

NC Estuarine Striped Bass FMP Amendment 2



CSMA MANAGEMENT

Amendment 2 evaluated CSMA management in the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse rivers and the Cape Fear River. Harvest in the CSMA is not considered sustainable at any level due to a lack of natural recruitment. Overall, management in the CSMA was maintained with adaptive management. This includes a harvest moratorium and River gill net area closure.

For the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse rivers, data will be evaluated in 2025 to determine if self-sustaining populations are present. Additionally, data will be reviewed to assess the gill net closure.

Adaptive management in the Cape Fear is based on young of year surveys and genetic analysis. If natural reproduction amounts change management may be reevaluated. This would allow possible adjustments to means and methods, harvest areas, season, size, or creel limits.



STOCKING

Striped bass culture in North Carolina began in the late 19th century with the creation of the Weldon Hatchery on the Roanoke River. Since then, striped bass have been stocked in the Albemarle Sound, Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Cape Fear rivers.

An interagency cooperative agreement between the US Fish and Wildlife Service, DMF, and WRC was established in 1986 to oversee the striped bass stocking program. An annual workplan establishes stocking goals by river system.

Stocking is necessary to maintain the Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Cape Fear stocks. Data collection efforts continue in order to evaluate program progress.

You can read more on the history of stocking in North Carolina in Appendix 1 of Amendment 2.

SLOT LIMIT

ASMA → 18 – 25 inches ←

RRMA → 18 – 22 inches ←



ALBEMARLE – ROANOKE MANAGEMENT

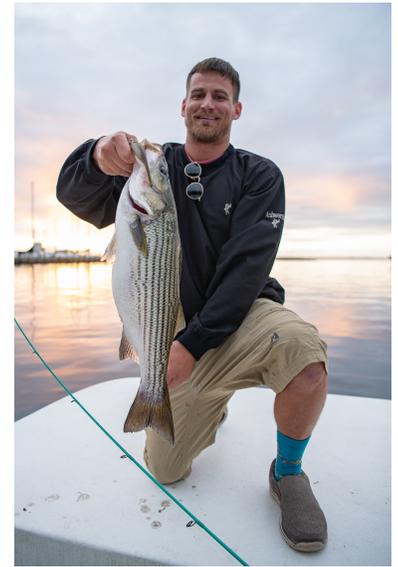
The Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. Amendment 2 management aims to achieve sustainability.

Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River Amendment 2 management:

- Continue to use the stock assessment to set a TAL that achieves sustainable harvest
- TAL overages require pound for pound payback from following year allocation of fishery with overage
- Commercial fishery managed as bycatch fishery
- ASMA 18 – 25 inches slot limit with no fish above 25-inches
- RRMA 18 – 22 inches slot limit with no fish above 22-inches

- April 1 – June 30 require single barbless hook or lure with single barbless hook in inland waters upstream of Hwy 258 bridge
- May 1 – June 30 require non-offset barbless circle hooks when using live or natural bait in inland waters upstream of Hwy 258 bridge

Adaptive management allows for adjustments to the TAL based on stock assessment updates. If mortality exceeds the target the TAL will be adjusted. Additionally, daily possession, seasons, and gear modification may be made to reduce discards and protected species interactions.



Recreational discards are a significant factor in striped bass mortality. You can reduce impacts with ethical angling practices.

[Online Resources](#)



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