



Fishery Management Plan Update

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting | Catherine Blum | August 2020



Presentation Outline

- Annual Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Update
- 2019 FMP Review
- Draft 2020 FMP Review Schedule
 - Bay Scallop FMP Update
 - Kingfishes FMP Update



Annual Fishery Management Plan Update

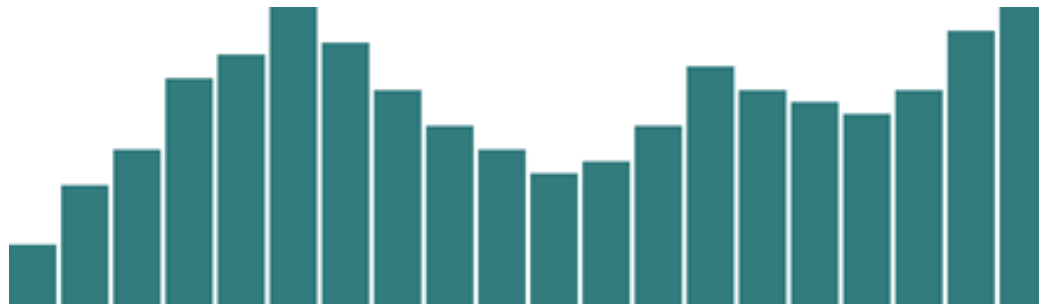
- All FMPs developed
- FMP process changes reminder:
 - Timing of initial development of FMP document
 - Workshops with FMP advisory committee
 - Design of final FMP documents
 - Public scoping period
- Status of state FMPs



Status of State FMPs

Covered in Stock Overview Report presentation:

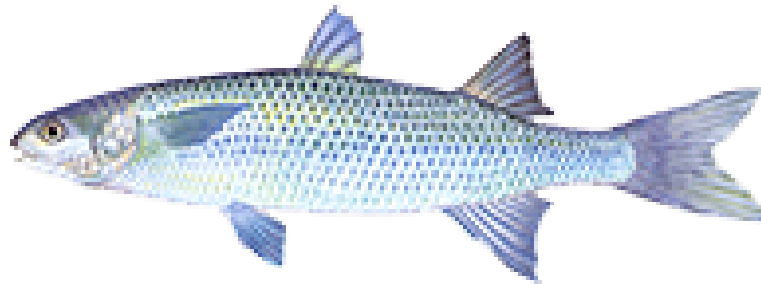
- Southern Flounder
- Shrimp
- Estuarine Striped Bass
- Spotted Seatrout
- Blue Crab



Status of State FMPs

Striped Mullet FMP

- Amendment 1 approved November 2015
- Review began July 2020
- Benchmark stock assessment will be conducted
- 2019 data: no triggers exceeded



Status of State FMPs

N.C. FMP for Interjurisdictional Fisheries

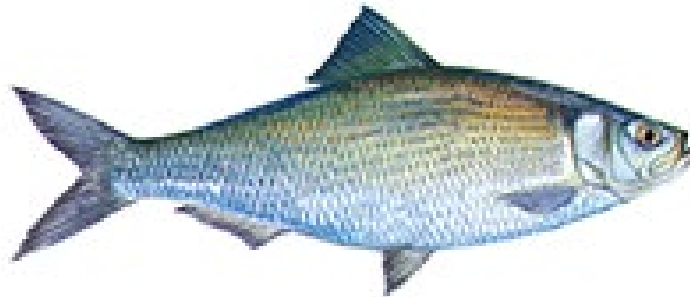
- Information Update approved November 2015
- Review began July 2020
- Goal of FMP:
 - Adopt interjurisdictional FMPs by reference
 - Implement corresponding regulations in North Carolina



Status of State FMPs

River Herring FMP

- Amendment 2 approved February 2015
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) stock assessment completed 2017
- Division recommends review begin in 2021 (one-year delay)
- Explore retiring state plan



Status of State FMPs

Hard Clam FMP and Eastern Oyster FMP

- Amendments approved February 2017
- Limited data, so no stock assessments
- Harvest fluctuates: hard clam, public bottom oysters
- Aquaculture: increase in oysters
- Reviews scheduled to begin in 2022



Status of State FMPs

Red Drum FMP

- MFC approved annual update August 2017
- Management strategies maintained from state and ASMFC FMP
- Review scheduled to begin in 2022



Status of State FMPs

Bay Scallop FMP

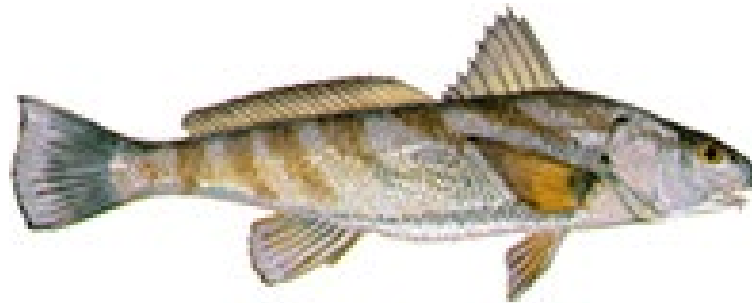
- Division recommends annual update fulfill scheduled review
- Historically low abundance: no harvest
- Maintain current management and triggers
- Next scheduled review in 2025



Status of State FMPs

Kingfishes FMP

- Division recommends annual update fulfill scheduled review
- Ongoing management targets met
- Maintain current management
- Next scheduled review in 2025



2019 FMP Review

- Compilation of annual FMP updates for all species
- “Pulse check” based on most recent data
- Informs the FMP Review Schedule for state species
- Invaluable resource document



DRAFT DOCUMENT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DRAFT N.C. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW SCHEDULE (July 2020 – June 2025)					
Revised July 31, 2020					
SPECIES (Date of Last Action)	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER (8/19)†*					
SHRIMP (2/15)†					
ESTUARINE STRIPED BASS(5/13)**					
SPOTTED SEATROUT (2/12) ***					
INTERJURISDICTIONAL (11/15)					
STRIPED MULLET (11/15)					
RIVER HERRING (2/15) ****					
HARD CLAM (2/17)					
OYSTER (2/17)					
RED DRUM (8/17)					
BLUE CRAB (2/20)					
BAY SCALLOP (8/20) ‡					
KINGFISHES (8/20) ‡					

† The schedule assumes no rulemaking is required to implement the amendment.

‡ The management program currently in place has resulted in a stock that has met ongoing management targets (kingfishes) or the species is impacted by factors beyond fishing mortality (bay scallop); therefore, the 2020 annual fishery management plan update based on data through 2019 will fulfill the scheduled review.

* Adoption of Amendment 2 included the immediate development of Amendment 3 to implement more comprehensive, long-term management measures based on the 2019 coast-wide stock assessment update that indicated the stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring.

** The stock assessment process that began in 2017 for the Central Southern Management Area stocks and the Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River Management Area stock is nearing completion. Supplement A to the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan was developed and adopted during 2018-2019.

*** A 2015 stock assessment indicated the spotted seatrout stock in North Carolina and Virginia was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring in the terminal year (2012) of the assessment. Due to staff workload for the review of other plans occurring in 2017 and since the stock was at a viable level and removals were considered sustainable for the long-term benefit of the stock, the next review of the plan was moved to 2019. Additionally, the division decided to include data through 2019 in the stock assessment to be more reflective of recent fishing activity. The stock assessment process is underway.

**** The schedule reflects a one-year delay to provide additional time to submit an updated N.C. Sustainable Fishery Management Plan for River Herring to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and to evaluate the need to preserve both a state and ASMFC river herring plan.

Next Steps

- Bay Scallop FMP Update presentation and MFC vote
- Kingfishes FMP Update presentation and MFC vote
- MFC vote on preliminary approval of draft 2020 FMP Review Schedule





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Next Steps

- MFC vote on preliminary approval of draft 2020 FMP Review Schedule
- Draft schedule forwarded to Department of Environmental Quality Secretary for final approval, per G.S. 113-182.1(d)



