striped bass species (*M. saxatilis* x *M. chrysops* and *M. chrysops* x *M. saxatilis*) were evaluated for chemical composition. Fatty acid and proximate compositions of edible tissue from wild catches were very similar within a sampling season. Generally, fish sampled during spring spawning were higher in moisture and lower protein, lipid, ash, eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) contents compared to their winter counterparts. Observed differences were influenced by seasonal factors including, water temperature, feed, and physiological changes. Both hybrid striped bass crosses had substantially higher *n*-6 and lower *n*-3 contents compared to wild-captured fish. This was a reflection of their diets.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past several years, consumer demand for fish and seafood has been steadily increasing. Consumption of fish in the United States reached 7.2 kg per capita in 1990 and is expected to increase in the coming years (USDC, 1990; Haumann, 1989a; Haumann, 1989b; Redmayne, 1989). While demand for fish and seafood has increased, stocks of wild shellfish and fish including Atlantic striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) have declined (Pigott & Tucker, 1990; Redmayne, 1989; Boreman & Austin, 1985; Goodyear *et al.*, 1985). Although federal and state agencies have successfully prevented extinction of striped bass in Atlantic regions by imposing moratoriums and fishing restrictions (Anonymous, 1989; Anonymous, 1990; Fincham, 1990; Diamond, 1990), it is unlikely that commercial catches will be able to fully supply consumer demands (Keiger, 1991). Therefore, in response to limited supplies of wild-captured striped bass, a renewed interest in aquaculture farming of striped bass and its hybrids has emerged (Redmayne, 1989; Haumann, 1989b; Smith, 1990; Greer, 1994).

Although aquaculture farming is not new to world-

wide production of fish and seafood (Redmayne, 1989; Lovell, 1991; Hempel, 1993), producers have continued to explore cost-effective production practices that provide consumer-acceptable products (Hauck, 1989; Haumann, 1989b; Ling, 1989). Much of the research on the culture of striped bass has focused on nutritional (Eldridge *et al.*, 1981; Millikin, 1982; Geiger *et al.*, 1985; Martin *et al.*, 1985; Brown *et al.*, 1992; Nematipour *et al.*, 1992; Brown *et al.*, 1993; Nematipour & Gatlin, 1993) and other environmental requirements (Eldridge *et al.*, 1982; Tuncer *et al.*, 1990; Woods *et al.*, 1985; Houde & Lubbers, 1986) necessary for successful production. However, attention must also be given to end-product quality that result when fish are grown under the recommended conditions.

Changes in feed composition, seasons, and environment can alter the chemical and sensory properties of wild (Josephson *et al.*, 1991; Josephson *et al.*, 1984; Gallagher *et al.*, 1989; Coutant, 1986; Farkas *et al.*, 1980; Reiser *et al.*, 1963) and farm-raised fish (Fowler *et al.*, 1994; Polvi & Ackman, 1992; Maligalig *et al.*, 1983; Gibson *et al.*, 1977; Snow & Lovell, 1974).

Other than limited compositional data on wild-captured striped bass (Exler & Weihrauch, 1976; Smith, 1982; USDA, 1987), little is known about variations

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Table 1. Sample description and environmental conditions of wild-captured striped bass and aquaculture hybrid striped bass

Sample description	Location of capture/harvest	Environmental conditions ^a	
		Temperature (°C)	Salinity (parts/thousand)
Wild-captured Potomac	Potomac River, near Quantico, VA	Spring (1990 and 1991)	0
		4/30/90	20.0°C
		5/4/90	19.5°C
		5/6/90	19.0°C
		5/9/91	20.2°C
Choptank	Choptank River, near Dover Bridge, Easton, MD	Winter (1990)	0
		11/14/90	8.0°C
		11/19/90	8.0°C
		Spring (1990 and 1991)	0
		5/2/90	20.0°C
Upper Bay	Near Elk Neck State Park, MD and Aberdeen Proving Ground south of Sepsutie Point, MD	5/3/91	0
		Winter (1991)	0
		1/26/91	5.0°C
		Spring (1990 and 1991)	0
		5/3/90	17.0°C
Liberty Reservoir	Liberty Reservoir, north of Patapsco Valley State Park, Oakland, MD	5/30/90	0
		4/30/91	18.0°C
		5/30/91	14.0°C
		Winter (1990)	0
		10/17/90	21.0°C
Aquaculture	Eagle Farms (Cambridge, MD)	Spring (1991)	0
		5/21/91	16.5°C
		Brackish water	0
	Walnut Point Farms (Chestertown, MD)	Fresh (well) water	

^aConditions for wild-captured fish were provided by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Markham & Hornick, 1991; Schaefer & Hornick, 1991). Conditions for aquaculture fish were provided by the respective farms.

within subpopulations of wild striped bass and how they compare to aquaculture hybrid striped bass species. Therefore, the objective of this study was to compare chemical composition of wild-captured striped bass obtained from three tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, a freshwater reservoir (Liberty Reservoir, Oakland, MD), and commercial aquaculture hybrid striped bass to determine how genetics, environmental, and seasonal conditions influence variations between populations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Capture/harvest and processing of striped bass

Samples of male wild-captured striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) were obtained from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) during the spring (April/May, 1990 and 1991) and winter (October/November, 1990) Chesapeake Bay tributaries sampling program (Table 1). Fish from the Upper Bay, Choptank River and Potomac River were captured using experimental drift gill nets. Samples were placed on ice and transported to the University of Maryland at College Park within 12 h of capture. Additionally, winter fish (January, 1991) from the Choptank River were purchased from a commercial fisherman. These fish were held on ice for 18 h prior to transport. Striped bass from a closed freshwater reservoir (Liberty Reservoir, Oakland, MD) were also obtained for the study (spring; May, 1991) and were transported on ice within 12 h of capture. Water temperatures and salinity values were measured and recorded by the Maryland DNR (Table 1).

Reciprocal cross hybrid striped bass (*Morone chrysops* × *M. saxatilis*) grown in fresh well waters (Walnut Point Farm; Chestertown, MD) and original cross hybrids (*M. saxatilis* × *M. chrysops*) grown in brackish waters (Eagle Farm; Cambridge, MD) were harvested from aquaculture ponds. Fish were cultured at these commercial farms according to general aquaculture practices described by Harrell *et al.* (1990) using commercial diets formulated for trout (38% protein, 8% fat; Ziegler Brothers, Gardners, PA).

Upon arrival, all fish were skinned and filleted, vacuum packaged in oxygen-barrier pouches (Winpack Vak 3-R, 0.80 mil Nylon/2.4 mil EVA copolymer, 3.2 cm³ × mil/100 in² × 24 h × atm at 23°C; Holly Sales and Service, Inc., Elkridge, MD) at a minimum of 77 mm Hg (Multivac A300 Vacuum Packager, Wolfertschwenden, Germany) and frozen at -20°C (±2°C) until analyzed. No special care was taken to remove belly flaps from fillets. Fillets were ground in a food processor (Model KFP 400, Hobart Corp., Kitchen Aid Div., Troy, OH) to provide a homogeneous sample prior to analysis.

Chemical analysis

Four replicate samples of edible muscle tissue from each fish group were analyzed for moisture, protein and ash.

Moisture was analyzed using the AOAC vacuum oven method (AOAC, 1980). Replicates were dried for 5 h at 100°C and 77 mm Hg in a vacuum oven (Scientific Products, Columbia, MD). Protein content was determined using the Kjeldahl method (AOAC, 1980). After digestion, quantification of nitrogen was determined automatically using the Buchi distillation and titration system (Buchi, Flawil, Switzerland). Protein content was determined by multiplying nitrogen by 6.25 (AOAC, 1980). Ash was determined using the AOAC muffle furnace method (AOAC, 1980). Replicates consisting of about 2 g dehydrated sample were heated in a muffle furnace (Lindberg, Model 51894, Watertown, WI) for at least 2 h at 600°C. Calculations for percent ash were adjusted to account for hydration of original samples.

Samples of edible muscle tissue from three fish within each treatment group were analyzed to determine total lipid content. Analyses were carried out on homogenized (Model KFP 400, Hobart Corp., Kitchen Aid Div., Troy, OH) edible fish muscle tissue using the CHCl₃-MeOH solvent system of Bligh & Dyer (1957). Solvent was removed from the lipids using a vacuum evaporator (Rotovapor Model RE-111; Buchi, Flawil, Switzerland) at 45°C to constant weight. A modification of this method (Smith *et al.*, 1964) was employed for extraction of lipids from fish feeds. Diatomaceous earth (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) and anhydrous sodium sulfate (J.T. Baker, Inc. Phillipsburg, NJ) were incorporated into the solvent/feed slurries to prevent emulsification and to aid in filtration. Lipids were weighed to determine percent total lipid and were then vacuum packaged and frozen (-20 ± 2°C) for fatty acid analysis at a later date.

Fatty acid profiles of lipid extracts from three fish sampled at each sampling day (Table 1) were determined as methyl esters of fatty acids from saponified lipid (Metcalf & Schmitz, 1966). Approximately 150 mg of lipid were saponified using 5 ml of anhydrous 0.5 N methanolic sodium hydroxide (J. T. Baker, Phillipsburg, NJ) and heated in a 100°C waterbath for 3 min. The mixture was esterified using a BF₃ in methanol solution (approx. 50% by wt; Aldrich Chemical, Co., Milwaukee, WI).

Methyl esters of fatty acids were separated using a gas chromatograph (Hewlett Packard 5890 Series II, Hewlett Packard, Inc., Avondale, PA) fitted with a permanently bonded polyethylene glycol-fused silica capillary column (SUPELCOWAX-10; 30 m × 0.25 mm i.d.; 0.25 μm film thickness; Supelco, Inc., Bellefonte, PA). A program rate of 195°C (8 min hold) to 240°C at 3°C/min was employed. Identification of fatty acid methyl esters was achieved using published retention times (Anonymous, 1984) and position of eluting methyl esters of standard fatty acid methyl esters (FAME; Supelco, Inc., Bellefonte, PA) from the same SUPELCOWAX-10 column used for sample analysis. Peak areas were integrated using a Hewlett Packard computing integrator (HP 3396A, Hewlett Packard, Inc., Avondale, PA) and concentrations (area %) of each methyl

ester identified were calculated from all such fatty acids of each lipid sample.

Replicates of fatty acid analyses between sampling days and years within each subpopulation for a given season were not significantly different. Therefore, fatty acid data reported for each subpopulation (sampling region) within a season (winter and spring) reflects the mean of multiple analyses from all sampling days and years within a treatment group.

Statistical analysis

Proximate and fatty acid data were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the GLM procedure (SAS Institute, 1990). Least significant difference (LSD) tests at the 0.05 level of significance were used to separate means when significant differences were found.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Comparison of wild-captured striped bass from three Chesapeake Bay tributaries

Mean weights and lengths of fish sampled from the Chesapeake Bay tributaries ranged from 0.73 to 3.45 kg and 32.3 to 57.6 cm, respectively (Table 2). All fish sampled were considered marketable size. Proximate analysis and fatty acid compositions of edible muscle tissue from regionally-sampled striped bass are reported in Table 3 and Table 4, respectively.

No significant difference in moisture, lipid or protein content were observed for non-hybrid fish sampled from Potomac River or Upper Bay regions within a sampling season (Table 3). However, fish from the Choptank River in spring and winter had significantly lower lipid

Table 2. Mean values (SE) of weights and lengths of wild-captured striped bass and aquaculture hybrid striped bass samples.

Sample description	Weight (kg)	Length (cm)	Estimated age ^a (years)	n ^b
Wild-captured Spring samples				
Potomac	2.22 (0.20) ^c	48.6 (1.6)	4	15
Choptank	3.45 (0.17)	57.6 (1.0)	4–5	18
Upper Bay	2.00 (0.16)	47.2 (1.5)	4	18
Upper Bay hybrid	3.04 (0.35)	48.3 (1.3)	4	6
Liberty Reservoir	2.12 (0.22)	45.7 (1.6)	4	10
Wild-captured Winter samples				
Potomac	1.50 (0.11)	41.0 (1.2)	3–4	25
Choptank	2.30 (0.22)	48.0 (1.6)	4	10
Upper Bay	0.73 (0.03)	32.3 (0.6)	2	22
Aquaculture samples				
Original cross hybrid	0.44 (0.01)	26.1 (0.2)	1	91
Reciprocal cross hybrid	0.30 (0.01)	22.1 (0.3)	1	33

^aEstimated age of wild-captured fish based on fish length as described by Setzler *et al.* (1980). Estimated age of aquaculture fish based on growing time from fingerlings to harvest. ^bn = number of fish sampled. ^cStandard error of the mean in parentheses.

Table 3. Proximate analysis of wild-captured striped bass and aquaculture hybrid striped bass

Sample description	Proximate analysis			
	Moisture	Lipid	Protein	Ash
	% Composition ¹			
Wild-captured Spring				
Potomac	78.86 ^b	2.63 ^c	19.6 ^c	1.22 ^a
Upper Bay	79.36 ^b	2.55 ^c	19.0 ^{bc}	1.56 ^b
Choptank	79.71 ^b	1.82 ^b	18.1 ^b	1.09 ^a
Upper Bay hybrid	79.76 ^b	3.25 ^d	16.4 ^a	0.95 ^a
Liberty Reservoir	79.06 ^b	1.01 ^a	19.2 ^{bc}	1.07 ^a
Wild-captured Winter				
Potomac	78.86 ^b	3.25 ^d	21.8 ^d	1.15 ^a
Upper Bay	77.88 ^b	3.51 ^d	20.4 ^{cd}	1.64 ^b
Choptank	74.70 ^a	2.65 ^c	21.9 ^d	1.20 ^a
Aquaculture				
Original cross hybrid	72.69 ^a	2.84 ^c	24.8 ^e	1.59 ^{bc}
Reciprocal cross hybrid	78.22 ^b	2.63 ^c	18.9 ^{bc}	1.17 ^a

¹ Values reflect means of four replications. ^{a,b,c,d,e}Mean values in the same column with different superscripts are significantly different ($P < 0.05$).

Table 4. Total fatty acid composition of raw edible muscle tissue from wild-captured striped bass and aquaculture hybrid striped bass

Fatty acid	Spring samples					Winter samples		
	Potomac ¹	Choptank ¹	Upper Bay ¹	Upper Bay Hybrid ¹	Liberty Reservoir ²	Potomac ¹	Choptank ¹	Upper Bay ¹
	% of total lipids ³							
C14								
14:0	11.68 ^a	12.68 ^a	12.44 ^a	9.79 ^{ab}	5.65	6.29 ^b	10.39 ^a	9.81 ^{ab}
C16								
16:0	32.44 ^a	28.27 ^a	32.02 ^a	26.38 ^a	25.84	28.17 ^a	30.13 ^a	28.16 ^a
16:1n7	16.42 ^b	17.61 ^{ab}	16.33 ^b	17.73 ^{ab}	15.79	13.49 ^b	15.29 ^b	21.61 ^a
C18								
18:0	3.40 ^b	3.15 ^b	3.23 ^b	3.13 ^b	4.12	5.16 ^a	3.53 ^b	3.13 ^b
18:1n9	12.42 ^a	13.95 ^a	12.61 ^a	12.85 ^a	17.29	12.56 ^a	10.88 ^a	10.02 ^a
18:1n7	2.90 ^{ab}	1.08 ^b	1.82 ^{ab}	4.75 ^{ab}	5.60	3.02 ^{ab}	4.71 ^a	5.30 ^a
18:1n5	0.10 ^a	0.20 ^a	0.14 ^a	0.12 ^a	0.26	0.12 ^a	0.00 ^a	0.10 ^a
18:2n6	1.44 ^b	1.49 ^b	1.62 ^b	1.91 ^{ab}	3.35	2.41 ^a	1.34 ^b	2.09 ^{ab}
18:3n3	1.14 ^b	1.09 ^b	1.37 ^b	2.15 ^a	2.40	2.27 ^a	1.70 ^{ab}	2.28 ^a
18:4n3	1.69 ^{ab}	2.04 ^{ab}	2.45 ^a	2.75 ^a	2.55	0.97 ^b	1.81 ^{ab}	1.83 ^{ab}
C20								
20:1n9	1.31 ^{ab}	1.23 ^{ab}	0.85 ^b	1.37 ^{ab}	2.01	1.49 ^a	1.29 ^{ab}	0.84 ^{ab}
20:1n7	0.37 ^a	0.25 ^a	1.06 ^a	0.33 ^a	0.44	0.73 ^a	0.37 ^a	0.33 ^a
20:2n6	0.32 ^a	0.43 ^a	0.26 ^a	0.33 ^a	0.34	0.37 ^a	0.26 ^a	0.13 ^a
20:3n6	0.15 ^a	0.42 ^a	0.18 ^a	0.23 ^a	0.43	0.37 ^a	0.21 ^a	0.27 ^a
20:4n6	1.43 ^b	1.34 ^b	1.12 ^b	1.48 ^b	2.48	4.12 ^a	1.67 ^b	1.81 ^b
20:3n3	0.16 ^a	0.17 ^a	0.34 ^a	0.27 ^a	0.37	0.25 ^a	0.20 ^a	0.17 ^a
20:4n3	0.59 ^a	0.94 ^a	0.72 ^a	0.96 ^a	1.18	0.77 ^a	0.73 ^a	0.75 ^a
20:5n3	4.69 ^a	7.03 ^a	5.23 ^a	5.31 ^a	3.79	5.84 ^a	6.46 ^a	6.19 ^a
C22								
22:5n3	0.87 ^b	0.89 ^b	0.66 ^b	1.35 ^{ab}	1.20	1.86 ^a	1.53 ^a	1.40 ^{ab}
22:6n3	5.96 ^b	5.92 ^{ab}	5.71 ^b	7.00 ^{ab}	4.93	8.97 ^a	6.93 ^{ab}	3.80 ^b
Total n-3	15.10	18.08	16.48	19.79	16.42	20.93	19.36	16.42
Total n-6	3.34	3.68	2.91	3.95	6.60	6.90	3.48	4.30
n-3:n-6	4.5:1	4.9:1	5.7:1	5.0:1	2.5:1	3.0:1	5.6:1	3.8:1
Saturated	47.52	44.10	47.69	39.30	35.61	39.62	44.05	41.10
Monounsatur.	33.52	34.32	32.81	37.15	41.39	31.41	32.54	38.20
Polyunsatur.	18.44	21.76	19.67	23.74	23.02	28.20	22.84	20.72

¹Values represent means of at least six extractions from six fish sampled from spring 1990/1991 and winter 1990/1991 seasons; See Table 1. ² Values represent duplicate analysis of a three fish composite sample and are within 10% variation. No statistical analyses were performed on these samples. ³Percent total lipids were calculated from the total area of identified fatty acids.

contents compared to Potomac and non-hybrid Upper Bay fish (Table 3). Although slight variations were observed in protein content of fish muscle when sampled within a season, an increase in tissue protein was generally observed in winter-captured fish compared to fish sampled in the spring (Table 3). These findings were in agreement with those reported earlier for Atlantic cod (Botta *et al.*, 1987). Ash contents for Upper Bay fish were significantly higher than either Potomac or Choptank fish when sampled in spring and winter (Table 3).

Fatty acid compositions from each subpopulation showed more variation among winter- compared to spring-captured fish (Table 4). Concentrations of all identified fatty acids from spring-captured Potomac, Choptank, and Upper Bay (non-hybrid) striped bass were not significantly different from each other (Table 4). Spring-captured Choptank fish had a combined eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) content of 12.95% whereas fish from the Potomac and Upper Bay regions had a combined EPA and DHA contents of 10.65% and 10.94%, respectively

(Table 4). Regionally-sampled winter fish showed significant differences in C_{14:0}, C_{16:1n7}, C_{18:0}, C_{18:2n6}, C_{20:4n6}, and C_{22:6n3} (Table 4). Concentrations of EPA and DHA in winter-captured Potomac and Choptank fish were found to be slightly higher overall compared to their spring counterparts (14.81 and 13.39%, respectively; Table 4) whereas Upper Bay fish showed a substantially lower combined EPA and DHA concentration (9.99%; Table 4). In general, regionally-sampled spring fish had higher concentrations of saturated and monounsaturated fatty acids and lower concentrations of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) compared to their winter counterparts (Table 4).

Compositional differences observed for wild-captured striped bass can be attributed to a variety of factors which include differences in growing environments, genetic variations within subpopulations, and sexual maturation that is influenced by age and season (Halver, 1989; Armstrong *et al.*, 1994; Reiser *et al.*, 1963; Sinclair *et al.*, 1986; Ackman, 1980; Evans *et al.*, 1986). Results obtained often represent the combined affect of one or more of these factors.

Feed sources within various tributaries of the bay can account for some of the compositional differences among regionally-sampled striped bass. Striped bass are primarily piscivorous and survive on schooling fish which are available in the environment (Scofield, 1928; Setzler *et al.*, 1980). Selection and abundance of each species varies substantially depending upon location, time of year and water conditions including temperature, oxygen content and salinity (Setzler *et al.*, 1980). Since spawning fish typically cease or limit their food intake, feed supply would be expected to influence fatty acid compositions of non-spawning winter fish to a greater extent than spring spawners (Halver, 1989; Setzler *et al.*, 1980; Hollis, 1952). Non-spawning fish have been shown to readily assimilate preformed fatty acids from the diet into tissue triglycerides (Sargent *et al.*, 1989). In studies using rainbow trout, uptake and storage of fatty acids originated from either dietary sources or *de novo* biosynthesis in the liver (Henderson & Sargent, 1981). Hybrid striped bass have been shown to readily incorporate dietary fatty acids into their tissue triglycerides (Nematipour & Gatlin, 1993; Fowler *et al.*, 1994).

Hollis (1952) determined that prey of Chesapeake Bay striped bass reflected seasonal populations of food organisms found in the bay. He noted that bay anchovy (*Anchoa mitchilli*) and menhaden (*Brevoorta tyrannus*) were the predominant prey of late summer and early fall, larval and juvenile spot (*Leiostomus xanthurus*) and croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*) were predominant in winter, white perch (*Morone americanus*) in early spring and alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*) in late spring and early summer. Winter-captured Potomac fish (October and November) feeding on *n*-3-rich menhaden and anchovies prior to their capture, contained high concentrations of EPA and DHA as well as other PUFA (Table 4). Lower concentrations of PUFA in fish captured from the Choptank River in January (Table 4) reflected to fatty acid content of croaker (Kinsella, 1987), a likely prey of winter striped bass (Hollis, 1952). Fatty acid profiles of winter-captured Upper Bay fish showed a substantial increase in monounsaturated fatty acids and low contents of PUFA which would appear to be contradictory. However, feed sources in the Upper Bay region may be substantially different from prey residing closer to the mouth of the bay.

n-6 Fatty acid concentrations in wild-captured winter fish were observed to be slightly higher than their spring counterparts. This was primarily caused by the increased concentrations of linoleic and arachidonic acids (Table 4). Although linoleic and arachidonic acid concentrations are not typically high in fall or winter prey (i.e. anchovy, menhaden and croaker), consumption of other aquatic algae, cyanobacteria, plankton, or aquatic plants rich in *n*-6 fatty acids (Sargent *et al.*, 1989) that are native to freshwater environments inhabited by striped bass during winter months may contribute to increase concentrations of these fatty acids in striped bass from all three sampling sites. Addition-

ally, larval and juvenile spot which are known planktivorous feeders that scoop and strain bottom invertebrates (Homer & Mihursky, 1991), could accumulate *n*-6 fatty acids from their feed source and thus contribute to the final *n*-6 fatty acid content of winter-captured striped bass as well (Table 4).

Striped bass are anadromous fish that spawn in tidal freshwater zones of Chesapeake Bay tributaries and the main stem of the Upper Bay during April and May (Merriman, 1941; Raney, 1957). Unlike salmon, they can spawn many times throughout their lifetime (Jackson & Tiller, 1952; Setzler *et al.*, 1980). Their homing instincts direct them to their original spawning grounds each year (Setzler *et al.*, 1980). Studies using morphometric characters (Lund, 1957) as well as electrophoresis (Morgan *et al.*, 1973) have shown that subpopulations of striped bass exist within bay tributaries. Fish from Upper Bay regions including the Choptank, Nanticoke, Patuxent and Potomac Rivers have been characterized into different subpopulations (Morgan *et al.*, 1973). Although subpopulation distinctions have been made, a high degree of similarity has been observed between fish residing in eastern shore tributaries (Choptank and Nanticoke Rivers) and the western shore (Potomac and Patuxent Rivers) regions of the bay (Morgan *et al.*, 1973). Variations within subpopulations may account for some of the observed compositional differences in the edible muscle tissue.

Life cycle changes in spawning fish are known to modify fish muscle tissue (Halver, 1989). In this study, 4–5-year-old male fish inhabiting spawning tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay (Table 2) had reached sexual maturity (Jackson & Tiller, 1952; Setzler *et al.*, 1980). Studies with spawning salmon have shown that lipid, protein and carotenoids are mobilized into gonads and skin (Halver, 1989). Since many anadromous fish cease feeding during spawning (Setzler *et al.*, 1980), it has been observed that although some mobilized lipid is deposited in the gonads (Shatunavskiy, 1971; Henderson *et al.*, 1984; Idler & Bitners, 1960), catabolism of muscle tissue lipid to provide energy results in increased water content of muscle tissue while depleting lipid stores (Sargent, 1976). Significantly lower concentrations of protein and lipid contents observed in spring-captured fish from all bay tributaries could be attributed in part to mobilization of macronutrients to supply energy as well as gonadal development (Table 3).

Mobilization of lipids can also play a role in observed fatty acid composition of edible tissue in spawning fish. It has been noted that different species of fish preferentially mobilized specific fatty acids to supply energy or to participate in gonadal development (Sargent *et al.*, 1989). Salmon have been shown to preferentially mobilize long-chain monounsaturated fatty acids during gonadal development (Iverson, 1972). When significant differences were observed in monounsaturated fatty acid concentrations of striped bass, spring catches contained lower amounts of these fatty acids compared to their winter counterparts.

Previous studies have noted a correlation between colder water temperatures and increased PUFA in tissue triglycerides in selected fish species (Armstrong *et al.*, 1994; Reiser *et al.*, 1963; Sinclair *et al.*, 1986). When PUFA contents in fish were evaluated in light of water temperature, it was noted that catches from colder waters exhibited higher PUFA concentration compared to catches from warmer temperatures (Winter Potomac and Choptank, Table 1 and Table 4). These findings are in agreement with those previously reported for other species of fish (Armstrong *et al.*, 1994; Reiser *et al.*, 1963; Sinclair *et al.*, 1986).

Wild-captured striped bass from Liberty Reservoir and Chesapeake Bay tributaries

Wild striped bass not only reside in oceans, bays and bay tributaries but they also grow and survive in freshwater lakes and reservoirs. Edible muscle tissue of striped bass captured from the Liberty Reservoir were analyzed for proximate composition and sensory attributes and was compared to fish captured from the bay tributaries (Table 3 and Table 4 and Table 5). Comparisons of proximate compositions showed lipid content

of Liberty Reservoir fish to be significantly lower compared to other wild-captured fish sampled in spring. Moisture and protein contents were not significantly different from spring-captured fish and ash content was significantly different from Upper Bay fish (Table 3). Since freshwater environments support aquatic life that is different from saltwater environments (Sargent *et al.*, 1989), it was not surprising to see differences in nutrient composition.

In addition to having substantially lower lipid contents, fish captured from the Liberty Reservoir had elevated concentrations of oleic acid and linoleic acids as well as lower concentrations of EPA and DHA compared to their bay tributary counterparts (Table 4). Concentrations of total fatty acids generally paralleled the relative abundance of fatty acids found in the stomach contents of the fish (Table 5). Lower concentrations of EPA and DHA in muscle tissue compared to their bay tributary counterparts (3.79 and 4.93%, respectively; Table 4) reflected the low EPA and DHA contents of the stomach contents (2.35 and 3.55%, respectively; Table 5). Although high concentration of oleic acid present in the stomach contents reflected concentrations observed in edible muscle tissue, high

Table 5. Total fatty acid composition of lipids from aquaculture hybrid striped bass and feed sources of aquaculture hybrid striped bass and of stomach contents of wild-captured striped bass from Liberty Reservoir

Fatty acid	Raw muscle tissue samples ^a		Feed samples		
	Original cross hybrid	Reciprocal cross hybrid	Original cross hybrid	Reciprocal cross hybrid	Stomach contents Liberty Reservoir
	% of total lipids ^b				
C14					
14:0	5.02	5.23	8.50	7.81	5.90
C16					
16:0	22.54	25.57	22.77	23.50	26.53
16:1n7	9.64	7.82	10.01	7.31	10.59
C18					
18:0	2.78	3.85	3.74	3.91	3.48
18:1n9	24.16	24.03	15.00	15.22	21.28
18:1n7	4.16	2.69	3.93	4.34	3.30
18:1n5	0.64	0.17	— ^c	—	0.38
18:2n6	14.57	12.73	17.45	16.07	13.84
18:3n3	1.54	1.53	1.74	2.12	1.97
18:4n3	1.11	0.95	1.66	2.04	2.10
C20					
20:1n9	1.72	2.01	1.00	1.57	1.41
20:2n6	0.55	0.62	0.12	0.16	0.74
20:4n6	0.61	1.07	0.61	0.12	0.61
20:4n3	0.53	0.54	1.07	1.47	1.16
20:5n3	5.67	5.68	7.89	6.48	2.35
C22					
22:5n3	0.81	0.86	0.98	1.12	0.79
22:6n3	3.97	4.93	3.49	6.76	3.55
Total n-3	13.63	14.49	16.38	19.99	11.92
Total n-6	15.73	14.42	18.18	16.35	15.19
n-3:n-6	0.9:1	1.0:1	0.9:1	1.2:1	0.8:1
Saturated	30.34	34.65	35.01	35.22	35.91
Monounsaturated	40.32	36.72	29.94	28.44	36.96
Polyunsaturated	29.36	28.91	35.01	36.34	27.11

^aSee Table 1 for complete sample description. ^bValues presented represent duplicate injections of a three fish composite extraction and are within 10% variation. Percent total lipids were calculated from the total area of identified fatty acids. ^cNone detected.

concentration of linoleic acid observed in feed source (Table 5) did not parallel that found in edible muscle tissue (Table 4). Since arachidonic acid levels were somewhat elevated in Liberty Reservoir fish, it appeared that linoleic acid was a precursor to the formation of arachidonic acid as well as other physiologically active compounds derived from *n*-6 fatty acids (Sargent *et al.*, 1989).

Comparison of wild striped bass to wild hybrid striped bass

A small population of wild hybrid striped bass, which are believed to be primarily a cross between female striped bass and male white bass, reside in the Upper Bay region of the Chesapeake Bay. Little is known about their physiology, mode of reproduction, composition, or sensory attributes. Wild hybrid striped bass were identified by body shape and their proximate composition is reported in Table 3. Since these fish were captured in spring, comparisons were made to other spring-captured wild striped bass. Samples of Upper Bay hybrids had significantly more lipid compared to all other spring-captured fish but were not significantly different than their winter counterparts (Table 3). Their protein content was significantly lower than all other fish evaluated (16.32%; Table 3), but moisture content was not significantly different from all other fish sampled except for winter-captured Choptank fish. Assuming that environment and feed source of these wild hybrids were the same as striped bass residing in the Upper Bay region, it could be concluded that observed differences in macronutrient composition reflected genetic traits contributed by the white bass cross. Data provided by Kinsella (1987) showed white bass to have a higher total fat content (4.0%) compared to striped bass. The genetic trait of white bass to be able to accumulate higher concentrations of lipid could be carried through the hybrid cross and thus result in higher lipid contents in muscle tissue (Table 3).

Fatty acid compositions of wild hybrid striped bass are reported in Table 4. All fatty acids identified in wild hybrids and striped bass captured in the spring from the Upper Bay were not significantly different with the exception of linolenic acid (Table 4). Overall, concentrations of polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fatty acids were greater and saturated fatty acids were lower in hybrids compared to spring-captured striped bass in the other regions (Table 4). Although some of these observations reflect the fatty acid profile of white bass (Kinsella, 1987), the high degree of similarity between these two species would suggest that their environment may be more influential than genetic factors.

Comparison of aquaculture striped bass to wild-captured striped bass

Samples of original and reciprocal cross aquaculture hybrid striped bass grown in brackish and freshwater

environments were analyzed for proximate and fatty acid compositions (Table 3 and Table 5). While moisture, protein, and ash contents were significantly different for the two aquaculture hybrids, lipid content was not significantly different (Table 3). Fatty acid profiles were very similar between the two species and distribution of fatty acids closely paralleled that seen in the aquaculture feed (Table 5). Since both hybrid species have previously been shown to accumulate dietary fatty acids into muscle lipids (Fowler *et al.*, 1994), these results would be expected.

Fatty acid profiles of lipids from aquaculture and wild-captured fish indicated that wild-captured fish had substantially higher concentrations of *n*-3 and lower levels of *n*-6 fatty acids compared to the aquaculture fish (Table 4 and Table 5). Commercial feeds used to grow hybrid striped bass are generally supplemented with vegetable oils that contain higher concentrations of *n*-6 fatty acids compared to typical diets of fish found in the wild (Fowler *et al.*, 1994). The accumulation of dietary lipids in the edible muscle tissue would account in part for the observed fatty acid distribution (Table 4 and Table 5). These results are in agreement with other reports of fatty acid compositions of aquaculture species and their wild counterparts (Chanmugam *et al.*, 1986; Jahncke *et al.*, 1988; Nettleton, 1990; Van Vliet & Katan, 1990; Nettleton & Exler, 1992).

CONCLUSIONS

It was generally observed that the edible muscle tissue of subpopulations of Atlantic striped bass native to sampled Chesapeake Bay tributaries were similar in chemical composition within a sampling season. Spring catches were generally higher in moisture content and lower in protein, lipid and ash compared to their winter counterparts which may be partially attributed to physiological changes resulting from spawning. Although concentrations of many fatty acid from regionally-sampled fish were not significantly different within a season, winter catches in colder water environments exhibited higher PUFA contents compared to spring counterparts. Temperature, feed, and physiological changes resulting from seasonal changes contribute to these differences. Wild-captured hybrid striped bass were closely comparable to the wild striped bass with the exception of significantly higher lipid contents and linolenic acid contents. Wild striped bass from freshwater reservoirs showed substantially lower concentrations of *n*-3 fatty acids which were likely attributed to differences in dietary fatty acids. Aquaculture hybrids were substantially different in their fatty acid composition compared to wild striped bass with lower 3-*n* and higher *n*-6 fatty acid contents.

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