



***CONSIDERATION OF STRIPED BASS  
SUPPLEMENT A: NO-POSSESSION LIMIT IN  
INTERNAL COASTAL AND JOINT WATERS OF THE  
CENTRAL SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT AREA***



*DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY*

Marine Fisheries

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission | Charlton Godwin | Feb. 20-22, 2019





Consideration of Supplement A to Amendment 1 to the N. C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) consisting of a no-possession limit for striped bass in the internal coastal and joint waters of the Central Southern Management Area (CSMA) while Amendment 2 to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP is being developed and adopted.





1. Review stock concerns
2. Review the timeline of draft Supplement A
3. Review public comment on draft Supplement A
4. Consider DMF recommendation
5. Discuss next steps





- Few older fish observed in the population
- Stockings have occurred since 1980
- During development of Amendment 1, data at the time indicated stocked fish contributed minimally to the striped bass stocks in the Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Cape Fear rivers



# Stock Concerns

- By 2016 new genetic techniques revealed stocked fish make up the majority of the striped bass in the Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Cape Fear rivers
  - Implies that in most years there is very little if any successful natural reproduction occurring
- Evidence from recreational catch and 2017 genetics sampling indicate a successful natural reproduction event in 2015 and 2014



## Timeline of Supplement Development

At the November 2018 commission business meeting the following motion was passed:

*Motion to authorize staff to develop temporary management measures to supplement the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan with a no-possession limit in the Central Southern Management Area to protect important year classes while the next plan amendment is being developed.*



# *Timeline of Supplement Development*

- Dec. 3, 2018 the DMF Director requests approval to develop a supplement from DEQ
- Dec. 19, 2018 DEQ Secretary approves supplement request
- Jan. 9-23, 2019 public comment period
- Jan. 16, 2019 the DMF held a public meeting to present the draft supplement and receive public comment
- Feb. 2019 the commission will vote on the supplement



# Public Comment Summary

- **Division of Marine Fisheries:**
  - Issued a new release and posted the draft supplement as a “Hot Topic” on the DMF web site.
  - Accepted public comment on draft Supplement A to the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP for two weeks (Jan. 9 – Jan. 23, 2019).
- **Methods by which the public could submit comment:**
  - Mail written comments to the DMF.
  - Complete an online form to comment.
  - Provide comment at a public meeting to review the draft supplement held Jan. 16 at DEQ’s Washington Regional Office.





# Public Comment Summary



Method Public Comment Received	Support (number; %)	Not Support (number; %)	Did not indicate (number; %)	Total
Mail	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	0	3
Online	31 (21%)	118 (79%)	N/A	149
Public* Meeting	0	15 (75%)	5 (25%)	20

\* Approximately 88 members of the public attended



## *Management Recommendations*

- DMF recommends that a complete no possession limit would provide the greatest protection for two important year classes.
- Focused, easily implemented, short-term while we finish Amendment 2 to the N. C. Estuarine Striped Bass FMP.
- If the supplement is approved, consistent with Amendment 1, commercial gill-net restrictions requiring tie-downs and distance from shore (DFS) measures would apply year-round.

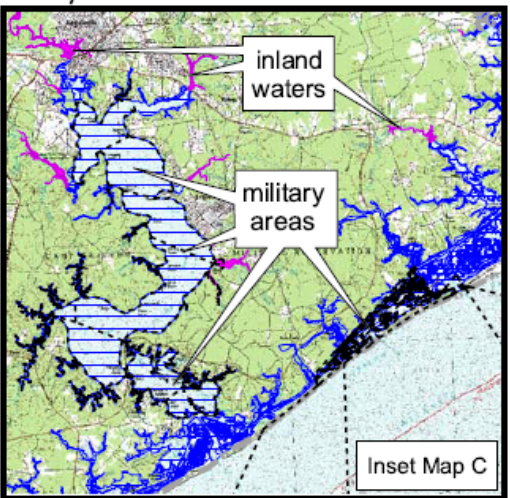
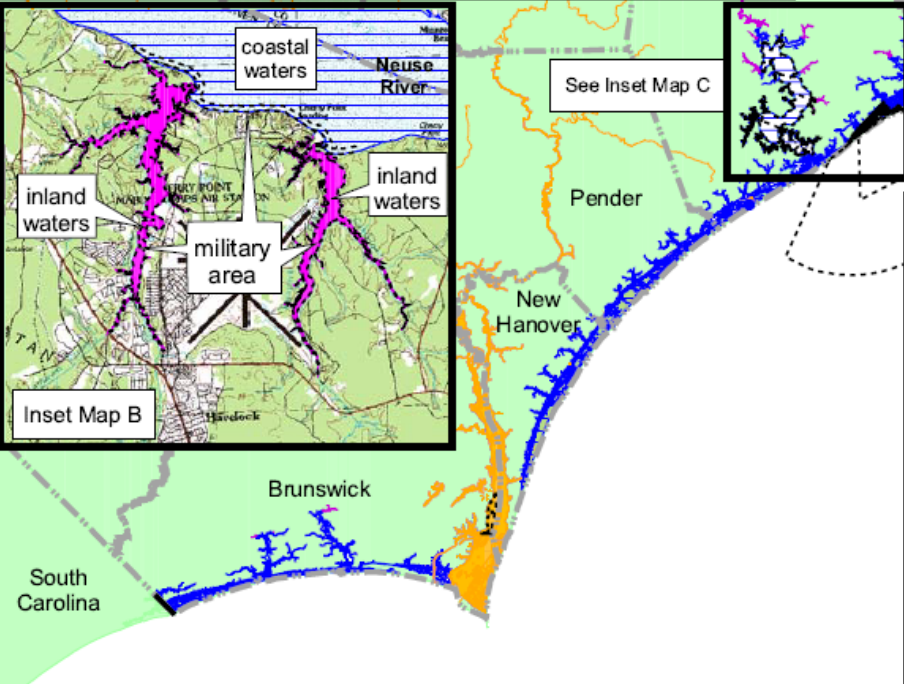
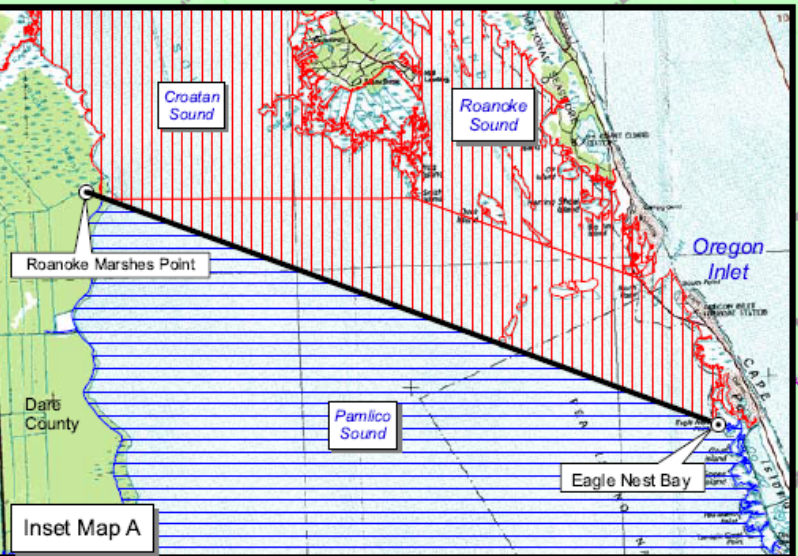
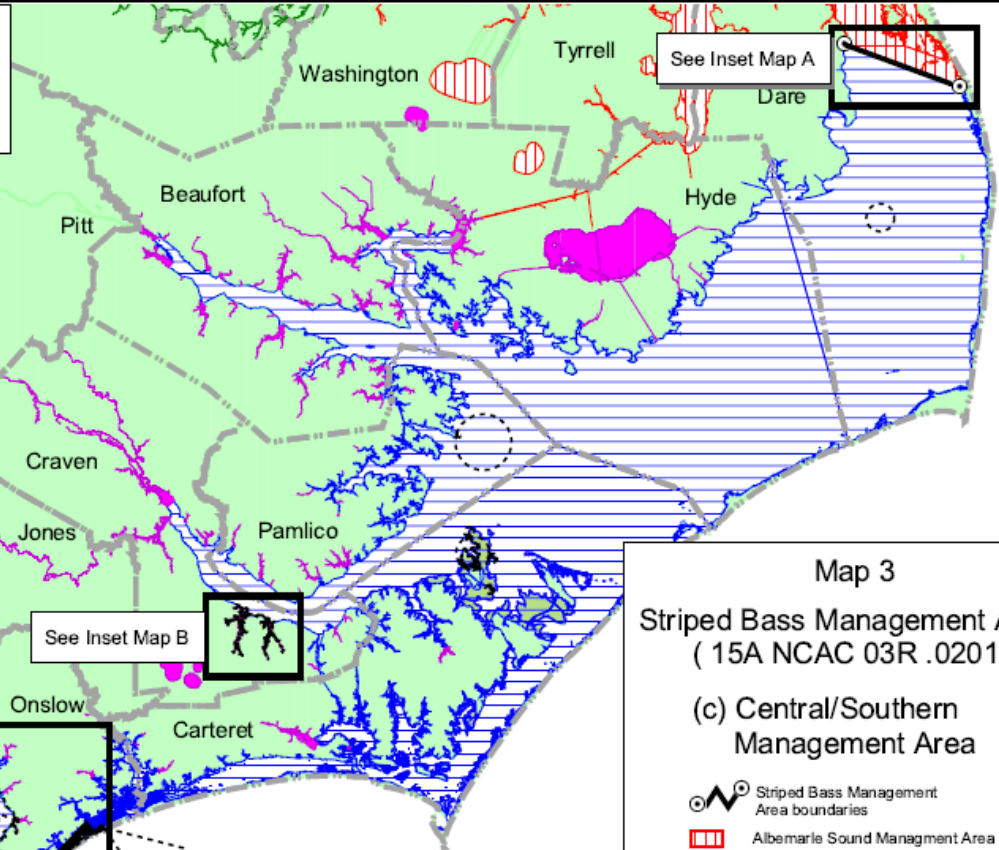


## Management Recommendations

- The DMF recommends the commission adopt the supplement as described herein.
- The supplement will result in a no-possession requirement for striped bass as defined by NCMFC Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0201 that would apply to the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse rivers and other joint and internal coastal waters of the CSMA as described in NCMFC Rule 15NCAC 03R .0201, excluding the joint and internal coastal fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and tributaries (including Snow's Cut).



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**Map 3**  
**Striped Bass Management Areas**  
 ( 15A NCAC 03R .0201 )  
**(c) Central/Southern Management Area**

- Striped Bass Management Area boundaries
- Albemarle Sound Management Area
- Roanoke River Management Area
- Central/Southern Management Area - Coastal Waters
- Central/Southern Management Area - Inland and Joint Waters - not including the Cape Fear River and Tributaries
- Central/Southern Management Area - Cape Fear River and Tributaries
- Military Danger Zones and Restricted Areas (MDZRA)

Datum: NAD83  
 Projection: NC State Plane  
 Map Date: September 2017

6 0 6 12 Miles

locator map

## Next Steps

- If approved, the supplement will be implemented by the DMF director's proclamation authority.
- Per statutory requirements, a supplement is in place until the adoption of the next amendment when the management measure must either be incorporated into the amendment or it expires.
- The joint plan development team is continuing to work on stock assessments for all systems, as well as management measures that consider all factors in each system.
- Issue papers and sections of draft Amendment 2 are developed based on the stock assessments and the review of the FMP.





*Questions?*

