

NC Marine Fisheries Commission

## **SCFL Eligibility Report**

August 2024 Quarterly Business Meeting

### Document

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Standard Commercial Fishing  
License Eligibility Pool Memo

Standard Commercial Fishing  
License Eligibility Pool Report



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

August 22, 2024

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission  
**FROM:** Captain Garland Yopp, Marine Patrol, Eligibility Board Chair  
**SUBJECT:** Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Pool Determination

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### Issue

Determine number of licenses available to the Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL) Eligibility Pool.

### Action Needed

A vote by the commission is needed to set the number of available licenses in the Eligibility Pool.

### Overview

An individual who does not hold a Standard Commercial Fishing License but wants to purchase a license through the Division of Marine Fisheries can apply to receive the license through the Eligibility Pool process. The application goes before a board which determines if the applicant is qualified based on criteria set out in rule. The number of licenses available in this pool is set annually by the commission.

Session Law 1998-225, Section 4.24(f) states that “the number of SCFLs in the pool of available SCFLs in license years beginning with the 2000-2001 license year is the temporary cap less the number of SCFLs that were issued and renewed during the previous license year.” The temporary cap was set at the number of valid Endorsements to Sell as of June 30, 1999 (8,396 licenses), plus an extra 500 licenses to be included in the Eligibility Pool (8,896 total licenses).

For the 2024-2025 license year, the number of licenses available through the Eligibility Board is 3,615. This number accounts for licenses issued in the 2023-2024 license year and the number of approvals from the Eligibility Board from 2023-2024 that still have the option to purchase a license before June 30, 2025. Individuals approved in the fall (September/October) must purchase their license by June 30 of the same license year, but

those approved in the spring (April) have until June 30 of the following license year to purchase their license.

Session Law 1998-225, Section 4.24(f) also states “the Commission may increase or decrease the number of SCFLs that are issued from the pool of available SCFLs. The Commission may increase the number of SCFLs that are issued from the pool of available SCFLs up to the temporary cap. The Commission may decrease the number of SCFLs that are issued from the pool of available SCFLs but may not refuse to renew a SCFL that is issued during the previous license year and that has not been suspended or revoked. The Commission shall increase or decrease the number of SCFLs that are issued to reflect its determination as to the effort that the fishery can support, based on the best available scientific evidence.”

From July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, the Board received 37 applications and approved 29 of them. This was a 26% increase in approved applications from the 2022-2023 license year. So far, there are 4 pending applications for review at the fall Eligibility Board meeting.

Over the past several years, the commission has voted to make the number of available licenses in the Eligibility Pool different from the total number of licenses left in the cap. Below is a summary of the licenses made available to the pool by the commission since the 2013-2014 license year (Table 1).

**Table 1. Number of licenses available and number of licenses approved by the commission in the SCFL Eligibility Pool, 2013-2014 license year through 2024-2025 license year.**

<b>License Year (fiscal year)</b>	<b>Number of Licenses Available</b>	<b>Number of Licenses Approved by MFC</b>
2013–2014	1,368	1,368
2014–2015	1,257	1,257
2015–2016	1,238	1,238
2016–2017*	2,417	100
2017–2018	2,592	1,500
2018–2019	2,723	500
2019–2020	2,973	500
2020–2021	3,064	500
2021-2022	3,198	500
2022-2023	3,340	500
2023-2024	3,483	500
2024-2025	3,615	TBD

\*Calculation to determine number of available licenses changed

In summary, there are 3,615 licenses available to the Eligibility Pool for the 2024–2025 license year. The commission needs to determine the number of licenses it wants to place in the pool for the upcoming year.

**Eligibility Pool  
Commission Report for 2023–2024  
August 22, 2024**

**How the Pool Number is Determined:**

Session Law 1998-225, Section 4.24(f).

(f) Adjustment of Number of SCFLs. The number of SCFLs in the pool of available SCFLs in license years beginning with the 2000–01 license year is the temporary cap less the number of SCFLs that were issued and renewed during the previous license year.

**Role of the Marine Fisheries Commission:**

Session Law 1998-225, Section 4.24(f).

(f) . . . The Commission may increase or decrease the number of SCFLs that are issued from the pool of available SCFLs. The Commission may increase the number of SCFLs that are issued from the pool of available SCFLs up to the temporary cap. The Commission may decrease the number of SCFLs that are issued from the pool of available SCFLs but may not refuse to renew a SCFL that is issued during the previous license year and that has not been suspended or revoked. The Commission shall increase or decrease the number of SCFLs that are issued to reflect its determination as to the effort that the fishery can support, based on the best available scientific evidence.

**Temporary Cap:**

The maximum number of SCFLs that can be issued is the number of valid Endorsements to Sell as of June 30, 1999, plus 500 for the first Eligibility Pool, for a total of 8,896.

**Eligibility Board Pool Determination 2024–2025:**

There are 3,615 SCFLs available through the Eligibility Board for the 2024–2025 license year.

**Attachments:**

2024–2025 Eligibility Pool Determination Calculations

FY2024 License Sales Report

Summary of Licenses Available and Temporary Cap as Approved by the Commission

Eligibility Board Meeting Summaries

Eligibility Board Open Files

## Eligibility Pool Determination Calculations For 2024–2025 License Year

Below is the current calculation used to determine the number of licenses available in the Eligibility Pool. Corrections were made to this calculation in August 2016 to prevent licenses already existing in the cap from being double counted and removed from the number of licenses remaining.

Licenses removed from the cap in this calculation include the number of SCFLs and RSCFLs issued and renewed in the 2023–2024 license year as well as any Eligibility Board approvals from the spring meeting. Those approved by the Eligibility Board in the spring have until the following license year to purchase their SCFL. These licenses are subtracted from the pool because they represent potential licenses available for purchase.

**Current calculation:**

Total Number of SCFLs Available in 2024–2025 License Year (Data run date: 08/02/2024)

1) Total original SCFLs available (Cap).....	8,896	
2) Less total number of SCFLs issued and renewed in 2023–2024.....	– 5,276	
3) Total number of SCFLs available in the pool for 2024–2025.....	3,620	
4) Less total number of 2023–2024 approvals through Eligibility Pool not yet issued <sup>1</sup> .....	- 5	
<b>5) Total SCFLs available for the 2024–2025 license year.....</b>	<b>3,615</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Individuals approved in the spring (April 2024) have until June 30 of the following license year (2025) to purchase their SCFL.

**North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
Commercial Licenses Sold by License Type  
FY2024 License Year**

Data Run Date: 08/02/2024

Blanket For-Hire Captain's Coastal Recreational Fishing License:	173
Blanket For-Hire Vessel Coastal Recreational Fishing License:	865
Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration:	6,240
Fish Dealer License:	663
Land or Sell License:	115
License to Land Flounder from Atlantic Ocean:	142
NC Resident Shellfish License without SCFL:	520
Non-Blanket For-Hire Vessel License:	113
Ocean Pier License:	18
Recreational Fishing Tournament License:	48
Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License:	1,354
Standard Commercial Fishing License:	3,922
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<b>TOTAL LICENSES FOR ALL LICENSE TYPES:</b>	<b>14,173</b>

3,922	SCFL	
<u>+ 1,354</u>	RSCFL	
5,276	<b>Total Number of SCFLs issued for FY2024</b>	

## Licenses Available from the Eligibility Pool – Annual Summary

License Year	Number of Licenses Available	Number of Licenses Approved by MFC
1999 - 2000	500	N/A
2000 - 2001	1,314	1,314
2001 - 2002	1,423	1,423
2002 - 2003	1,458	1,458
2003 - 2004	1,421	1,421
2004 - 2005	1,423	1,423
2005 - 2006	1,536	1,536
2006 - 2007	1,596	1,596
2007 - 2008	1,562	1,562
2008 - 2009	1,557	1,557
2009 - 2010	1,507	1,507
2010 - 2011	1,420	1,420
2011 - 2012	1,375	1,375
2012 - 2013	1,358	1,358
2013 - 2014	1,368	1,368
2014 - 2015	1,257	1,257
2015 - 2016	1,238	1,238
2016 - 2017*	2,417	100
2017 - 2018	2,592	1,500
2018 - 2019	2,723	500
2019 - 2020	2,973	500
2020 - 2021	3,064	500
2021 - 2022	3,198	500
2022 - 2023	3,340	500
2023 - 2024	3,483	500
2024 - 2025	3,615	TBD

\*Calculation to determine number of available licenses changed

## Licenses Approved and Denied by the Eligibility Pool Board – Annual Summary

License Year	Approved	Denied
1999 - 2000	166	133
2000 - 2001	110	75
2001 - 2002	46	37
2002 - 2003	38	23
2003 - 2004	56	11
2004 - 2005	35	13
2005 - 2006	31	9
2006 - 2007	32	4
2007 - 2008	49	7
2008 - 2009	83	5
2009 - 2010	109	11
2010 - 2011	63	2
2011 - 2012	68	17
2012 - 2013	99	9
2013 - 2014	96	14
2014 - 2015	61	13
2015 - 2016	45	6
2016 - 2017	32	6
2017 - 2018	84	13
2018 - 2019	28	6
2019 - 2020	41	10
2020 - 2021	45	9
2021 - 2022	33	9
2022 - 2023	23	10
2023 - 2024	29	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1502</b>	<b>460</b>

## Eligibility Pool Board Meeting Summary

HEARING DATE	RESIDENTS				NON-RESIDENTS			
	APPROVE	DENY	TABLE*	TOTAL	APPROVE	DENY	TABLE*	TOTAL
5/5/1999	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
5/19/1999	5	0	1	6	1	0	0	1
6/17/1999	2	5	3	10	0	0	0	0
<b>7/1/1998 - 6/30/1999</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
7/7/1999	12	10	0	22	3	0	0	3
7/8/1999	23	25	0	48	7	0	0	7
07/15/1999 MFC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8/11/1999	18	20	4	42	3	0	0	3
8/27/1999	17	33	0	50	0	1	0	1
09/09/1999 MFC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9/29/1999	18	11	1	30	0	0	0	0
11/3/1999	13	12	4	29	2	0	1	3
11/08/1999 MFC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1/26/2000	9	5	5	19	1	0	1	2
02/18/2000 MFC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



4/19/2000	19	6	8	33	1	0	2	3
5/18/2000	18	3	9	30	0	1	2	3
6/7/2000	10	3	2	15	0	0	1	1
HEARING DATE	RESIDENTS				NON-RESIDENTS			
	APPROVE	DENY	TABLE*	TOTAL	APPROVE	DENY	TABLE*	TOTAL
<b>7/1/1999 – 6/30/2000</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>
7/12/2000	11	1	4	16	2	0	0	2
7/21/2000 MFC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9/20/2000	24	15	7	46	1	0	0	1
10/27/2000	16	8	3	27	1	0	0	1
12/1/2000	5	16	2	23	0	0	0	0
1/24/2001	10	14	3	27	0	2	0	2
3/9/2001	12	12	8	32	0	0	0	0
4/4/2001	32	9	1	42	0	1	0	1
<b>7/1/2000 – 6/30/2001</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
7/26/2001	18	10	2	30	3	0	1	4
08/21/2002 MFC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/14/2002	12	15	3	30	2	1	0	3
2/21/2002	16	12	2	30	1	0	0	1
<b>7/1/2001 – 6/30/2002</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
9/11/2002	28	14	6	48	2	0	1	3
08/19/2003 MFC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3/5/2003	10	9	1	20	2	0	0	2
<b>7/1/2002 – 6/30/2003</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
08/19/2003 MFC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7/9/2003	16	3	1	20	2	0	0	2
11/4/2003	17	2	0	19	3	0	0	3
3/19/2004	22	6	0	28	2	0	0	2
6/22/2004	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>7/1/2003 – 6/30/2004</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
11/1/2004	22	4	1	27	0	0	0	0
2/28/2005	11	2	0	13	0	1	0	1
4/18/2005	2	7	0	9	0	0	0	0
<b>7/1/2004 – 6/30/2005</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
9/27/2005	17	7	1	25	1	0	0	1
3/15/2006	14	2	2	18	1	0	0	1
<b>7/1/2005 – 6/30/2006</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
10/4/2006	16	3	2	21	1	0	0	1
3/14/2007	16	1	2	19	1	0	0	1
<b>7/1/2006 – 6/30/2007</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
9/10/2007	26	2	4	32	0	0	0	0
3/19/2008	23	5	3	31	0	0	0	0
<b>7/1/2007 – 6/30/2008</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
9/30/2008	39	0	3	42	4	0	0	4
3/24/2009	44	5	1	50	3	0	0	3
<b>7/1/2008 – 6/30/2009</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
10/6/2009	52	6	1	59	2	1	0	3
3/10/2010	36	2	1	39	1	0	0	1
6/2/2010	21	3	0	24	0	0	0	0
<b>7/1/2009 – 6/30/2010</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
9/21/2010	40	2	1	43	2	0	0	2
3/24/2011	23	0	0	23	4	0	0	4
<b>7/1/2010 – 6/30/2011</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
10/4/2011	39	7	0	46	2	0	0	2
3/15/2012	28	10	0	38	2	0	0	2
1/13/2012	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

<b>7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
9/12/2012	53	7	3	63	1	1	0	2
3/19/2013	46	2	4	52	2	0	0	2
HEARING DATE	RESIDENTS				NON-RESIDENTS			
	APPROVE	DENY	TABLE*	TOTAL	APPROVE	DENY	TABLE*	TOTAL
<b>7/1/2012 – 6/30/2013</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
9/18/2013	56	7	0	63	2	0	0	2
3/19/2014	40	7	1	48	0	0	0	0
<b>7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
9/17/2014	32	9	0	41	1	0	0	1
3/18/2015	25	3	5	33	0	0	1	1
5/12/2015	4	1	0	5	1	0	0	1
<b>7/1/2014 – 6/30/2015</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
10/21/2015	16	4	1	21	3	0	0	3
3/23/2016	29	2	2	33	0	0	0	0
<b>7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
9/28/2016	17	3	2	22	0	0	0	0
3/16/2017	15	3	0	18	0	0	0	0
<b>7/1/2016 – 6/30/2017</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
9/28/2017	44	9	0	53	1	0	0	1
11/1/2017	11	3	0	14	1	0	0	1
3/28/2018	29	1	0	30	3	0	0	3
<b>7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
10/30/2018	15	5	0	22**	1	1	0	2
4/11/2019	13	1	0	14	1	0	0	1
<b>7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
9/24/2019	25	6	1	32	1	1	0	2
3/26/2020	16	4	0	20	2	0	0	2
<b>7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
10/20/2020	25	7	0	32	1	0	0	1
4/9/2021	20	2	0	22	0	0	0	0
<b>7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
10/14/2021	16	4	0	20	1	1	0	1
4/7/2022	17	5	1	23	3	0	0	3
<b>7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>10/18/2022</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>04/05/2023</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>10/25/2023</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>04/09/2024</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>1502</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2088</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>111</b>

\* TABLE files are presented again at the next Board meeting for a final decision of approval or denial and are then accounted for in the APPROVE or DENY categories. GRAND TOTALS do not equal total approved or denied because some files are reviewed in multiple meetings (tabled, etc.).

\*\* Two applications were withdrawn.

**Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Pool Office  
Summary of Open Files beginning July 1, 2024**

<b>File Description</b>	<b>Total Number of Files</b>
To be researched/ready for the next board meeting	0
New/being processed	4
Pending responses to letters mailed requesting more information	0
Incomplete – no response to letters	0
<b>Total Open/Pending Applications</b>	<b>4</b>