



Polluted Area Relay Update

NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Zach Harrison | NC Division of Marine Fisheries

NC Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting | Feb. 23, 2023



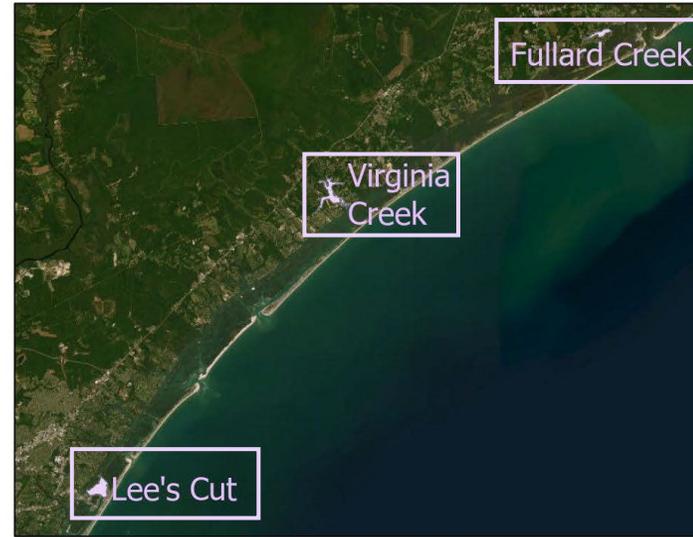
Relay Program Overview

- Designated Polluted Areas to Leases/Franchises
 - Relief from Harmful Algal Bloom die-offs
- 2019 Aquaculture Bill
 - Relayed Shellfish no longer counted in Shellfish Lease Production
- Monitoring by Marine Patrol Required by National Shellfish Sanitation Program
 - Challenging to fill Marine Patrol openings
- Decline in PA Relay Participation
 - Season limited to two days per week in 2019
- Program Phase Out
 - May 1, 2024, End Date



2022 Season Planning

2021 Relay Locations

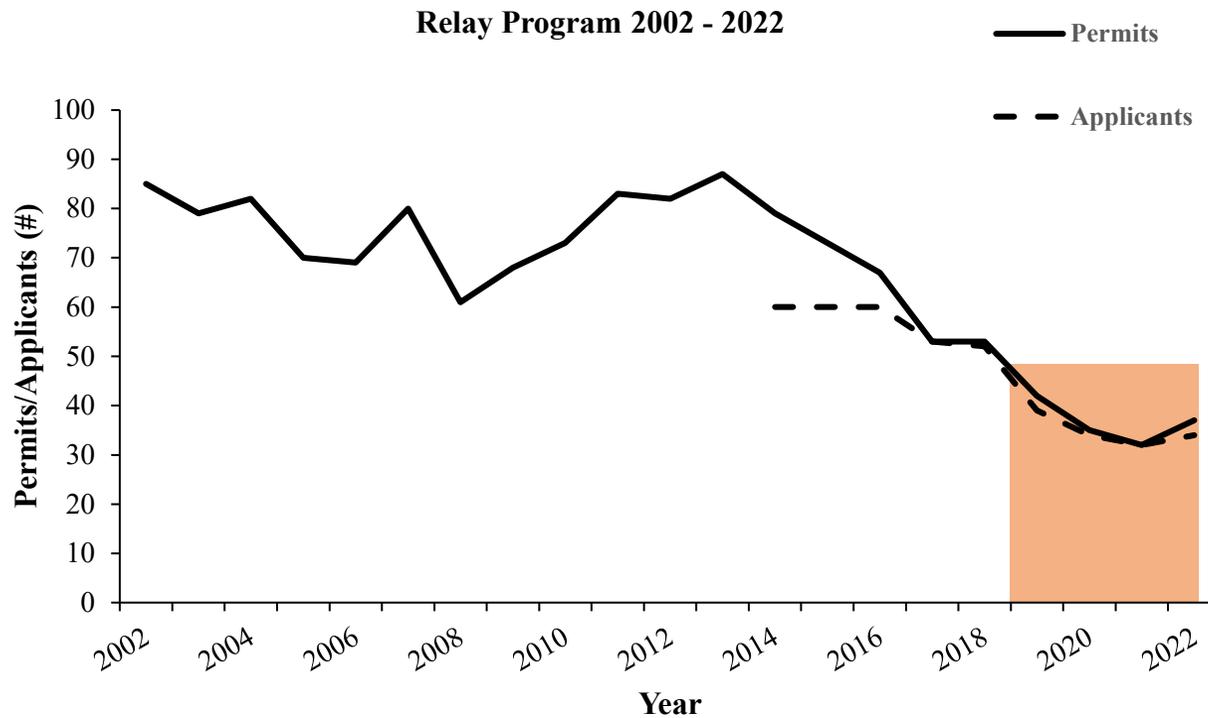


2022 Relay Locations



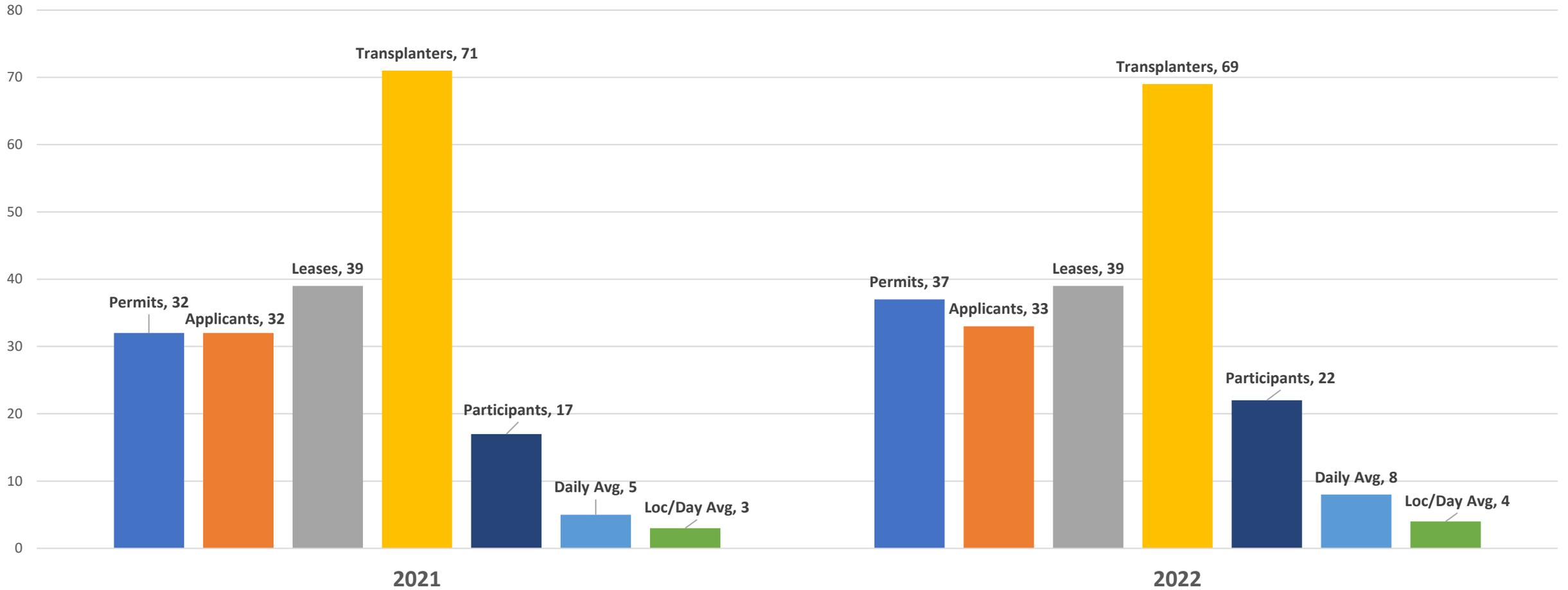
2022 Relay Permits

- 33 Applications Received Before Season
- 4 Applications Received for Final Round (last 4 weeks)

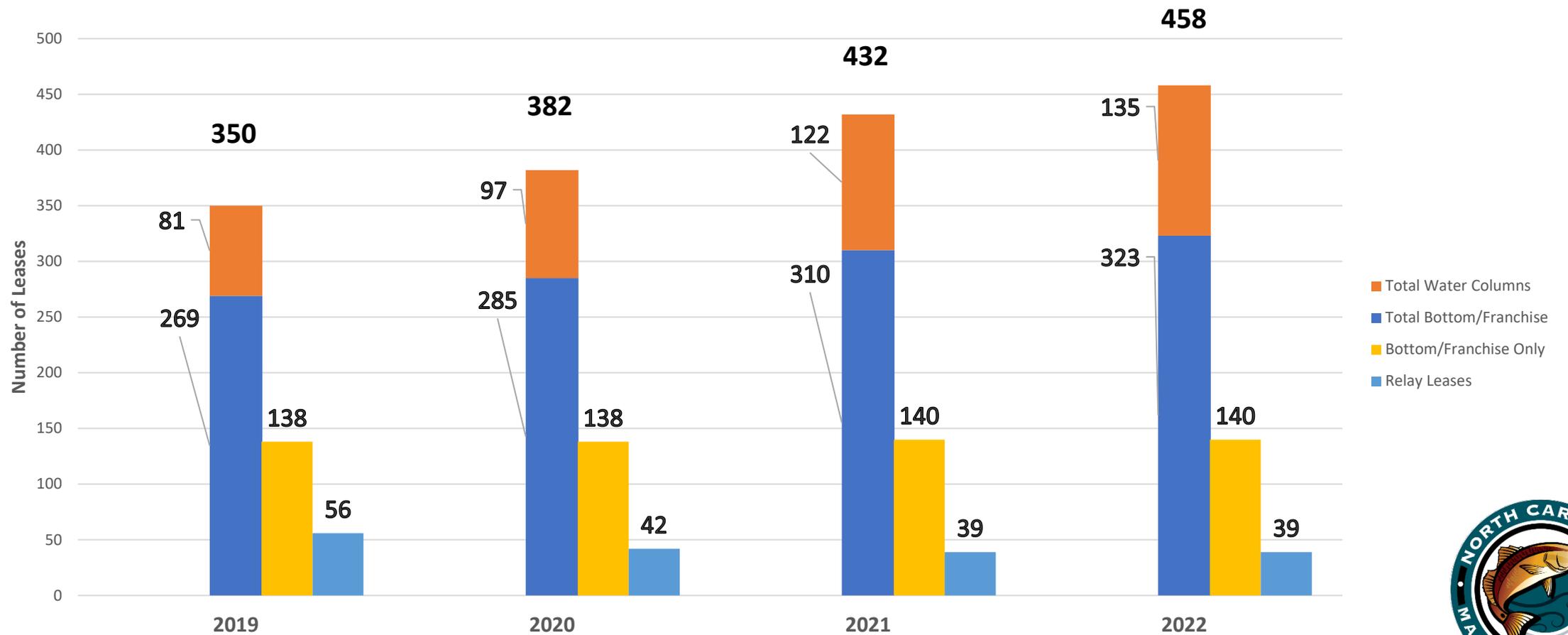


Year	Permits	Applicants
2002	85	
2003	79	
2004	82	
2005	70	
2006	69	
2007	80	
2008	61	
2009	68	
2010	70	
2011	68	
2012	89	
2013	87	
2014	102	60
2015	73	60
2016	67	60
2017	53	53
2018	55	52
2019	42	39
2020	35	34
2021	32	32
2022	37	33
Average	67	47.1

2021 and 2022 Relay Activity



Leases by Type 2019-2022: Relay Activity



Questions?

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Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program:

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/habitat/enhancement/shellfish-leases>

Shellfish Aquaculture Tool:

<https://arcg.is/0LD5zS>