

**From:** Chris McCaffity

**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 6:58 AM

**To:** Fish, Nancy <nancy.fish@ncdenr.gov>

**Subject:** [External] February 2019 Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting Public Comments

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February 2019 Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting Public Comments

Please reopen North Carolina's historic River Herring fishery and restart their stocking program with a plan to promote genetic diversity.

Please start a statewide stocking program for Southern Flounder and create regional Hatchery Supported Quotas based on a percentage of released fry. Our license fees and grants could help provide funding to create more seafood and recreational opportunity.

Please make preserving public access to public waters a priority in the shellfish industry. Enhancing public shellfish areas so they sustainably produce at optimum yield forever benefits everyone and the environment while preserving our freedom to access public waters.

Please ask the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management not to approve permits for five separate rounds of secret seismic testing off our coast. Seismic blasts are harmful to marine life and should not be done more than necessary. Any mapping of our public resources should be done once using the safest technology available with the results made public.

Please support a moratorium on farming fish in public waters due to the record of disease, parasites, and pollution plaguing ecosystems around existing concentrations of caged fish. Wise use of proven management tools that focus on enhancing our fisheries and food supply could be the perfect blend of open-water aquaculture and wild-caught seafood that lives free and self-sufficient until harvested.

If we are going to map our public resources, shouldn't we do so responsibly and transparently?

If we are going to manage public resources, shouldn't we do so in ways that benefit everyone and the environment while preserving our freedom to access them?

I am always happy to answer any questions and/or go into greater detail.

Thank you,

Chris McCaffity