



# *Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan*

Draft Amendment 2

*DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY*

Marine Fisheries

MFC Meeting | Charlton H. Godwin and M. Todd Mathes | February 25, 2021



# Presentation Outline

Amendment 2 Goal and Objectives, Potential Management Strategies, and Scoping Period



- Review stock status
  - Albemarle-Roanoke stock
  - Central Southern Management Area (CSMA) stocks
- **Review and vote to approve draft Goal and Objectives**
- Discuss potential management strategies to be considered
- Update on scoping period
- Review the timeline



# *Stock Status-Albemarle-Roanoke Stock*

Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP



- Management actions will focus on ending overfishing
- Rebuild SSB to provide a sustainable harvest



# *Stock Status-CSMA Stocks*

Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP



- There is no stock status determination for the CSMA stocks
- Stocking and no natural recruitment prevent traditional stock assessments



# Action Item: Goal and Objectives

Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP



- **Goal:** Manage the estuarine striped bass fisheries to achieve self-sustaining populations that provide sustainable harvest based on science-based decision making processes. If biological and/or environmental factors prevent a self-sustaining population, then alternate management strategies will be implemented that provide protection for and access to the resource.



# Action Item: Goal and Objectives

Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP



## Objectives:

- Implement management strategies within North Carolina and encourage interjurisdictional management strategies that maintain and/or restore spawning stock with adequate age structure and abundance to maintain recruitment potential and to prevent overfishing.
- Restore, enhance, and protect critical habitat and environmental quality in a manner consistent with the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, to maintain or increase growth, survival, and reproduction of the striped bass stocks.



# *Action Item: Goal and Objectives*

Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP



## **Objectives:**

- Use biological, social, economic, fishery, habitat, and environmental data to effectively monitor and manage the fisheries and their ecosystem impacts.
- Promote stewardship of the resource through public outreach and interjurisdictional cooperation regarding the status and management of the North Carolina striped bass stocks, including practices that minimize bycatch and discard mortality.



# Discussion Item: Potential Management Strategies



Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP

## Sustainable Harvest

### Albemarle-Roanoke Stock

- Manage with Total Allowable Landings (TAL)
- Adjust TAL based on stock assessments
- Quota monitoring
- Seasons and areas
- Size limit changes
- Gear modifications/limits
- Bag/trip limits
- Adaptive management
- Stocking

### CSMA Stocks

(Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Cape Fear)

- Adaptive management (recovery metrics)

#### **No-Possession Provision Continued:**

- Gear modifications/limits
- Stocking

#### **No-Possession Provision NOT Continued:**

- Manage with TAL
- Quota monitoring
- Seasons and areas
- Size limit changes
- Gear modifications/limits
- Bag/trip limits
- Stocking

## Hook and Line as Legal Commercial Gear

### Both N.C. Stocks

- Participation
- Gear modifications/limits
- Adaptive management



# *Scoping Period and Document*

Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP



## **The Scoping Process Serves To:**

- Provide notice to the public that a formal review of the FMP is underway by the division.
- Inform the public of the stock status (if available)
- Provide opportunities to solicit public input on the list of potential management strategies





## Outcome of Estuarine Striped Bass Scoping Period:

- Scoping Period Nov. 2 through Nov. 15, 2020
- Comments: 3 in-person comments, 20 online comments, and 2 via U.S. mail
- Comments were primarily focused on one or more of the management measures under the sustainable harvest management strategy for each system
- No additional potential management strategies were identified



# Timeline

## Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP



February  
2021

- Division holds public scoping period
- Marine Fisheries Commission approve goal and objectives of FMP
- Division draft FMP
- Division hold workshops to further develop draft FMP with plan advisory committee
- Division update draft plan for Marine Fisheries Commission presentation
- Marine Fisheries Commission vote to send draft FMP for public and advisory committee review
- Commission advisory committees meet to review draft FMP and receive public comment
- Marine Fisheries Commission select preferred management options
- Department of Environmental Quality secretary and legislative review draft FMP
- Marine Fisheries Commission vote on final adoption of FMP
- Division and Marine Fisheries Commission implement management strategies



# *Action Item and Discussion*

Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP



## ***Action Item***

- Vote on final approval of draft goal and objectives for Amendment 2

## ***Discussion***

- Provide input on potential management strategies for Amendment 2



# Questions?

Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP



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