

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
August 2024 Quarterly Business Meeting
Online Public Comment

Name	State/Province	Comments
Dick Gray	North Carolina	<p>When the MFC said we would get a bigger voice in the management and therefore the protection of the resource if there was a recreational Saltwater fishing license it sounded like a great idea. In reality all it has done is hurt. We pay this tax to catch fish and ever year since this started we are allowed to keep less and less. As of April 2023, there are an estimated 1.5 million recreational licenses in North Carolina and between 18 and 20 million recreational trips generating millions of dollars for the state. There are less than 6,000 commercial licenses, half or more inactive, while recreational fishermen have been bringing in more fish than commercial in recent years. And We also allow out of state commercial fishermen to come here and take our fish.</p> <p>I respect the small commercial fisherman and know it's hard for them to make a living but the large commercials are ruining this for everyone. When you see the tail bag of a 100+ foot Shrimp Trawler dump out the haul and there is 25 thousand or more small dead and dying fish and crabs and only a few shrimp it's easy to see that this is doing more harm than good. NC is the only state on the East Coast that allows trawling in the sounds and estuaries. So, maybe that is why you can now keep 6 flounder in South Carolina and 4 in Virginia and NONE in NC.</p> <p>Please lets try something simple and see if this works because what you have allowed in the past is killing the resource.</p> <p>Stop all Trawling in sounds and inland waters. Let the fish and shrimp grow up and then catch them when they come out into the ocean in the fall. Not only would the shrimp be bigger but the fish will be also and they may become worth more than all the shrimp that are being caught now. Just try this for 3 years and see what happens! Please, the definition of Insanity is; "Insanity Is Doing the Same Thing Over and Over Again and Expecting Different Results".</p> <p>Thanks and please try something different or there won't be any fish/shrimp in this state for anyone</p>
Charles Wasson	North Carolina	<p>Our fisheries has potential to be one of the best in the world but with lack of management and accountability we will waste it. We must get our politicians to allocate resources to fixing our states plumbing issues to protect water quality, we must also address inshore trawling to protect spawning grounds but this should flow appointing a new board as we the people have lost faith in your ability to manage this resource.</p>
Jason Crews	North Carolina	<p>Really think the Recreational guys are getting screwed with the new laws... 4 days of flounder season and one fish a day???? kinda a slap in the face to us who pay for a recreational license, while commercial guys kill more in bycatch than that.... and regulations on Blues and Mullet, come on guys....</p>
Russell Clark	North Carolina	<p>The complete closure of flounder for recreational anglers while continuing to allow trawlers inside the sounds and not lowering the commercial flounder quota is absurd. I guess my license fees and dollars I spend while</p>

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		fishing in coastal towns are inconsequential. I hope to see everyone on your board fired after the election in November.
Eric Purser	North Carolina	It is absolutely not fair to have to buy license and not be able to keep any fish that you catch and the commercial guys and do as they please this must stop and make it fair for everyone.
Niles Chumley	North Carolina	Recreation fishermen are being targeted and blamed for the flounder overfishing but you allow the Commercial fishermen to continue to trawl in the sounds and estuaries and keep flounder. No other state allows this. You use obscure data to justify this unsound reasoning. 1 drum, 3 blues, no flounder and next will be spanish mackerel, mullet, etc. If you want the fish to rebound, then trawl off shore and leave the estuaries and sounds (breeding grounds)alone and you will see a rebound. This will never happen in NC as long as the board members making these decisions are dominated by commercial fishermen and sea food market board members . Eventually some state Legislators will have to step in and legislate what common sense dictates and take the decision making out of the hands of the organizations that have allowed this madness to continue. Thank you for allowing me to comment.
Devin Lineberry	North Carolina	Please reconsider your position on flounder fishing. How can it be that recreational fisherman cannot keep a single fish all year while at the same time we allow commercial fishing not only in our ocean, but also in our sounds. If flounder are so stressed, do something about it and stop the commercial harvest in our sounds. I would favor a more equal allocation between sportsmen and the commercial fishermen. Eliminate pound nets if flounder are that stressed. Absolutely no way a single pound net should be allowed to be erected this year, none. Assuming a short flounder season opens next September, NC anglers are currently in a 23 month period where we can't keep a single flounder. That Sir is unacceptable. Thank you for allowing me to submit my concerns. Please help. Devin Lineberry Kernersville NC
Bill Meacham	North Carolina	It's hard to believe at times we are in this situation with our fish stocks. Something in the past wasn't handled correctly. The situation probably won't get much better as long as the sounds can be ravaged by trawlers. What are SC and VA doing differently?
lee webster	North Carolina	No flounder + no trout = no fishing liscense + no boat registration. You do the math.....
Brian Rollins	North Carolina	I want you too quite raping the sounds with the trawlers, and give the coastal fish regulations To North Carolina Wildlife Commission.
Keith Kluttz	North Carolina	i am really up set with all this garbage rules you all come up with on keeping a fish. i pay taxes, i buy license spend money on equipment,motels etc. And cannot keep a flounder, speckled trout, red drum? you let these

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		trawlers go into our sounds and dispose of all these fish and i can not go a couple times a year and keep 1. i think you all are paid off and the reck fisherman are all getting singled out on this issue.
Brent McLeod	North Carolina	You guys really S**k, take bribes, and you are ruining the resource. All I do is pay taxes and buy licenses and now I can't keep any flounder but I can buy a baby one in B&J seafood that was washed with clorox because it was old.
Jeff McBane	North Carolina	The time to revamp the way NC manages its marine resources is now. FRA '97 was 27yrs ago. The idea was great... the execution has failed miserably. The need for a complete change is obvious. Dissolve the MFC. The merger of WRC and DMF needs to be examined and evaluated for efficacy. The citizens of NC deserve a better more effective way to have its marine resources managed and allocated. FRA '25!!!
David Cash	South Carolina	I have been going to Cape Lookout since 1987 and this is the most mismanaged fiasco I have ever seen. I go to catch fish and eat fish that I catch. That is one of the enjoyments of being on island. That is one of many, however, it is becoming less enjoyable with each passing year.
Barry Harris	North Carolina	i would like to know who i need to send this bill to 15000 for a Carolina skiff 500 for Flounder lights 1200 for a trolling motor 2 seats up front to gig out of 2 10ft gigs to be told i can not keep not 1 Flounder that is ridiculous, raise the size limit to 20 inches but at least let me go... waiting for a reply!!
Kenneth Doyle	North Carolina	The recreational speckled trout fishery's economic impacts to the state are exponential & surpass the entire commercial values of all species combined!! You have taken Flounder to zero harvests for recreational fisherman this year! You will eventually have to close striped mullet harvests for commercial fisherman plus then close flounder harvest!! Close recreational trout harvests in spring summer spawns April May June July August & close commercial harvests with no sale of specks Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb if you really value protection of the resources!!
Nick Griffin	North Carolina	MFC board members are crooks. It's obvious you do not know how to perform your appointed jobs. If you did, NC fisheries would be in abundant supply like our neighboring states are. Instead it's depleted. Face it, you guys are poor decision makers. Ever since this commission was developed the marine fisheries in NC have been in steady decline. I hope the resource becomes so depleted it runs you guys out of business. Without MFC mother nature will rebuild itself. The one sided MFC is NOT needed in the state of NC. Your rule making sucks!!!!!!!!!!!!
David Burt	North Carolina	<p data-bbox="577 1221 2003 1300">First, I am a firm believer in conservation of our fisheries but, Eliminate drag netting in our sounds!!!</p> <p data-bbox="577 1333 2003 1448">Without protecting the breeding grounds in our sounds the previous and future catch restrictions on recreational and commercial fisherman will never cause or result in the restoration of southern flounder and other restricted species!</p>

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		I can still enjoy fishing without keeping any fish, but it is extremely frustrating to know that while I take great care in returning fish unharmed, drag nets are killing tons and tons of bycatch at the same time.
Brad Williford	North Carolina	<p>The imbalance of restrictions placed on recreational vs. commercial saltwater harvests have gotten out of control. It's unbelievable to me as a 40+ year participant in NC saltwater recreational fishing, and most others, that a complete recreational ban on flounder has been enacted but not equally enacted for commercial participants. Why are we different?</p> <p>If restoration of fish stocks is truly being sought, restorative policies must be balanced between all! Why should the harvest of public resources be limited to only those seeking financial gain, and why should all others be required to leave the resource for them that do benefit?</p> <p>The old saying goes, "10% of the fisherman catch 90% of the fish", and based on my recreational experiences, I would agree with that statement wholeheartedly! Not every fisherman catches fish and recreational fisherman only can fish when they get the time and most don't harvest. In comparison, commercial fisherman who undoubtedly make up the majority of the 10% catching the 90% are highly efficient and effective fisherman. This is to be expected with their on the job knowledge, availability to harvest, and dependence on harvest as a means of income. Unfortunately to the majority of NC saltwater fishing participants, the current laws are imbalanced and give public harvest preference to the minority by asking the majority to "put it back, that belongs to someone else".</p> <p>What logic does this follow, please take a step back and look! There's no way this makes sense to anyone seeking a "just and fair" solution.</p>
Glenn		
Glenn Gibbs	North Carolina	<p>There is not an equitable distribution of the Flounder or any other nearshore fish between NC Recreational anglers and the commercial fishing industry. Case in point, what I personally witnessed the first week of December 2023 on the beach at Ocracoke:</p> <p>I counted 14 fishing trawlers with nets deployed travelling in echelon heading north. The closest one was approximately 300 yards offshore. The boats were evenly spaced apart from each other with the farthest being over at least 1 mile offshore.</p> <p>The number of boats is correct as I counted them using binoculars and could clearly see the nets deployed and flocks of birds following each one.</p> <p>The target catch and by-catch of 14 boats by tonnage dwarfs that taken by recreational anglers and is essentially a rape of a natural resource owned by all North Carolinians by one segment of the industry. It is appalling.</p> <p>Other southern states once had fisheries in crisis and took proactive measures to correct the problems. Today</p>

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		the fisheries in those states are thriving. Why does North Carolina continue to live in the Stone Age when it comes to fisheries management? As the old saying goes, "follow the money". Who has the most to gain by raping a resource owned by all?
Larry D Horrell	North Carolina	It's Time our legislators quit accepting money from the Few Big Commercial Guys. I am a commercial fisherman and all we little guys have watched our flounder population be destroyed by a few. The Tide is coming at you crooked politicians that are not serving the best interest of our fishery. Wake up and stop the big trawls from continuing to destroy our fishery. Stop the Big Money Lies that continue to fund your destruction all the way to the Governor. Do your job for the citizens of our State and Get out of the Swamp.
Gary Hudson	North Carolina	<p>I am very disappointed in the handling of our fishery in NC by our appointed members of MFC. There has to be a better way of insuring the health of our stock for the future than requiring the recreational anglers to solve all the problems. The continued depletion of our juvenile fish in our sounds by netting has got NC at the brink of total collapse. How are SC and the states south able to have such good fisheries and we cant even keep a single flounder from the surf.</p> <p>My earliest memories of my grandfather was fishing with him and have enjoyed watching my father teaching his grandchildren to fish. I am very concerned that if things continue as status quo then all of our grandchildren will only have pictures and stories of the good old days. Thanks for listening</p>
Greg Hawkins	North Carolina	You officials know the problem and as usual someone is always trying to cover it up . Anyway those fish belong to the citizens of North Carolina ,not the commercial fisheries who ships the majority of them out of the state and out of country. I have personally watched them drag a net in , get what they wanted and leave the rest laying for the birds . Every recreational fisherman combined in a in a county will not harvest or kill what one net will in a day.
JD Elliott	North Carolina	<p>It is ridiculous that NC fishing has gotten so bad for the recreational fisherman that some of us have to go to bordering states to keep fish or have higher limits for fish that used to be plentiful in NC ie flounder, bluefish, etc. Even in the fall we will have to show a receipt for some bait, to fish in NC that shows it was bought from out of state. Makes sense that fish caught in SC or VA can be sold as bait in NC and a recreational fisherman has to keep a receipt for proof or face a violation. Same ocean, same fish.</p> <p>I think it is apparent that whomever has been in charge of the protecting the fishing population for not only my generation , but future, is failing miserably. Other states do not seem to have the same issue as NC. Cut off recreational fisherman limits will not make a huge gain in the repopulation of NC fish. Since the recreational fisherman has slowly had our limits reduced every year and commercial fishing too, it does not seem to be working. Maybe try limiting or banning inshore trawling in sounds and tributaries and check the results.</p>
Edgar Church	North Carolina	To all of you who have been voted in or appointed to be in charge of our resources in our State, I want to say shame on you for allowing our estuaries and sounds to be dragged to the point that we are not able to have even a shortened flounder season. Hope you don't order flounder when you go out to eat, oh I forgot the

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		commercial guys are doing just fine, it's the guy on the sand with one rod in his hand dragging a single hook rig that's the problem. The swamp in Raleigh needs to be drained. South Carolina has had a stocking program working for years, as well as Texas and maybe Va. also. My recreational dollars going forward will be spent in one or both of the two states that care about the rec. as well as comm. fishermen. Enjoy the rest of your term as I hope you will all be looking for another job soon. What's next sand fleas?
Bill Fiora	Massachusetts	As a recreational fisherman who travels to pursue false albacore, I support false albacore management in North Carolina. While I primarily fish for this species in New England, the late fall run of large false albacore in North Carolina is a big draw for me.
Capt. Cody Rubner	Florida	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. These fish are under valued and critical to angling communities and economies from MA to NC and even FL. Please continue moving this management effort down the line and enact these precautionary measures into law!
Gordon Churchill	North Carolina	I support taking steps to protect and preserve false albacore/little runny now so we don't have trouble later, which I what had happened every time in the past
Eddie Cox	North Carolina	The fact that the other dept (NC Wildlife) disagrees with your decision concerning a recreational ban on flounder fishing speaks loudly about the obvious bias Marine Fisheries exhibits toward preserving the rights of the NC fishery as a whole. All your decisions are based on protecting the commercial fishing industry and eliminating the recreational fisherman's rights. It's very strange we are the only state on the eastern seaboard with 2 competing governmental agencies sharing power and no other state has resorted to these draconian measures to protect a fishery that belongs to "all" North Carolina residents, not just the commercial industry!
Zachary Cockrum	Vermont	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. I am not a NC resident, but have family in Wilmington, and fish there regularly, including annual guided trips. Whenever possible my preference is to fish for false albacore. They are an amazing game fish that I would choose to target over virtually any other species in the state.
Mike Querfeld	Connecticut	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. These important fish are valued by many guides and anglers up and down the Coastline. Don't let these under valued fish by many go unmanaged. I support the movement and management efforts.
Thomas Fuda	Connecticut	I am an avid recreational angler from the state of Connecticut. I have made, and will continue to make trips to North Carolina's Cape Lookout area specifically to catch and release false albacore. I also pursue them in my local waters of Connecticut and neighboring Rhode Island and Massachusetts in September through October. As recent tagging studies have shown, the fish I catch in New England are likely some of the same fish that pass through NC waters, all the way to Florida. These are incredible game fish that have achieved a "cult" following here in New England. Most of my fishing friends are already starting to show symptoms of "albie fever", even though they are likely still a few weeks away. Many anglers spend a lot of money in pursuit of these fish in the fall when they arrive for a few weeks. I urge the state of North Carolina to lead the way by

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		adopting precautionary management measures to provide rudimentary protections for this valuable game fish. They are more than just bait or cat food! Especially now, when we are really starting to see the effects of overfished striped bass and bluefish stocks. We are losing fish to target here in my home waters. We can't let this happen to false albacore too. Thank you for your time.
Michelle Greene	New Hampshire	I support the management of false albacore. Although I live in New Hampshire and recreationally fish in New England, management of these fish in North Carolina is integral to ensure the fishery continues to exist everywhere that these fish migrate to. These fun to catch fish do not only benefit the recreational fishery, but they support commercial fisheries as forage for tuna and the ocean ecosystem as a whole as forage for sharks, and likely, other large fish, pinnipeds, and cetaceans. Additionally, because not much is known about juvenile false albacore, it is even more integral the species is managed because juvenile false albacore may play a larger ecosystem role as a forage fish than is currently even realized. Therefore, I respectfully urge that the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission develop and implement a management plan for false albacore as soon as possible.
Scott Key	Virginia	False albacore are too important of a gamefish not to protect. As evidenced by the droves of anglers filling up the Cape Lookout 'hook' every fall, it is a massive driver to the local economy in the off-season for an otherwise summer tourism driven area. The fact that there are no regulations at all is frankly a bit scary as it leaves the door open for yet unknown players to decimate a vital fishery if left unchecked. I support false albacore management in North Carolina.
Chris Presson	North Carolina	I don't understand the flounder ban we surffishers barely catch any flounder as it is. For us not to be able to keep any doesn't make any sense. Please lift the ban for surf fishing
Bryant Adams	North Carolina	Stop letting money run the system. You can not tell me that a hook and line fisherman is the problem. Hook and line only can catch one fish per hook. Hooks only catch fish that are big enough to allow the hook in their mouth. So smaller fish don't get caught and the fisherman can be selective. Nets are not selective big and small are caught.
Joesph Evans	Maryland	<p>We come to North Carolina's Atlantic shore each year to fish the False Albacore run. It used to be quite dependable. Not so much now, but we still come with hope of reliving better days.</p> <p>Without these fish, we have no reason to make the trip, spend our money, waste our time...</p> <p>False Albacore are hardly edible. It really should be a no-harvest game fish.</p> <p>Thanks for listening.</p>
Reece McDowell	Massachusetts	False albacore are a very important gamefish up and down the east coast and a good source of revenue from recreational anglers traveling to target them, I for one look forward to traveling to North Carolina from New

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		England this fall to target false albacore and implementing guardrail regulations would be a great start towards protecting these fish.
Eddie White	North Carolina	I think that it is a crying shame that recreational fishermen (and ladies) have such restrictions on flounder, blues, and possibly trout when commercial fishermen have pretty much free reign. Who checks their catch? Who knows how many smaller fish they kill/ throw back? How are they policed? Do I have to go to South Carolina or Virginia to fish now? Thank you for taking the time to read this although I will never know if you did or not!
Adam Sweet	Massachusetts	I support False Albacore Management in North Carolina. Experiencing these fish out on the water is breathtaking and something we must preserve for future generations to enjoy. (15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management)
Dan Jack	New York	I support false albacore management in NC. I am a NY resident recreational fisherman who regularly travels the Atlantic coast, including annually to NC, seeking migratory Albies. I know firsthand that this is one, common coastal fishery: the Albies of NC are the same Albies of NY and MA. Abundance in this important fishery benefits all sectors, not just recreational fishing, and the health of our shared ecosystem. It is worthy of precautionary management now, and follow-through as issues may be identified and addressed. Thank you for your consideration and ongoing efforts.
Lew Armistead	California	I understand the Commission will meet soon to discuss management of false albacore (rule-making reference number“15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management”). While I currently live in California, I always made annual trips to North Carolina to fish for little tunnies when I lived in Maryland, and they continue to be at the top of my fishing destination list. Obviously, when anglers act as I do, money comes into North Carolina. I urge the Commission to focus on precautionary management of false albacore. I want to be able to chase them in North Carolina for years to come.
Patrick leydon	Massachusetts	I support False Albacore
Jeff Minderlein	Maryland	The "faux" albie is an incredibly important fish for the entire east coast and deserves an interconnected effort with NC leading the way to protect and enhance this fishery. Capt Jeff Minderlein
John Wolfstaetter	New York	False Albacore are an important fishery. I trailer my boat down to Harkers Island each year and rent a house for a week to target them on the fly. For the past few years, my group has consisted of three other boats and houses. For 2024, we are expanding to a total of five boats and houses. I look forward to this trip each year. False Albacore are an important recreational fish species for both anglers and fishing-related business. We practice all catch and release when we fish. I am aware that there is a commercial and bait fishery for False Albacore. Due to their importance, I believe that False Albacore deserve to have some guardrails put in place to ensure their abundance moving forward.

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Jarrett Miller	Oklahoma	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina. I support it in North Carolina because I support it everywhere. These little tunnies deserve the same respect and management practices as other gamefish because that is exactly what they are, and a great one at that. Go spend a day chasing albies with a local guide and you'll quickly realize that the fish is a valuable commodity for eco-tourism in your region. I just traveled to Florida from Oklahoma to chase them and I would do the same in North Carolina. Thousands of dollars spent in a local community because false albacore swam off its shores. I am one of many fisherman who spend money on trips such as that, sometimes multiple times a year. Think about that when thinking about the future of these fish.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jarrett Miller</p>
Susan Bertoline	New York	<p>Please consider implementing precautionary management for the False Albacore fisheries. I do not think many people realize just how important they are to anglers, small businesses and communities up and down the coast.</p> <p>With most other fisheries in an overfished status, Albies could be the one that make or break a small business or communities' year.</p> <p>If you were to survey anglers on monies spent fishing for Albies (license, bait/lures/travel/hotel/restaurants/etc) you would be surprised at just how much of an economical impact they have on the East Coast.</p> <p>Please take a stand and be a leader in fisheries management by implementing precautionary management for False Albacore before they wind up in the overfished category.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Thomas Kosinski	New Jersey	<p>As an avid, fisherman and guide from New Jersey, it is important to take the necessary steps to manage these Fish precautiously because many of the guides and recreational anglers depend on them.</p>
Michael. Benton	North Carolina	<p>Make it fair for everyone 50/50!!! The recreational fisherman has been punished long enough .</p>
Nicholas Califano MD	Rhode Island	<p>I have been a recreational fisherman my entire life and especially dedicated to fly fishing. False albacore on a fly are the epitome of sport fishing and we spend lots of dollars on equipment, charters, boats, kayaks and anything that can get us to these magnificent fish. I and my fly fisher colleagues actively support the North Carolina initiative to further study and regulate this very important and economically beneficial fishery. Nick Califano MD</p>
William A. Sistad	New Jersey	<p>Please protect False Albacore as much as possible. All eastern seaboard states must participate in regulating this fishery to keep the numbers strong.</p>
Eddie Gonnella	Florida	<p>I have had a great time fishing and hiring guides to go after false albacore up and down the east coast. Fisheries are connected and don't follow state lines. We have to manage our fisheries up and down the coast</p>

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		<p>and that includes North Carolina managing the false albacore fishery, as well as other states doing the same for these fish and other species that need state level management. Thanks Eddie</p>
Christine Gunshinan	New York	I think it would be beneficial to put precautionary measurements in place for False Albacore in the state of NC.
Matthew Roach	Virginia	<p>I am thrilled to see North Carolina considering managing the false albacore that travel through this state. I fish for albies in North Carolina annually, as well as in Florida and the North East, and feel strongly that we need to carefully and thoughtfully manage this species, as NC does with redfish, flounder, and other valuable sport fish in the state.</p> <p>For that reason I support 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management.</p> <p>Thank you, Matt Roach</p>
Ben Steele	North Carolina	As a recreational license holder who pays taxes in this state I feel we recreational fisherman are getting screwed. We can't even keep a flounder and possibly speckled trout "when y'all get done with meetings", while I have friends that have commercial licenses that I have to buy the same flounder that they gig from the local fish house like BJ's that I myself could have caught or giggered. There is a severe mismanagement of our natural resource that SHOULD be available to all of NC residents.
Sheryl Steele	North Carolina	As a license holder that fishes strictly for flounder, I feel that the recreational license holders of NC are screwed once again this year by DMF. My family sets 2 weeks of vacation aside just for fall flounder fishing just to be told the season is closed because of flawed science by DMF. This is such a disgrace for the recreational flounder fishermen. Why is there a need to even buy saltwater licenses anymore if a person can't keep anything. A person with a rod and reel isn't hurting the flounder population.
Capt Terry Nugent	Massachusetts	<p>I run inshore fishing charters in massachusetts and north carolina. More than half of my annual income is derived from direct charters for False Albacore.</p> <p>I've been involved in the tagging program. Many of our tags from massachusetts have been recovered in north carolina and as far away as the florida keys.</p> <p>I respectfully request the guardrail management for the false Albacore be granted. A strong population benefits everyone.</p>
Josh Tanz	New York	Please support management for false albacore. Much research is needed on this important species for charter and recreational anglers. An unmanaged fishery allows for a potential destruction of this species which has

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		coast-wide effects. Be a leader, institute a management plan, and allow research to be performed to inform practices up and down the east coast.
Jim Black	North Carolina	TAX PAYER, RESIDENT OF NORTH CAROLINA. VOTER,LICENSE HOLDER.FOR65 YEARS.BUT CAN'T CATCH A FEW FLOUNDER FOR A MEAL.IS THIS DUE TO FISH HOUSE OWERS WANT IT ALL.THIS BS AIN'T RIGHT.
Germain Cloutier	Maine	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am an avid angler that travels from Maine down to North Carolina to fish for many species up and down the east coast. By far my favorite to target is the false albacore.</p> <p>I am hopeful that False Albacore management in North Carolina is going to be well supported. This VERY important recreational gamefish is worth a lot to anglers/guides from Massachusetts down to Florida. It would be wise to manage this fish species for abundance and the more false albacore the more anglers/guides will continue to add money to the economy and areas you can catch these species.even though it's a primarily a catch and release fishery, it still produces hundreds of thousands of trips people take to target these fish for pure sport.</p> <p>I support False Albacore Management in North Carolina and feel that many others will as well. The Future looks bright for this very important target species and hopefully that will continue.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
Diogo Godoi	Massachusetts	As a charter Captain in Massachusetts fully involved with the Albie tagging project I support the states effort to conserve false albacore. Many fish tagged here in MA in the fall travel the entire coast and efforts to protect the species is crucial to my future as a charter captain. Albies drive the vast majority of my fishing business as soon as they show in fishable numbers here in MA around mid August. That business as you know also supports the entire community as anglers travel to MA and spend money in MA to pursue these amazing fish.
Mack Hartwell	Ohio	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. Thank you for accepting public comments!
Gregg Williamson	North Carolina	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. Our family and friends love the thrill and the pull of these fish. We have introduced so many fishing newbies to these fish and I hope they will be given proper protection.
Capt. Paul Eidman	New Jersey	<p>Subject: The Importance of False Albacore to Small Charter Businesses and the Need for Precautionary Management</p> <p>Dear NC Marine Fisheries Commission,</p> <p>As a small charter business owner who relies heavily on the abundance of False Albacore (Albies) for my livelihood, I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of this species to both my business and the broader recreational fishing community along the Atlantic coast.</p>

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		<p>False Albacore are a tremendously valuable recreational fish species for anglers and fishing-related businesses from Massachusetts to Florida. In 2021 alone, over 500,000 directed trips were made with False Albacore as the primary or secondary target species. From 2011 to 2021, the average number of such trips exceeded half a million annually. For small charter operators like myself, these numbers are not just statistics—they represent the backbone of our business, particularly in years when other inshore species like striped bass have been less abundant.</p> <p>The abundance of False Albacore serves all sectors of the fishing industry. There are growing commercial and bait fisheries for this species, and anecdotal evidence suggests that these fisheries may be expanding without adequate monitoring and management. This unchecked expansion poses a potential threat to the sustainability of the False Albacore population and, by extension, to the livelihoods of those who depend on them.</p> <p>While I understand that False Albacore are not currently considered to be in crisis, I strongly believe that precautionary management measures are necessary to ensure the long-term health and abundance of this fishery. Guardrails should be established to prevent overfishing and to protect the species from becoming overexploited, as has happened with other species in the past.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that, despite the lack of extensive scientific data on False Albacore, initiatives like the acoustic tagging study currently being conducted in Massachusetts waters by the American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA) and other key partners are steps in the right direction. This research will hopefully provide valuable insights that can guide responsible fishery management decisions in the future.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge your commission to consider the economic and ecological importance of False Albacore to the Atlantic coast's recreational fishing industry. Implementing precautionary management measures now will help ensure that this vital resource remains abundant for future generations of anglers and business owners like myself.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p> <p>Sincerely, Capt. Paul Eidman Reel Therapy Fly and Light tackle fishing charters ██████████ Tinton Falls New Jersey</p>
Curt Nadeau	Connecticut	I support False Albacore conservation in North Carolina, and in every state. It is a prized and widely sought-after species that should be preserved for other fishermen by practicing catch and release.

Name	State/Province	Comments
Stuart Taylor	North Carolina	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. It's a great light tackle species and it deserves our support and management. 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management
Shannon Richards	New York	I support false albacore management in North Carolina, referenced in 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management. NC Fisheries is applauded for their leadership in taking steps to protect this fishery before critical conditions develop. NC is setting an example of proactively that other states should follow; well done NC! Thank you.
Herb Ellington	North Carolina	From the time I spend fishing to watching this group try to manage the resources, I can not help but wonder why? I have caught and released more flounder since the ban came into effect than in the 20 plus years prior to the band. The mullet thing was a total mess and not enforceable at all. Rec and commercial groups can coexist with each other and both prosper. The successful commercial fishermen are really running logistics operations. They ship and truck fish and related items to vendors anywhere. I can get whiting in Wilmington that where caught in Peru. What we need is some common sense and not just regulations put into place because "we can and they can not stop us."
Darryl Forrester	Rhode Island	I strongly support false albacore management in North Carolina, and in all coastal states from Maine to Florida
Chase Simpson	Georgia	<p>Commission,</p> <p>Basic protections are absolutely necessary in the longevity of this fishery. It's known that NC is well behind the power curve when it comes to protections for the fishery. Take action now to ensure a thriving False Albacore fishery for generations. Mismanagement affects surrounding States as well.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Capt. Chase Simpson</p>
Capt. Lou Cavaliere	Connecticut	False albacore is one of the most exciting game fish to target. Help support and protect Albie (little tunny) populations by providing species management in North Carolina, this will hopefully carry over to other states. All of my Albie fishing is catch and release fishing which ever state I am fishing. Over the past years, I have noticed a decline in size and numbers in their populations. By implementing management guidelines on this species, you are setting the example. They ARE WORTHY of management! Too many people are taking advantage of the lack of regulations, and I believe it is hurting the fishery. Please consider management tactics for this amazing fishery.
Tim Gibson	North Carolina	Why don't the mairne fisheries, for once do something for the recreational fisherman, instead of bowing down to commercial interest.
Richard Holt	Pennsylvania	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. I also support research for this species. Please support this important recreational resource.

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>Thank you.</p> <p>15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management</p>
Cameron Siegal	Massachusetts	<p>Dear Commission,</p> <p>False Albacore, as an inshore pelagic fish, urgently need careful management to protect populations. I support false albacore management in North Carolina. This action will ensure the health of the fishery for my children and their children.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cameron R. Siegal, Ph. D. USCG Master</p>
Gavin Fraser	New York	<p>I sincerely hope The N.C. MFC puts measures in place to ensure the future strength of the false albacore stock. I am a recreational fisherman who has grown increasingly obsessed with these amazing creatures, and I travel every fall to Martha's Vineyard and the Long Island North Shore to fish for them. I rent homes on Air BnB and buy gear, all thanks to the Albie. Please protect them!</p>
Brian Donahue	Massachusetts	<p>False Albacore are an important migratory game fish that have economic impact on tackle shops, guides, hotels, restaurants, etc. Anglers travel for the opportunity in pursuit of these beautiful game fish. Anglers along the east coast wait all year for their arrival to have a short few months to try to catch them. Albies are a special and prized marine resource that need protection. North Carolina needs to help.</p>
Michael Larkin	Florida	<p>False Albacore are an amazing sportsfish that needs to be protected. We can't just afford to sit around and wait until the stock crashes and then act. Lets get ahead of it and protect the species now. Please put place regulations to protect False Albacore. Thanks.</p>
Kristen Mustad	Florida	<p>Albies need to be regulated. I fish for them in FL and watch commercial fishermen catch hundreds if not thousands a day on rod and line, only to sell them to be ground up or used as strip baits. Being an eye witness to 2 people pulling in 2-3 fish per minute per person makes you wonder where this will be tomorrow. This year the big fish were few and far between. Let's place reasonable limits on them. False albacore are a huge component of our oceans' food chain.</p>
E Diaz	Texas	<p>Please protect the false albacore population in North Carilina Waters. I would like to be able to go to your beautiful coast and fish for them and eventually take my grand kids there to fish for them. Government, guides, anglers can make a great impact on the future stability of your Waters and fisheries.</p>
Jack Nickens	North Carolina	<p>Growing up, I dreamed of going false albacore fishing on a fly rod. Between school, sports, and college it never happened until I was 19. My eyes were opened to just how amazing these fish were. I saw the coastal town come back to life in October and November as anglers headed to the coast. I support False Albacore</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		fisheries management not just because I love fishing for them, but because I know the livelihood of so many depend on the fishery.
Blane Chocklett	Virginia	I've been traveling to North Carolina waters for more than 30 years, hosting trips with friends and clients for the amazing False Albacore. We need to do everything we can to protect these great fish. I am in full support of protecting these fish for future anglers, please count me in 100% in support of False Albacore management and protection. Sincerely Blane Chocklett
Eric Spicer	Rhode Island	I support 5A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management. As someone whose livelihood is tied to these fish and the recreational fishery for them the process of protecting them must be started. I applaud North Carolina for being the first to do so. As we have seen from the Albie Project data your fish are our fish and our fish are your fish. Thank you Eric Spicer
Parker Corbin	Connecticut	Dear NC Marine Fisheries Commission, I am a life long saltwater angler who now has three daughters. Each year we fish on Martha's Vineyard in late August and target false albacore. I also fish for them at home in Connecticut. The work that the American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA) has done to demonstrate with science the interconnected fishery between New England, the Carolinas and Florida is very important for proper management of the species. Because of this, I support false albacore management in North Carolina ("15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management"). I think it is necessary that coastal fish species are managed in an integrated way for all constituents who utilize the resource. Managing for abundance to ensure a healthy ocean is critical. Please consider this at your meeting next week. I would like to continue to target these fish recreationally with my kids and eventually grand children as well. There is nothing quite like it when my 10-year holds hooks into one of these fish and experiences the power of pelagic fish. Her smile says it all. These are an important fish that mean a lot to people through out the coast. Please manage them will all of us in mind. -Parker Corbin
David W Gay	North Carolina	You guys really S**k, take bribes, and you are ruining the resource. All I do is pay taxes and buy licenses and now I can't keep any flounder but I can buy a baby one in B&J seafood that was washed with clorox because it was old.
Shannon Stafford	Virginia	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. These are such important fish to our community in Massachusetts. With the decline in Striped Bass population, our local community has relied on the false albacore as a game fish to supplement the economy. I took part in the tagging program last year. It is important to provide active management of these fisheries for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. It is

Name	State/Province	Comments
		important that we as a coastal community work together to understand the fishery and importance to all of our communities.
Steve Rubner	Massachusetts	I love booking guided trips in the fall to chase albies. They are one of the few fisheries we can rely on. Please help protect our fishery and yours by appropriately managing this coastal fishery.
Sarah Machesko	Florida	I support Albie management in North Carolina. Though my family called them “Bonita” growing up in Florida, Albies were some of the first saltwater fish that I caught and I hope I’ll be able to catch many more for a long time. Please follow through with this new rule and I hope other states like mine do the same after.
Joe Gugino	Massachusetts	My name is Captain Joe Gugino from Winthrop, Massachusetts, right on Boston Harbor. I am the conservation manager for Costa Sunglasses, a global brand that is deeply rooted in coastal and angling communities along the east coast. False albacore are a beloved species for many of our anglers and guides. I appreciate what NC is doing to take precautionary steps for guardrail management. I support this rule making effort, as well as thousands of other anglers and guides in New England who are eagerly awaiting these fish to arrive in waters for the fall. The latest research has shown that we share the same fishery and I hope NC efforts inspire other states to protect a great resource.
Jordan	New York	Please put measures in place to protect the false albacore.
Ronald Contrelli	New York	Albies should be managed for abundance. In NY guides and tackleshops count on Albie fisherman for income. As a fisherman I target Albies about 50 trips per season. We don't want to wait to it's to late to properly manage this fishery. Just look at the collapse of our Striped bass fishery. Please help protect the False Albacore
LANE THURGOOD	Virginia	My four daughters and I have treasured our days in the catch-and-release chase of false albacore. They are a beautiful fish and really make a young person's eyes light up. Also true of not so young people, myself included. I am the Council President for the Chesapeake Council of Fly Fishers International and can also attest that a number of our members value this amazing fish. Our members travel from Montauk to the Outer Banks to intercept these wonders of the saltwater world. Please protect our false albacore.
Jerry Kustich	Maryland	I support every false albacore management effort in North Carolina that will benefit the entire fishery up and down the East Coast. Since I have retired to Maryland ten years ago, there has been a noticeable decline in striped bass, and that should serve as a red flag for the sustainability of the entire Atlantic sportfishery...they are all interconnected and need watchful nurturing for the benefit of future generations.
Kyle Schaefer	Maine	15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management Good Afternoon, Thanks for the opportunity to comment on False Albacore Management. Realizing that little tunny is a coastal connected stock we all need to work together to best manage these fish for abundance so everyone on the east

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>coast can experience great fishing.</p> <p>False albacore are a very important recreational fish species for anglers and fishing-related businesses from Massachusetts to Florida. In 2021, there were over 500,000 directed trips on the Atlantic coast where false albacore were the primary or secondary target species. Commercial and bait fisheries exist for this species, and anecdotal reports indicate these fisheries may be expanding without functional guardrails and monitoring. The bait fishery for False Albacore only monetizes these incredible fish once and at a very low value, comparatively. The catch & release fishery for albies monetize these fish again and again at an extremely high and sustainable value from Mass to Florida. With data coming back that these fish have a very low c&r mortality it's encouraging to see that, if properly managed, we'll all have great opportunity to fish and enjoy this species for generations to come.</p> <p>Best, Kyle</p>
Alex Shukis	Massachusetts	I support false albacore management in North Carolina / 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management. As someone in the northeast who looks forward to albacore fishing every fall I find it is incredibly important to manage this fishery to promote the abundance of the species. Thank you for reading my comment.
Rob Glasser	South Carolina	8-10 of us come to Beaufort each year solely to albie fish. We rent a house, go to restaurants and fish 4-5 days. We pay dockage and buy fuel. Last year was the worst year in recent memory. We did get some nice bluefish on the west side of the cape, but tough fishing for the most part. More and more pressure is being placed on all our fisheries, and some serious thought needs to be given to be speedster of the ocean. Nothing more fun on a fly rod! Please contact Captains Joe Shute, Brian Horsley and Sarah Gardner for the "reel" facts.
Robert Eberle	North Carolina	DMF, please go back to the drawing board. Your preliminary recommendations for speckled trout management are unacceptable. WHY DO YOU IGNORE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE? Their recent slot recommendations starting at 16-inches will allow 14-inch fish to spawn. This seems smart. I am one of many inshore recreational fisherman who does not want any recreational season closure. Change what you must from their recommendations but do not promote seasonal recreation closure. WE WILL HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO FISH FOR!!!!!!!
Scott Davis	South Carolina	Please do every can you can to protect this resource! Albies are too important to recreational fisherman to be overlooked. I have traveled to Harkers Island for over 20yrs with the sole purpose to fish for False Albacore. They connect the whole coast and we, as anglers and conservationists, must step up to protect this overlooked fish. Thank you kindly

Name	State/Province	Comments
Reuben Cowles	Virginia	I encourage the Commission to develop scientific guidelines for the management of false albacore. I fish the albie run in NC with my grandsons each fall and appreciate this wonderful resource. Please do the correct thing for the fish.
Mark Eustis	Maryland	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. False albacore are a significant contributor to the state economy by supporting local guides, and the monies spent by their visiting clients and the vacationing families they bring to the coastal communities. At present, there are no limits or precautionary measures to protect the abundance of this fishery. At a minimum, the fishery deserves a set of guidelines to ensure the abundance continues. There is an ongoing tagging study which can be used to inform decisions by fisheries managers. Please consider developing and implementing monitoring and management guidelines. Thank you for your consideration.
peter Farrell	Rhode Island	So important for our fall fishing, management of a basically unregulated fish is vital to a robust fishery for the future. lets manage them!
Jason Scott	California	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. I've spent the last 20 summers on OBX and have been involved in the fishing industry for over 20 years. Management needs to be done to maintain the fishery for future generations.
david singleton	North Carolina	I cannot believe what has been allowed to happen to our fish stocks. Millions and millions of immature fish killed by inshore trawling. Only allowed in North Carolina. It's a sad state of affairs. Please do away with the Marine Resources Commission. NC Wildlife would do a much better job
Christopher Aiken	New Hampshire	I caught my first Albacore last year. We booked two more charters during that family vacation and would have booked more if they were available. Getting very excited for this September to catch and release them again. This species deserves protection.
Larry White	North Carolina	I fully and strongly support False Albacore management for our NC fishery. I believe only good can come from controlling the catch of this valuable resource.
David Hrobuchak	North Carolina	I am a new resident of NC and am a dedicated fly fisherman. While I have not yet fished for False Albacore, I hope to sometime soon in NC's offshore waters. Unfortunately, there is evidence indicating the species may be in decline along the eastern seaboard. Therefore, I enthusiastically support the immediate passing of 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management. It would be a tragedy to allow this beautiful fish to unnecessarily disappear from our ocean and it is worth any and all our efforts to protect and enhance their population.
Jon Pershke	North Carolina	Please enact common sense limits on false albacore to protect our resource for the future!
MRINMAY BISWAS	North Carolina	I support false albacore management in North Carolina. I believe that it is essential for commercial as well as recreational fishing on our North Carolina waters.
Woodrow Albin	Rhode Island	Albacore are a very important fish stock and deserve intense management to prevent a crash in their population as has happened with so many other of our best fisheries.

Name	State/Province	Comments
Conway Morphis	North Carolina	<p>I know this will fall on deaf ears but at some point someone needs to start using common sense! How can the government officials have any idea how the surf fisherman impacts the numbers of select fish such as flounder , specks , blues ect. It has been several years since I have caught a legal flounder but l(we) are being blamed for declining numbers of certain fish! But l can stand on the beach and watch commercial fishing boats go back and forth scooping all types of fish probably killing more fish in 1 day than the recreational fishermen kills in a lifetime!</p> <p>Seems like if the NC officials could just use common sense to come up with solutions that would be fair for both sides. However if your just going be like electricity (following the least path of resistance) l guess the target will stay on the recreational fishermen. Guess taking our business to another state would be a solution to consider.</p> <p>I knew whenever the genius's in Raleigh put Cape Lookout on Recreation.gov the recreational fisherman's days were numbered.</p> <p>COMMON SENSE REALLY DOES WORK! Try it sometime, please!</p>
Skot Smith	North Carolina	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina.</p> <p>Let's do this</p>
Marty Gooch	North Carolina	<p>I support False Albacore management. We must protect out shared resources.</p>
Douglas Walker	North Carolina	<p>Please use some common on these fish rules, the flounder rules suck and yall know they do. Blue's were always a trash fish we used for cut bait, and the drum population is flourishing, stop beating the recreation fishermen down like we are the problem,I have personally went out with a commercial fishermen on a small boat and and he set 600 feet of gill nets and probably put 800 pounds of fish on the boat ,one set and he never threw 1 fish back so who is hurting the fishery's when he gets to do this 7 days a week and we're talking about one guy ,I've also witnessed big trawlers so close to the breakers it's crazy.</p>
Kitri Schaefer	Maine	<p>15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management</p> <p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina. Precautionary management for abundance benefits all of us.</p>
Justin Wilson	Florida	<p>Please protect False Albacore and provide a meaningful management plan so that these fish can have a sustainable future.</p>
John O'Shaughnessy	New York	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina</p>
Will Anders	North Carolina	<p>False albacore are an incredibly important species right now. They are both very fun to catch and also not very good to eat - so a conservationist minded sportstman's dream! If only we don't let folks ruin it by harvesting these things...they are an incredibly valuable recreational resource and the commercial value is relatively</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>nothing...a great day for a recreational angler is catching (and releasing) 10 or so fish, and in contrast to fish like tuna or grouper there's very little value in these fish (more or less only used in fish food or bait) so why would we allow this resource to be depleted like other resources (gray trout, founder, spot, etc.) when there's so little upside? This should be simple. And unrelated comment is that we also should get rid of shrimp trawling - it has nothing to do with this issue, but does have tons to do with the overall health of our fisheries even is DMF and others pretend like that's not the case or pretend like our fisheries are healthy and not being abused by an almost infinitesimal sliver of the state's population.</p>
James Edwatds	North Carolina	<p>Please put extensive management of this species as a top priority. This a recreational gem for North Carolina along with Eastern seaboard states from Florida to Massachusetts. Local coastal economies are impacted by the angling public pursuing this sport fish. Thank you for the guardrail management in place. Let's now take species management to the next level allowing NC to be a destiny sought out by the American Angler wanting to experience the exhilaration of chasing False Albacore. Thank you for your work. 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management”.</p>
Abram Pearson	Maine	<p>I support conservation management rules for false albacore. They are a very important recreational species and we have seen what can happen to a fishery when it is not protected. I urge you to put in place strong guardrails to protect this species for the future. Thank you for your consideration</p>
David Prockop	Rhode Island	<p>Dear NCNFC,</p> <p>As a recreational fisherman living in Rhode Island, I love chasing false albacore in the early fall. Our tackle shops, guides, and online gear dealers do a huge amount of business focused on the roughly six weeks when albies are in our area.</p> <p>For those of us in New England, the local albie season is short but North Carolina is albie mecca. We love those exciting fish and there is nowhere in the world like the Morehead City area. As you are surely aware, your hotels, restaurants, fishing guides, and tackle shops benefit enormously from your false albacore fishery. That fact alone makes, I think, a compelling reason for you to do everything in your power to support the biggest possible albie population for the long term. My friends and I would have no reason to make your state a travel destinations if good numbers of albies were not there.</p> <p>Since we now know that we're dealing with an albie population that is connected all down the coast, your conservation efforts will carry similar benefits to the recreational fishing industry(and related industries) in other states as well.</p> <p>With great appreciation for your efforts to support this vital species,</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		Dave Prockop Providence, RI
vincent J catalano	New York	We need to measure False Albacore for abundance. They benefit our fisheries and coastal economy. I support new regulations for False albacore
Chris Cobb	North Carolina	<p>I am 55 years old grew up in Eastern NC. As a youngster we would take trips out of Swans quarter to the middle ground (Pamlico Sound) and catch croaker for family fish fries in the spring and fall. They were always there, we didn't freeze fish for these events, used what we caught. We would quite often catch gray trout along with these as long as your arm. You can verify this by viewing Frank Whites (Southern Sportsman) videos on youtube.</p> <p>My two cents it WAY PAST TOO LONG TO NOT BE RECORDING THE PROJECTED ADULT WEIGHT OF JUVINILE CROAKER, SPOTTED SEATROUT, GRAY TROUT, SPOT, SEA MULLET (VA MULLET), FLOUNDER, RED DRUM, BLACK DRUM, SHEAPHEAD, ATLANTIC STUGEON, AND ON AND ON OF THE BY CATCH IN THE TRAWLING NETS IN OUR INSHORE NURSERIES AGAINST THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES QUOTA.</p>
Edward Plank	North Carolina	Once again, the DMF is restricting recreational fisherman harvest to support the fishery. My question, have you improved/reversed/improved any fishery that is managed by DMF? Have you reintroduced stripers in the Neuse River to the point of having a harvest? Have you reversed the declining southern flounder population? You continue to reduce harvest but the managed fish population continue to decline. You employ the same manage protocol and get the same dismal results. Time to make a change!!!! Time to make the difficult decisions disregarding political influence!!!!
Frank Nelson	Pennsylvania	I support false albacore management in North Carolina
William Shepherd Drewry IV	North Carolina	This is not going to benefit anybody or the fisheries stock. If you want to really affect change and build the stock, eliminate gill netting inshore all together. Close recreational and commercial harvest all together and let the stock replenish. Once the fishery comes back online let commercial harvest be by hook and line and cast net only, that is the only way to target the species to ensure set quotas are adhered to.
Peter E West	North Carolina	<p>As a past Member of the much-maligned Moratorium Steering Committee in the 90's, this is starting to look like the steps that were taken with flounder to gradually force the recreational angler out and turn the fishery for Speckled trout over to the Commercial industry. Reduce the limits until it's down to only one fish then decide the Commercial need the quota as the recreational catch has been lowered enough via restrictive limits that the Commercial sector becomes the predominate party. The sad part of this story is that flounder was so completely and utterly mismanaged by the DMF that the Commercial sector has started to rely on speckled trout and will be pushing for more drum in October.</p> <p>There are a multitude of remedies that come to mind; do away with the DMF and turn their duties over to Wildlife Resources; make Speckled Trout and Red Drum gamefish recommended years ago; push for a net ban in inland waters or some combination of the three. The effectiveness of a net ban is on full display west of</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>the Minnesott Ferry and the Bay View Ferry where no nets are allowed. Fish are plentiful and most anglers agree that fishing is as good or better than it's ever been. East of the ferry lines, not so much. On the Outer Banks strike netters target big trout all winter as they get more weight in their 75 fish trip limit. Hard to hunt ducks for all the Commercials running over the shoals looking for trout and drum. As for drum they net large schools and sell 7 at a time until they dispose of their catch, many being filleted and sold directly to restaurants. We need to start looking out for the resource and curb Commercial effort or just like the buffalo they will all be dead and gone for the almighty dollar. We are almost there.</p>
JAMES TOIA	New Jersey	<p>Please consider responsible false albacore fishing management. This dynamic gamefish deserves to be considered and it's stock protected from depletion. “15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management”.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jim Toia</p>
Jeffrey Benton	North Carolina	<p>I do not think there should be a slot on Trout. I would like to know why you are not interested in closing the season when they are spawning, this would be a perfect time to takesome fishing pressure off. Why not close the season from Feb 1st until July 1st every year and keep the creel limit at 4 with no slot. February is usually our coldest month anyway. The reason we are in this situation is bc we cannot keep anything in this state is bc the DMF or DENR has failed. Just look at was has happened with Grey Trout, Red Drum, Rock fish, Flounder and now Speckled Trout. This is going to be just another failed plan and bad policy put in place. I guess you people will not be happy until we cannot keep anything in this state. I hope you will be happy then. Lots of businesses are hurting already bc of flounder and rock restrictions. P.S. we wouldn't be in this situation if you people would put a stop to inshore trawling it kills more fish than what recs and commercial catch put together. I know this comment will fall upon deaf ears but here is to wishing you people will wake up one day.</p>
Phil McCartney	Kentucky	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina. I have witnessed the many years of struggle and failures of managing striped bass populations on the East Coast, largely due to waiting until the situation was dire before implemented appropriate conservation practices. Please do better. I want to come to North Carolina and spend money with a reasonable expectation of experiencing a false albacore fishery that is healthy. I want my children and grandchildren to be able to do the same.</p>
Justin Phillips	North Carolina	<p>I read these comments and information surrounding this subject and the first thing that comes to my mind are my kids and future generations to come that will hopefully be chasing these speedsters off our coast for recreational purposes. NC please do what is right by protecting these fish with knowledgeable management and placing guardrails on this fishery.</p>


Name	State/Province	Comments
Vance Henries	North Carolina	<p>As owner/operator of Carolina Seafood Company, Inc. in Aurora, NC, I would like to share my thoughts on the proposed Spotted Sea Trout Management Plan. I feel the proposed plan is far more drastic than needed. Commercial fishermen are limited to 75 fish per day, no matter how many fishermen are working together on one boat, and there are already a limited number of days that are fishable between October and March due to weather conditions. If limited to Tuesday through Friday, you would be forcing fishermen to take unnecessary risks by fishing in potentially unsafe conditions. As for closing January through February all together, due to the many regulations on other species traditionally harvested during those months, the spotted sea trout is one of the few remaining that commercial fishermen are still allowed to harvest, even on the limited basis available as of now. I could list the many types of seafood we have traditionally harvested during those months that are no longer open due to "management", but that isn't the purpose of this letter. I feel this plan will put undue hardship on the fishermen and the dealers, such as myself, as well. The main problem is, as I see it, the next hard freeze we have will kill whatever fish this plan is meant to save. This has happened as far back as I have been involved in this business, which is 41 years. Nothing in this plan addresses the issue of the many discarded fish from recreational and some commercial fishermen. I personally know of several recreational fishermen that trout fish and will continue to do so even when the season is closed. They will not keep fish, but will catch and release and, as you well know, studies have shown the extremely high mortality rate of the fish. Having a closed season will cause that problem to become much worse in my opinion. When commercial guys can't catch enough fish, or any other type of seafood, to be economically viable, they will switch to harvesting something else that is more profitable. They regulate themselves, if you will. As it is now, the other options are very limited due to regulations which force them to work on something they would normally quit fishing for out of pure necessity. I am the 3rd generation in my family at this location and am afraid I may be the last. Mother nature is all about balance between different species. When that balance is upset, everything gets messed up. In my opinion, that is what so many regulations have done. It seems to me the more regulations that are passed, the worse this business gets. Please reconsider this proposal as I feel it will be yet another nail in the coffin for the North Carolina seafood industry.</p>
Jeff Boswell	North Carolina	<p>I feel that it is vital in our community that we have and allow individual fisherman the opportunity to harvest flounder. It's important for the youth and that will be upcoming citizens and future fisherman. This is the basis of the multi million dollar industry of tourism in this State of North Carolina!</p> <p>On flounder, the shrimping trawlers destroy The small juvenile fish in flounder in their nets, and even though they throw it back as a bycatch the Juvenile Fish still die by the many thousands per shrimp, trawler outing. Some engineering of the nets needs to occur with new designs.</p> <p>On trout, I agree with the commercial and resident individuals harvest shutdown and the two winter months to allow for Less pressure on trout. However, during the non-winter months there should be a generous slot limit starting at 14 inches and a total bag limit of at least five trout per person . I agree with the commercial shut</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>down as proposed. Commercial fisherman do take a much higher percentage.</p> <p>We need to preserve the individual Fisher person and promote fishing and hunting with the youth and upcoming younger generation. Kids should be able to walk down to the shore with a pole and catch flounder throughout the summer and fall.</p>
Bill Mandulak	North Carolina	<p>I urge the Marine Fisheries Commission to open the Summer Flounder and Gulf Flounder to recreational fishing. Neither of these species are overfished nor is overfishing occurring. The only reason I have heard to keep these fisheries closed to recreational is that these species look similar to Southern Flounder which are overfished and overfishing is occurring. This is a silly argument given recreational fishermen are currently expected to accurately identify 2 trout types, 2 mackerel types, 13 snapper types, 18 grouper types, 6 porgy types, 5 grunt types and 41 shark types. I am sure after a short period of vigorous enforcement, recreational fishermen will be able to identify the 3 flounders that occur in North Carolina. At least hook and line fishermen can quickly learn the difference - I am not sure commercial nets can!</p> <p>To lock recreational fishermen out of the Summer Flounder and Gulf Flounder fisheries is absurd and maybe even illegal. The MFC needs to do the right thing and give recreational fishermen access to these fish!</p>
Marklan Meadows	North Carolina	<p>Back before the Flounder seasons started in 2019 I was making 6 week long trips a year to the Outer Banks. I was staying in Buxton usually at the Lighthouse View Motel. I would Drum fish on the Point and Flounder fish at the Hatteras Inlet. I would come down 3 weeks in the Spring and 3 weeks in the falls. In the fall is 2019 thru today I have cut that way back because of the Flounder fishing seasons. Since 2019 I no longer make the extra drive down to Buxton and stay at Nags Head and fish the beaches there and the Oregon Inlet. I no longer buy a beach driving permit. I only take 2 trips down a year now. 5 days in the spring and 5 days in the fall. --- I think you need to rethink your slowly taking away the recreation fishing and giving all the quota to the commercial fishermen. Recreational fishermen bring in a lot more money to the people and businesses on the Outer Banks and all up and down the coast of NC.</p>
Diana Harris	North Carolina	<p>The false albacore fishery is in need of regulation as the dollars generated by anglers from all over the country pump millions of dollars into the NC economy. The impact of out of town guests during the off season helps hotels, restaurants and other tourist related businesses all up and down the NC coast. Please help us protect this game fish from over fishing, as many rely on those off season dollars to survive.</p>
Ray Jarvis	Massachusetts	<p>As a charter captain in Massachusetts I rely on these fish to keep clients happy in the Kate summer and fall. These are a major target species for us and account for thousands of dollars of income for my business each year.</p> <p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina.</p>
Dan Presley	North Carolina	<p>One of the largest fisheries in N America . Yet , being destroyed by people in the know . I vote for NCDW to control wildlife and fisheries . I do not surf fish NC anymore, since 2020 . I go to SC . Could say more , BUT..</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
James B Tolston	North Carolina	Totally disgusted with the way recreational fishermen are being treated in North Carolina! I'm all for conservation and so are alot of us are but the recreational fisherman are a very important part of the North Carolina economy. You guys are at the wheel, now do something to improve fishing in our state or find another job!
Charlie Locke	North Carolina	Commercial fisherman apparently have been totally disregarded in this push of rule making on false albacore management in North Carolina. Commissioner Tom Roller, who is now a paid lobbyist by salt water guides association is the one pushing this rule making no other council not the south Atlantic not the Atlantic states marine fisheries commission, No one wanted to implement rulemaking on a healthy stock of fish when there's so many other pressing issues at hand at the moment. The guard rails as commissioner roller likes to call them are really only on the commercial industry. How about the catch and release albacore fishery itself who knows how many survive look at the Shark Predation issues we have everywhere now if they catch 100 fish a day, even if they let them all go how many are actually surviving??Getting through all the Sandbars and Spinner's that live year-round off of North Carolina now. There are just too many unknowns in all of this to just implement a restriction on commercial fisherman, which is basically what this is by still allowing a 10 fish per-person limit recreationally once the guard rail kicks into affect, you have not limited the recreational component one bit! This is just another slap in the face to commercial fisherman by running around legal fisheries management processes to appease commissioner roller and the salt water guides association. I hope the commission sees through this, and does not move forward with anything else on false albacore. I am all for precautionary looks at trends in harvest every three years which is what everyone at the south Atlantic Council myself included who voted on this very issue as a Spanish mackerel. AP member agreed to that is all that's needed at the moment. Thank you for considering my comments. Charlie Locke. F/V Salvation
Wilson Greene	North Carolina	I am an active false albacore recreational fisherman. I strongly support false albacore management in North Carolina. Let's protect what we have!
Brian McElligott	California	Regarding- 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management - I support false albacore management in North Carolina and encourage protection of fisheries. Thank you
Arthur Romaine	New York	<p>Reference 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management</p> <p>I support false albacore management practices in North Carolina as well as in every Atlantic state.</p> <p>I am not saying that false albacore are in a crisis, but given the importance of this fish to anglers up and down the coast, putting some guardrails in place to ensure the fishery's abundance moving forward is critical.</p> <p>False albacore are a tremendously important recreational fish species for anglers and fishing-related businesses from Massachusetts to Florida. According to data collected, in 2021 there were over 500,000 directed trips on the Atlantic coast where false albacore were the primary or secondary target species. From 2011-2021, the average number of directed false albacore trips was more than half a million trips.</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		I respectfully request that North Carolina lead the way in this important effort to protect the false albacore fishery.
Jeff Stewart	Maine	Please do what is right for the False Albacore population and put restrictions on commercial harvest. This little fish is a very important piece of the recreational fishing economy, and it deserves its place there. Thank you.
Brian Sittlow	Rhode Island	<p>I support a conservative management policy for the protection of False Albacore.</p> <p>False Albacore is a very worthy fishery that deserves conservation minded management that will benefit economies and fisherman throughout the Atlantic coast. Please consider conservation minded principles to protect the long term viability of this fishery.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Capt. Parker Mauck	Massachusetts	<p>Dear North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission ,</p> <p>I am a fishing guide in Massachusetts. As we know too well, all the states along the US eastern seaboard share our waters and our fish. What happens in North Carolina matters to us in Massachusetts, and visa versa. Recently there has been increased discussion on the merits of developing a management plan for False Albacore (little Tunny). I believe the FA population is relatively healthy, but we need to know more in order to keep it that way. FA do not have value as a food resource for humans, but they have enormous value as a recreational fishing resource. My business has 6 weeks in the fall when my clients are very focused on FA fishing. The presence of FA brings all the economic benefits we know that are associated with the recreational fishing sector and all it's trickle-down impacts, like hotel stays, restaurants, plane fares, tackle shop purchases etc.</p> <p>False Albacore are worthy of management and increased scientific studies. I urge the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission to move forward with support of a False Albacore management plan.</p> <p>Sincerely, Capt. Parker Mauck Westport Fly</p>
Reid Hallyburton	North Carolina	we have to get this mess together.. taxes and fees but can't keep any fish.. why charge for a license.. come on folks
Chris McCaffity	North Carolina	<p>August 2024 NCMFC Meeting Public Comments</p> <p>It is painfully obvious that managing our fisheries with wasteful discards has failed miserably. Forcing fishermen to discard so much of what we catch has turned some fishermen against each other and fishery</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>managers. Shouldn't we all be working toward a common goal of healthy fisheries that are responsibly harvested with minimal waste?</p> <p>Habitat degradation is negatively impacting the spawning success of most species. It is time we started focusing more on enhancing seafood stocks than enforcing wasteful regulations. Wise use of hatcheries and habitat enhancements can be the perfect blend of Public Water Aquaculture and wild-caught seafood that lives free and self-sufficient until sustainably harvested for consumption. Does anyone have a better idea for sustainably supporting more recreational opportunities and seafood production?</p> <p>With all the political division in our world today, wouldn't it be nice if a government agency used their power for good to promote unity through wise management of our Public Resources? This commission could set an example for solving problems by promoting freedom rather than restricting it. Regionally stocking native seafood is a proven solution that can produce an endless supply of seafood for everyone to enjoy forever. Stricter regulations requiring more enforcement will only limit liberty and food security while ignoring the real problems with habitat causing stocks to continue declining.</p>
Brian Kelly	Massachusetts	<p>False albacore have been a huge economy booster up and down the coast. From lure manufacturers, tackle shops, charter captains and guides. When fall Albacore arrive on Cape Cod my calendar fills immediately! As a charter captain and for my clients we absolutely love catching false albacore for sport. Releasing taggings have been recorded to see what the catch and release mortality would be. With astounding results of satellite tagging for their migrations from Florida to the coast of Massachusetts, Long Island Sound and the Carolinas to return back to Florida.</p> <p>With the popularity of sport fishing and catch and release I stand for False Albacore in any protections needed as they are not regarded for their meat but they are regarded for the sport of catching fish.</p> <p>Please take all considerations for protecting these species. For sustainability in the businesses that rely on them up and down the East Coast.</p>
Robert Scanlon	Massachusetts	<p>I support the NC Marine Fisheries Commission's action toward establishing initial guide lines for false albacore I hope that other states will follow your lead and work in a cooperation. Thank you.</p>
Brendan Curley	Massachusetts	<p>My name is Brendan Curley, I am a conservation-minded angler who fishes coastwide from Connecticut to the coastline of mid-coast Maine. The False Albacore is a staple to our Recreational fishery and provides a huge eco-tourism population from August through October. They drive anglers from around the world to target them with the ability to have inshore and shorebound shots at the fast-moving species. These fish deserve to be studied and protected like our other gamefish. Recent studies show that we share a population with North Carolina. The need for guardrail management is crucial and I hope NC continues to take the preliminary</p>

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		caution and dive deeper into Managing such a sought-after species. All effort is greatly appreciated by not only me but the hundreds of thousands of anglers who travel to target such a unique fish.
Thomas McCloskey	North Carolina	<p>As a resident in New York in 2020, fly fishing for False Albacore at Harker's Island was a bucket list item since GW Bush was on the cover of Saltwater Fly Fishing in the mid 90's. In 2020, I made the trip down from Long Island. The fishing trip was life changing. Seeing the beauty of the lower NC coast was breath taking. The fishing was the best I ever had. My trip in 2021 was even more enlightening as I spent a week exploring the state from Calabash to Morehead City before a week of fishing. At that point I made the decision to relocate. I am now a resident of NC living in St James Plantation.</p> <p>The fishery needs protection as it has seen a decline in the last few years. My trips in 2022 and 2023 were disappointing due to a lack of fish.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Tom McCloskey </p>
Carlton Goldthwaite	North Carolina	Act Now!, we often can't see what's really happening in our oceans and fisheries until it's already too late. I have been fishing Albie off NC for 15 years and populations are under pressure. Help the eastern NC economies by being proactive in protecting the Albie fisheries
Walt Bezaniuk	Massachusetts	<p>"I support false albacore management in North Carolina".</p> <p>Do not exploit the species for a single interest group, or region, be fair in your ruling.</p>
Rob Middleton	Connecticut	I support False Albacore management in NC.
Will Poston	District of Columbia	I support rulemaking for precautionary false albacore management.
Tom Brightman	New Hampshire	<p>In your consideration of possible false albacore management in North Carolina, I would urge you to consider the following:</p> <p>The fishery needs functional guardrails and monitoring to ensure that false albacore don't end up in the same situation as striped bass. Managing for abundance of this species, as well as other related game and forage species (i.e., using an ecosystem approach) is a strategy whose time has come. False albacore are an important game species from North Carolina to New England (where I fish for them). Each individual state must take into account the impact of its regulatory (or not) actions throughout a species' range. I would urge you to utilize data that is coming our of the ASGA acoustic tagging study whenever possible to this end - quality data like this is invaluable to quality decision-making.</p>

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		<p>In conclusion, I support putting some guardrails in place now until the impact of various recreational and commercial fisheries, as well as impacts due to climate change can be better understood.</p> <p>Thank you. Tom Brightman</p>
James Callahan	New York	<p>Please let it be known that I fully support Fishery management for False Albacore in North Carolina.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
william sciturro	Connecticut	<p>15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management</p> <p>I support False Albacore management in North Carolina. As an avid recreational saltwater fisherman in Ctr, I look forward to the brief time of year that we have the opportunity to fish for this species. I support sound and reasonable conservation and protection of this fish to ensure sustainability.</p> <p>Thanks Bill</p>
Tyler O'Neill	Delaware	<p>I support guardrail management for false albacore in North Carolina. This November, I'll be taking a multi day trip to Atlantic beach. While there, I'll be paying for a guide, hotel, food, fuels, etc and contributing to the state's economy, which I wouldn't be doing without the existence of this fantastic fish!</p>
Peter Corbin	New York	<p>This fish is a major part of many guides income and it needs to have the research and guardrails to provide a stable population.</p>
Mike Platt	Connecticut	<p>Commissioners,</p> <p>As a for Hire charter I personally rely on the false albacore fishing from Sept to Oct. Since there is little to no scientific data on the stocks health or abundance I strongly encourage some safeguards to help in the assessment of the fishery. Along the eastern seaboard from FL to MA many captains rely on these fish to make their season. Roughly 500k False Albacore trips were taken last year which translates to revenue to for the businesses that rely on the fishery to survive. Additionally that income also translates to tax dollars to their states which are in the millions. As we all know money is a motivator... the loss of millions in tax dollars as well as the closure of many small businesses would have far reaching ramifications. I thank you in advance for your attention to important fishery.</p> <p>Regards, Mike</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
Carle Hildreth	Maine	<p>I am writing to voice my support for false albacore management in North Carolina. Having a long term coast wide vision for management of these fish is important to anglers from Florida to Cape Cod. Every year I put together multiple shore and boat guide trips for my Maine clients by traveling to Massachusetts and Rhode Island for albies. This fishery provides the most exciting inshore light tackle and fly action we can offer as guides here in the northeast. Let's look ahead and make sure there are guard rails in place so small adjustments will be easier to make if the time comes to course correct. I can't overstate the importance of these fish to my livelihood. Let's keep a sharp focus on their longterm management.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my opinion. Capt E. Carle Hildreth, III Portland, Maine</p>
John Mauser	North Carolina	<p>This comment is in support of False Albacore management in North Carolina. I am a full-time saltwater fishing guide, and a large portion of my family's income comes from our Albacore season here in NC. False Albacore are too important to rec anglers, guides and commercial fishermen for them to go on without proper management. This is a species that will eventually be targeted on a large scale that will devastate the population if some management rules are not set into place. I believe that if we set the example in False Albacore management, other states will follow. I am asking you to please take a pro-active role in the management of these fish and give them the protection they deserve, so that we can ALL continue to enjoy this amazing fishery for years to come. Thank you!</p>
Tim Hergenrader	North Carolina	<p>SPECKLED TROUT. I urge the Marine Fisheries Commission to reject the Division of Marine Fisheries speckled trout proposals.</p> <p>The Trout Advisory Commission's recommendations were well thought out and I support their recommendations.</p> <p>I am especially concerned with the DMF's recommended closure of the recreational fishing season. It is unnecessary; the AC did not include it in their recommendations. To shut out recreational anglers for two months will result in only one fish could be kept by the millions of public trust anglers; only one red drum would be legal. Try finding one slot drum in the rivers during the winter.</p> <p>In my opinion, the DMF rejecting the AC's work undermines the AC system.</p> <p>Another concern I have is closing the season for commercial fishermen but leaving the season open for striped mullet will result in the black market sale of trout or huge numbers of regulatory discards.</p> <p>Try managing the system not individual species.</p>
Eddie Nickens	North Carolina	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina. As a contributing editor for Our State, Field & Stream, and Garden & Gun magazines, I have in years past written glowingly about this incredible fishery, a true gem in North Carolina and something that we should be proud of. However, I have turned down assignments over the last few years to write about false albacore in North Carolina, as I am increasingly concerned that this is a fishery operating, essentially, like a high-wire act without a safety net. The increase in fishing effort has been incredible, and proactive efforts need to be taken to ensure that these fish remain</p>

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		abundant for generations. This is a true example of how a blessing and a gift can be mismanaged. Please don't let the false albacore be a golden goose for North Carolina.
Capt. Chris Siess	Virginia	<p>As a guide in both Virginia and coastal North Carolina, my clients and I love catching False Albacore. These fish provide too much economic value to the fishing community and local communities to not be regulated! Please consider protecting this important species.</p> <p>- Capt. Chris Siess</p>
Josh Cohn	District of Columbia	I love Albies and have spent a few thousand dollars on Ferrys, tackle, and accomodations in North Carolina in pursuit of these wonderful fish over the years. I urge the development of a management plan for these coastal travelers.
Hunter Graham	North Carolina	I support false albacore management in North Carolina.
Christophe Elkins	North Carolina	<p>I support the DMF recommendations: The DMF recommendations are:</p> <p>Recreational Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 3 fish recreational bag limit with a 14"-20" recreational slot limit with allowance for one fish >26" · Jan-Feb statewide recreational harvest closure · Eliminate the captain/crew allowance on for-hire trips with no broader vessel limit <p>Commercial Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Oct-Dec, 11:59 p.m. Friday to 12:01 a.m. Tuesday statewide commercial harvest closure · Jan-Feb statewide commercial harvest closure · Stop net management <p>----- IMO. Any management option to ONLY reduce harvest WILL increase dead discards!</p> <p>Just like in the southern flounder and just like in the red snapper fisheries. Only managing harvest will do nothing but lead to more harvest cuts until we are down to one fish limit with limited or no open harvest</p>

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		<p>seasons for yet another species!</p> <p>Thank you for your service.</p> <p>Chris Elkins PhD</p>
Andrew	Connecticut	Protect these fish with reasonable regulations. They are the future of every New England fishery
Eric Phillips	North Carolina	I support the proposed on regulations of false albacore. Please protect this incredible fish and the waters of our home.
Steve Sellers	North Carolina	<p>False Albacore are a vital and unique resource to North Carolina both environmentally and economically. They must be protected in order to ensure that they're not wiped out by poor management and over harvesting of the resource. I and other anglers like me travel to the North Carolina coast multiple times each year to pursue these fish in a sustainable recreational capacity. We spend money at local restaurants, for lodging, and with local guides who make their living on the water. If these fish are not protected from over harvesting, that economic benefit will evaporate. Please do not let this happen.</p>
Alex Ciocca	Pennsylvania	I support guardrail management of the false albacore population. I travel to Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Florida every year to target these fish. With the expanded amount of people targeting them commercially, for bait, and for sport the numbers have begun to lessen even in the short 5-year span. With continual studies about their habits coupled with effective management we can ensure that the fishery will remain strong, and we will be able to enjoy these fish for years to come.
Jimmy	North Carolina	<p>Thank you for your efforts to save our trout fishery.</p> <p>I ran a seafood market in Ayden for 15 years and now am retired and fish a lot.</p> <p>I have seen us go from no limit on gray or speckled trout to the poor condition of these fisheries.</p> <p>I agree with most of what you are proposing. The fish in the winter go to the deep creek holes. I also still catch them around the rivers and bay edges in 6 foot or less of water. Chowinuity and Tar at Washington.</p> <p>I am glad to see a restriction on the charter captains adding their catch to the creel. I would say 2 charters of 4 people a day he is a commercial fisherman in the numbers he catches and the fact his income is tied to catching fish...lots of fish.</p> <p>The other group that puts a lot of pressure on the trout are tournaments. There are at least 3 groups and they will have 20 or more boats. They put a huge dent in the local population in Belhaven for sure. Several different tournaments a month. They kill a lot of large females for prize money not to mention they waste a lot of fish. I wonder what happens to their weekend pressure on trout. They say they give some to charities. Charities with no real plan to use them.</p> <p>I wonder if they are even used for food and these club fishermen to me are commercial as they get paid to fish in prize money.</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		Thank you again for your efforts...at 73... I have seen a lot of changes. My great grandchildren will never have the opportunities to catch trout.
Conor Donoghue	Massachusetts	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina. I fish in a catch and release tournament every year that has False Alabacore as one of the target species. It is the highlight of my year and want to be sure that throughout the eastern coastline False Albacore populations are being thoughtfully maintained by both recreational and commercial fishermen and women.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Conor</p>
David H Daniel	North Carolina	<p>Pls keep the limit at 4 fish. I agree with Slot 14 to 20 with one over 26 No Closure Eliminate the captain limit</p>
Ellen Wright	North Carolina	<p>In reference to 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management</p> <p>I support the management of false albacore in North Carolina.</p> <p>An Important Fishery: False albacore are a tremendously important recreational fish species for anglers and fishing-related businesses from Massachusetts to Florida. In 2021, there were over 500,000 directed trips on the Atlantic coast where false albacore were the primary or secondary target species. From 2011-2021, the average number of directed false albacore trips was more than half a million trips. Our guides and members rely on this species, especially in recent years when striped bass and other inshore species have been less abundant.</p> <p>Abundance Serves All Sectors: Commercial and bait fisheries exist for this species, and anecdotal reports indicate these fisheries may be expanding without functional guardrails and monitoring.</p> <p>Worthy of Management: ASGA believes that false albacore deserve guardrail management at a minimum. This species drives a large economy from Florida to the Vineyard.</p> <p>Precautionary Management: We are not saying that false albacore are in a crisis, but given the importance of this fish to anglers up and down the coast, putting some guardrails in place to ensure the fishery’s abundance moving forward is critical.</p> <p>One Connected Coast: While there is little scientific information on this species at this time, ASGA is thrilled to be conducting a false albacore acoustic tagging study in Massachusetts waters with several key partners—we hope that this information can be used by fishery managers to better understand the species and encourage precautionary management for this hugely important recreational species.</p>

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Sandy Harris	North Carolina	Yet another species that requires our attention. False albacore have gone from nuisance to destination as a world class fishery. Let's find ways to keep them from becoming overfished before they become another species with a stressed or overfished designation.
William Conrad	Pennsylvania	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>I am writing to support false albacore management in North Carolina, Specifically, I support 15A NCAC 03M.053. The false albacore population is an extraordinary resource that demands responsible oversight. The time to act is now before the population is seriously degraded. As both a fisherman and a naturalist, I ask that you take the steps necessary to ensure that our grandchildren can marvel at these fish.</p> <p>Respectfully William Conrad</p>
Ryan Segrave	North Carolina	<p>If you select an advisory committee, and then refuse to abide by the committee's recommendation, you should not be holding your position(s).</p> <p>I fish for Speckled Trout more than most people that will respond here. The slot range is one problem. The slot should be moved up to 16-22 inches. Most anglers hardly want to keep a fish under 16 inches anyway (18" minimum for me). They aren't worth the time and effort to clean. However, this is a minor correction that hardly speaks to the problem.</p> <p>If we really want positive traction, then why has the Marine Fisheries Department declared war on the recreational fisherman while we still allow shrimp trawling in the estuaries? There has to be some common sense applied here? I have been on a shrimp trawler many times in the Newport River and witnessed thousands of 3-4" juvenile fish species killed and swept over the side of the boat (after the live shrimp were removed from the the sorting table). Has anyone from the fisheries ever been on one of these boats at night in the Newport River? Has a news crew ever been on one of these boats? Has anyone ever filmed this and shared it with the public or the Marine Fisheries? The nights I have gone, there were 10-11 trawlers pulling nets 2-3 times a night. 11 trawlers times 3 pulls is 33 total pulls. Multiply this times just 200 dead juvenile (a drastic understatement) and you get a conservative estimate of 6,600 juvenile fish killed EVERY NIGHT during the shrimp season. This includes ONLY the Newport River statistics. How many shrimp trawlers are doing this in all of N.C.? I don't have this information, but for those who do, multiply 6,600 for every set of 10 trawlers in creeks across N.C., EVERY NIGHT. It is an incredible number of juvenile fish being killed each year. Hundreds of thousands... This is blatant disregard for our fisheries, yet the DMF is determined to undermine the recreational fishermen one species at a time.</p> <p>Another note: I have fished the narrow creeks of eastern N.C. for decades. The fishing gets really good as the temps fall in the winter. Suddenly, the netters get word that the fish are in the creeks and they come in during the night and wipe out the entire fishery in that creek in ONE NIGHT. Many times, I have gone back the very</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>next day to find the banks beaten down and signs of a fish massacre. The fishery is completely wiped out for that year. This happens in most creeks. I've personally experienced this along the creeks of the Newport River and off the Neuse River many times. The creek netting is doing WAY MORE DAMAGE than one less fish per trip allowed to the recreational fisherman.</p> <p>Where is the common sense on these boards? I have remained out of this debate for the most part, but the lack of a common sense approach to these questions leaves me shaking my head and with many questions. Stop the trawling in estuaries and enforce the illegal creek netting and we will all reap incredible benefits, both commercially and recreationally. We could easily have one of the best fisheries in the entire world, and I don't need to spend millions on a study to know that.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ryan Segrave</p>
Norm Staunton	Vermont	<p>To the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support of your continued, ongoing, and, I hope, growing conservation efforts for False Albacore, the "little tunny" that so many of us love to fish for and chase.</p> <p>I am sure you will get many comments in support of Albacore management and conservation, so I will keep my comments brief. It should be noted that I am a recreational fisherman, guide, captain, and an active member of both the American Saltwater Guides Association and Captains for Clean Water.</p> <p>I may live in Vermont, but I fish out of Maine, and grew up in Rhode Island. I travel to fish regularly, Fall Albacore in particular (along with Strippers, Blues, Bones, Reds, and others...).</p> <p>False albacore are a tremendously important recreational fish species for anglers and fishing-related businesses from Massachusetts to Florida. A fish in the water, catchable, chaseable, abundant, has many times the economic impact of a single harvested fish in a cooler. I think that my friends and colleagues at the ASGA have one thing wrong though- the economic impact of Albies goes beyond Massachusetts to Florida. I know guides in New Hampshire, Maine, Upstate New York, Vermont, and beyond, who rely on Albies to round out their fall trip schedules, successfully, and they bring clients from those areas to fish, eat, stay, and spend in False Albacore fishery ports.</p> <p>An abundant fishery benefits all- recreational, commercial and bait fisher-people. Admittedly, the data is slim, but evidence suggests that that the biomass of Albies is strong. Lets keep it that way. I encourage you to set meaningful, functional, reasonable harvest guardrails on all sectors of the fishery and to continue to see it</p>

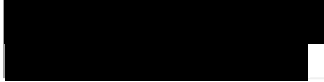
Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>expand for all users.</p> <p>The economic impact of False Albacore is hard to overstate. While again the data may be minimal, we know as a community that the economic impact of Albies is tremendous from Florida to southern New England, and beyond as I have proposed. That impact is worth protecting, guardrailing, investing in, and researching. Of particular note to you all should be the difference in economic impact of a harvested fish versus a released fish, and how the sense of abundance drives EFFORT (and thus economic impact) not landings. As we have learned the hard way with Strippers, Blues, and others, KEEPING a fishery in abundance and safeguarding it is much easier and less expensive than RETURNING a fishery to abundance. Indications, limited as they are, suggest that the Albies are not in crisis. I support you in keeping it that way.</p> <p>Finally, I think it important to not that that this is not a North Carolina fishery. Albies roam from Florida to Massachusetts. I have personally fished for them in multiple locations. I believe in and work to preserve an interconnected coast. What happens in my home waters of Maine and Rhode Island effects North Carolina and Florida and Massachusetts, and likewise back up the coast to my own waters. We have seen fisheries disappear do to poor management further south (no Blues in Maine anymore) and we have seen abundance be shared as we work collaboratively across the east coast to protect the fishery and the economic impact it has.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. I support any work you can do to drive abundance and growth of this fishery for all users.</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Norm Staunton</p>
Matt Mehl	North Carolina	Please support the regulation and catch limits of the false albacore fishery in NC. These wonderful fish are a great benefit to the recreational angler and should be protected for all to enjoy.
Nick madore	Maine	we need false albacore and we need to make sure they are around for years to come
James Eubanks	North Carolina	I am 79 years old and practiced trial law in NC for 52 years. Early on I worked as an assistant prosecutor in 3 NC coastal counties. In that role, I represented interests of NC Wildlife and Marine Fisheries officers and prosecuted their cases. As a defense lawyer, I have defended many persons charged with NC Wildlife offenses. I have owned offshore vessels but now just fish for speckled trout. I don't have to catch but two or three decent fish to think I had a good day on the water. I hear from very many people, law abiding people, that they are so disgusted about the flounder restrictions, that they are going to scoff that law and keep flounder. I see flounder carcass in the shallows at boat ramps, having been filleted illegally. Good people are not going to put up with unfair impositions of rules that make inshore sport fishing un-fun, and not worthwhile. 2-3 trout from 16"-18" will barely feed two people. People will stop fishing. Do the bureaucrats

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>that are making this recommendation consider that some high-end trout boats sell for \$135,000 or more? That is taxed, and taxed again. The fishing tackle support businesses make money, provide recreation support, hire people and pay taxes. I never see that these folks are considered when such draconian limitations are suggested. I have a commercial fishing license. I pay to keep it current. STOP THE NETTING. Nets just kill everything. All the other states have stopped it. NC is simply backward and if we are not corrupt, we certainly give the appearance of corruption. Nobody thinks this system and effort is a fair and open effort. James C. Eubanks III, Attorney at Law</p>
Wesley Deal	North Carolina	<p>For the amendments/decisions on speckled trout harvest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NO NO NO to closures in Jan, feb for rec anglers. This is absolutely wrong and will never help achieve anything positive. Commercial will just sit in back of creeks and kill everything 2. Eliminate all gill nets in creeks and rivers PERIOD , OR if you think nets are the answer, then go to quota system for commercial. Nets kill indiscriminately ,so when they get there 75 or whatever, they throw other dead ones back. Just keep them and add to meeting the quota. They dead, so keep them. When quota is met you stop. People are lying if they don't believe 95% of fish in nets don't die when in net and then claim rec anglers did the damage. Or then holler fish kill from pollution when people find them floating or washing up on bank. (ref. Beards creek kill 3 yrs ago) most insane lie I ever heard other than Democrats say they love USA and are doing good for the USA. <p>For the quota, take the last 10 years reporting , average, reduce by 40% and that's your quota.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Create some system of adaptive management for director so it can be managed as needed and not have to wait x number years for a correction. <p>Why can't we do all this via zoom? Give everyone a chance to be heard. Many can't attend but could do a zoom call. Seems like that would be most fair to all parties who have an interest in this</p> <p>Thank you</p>
John Field	Connecticut	<p>I value little tunny as a gamefish and would like NC to provide for their abundance through caps, and other limits on harvest.</p>
Ian Fawthrop	New Jersey	<p>I support conservation efforts for the Atlantic false albacore. They are an important resource to the angling community and help the local economy by generate money by anglers traveling and hiring guides.</p>
Gary Morrissette	Massachusetts	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina.</p>
Michael Wright	New York	<p>I have visited Harkers Island every year for more than a decade specifically to fish for false albacore in October. A trip typically costs me about \$4,000 between hiring a fishing guide, staying at the Cape Lookout B&B and food and drinks for five days. False albacore are an economically important species that need to be well understood and managed to protect their numbers so that it continues to be worth it for anglers like me to travel to NC and other states to catch them. Their growing popularity as bait for swordfish fishing is very concerning if a commercial fishery were to begin targeting them for sale to bait shops.</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
Eric Bosley	New York	<p>False albacore are a tremendously important recreational fish species for anglers and fishing-related businesses from Massachusetts to Florida. In 2021, there were over 500,000 directed trips on the Atlantic coast where false albacore were the primary or secondary target species. From 2011-2021, the average number of directed false albacore trips was more than half a million trips. Guides and recreational fishermen rely on this species.</p> <p>Abundance Serves All Sectors: Commercial and bait fisheries exist for this species, and anecdotal reports indicate these fisheries may be expanding without functional guardrails and monitoring.</p> <p>False albacore deserve guardrail management at a minimum. This species drives a large economy from Florida to the Vineyard.</p> <p>While there is little scientific information on this species at this time, a false albacore acoustic tagging study in Massachusetts waters brings hope that this information can be used by fishery managers to better understand the species and encourage precautionary management for this hugely important recreational species.</p>
Kerry Heffernan	New York	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I have been fishing for false albacore for more than 30 years and can attest firsthand to the benefits of having a healthy fishery.</p> <p>I have seen the increase in Guide days , Tackle developed specifically for these fish aa well as the the subsequent community of anglers created around them</p> <p>Please consider the best measures to preserve this spectacular animal in your region</p> <p>Thank you very much for your time</p> <p>Kerry Heffernan</p>
Spencer Beakey	Massachusetts	<p>As we have learned from the struggles to recuperate the striped bass population here in Massachusetts we have learned that targeting migratory species with legislation up and down the east coast is the best strategy. NC can take initiative to protect the false albacore to promote population growth and sustainability not only for their home waters, but for the whole east coast.</p>
Chase Freiman	Rhode Island	<p>I support the implementation of greater regulation of false albacore. As we are recently learning, false albacore migrate up and down the east coast. They are extremely sought after for a recreational gamefish. Especially in the north east. They contribute millions to the economy with tackle sales, charters, and tourism. Because of this they are more important to be kept in the water than to be used for cat food or bait. We must implement stricter regulations on these important fish!</p>
Cory Sodikoff	Virginia	<p>We have had some amazing days fishing for Albies in North Carolina, Please help keep this amazing fishery alive!!!!!!</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
Alexander Ford	New Jersey	I travel to North Carolina regularly to fish the false albacore run, which is one of the best showings of these migratory fish on the Eastern Seaboard! These fish should be protected, managed, and treated as the great game fish that they are!
Dara Sodikoff	Virginia	I love albie fishing, please help keep them alive, release them all!!!
Jeff Perry	Rhode Island	The Albie fishery is important to the economic engine that is sports fishing. Please pass protective legislation that will reflect the viability of this industry through the entire East Coast.
Nick Cancelliere	New York	<p>I am a recreational angler from New York who loves to target False Albacore every Fall. They are a popular species for anglers like myself and I would assume they contribute significantly to businesses that would otherwise be in a slow period during the season that these fish are around.</p> <p>Every year I book a few days' worth of lodging to target these fish. I spend money at restaurants, hotels, and tackle shops in the local communities known for having strong 'Albie' fisheries.</p> <p>North Carolina has been on my list of places to visit to catch these fish in seasons when they aren't available in my home state of NY.</p> <p>My partner and I have also considered a future move to North Carolina and a healthy False Albacore fishery would be a strongly encouraging factor to do so.</p> <p>I hope the commission will take steps to conserve these important game fish so anglers like myself can continue to enjoy this fishery for years to come, while also allowing the coastal communities to enjoy the economic benefits of a healthy albie fishery.</p> <p>Thanks & tight lines, Nick Cancelliere</p>
Christopher Elkins	North Carolina	Albies need to be managed for abundance to maintain their value. It should be managed to promote the catch and release fishery and allowing expansion of a commercial fishery is foolish. Few Americans eat the oily fish, so a commercial fishery would not benefit the owners of this public trust resource. We don't need another fishery for the Asian market. The Giant Bluefin fishery is an example of what happens when management is for a few commercial fishermen. The total recreational quota for the East Coast is 20 fish. In order for a catch and release fishery to be maintained there must be abundance. Albies are worth managing using a precautionary approach.
Greg Koch	Massachusetts	Dear Folks, The following comment is in respect to 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management. I support false albacore management in North Carolina. It represents an important fishery and I travel and spend money to

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>participate in it. Really appreciate it if you folks do your part to maintain this gem of a fishery. Thank you for allowing me to express my concerns.</p> <p>Kind regards, Greg Koch</p>
Greg Koch	Massachusetts	<p>Dear Folks,</p> <p>The following comment is in respect to 15A NCAC 03M.053 for false albacore management. Your local false albacore fishery represents an important fishery, and I travel and spend money in pursuit of these fish. Furthermore, nascent tagging data indicate the fishery is highly migratory and therefore management in one are impacts all areas. Thank you for allowing me to express my support for this fine fishery.</p> <p>Kind regards, Greg Koch</p>
Taf Schaefer	New Hampshire	<p>Dear NC Marine Fisheries Commission,</p> <p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina. As an angler and a conservationist I am alarmed by the deteriorating state of the fisheries up and down the Atlantic seaboard. I understand the interconnectedness of our different ecosystems from state to state and feel compelled to weigh in with my opinion that if the False Albacore fishery becomes stressed they certainly need to have the guardrails agreed upon in the Feb. 2024 meeting to be put in place to protect the Albies. I agree with the ASGA and thank the Commission for agreeing to protect the Albie's fishery. Thank you, Taf Schaefer</p>
Marc Desormeau	North Carolina	<p>As an avid fly fisherman who looks forward to our annual Albies trip off of Harker's Island, I'm fully in support of actively managing our fisheries, specifically to include the False Albacore. This come fall will be our 6th year heading out. We bring money to the community and contribute to the local economy through rentals, fuel, food and restaurant purchases.</p> <p>There is ever increasing pressure on our natural resources, it only makes sense to manage them carefully to preserve these experiences for the next generations.</p>
John Genovesi	Rhode Island	<p>False Albacore are a special game fish that should treated as such from North Carolina to New England. We in New England wait all year for them and people travel here to experience the screaming reel these fish produce. Please consider this the special fishery it is.</p>
Paul Dixon	New York	<p>False Albacore are too important a gamefish to manage poorly with no guardrails in place to make sure they thrive. They represent 50% of my charter business... so let's err on the side of caution and make sure they are still around for the next generation.</p>
Tyler McPherson	Massachusetts	<p>Dear Commission, False Albacore are tremendously important fish and fishery to the recreational and professional chartering businesses up and down the Atlantic coast. They are fish species fished for from Florida to Massachusetts. As an avid angler in Mass., I look forward to every catching Little Tunny every late summer and fall. I understand North Carolina has an incredible Albie fishery, with fish double the size we get</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>in Massachusetts. I know many people who have made trips to NC to fish there and I look forward to doing the same. An abundance of False Albacore service all sectors, commercial and recreational. False Albacore deserve guardrail management at a minimum, to ensure a healthy fishery for both us and future generations. Thank you for considering my comment. - Tyler McPherson, Vineyard Haven, MA.</p>
Matthew Risser	Pennsylvania	<p>As one of the very few pelagic species that visit near shore, the false albacore is a prize fish for me! While it may be a “common” or even “junk” fish for some, I spend considerable time and money perusing this fish from NC to MA. Please use this opportunity to set a high bar for management of the false albacore and insure there is abundance for my generation and those to come.</p>
Gary Mirando	Massachusetts	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina: “15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management”.</p> <p>I have fished from shore or boat for false albacore on Martha’s Vineyard Massachusetts for more than 30 years. I would greatly appreciate more states along the east coast promoting additional conservation management of the false albacore fishery.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Gary Mirando </p>
Joe Pheifer	New Jersey	<p>False Albacore are an important species for the entire East Coast, and one of my personal favorites to fish for. This species is worthy of a management plan, as “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”</p>
Grant DePhillips	Pennsylvania	<p>To whom it may concern ~</p> <p>I have spent roughly ~ \$500 this year alone in preparations (lures, rod/reel, boat gas, hotel, etc) to specifically target these fish. I gathered 4 more people to join me in focusing on catching these fish for sport (catch & release), who roughly spent the same \$500 in preparations. Albie fever brings us back each year to chase and target this species (hotel, gas, food, etc). My point is ~ this resource contributes to our economy significantly if managed accordingly in order to provide a great sport fishery for the recreational angler. If the desire is economical return, consider the cost to maintain this species and how it will contribute back to the state(s) over time. This progression and investment compounds each year as the next generation catches Albie Fever.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>A guy with a 4 month old who would love to share the enjoyment and the challenge of catching false Albacore with him one day.</p> <p>P.S. His wife said it was OK to outfit himself for 2024 Albie Season.</p> <p>#AlbieFeverisReal</p>
Mark Philippe	Connecticut	<p>Nothing excites Northeast inshore fishermen like false albacore! Their arrival in late Summer results in more sales of tackle and lures, more charters, and more attendance at hotels, and restaurants. Many folks travel to North Carolina to fish for them. I know this because I have been targeting this fish since 1985. I know folks in the business. I see the crowds this fish generates. Please implement recreational and commercial limit regulations on this amazing fish. Let's insure the excitement of this fishery endures for many years to come. Thank you!</p>
Patrick Huban	Connecticut	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina. As I said in the previous comment period, False Albacore are one of the most important species to my guiding business here in Connecticut. There is no doubt this is one connected coast. In Connecticut we do not see the same abundance of False Albacore as we do in many other states, but there are still certainly enough to make the species vital. CT can not afford any impact to the False Albacore fishery. Therefore, the efforts to create safeguards in North Carolina is a pioneering approach that has positive implications for many along the entire East Coast. There is no harm to protect species pro actively and manage for abundance, everyone will benefit. Thank you.</p>
Mark Benton	North Carolina	<p>We need a Trout closure from Feb 15h thru July 15th to let them spawn with no fishing pressure. This will allow no creel limit change or slot limit. If a slot size is needed it should be from 15 inches thru 22 inches with 1 allowed over 25 inches. Now to be able to have a sustainable fishery something has to be done with the trawling bc they are killing to many trout,flounder,spot,croaker, and drum. Trawling kills way more juvenile fish than is caught between recs and gill nets combined.</p>
Taylor Vavra	New York	<p>False Albacore, or Albies, as many anglers refer to them, are an important recreational fish for anglers on the Atlantic coast. The businesses that make the recreational fishery possible rely on abundance. Commercial and bait fisheries also exist and so then, it is vitally important for all parties that we manage Albies with precautionary management practices. As we learn more and more about when and where these fish travel, how and where they reproduce, etc. we can collectively do a better job at ensuring that the stock is protected. Thank you for considering public comment on this matter and for recognizing how important this species is to anglers up and down the coast.</p> <p>Taylor Vavra President, Stripers Forever</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
Michael Kelly	Connecticut	I support the proposed regulations!!!
Chris West	North Carolina	I am not opposed to the cut back for trout if it's truly needed to keep the fishery healthy but it needs to be the same for the commercial fishery. I am against a closure that prevents recreational anglers from targeting speckled trout even if it's all catch and release. If your plan is to allow commercial harvest while the recreational season is closed, I am against that and if you reduce the amount taken by recreational fishermen and not commercial, that's also BS. At that point you're proving, once again, that the resource doesn't matter. I'm all for healthy fisheries, com & rec, but the way flounder has been handled makes me skeptical of any decisions that the MFC considers.
Jot Owens	North Carolina	<p>I appreciate the commission members taking the time to read over my comments.</p> <p>-I do not believe the DMF's change from the advisory committee recommendations on Speckled trout is the right move. I believe that the Commission should use the trout advisory committees recommendations for rule making of Recreational and Commercial anglers.</p> <p>-Recreational Anglers need more allocation of southern flounder. It is more than pastime for Recreational Anglers to have at least 50%, but honestly more than 50% of the allocation is really needed. Also speaking on the flounder topic. The ocean flounder fisheries of gulf and summer flounders needs be opened as well.</p> <p>-Lastly, I highly recommend that NCDMF continues the management process of false albacore. This fish is extremely important for the entire East Coast, fishing guides, charter boats, and recreational anglers all benefit huge from this fishery. As we have learned from other fisheries in this state, being reactive does not help the problem. It is time to be proactive with false albacore management .</p> <p>Thanks again for your time,</p> <p>Capt. Jot Owens</p>
Tom Baird	North Carolina	I live on the coast of NC and look forward to October November and December when the Albies can be found right out of the inlets. We need to make sure the generations to come to experience the thrill of catching them on lite tackle because of that I support false albacore management in North Carolina
Brenden Griffith	Connecticut	I support the regulations in favor of protecting false albacore. There is so much more needed to be understood about these fish and we should protect them, rather than overfish and ruin the species.
Patrick Rudman	Maine	As the owner of Old Maine Outfitters, one of the ASGA Albie Project sponsors, I am strongly in favor of management for False Albacore. Given that we now know these fish migrate the coast, it is critical that we maintain a thriving fishery that will help support business from Massachusetts to Florida (I hope they make it to Maine one day). Implementing precautionary management measures is essential to ensure the long-term

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>abundance of this species, which is vital for both anglers and the economy.</p> <p>Thank you for being proactive in helping this great fishery.</p> <p>Best, Patrick Rudman Old Maine Outfitters</p>
Peter Fallon	Maine	<p>Supporting False Albacore Management Measures</p> <p>I'm a full time fishing guide based in Maine but direct almost all of my late August to early December trips for false albacore. I travel to Beaufort NC for 6 weeks every fall to host anglers from all over the country who are captivated by the pursuit of these fish.</p> <p>I've been involved in the acoustical tagging program led by the Cabot Center at the New England Aquarium and the American Saltwater Guides Association and recognize that management of this species in all states they visit affects my business.</p> <p>Too often fisheries management has been reactive. Here we have an opportunity to change that trend and begin managing an incredibly important fishery to the recreational sector before we're in a position of trying to rebuild it.</p> <p>I urge you to take next steps to lead the way on false albacore management. Other states will follow, as will much needed research dollars.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Capt Peter Fallon Gillies & Fallon Guide Service, LLC</p>
Peter J. Auster	Connecticut	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the rule-making process 15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management. False-albacore is an increasingly important fisheries target along much of the east coast of the U.S., including North Carolina. This species has high movement rates so assessing status and an umbrella for management actions (i.e., a management plan) when needed is a key element for sustainability. Indeed, sustaining a high abundance of this species serves all sectors from charter vessels, marinas, hotels, fishing gear suppliers, bait fisheries, and a diversity of other related businesses. False albacore are voracious predators and have an important functional role in the ecosystem. I have watched these animals attacking forage fish on reefs off Georgia while underwater as well as with sonar off the beaches of Rhode Island. As</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		we recall the pain of rules needed for the recovery of other species that have been overfished, we have an opportunity to implement precaution up front.
Matthew LaBella	Connecticut	I am here to be a voice for False Albacore! They are an amazing species that recreational fishermen, including myself look forward all season long to pursuing. I support precautionary measures being taken to ensure a healthy and bright future of a species overly worthy of careful management. Thank you!
Bob Lewis	Massachusetts	I am a recreational fisherman and I have been obsessed with fishing for false albacore on the fly rod for the past 15 years. I fish for them here on Cape Cod, Montauk NY, Harker's Island, NC and West Palm, FL. I have spent tens of thousands of dollars on hotels, restaurants, guides, fly shops, retail shops, etc. FL has not done well managing the commercial fishery for false albacore and the recreational fishery is suffering substantially. I no longer travel there and spend money there because the fishery has been so depleted. NC should really pay attention because the Bahamas concluded quite a while ago the fish alive are worth far more than dead commercial fish because of all of the money that gets spent in the local economy.
Dylan Carney	New Hampshire	False albacore are a tremendously important recreational fish species for anglers and fishing-related businesses from Massachusetts to Florida. In 2021, there were over 500,000 directed trips on the Atlantic coast where false albacore were the primary or secondary target species. From 2011-2021, the average number of directed false albacore trips was more than half a million trips. Our guides and members rely on this species, especially in recent years when striped bass and other inshore species have been less abundant.
Chris Thompson	North Carolina	<p>Dear North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission:</p> <p>The Cape Lookout Albacore Foundation, created primarily from admiration of the False Albacore fishery on the Crystal Coast and the desire to celebrate this spectacular species with upcoming and existing anglers, was at the public comment period in New Bern this past February. We remain devoted to the fishery and desire it be maintained for future generations' enjoyment. We represent a community of anglers whom congregate in the waters near Cape Lookout in their travels up and down the East Coast in pursuit of this magnificent species. These anglers inject funds into the local and state economy by employing guides, reserving hotels, dining at eateries, and making retail and fuel purchases.</p> <p>The Cape Lookout Albacore Foundation is advocating for precautionary management of the fishery. We recognize the species may not currently be in crisis, but history shows preventive action is preferable to remedial action. The False Albacore fishery included over 500,000 annual directed recreational trips from 2011-2021 along the Atlantic coast. Available evidence suggests the fisheries along the entire coast are interconnected. Preventive, precautionary management is recommended to ensure the fishery remains viable.</p> <p>Let North Carolina lead the way in managing this incredible resource.</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		Respectfully, N. Christian Thompson President, Cape Lookout Albacore Foundation
Kenneth Amberson	Massachusetts	<p>Folks</p> <p>As a longtime fisherman, who has spent countless time chasing false albacore or "albies", I would like to urge the commission to move forward to proactively manage this important resource. In my lifetime I have watched many fish (cod, stripers, haddock) go from periods of unimagined abundance to quickly become a dwindling resource. Albies are important up and down the eastern seaboard. From Cape Cod to Florida, they provide great sport for recreational fisherman, helping to contribute to local economies. While albie stocks appear healthy at this time, please don't wait until there is an issue (such has occurred with stripers) before putting guidelines in place. Now is the time to insure that the stocks remain robust and continue to thrive in the future.</p> <p>Thank you for listening, and I appreciate your efforts on behalf of the fish!</p> <p>Kenneth Amberson</p>
Jason Davidson	North Carolina	I support the proposed regulations on False Albacore so that we can protect these fish from detrimental large scale harvesting in the future. Thank you.
Franky DeMayo	Vermont	I am commenting to express my support for North Carolina's plan to establish guardrail measures for managing the false albacore population. This is an important sport fish for the entire coast, and many anglers, including myself, make trips out of state to target false albacore. Establishing basic guardrails to protect this population from future exploitation is the right thing to do, especially give that all recent data suggests the Atlantic Coast shares one connected stock of fish. I hope that by taking initiative and being a leader in false albacore conservation, North Carolina will open the door for the other Atlantic Coast states to do the same.
Edmund Brodie	Virginia	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina. I am one of many out of state sportsmen who buys an annual fishing license and spends money on lodging, food and supplies in Down East communities at least 8-10 times a year to recreationally fish for albies. Preservation of a healthy population is critical to this important economic engine for coastal Carolina.</p> <p>Moreover, recent research is showing that albies off coastal NC are part of a broader population that moves as far as the Gulf of Mexico to Cape Cod, so management of the activities off NC has national ramifications</p>
Peter Jenkins	Rhode Island	<p>Dear NC Marine Fisheries Commission,</p> <p>False albacore is a very important gamefish to my business in Newport, Rhode Island. Through its tagging effort, ASGA has demonstrated that they are an interconnected coastwide species that needs thoughtful management.</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
		<p>I have made four memorable trips to the Outer Banks in the fall to chase albies. Many of my friends have done the same, some annually for over 20 years. The albie fishing in North Carolina is world-class and drives an economy in the fall on the Outer Banks.</p> <p>I know that commercial and bait fisheries exist for this species, and anecdotal reports indicate these fisheries may expand without functional guardrails and monitoring. This valuable public resource deserves sustainable, precautionary management at the minimum.</p> <p>I write supporting "15A NCAC 03M.053 for False Albacore Management".</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration,</p> <p>Peter Jenkins Owner The Saltwater Edge</p>
Tony Sarcona	Maine	<p>I support false albacore management in North Carolina. As a guide service and avid fly fishermen this fishery should be properly managed to ensure a rich future for both commercial and recreational. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Tony Sarcona</p>
Levi Opsatnic	Connecticut	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My name is Levi Opsatnic and I am a recreational angler who lives in Connecticut. While I live in Connecticut, the false albacore is a fish that I fish for in many states ranging from their northern range of Massachusetts and all the way down to Florida (where I've taken an annual trip for little tunny for years now--it's something that my father and I, both recreational anglers, look forward to all year long).</p> <p>Anyway, I am writing to let you know that I support false albacore management in the state of North Carolina. Not only that, but I support proper management of the species across their entire range.</p> <p>I appreciate the ability to submit these comments and your time reading them.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Levi Opsatnic</p>
Rex Messing	Massachusetts	<p>I am writing to advocate that any and all management and regulatory decisions made on false albacore do so to encourage protecting the stock of fish. abundance is the thing we want most. These fish are far more valuable alive and prolific up and down the coast. please consider that when considering any and all management.</p>

Name	State/Province	Comments
Jerry Audet	Massachusetts	<p>To whom it applies,</p> <p>I am a New England angler, and official representative for the fishing publication Surfcaster's Journal. I just wanted to reach out to quickly say that management of False Albacore should take abundance highly into account. Abundance helps everyone, and since Albie's are such a hugely important recreational fish- both in terms of dollars in local economies and also simply intrinsic fun- there is little or no argument that can be made for any other factor taking precedent, in terms of management. Abundance is what all anglers need, it's what's best for the economy, and this is true from the immensely important North Carolina, to all the states along the Albie's range.</p> <p>Thank you for considering thoughtful management that puts abundance first!</p> <p>Jerry Audet Surfcaster's Journal</p>