


Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
Alex Palfrey	Massachusetts	My name is Alex and I C&R fish for Albies on Cape Cod annually. I support option 3! Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore.
DJ Rather	New York	I travel to NC specifically to fish for false albacore, and I support Option 3. Thanks for your consideration. — DJ Rather, Ny Ny
Doug H	Connecticut	"Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!"
Joseph Mustari	New Jersey	My Name is Joseph Mustari. I'm a fishing guide in the NY and NJ area. I recognize the importance of the false albacore as a recreational species not only in North Carolina but all the coastal states. I am in full support of Option 3.
Michael Wright	New York	I am a full-time fishing guide and outdoor writer based in Beaufort and Manteo in winter and make a significant portion of my income each fall from fishing for little tunny/false albacore in the Harkers Island region in October and November, and my clients bring in tens of thousands of dollars to this state each I strongly support our state implementing the strong framing of the false albacore fishery harvest in Option 3 of Rule 15A. Harvests of false albacore are low right now but that can change quickly and I do not believe the population of these fish is particularly large and being oriented to the coast it is high vulnerable. We need all of our states to keep a close eye on this economically important species and North Carolina should take the lead with this sensible approach. Thank you for you work. MICHAEL R. WRIGHT FLYING DUTCHMAN CHARTERS
Thomas Chadronet	Rhode Island	I support option 3. Conservation is important to me and we in Rhode Island catch Albies from the same bio-mass as the anglers in North Carolina. Thank you, Tom
Carlton Goldthwaite	North Carolina	Fishing albacore off the coast of North Carolina for the last 10 years as a professional guide. And I've noticed the albacore stock going down on a reasonably consistent basis you over a year. I think the North Carolina fries are a special, and should be preserved more regulation around the harvesting of albacore is important. I highly support a more restrictive stance for commercial fishing and non-commercial fishing around albacore.
Ellen Wright	North Carolina	My name is Ellen Wright, I appreciate consideration of management for false albacore and I support Option 3
Russell Simpkins	Connecticut	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Chuck Gifford	Massachusetts	I want to be on the record in support of Option #3. I have fished, catch and release, for much of my life in and around Nantucket, MA. Thanks

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Ted Matera	New Jersey	I approve of Option 3. We need to protect this fishery.
Anthony Poirier	Massachusetts	<p>I support option 3. I haven't ever spent a lot of time in NC but I'm an avid fisherman in the northeast, including albies. What's good for one state is good for all when it comes to marine fisheries</p> <p>Thank you, Anthony</p>
Jason Albano	Massachusetts	My name is Jason Albano I appreciate consideration of management for false albacore and I support Option 3.
Lew Armistead	California	<p>False Albacore have always been one of my favorite fish as a recreational angler. One of the highlights of my fishing year is always traveling to North Carolina for a week of albie fishing. During this week, of course, I contribute to the local economy supporting motels, restaurants, fishing guides.</p> <p>I commend you for striving to protect this valuable fishery. I support option 3. Thnak you.</p>
Michael Cute	Rhode Island	I support Option 3
Stafford Taylor	North Carolina	<p>With regard to the February 21 - 23 meeting False Albacore management:</p> <p>I am a strong advocate for science based decisions. Accurate information must be acquired before delicate decisions are made that will impact this amazing fishery. As an analogy, imagine taking prescription medications never studied by researchers before your physician recommended them to you or having a joint replaced with an artificial joint never studied. The consequences would be devastating. Let's do the smart thing first by acquiring sound data before committing to decisions that can have dramatic outcomes. The resource must take first priority if it is to be abundantly enjoyed by future generations.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Michael Cute	Rhode Island	I support the enactment of the proposal
Chris Chiquoine	Vermont	Share fair. Option 3!
PAUL ANDREWS	Massachusetts	Lets not ruin another fishery!
Lucas Hilker	Massachusetts	I support option 3. Thank you for considering this important baseline for protecting albies.
Rory A	Massachusetts	I support Option 3. Keep our albie population healthy!
Brian Russell	New York	My name is Brian Russell of Long Island, NY and I support option 3 for False Albacore
Matthew Risser	Pennsylvania	To whom it may concern, I would like to voice my support for actively managing the false albacore fishery. The guiderails outlined in option 3 would serve to set a base for protecting this stock in NC and would be an example for other states that currently do not have management guiderails in place. The false albacore is a beautiful, powerful, and exciting fish to pursue. I have spent many hours traveling to states (including NC) to target

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		<p>these fish and have spent considerable money specifically to target them through gear, guides, and accommodations. I want to see these fish remain abundant not only for my enjoyment, but for the enjoyment of generations to come.</p> <p>Thank you, Matt Risser</p>
Kenneth Amberson	Massachusetts	<p>Folks</p> <p>I whole heartedly support the responsible management of false albacore. I an effort to further that cause, I support Option 3.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Kenneth Amberson</p>
Brian Russell	New York	Hello, my name is Brian Russell of Long Island, NY and I support option 3.
Allen Cain	North Carolina	I support option 3 management strategy for false albacore.
Guillermo Nunez	Massachusetts	I vote for option 3.
Peter Gray	New York	I support option 3 to ensure we can fish for albies for generations to come!
Jacob French	Rhode Island	My name is Jacob French, and I support Option 3 for false albacore.
Lee Haller	North Carolina	Please provide adequate protections for this wonderful fish the False Albacore. Our future generations deserve a chance to enjoy this game fish.
Jacob French	Rhode Island	My name is Jacob French, and I support Option 3 for false albacore.
Brian O'Toole	Massachusetts	I support Option 3.
Brian Wagenhoffer	New Jersey	My name is Capt Brian Wagenhoffer and I support option 3
Kevin Worthley	Rhode Island	I support Option 3
Natalie Kavanagh	North Carolina	<p>My family owns and operates Frisco Rod and Gun located on Cape Hatteras Island. Our community here on the island and on the Northern Outer Banks are very concerned about the impacts that the requested 32% fishing reduction on this species would have to the tourism industry for Eastern North Carolina. Especially since the main tourism we have in the cooler months depends on the surf fishermen who come here in the Fall. Striped Mullet is the preferred bait to use to catch the legendary Red Drum and other Fall fish. These visitors are a valuable part of the fragile economic "shoulder seasons" of the Fall months here. If they can't get the fish they want I fear they will begin to look elsewhere to find the experiences they crave. There are an estimated 2,870 fishermen who just participate in those tournaments that want Striped Mullet as their bait. There are countless others who visit us throughout the year to fish with their families and friends. Limiting them from having bait will damage North Carolina's appeal to this demographic and hurt</p>

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		<p>our small businesses. We need these fishermen and they need these Striped Mullet!</p> <p>The commercial fishermen who provide this bait to us are generally smaller one to two man operations. They use cast nets or fish in the sound from small boats. These guys work hard to bring us the bait we need. The limits on the fishing that NCDMF is proposing will hurt these small businesses even more then it will hurt our retail stores. I'm truly concerned for them. The proposal this to have no fishing on Saturday or Sunday for most of the year and no fishing Saturday, Sunday, or Monday for the Fall months is not the best answer to managing this fish. If the weather is bad on the allowed fishing days we could go for a week before having any fresh mullet to sell and for the fishermen to have a paycheck.</p> <p>I do not support these closures and hope the status quo will be maintained. It is my understanding that there is not a recent data count on Striped Mullet that you are proposing limiting. Before making changes that will hurt this region's economic status, I would like to see a current data collection occur. You may already have the numbers you need. Our tackle shop is a family owned business that has been here for over 40 years. We employ over 20 people to take care of our customers. We would appreciate the consideration of the people you are impacting when you make this decision.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Natalie Perry Kavanagh </p>
Chase Freiman	Rhode Island	False Albacore are one of the most popular light tackle sport fish up and down the coast. Is it's critical to protect such an economically important fish. As a recreational fisherman I absolutely support the additions to regulations on this fish
Michael Shehan	Massachusetts	I love Albie fishing off the coast of MV. I support Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0523 in NC because the Albies represent a connected ecosystem.
Mark Eustis	Maryland	<p>Every year, I travel to NC to stay for 3-5 days and fish for false albacore. The population of this excellent sport fish deserves to be managed carefully to protect the biomass and ensure abundance for years to come.</p> <p>I appreciate your considering management for the false albacore, and I support Option 3.</p>

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		Thank you for your consideration.
Richard Bertoli	New York	<p>I support Option 3.</p> <p>Preliminary science shows this is a connected, coastal stock. What we do in NC impacts the entire coast.</p> <p>It is unimaginable that a fish that is so valuable to the recreational economy of NC, and other key states along the east coast, is not appropriately managed.</p> <p>The majority of the guiding community in North Carolina relies on fishing for false albacore every fall. We can't afford to lose this fishery.</p> <p>North Carolina requires fisheries management that benefits the general public. Accepting Option 3 would satisfy that state requirement while providing the bare minimum management to ensure a bright future for a valuable fishery.</p> <p>The 3500 lbs. commercial daily limit is in line with the spanish and king mackerel fisheries. This is not something new. 58% of commercial landing were under 50 lbs. per day. These new limits would not hurt any businesses. In fact, they would solidify a sustainable fishery for the long term.</p> <p>False albacore, the guides, anglers, and the state of NC deserve a brighter future than we have right now. Please vote for Option 3.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Nicholas J Ferrara	Delaware	I enjoy catching albacore September thru October each year in Nantucket, MA. Have been doing this since 1986. I am hoping to continue this opportunity.
Bill Levin	Rhode Island	Have traveled to NC waters often with boat in tow to target False Albacore every fall for last 25 years. We catch fish, make friends, and spend money. When the fishing is good, there is no place better. Thoughtful regulations can sustain this fishery and keep us coming back to NC
william scituro	Connecticut	As an avid New England fisherman, I recognize the interconnectedness of all our fisheries. Other it be menhaden, striped bass, or false albacore, what one states does, impacts the rest. I support option 3 as a good step towards protecting the false albacore fisher for all of the coastal anglers.

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Lorraine M Ferrara	Delaware	I have traveled every year to Nantucket MA September through October to enjoy the privilege of catching false albacore. Everyone that is caught by me is quickly returned to the ocean. The problem are the seals, not the albacore.
Scott Stryker	New Jersey	As a saltwater fishing guide I appreciate consideration for the management of False Albicore and I firmly support option 3, Thank you!
Dave Peros	Massachusetts	First off, congratulations to North Carolina for stepping and being the first to make an attempt at establishing catch regulations for false albacore or little tunny. I don't know many recreational anglers who would keep one albie, never mind ten, but it's a start, one that i wholeheartedly support. Good job.
Kendall Keer	New Jersey	My name is Kendall keer and I support option 3
Eric Bosley	New York	I support option 3.
John Hufnagle	Massachusetts	I support Option 3
Matt Donaghey	Georgia	I support option 3. Please be responsible and take necessary action to protect this fishery from decline, as so many others have been decimated by overfishing.
Quentin Murphy Quentin Murphy	Maryland	My name is Quentin Murphy, I appreciate consideration of management for false albacore and I support Option 3.
Michael Lynch	Rhode Island	False Albacore are a staple target species for myself and thousands of other anglers. Please consider this proposal. We NEED these fish for our future
Michael Platt	Connecticut	<p data-bbox="846 859 1083 883">Dear Commission,</p> <p data-bbox="846 927 1982 1252">I am writing this to encourage the commission to side with caution in the management of False Albacore. The science shows that false albacore are from 1 stock that makes up our entire eastern seaboard. With that said the loss of this fish will have far broader consequences as will affect FL to MA. The charter fish relies heavily on these fish not only for bait but for a target species that generate millions in revenue up and down the eastern seaboard. Protection and proper management is needed to ensure the species is stays abundant and thriving in NC's waters as well as the rest of the Atlantic states. In advance I thank you and hope the commission sides with conversation to protect this resource and the revenue it generates for their respective states.</p> <p data-bbox="846 1295 978 1354">Regards, Mike Platt</p>
Parker Mauck	Massachusetts	I am a charter captain in Massachusetts and we frequently fish for False Albacore (Little Tunny) during our fall fishing season. The False Albacore (FA) are highly sought after by our clients and as such they are an important part of our business. I understand that North Carolina is considering the establishment of some "guardrails" to increase their efforts to

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		<p>preserve this valuable species. Thank you for that.</p> <p>Preliminary science shows this is a connected, coastal stock. What you do in NC impacts the entire coast. And visa/versa.</p> <p>North Carolina requires fisheries management that benefits the general public. Accepting Option 3 would satisfy that state requirement while providing the bare minimum management to ensure a bright future for a valuable fishery.</p> <p>I support Option 3</p> <p>Sincerely, Captain Parker Mauck ██████████, Massachusetts</p>
Chris Greening	North Carolina	<p>ATTENTION: NC MARINE FISHERIES MEMBERS & AFFILIATES</p> <p>I am providing you with my written concerns of the longevity of our fishing community in Dare County in regards to the latest proposed Striped Mullet restrictions from NC Marine Fisheries.</p> <p>While the latest proposed restrictions on striped mullet are to be enacted as a statewide restriction, the timing of such restrictions place an undue risk to our local economy and a disparate economic impact compared with counties in the southern region of the state. It is important to understand the longstanding culture of our fishery for our fall visitors. Unlike any other time throughout the year, beginning in September and lasting into early December our visitation demographics change greatly to predominantly those visiting to participate in surf fishing. For those surf fishermen and fisherwomen, the bait of choice has always been fresh caught never frozen local mullet.</p> <p>To enact this change would bring about undue criminalization of recreational anglers and further deter them from continuing a longstanding tradition that has been passed down from many generations before them.</p> <p>While many simply refer to Dare County as a ‘Fishing Village’, made up of less than 40,000 residents, to most surprise we also are North Carolina’s highest revenue generating county per capita. With an astonishing \$52,000 of ‘Traveler Expenditures’ being generated per person in the county, we are more than \$40,000 or 500% above Buncombe County; the second largest county per capita.</p> <p>With restrictions continuing along the path as recommended from NC Marine Fisheries Members, we will with certainty continue to see an adverse economic impact to our county. Fourth quarter visitation statistics in 2023 have declined 6.4% versus fourth quarter 2023 and on a micro level, both flounder and striper tackle sales have declined by</p>

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		<p>more than 50% since new restrictions were put into place from NC Marine Fisheries. With an average ticket price for most shops equating to around \$55.00, the amount of fresh mullet purchased on a transaction only amounts to around \$5.00. To risk 90% of our transaction amount because a staple item that has always been readily available may not be accessible will put unnecessary strain on local tackle shops.</p> <p>Like all other Tackle Shop owners, I too believe in reasonable regulations but the latest proposal is profoundly unsubstantiated from current scientific data, absent of all local and regional economic impact studies, and most importantly looks to resolve an issue through government overreach and unjust criminalization.</p> <p>I strongly recommend the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postpone further restrictions on striped mullet until a recent study is conducted with input and ‘accountability’ from neighboring states whom share this resource. • Remove ‘silver mullet’ from scope of this restriction in its entirety. • Provide better transparency of the data in existence (ie: trip ticket logs, survey, etc.) prior to future public forum meetings so all parties can participate in constructive dialogue and align on accountability needed across all stakeholders.
Thomas Wetherington	Tennessee	I support Option 3 for False Albacore in North Carolina. I love these fish, and they are what bring me back to coastal North Carolina.
Greg Mcsharry	Massachusetts	I support option 3
John Haberek Jr	Rhode Island	I support Option 3
Gregg Hartley	Maryland	My name is Gregg Hartley and I am a recreational fisherman. I support active management for false albacore and I support the adoption of Option 3. Thanks.
Shannon stafford Shannon stafford	Virginia	My name is Shannon Stafford. I appreciate consideration of management for false albacore and I support option 3.
Matthew Anton	Massachusetts	False albacore are one of the most exciting fish to pass through our waters each year. We should certainly consider species management to be sure this fish continues to be a part of our fishery.
William Conrad	Pennsylvania	<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>I am writing in support of Rule 15A NCAC 03M.0523. I am an ardent fisherman and a great admirer of the false albacore. I salute your efforts to establish basic rules for managing false albacore populations. We know that albies are migratory so what occurs in North Carolina will be affected by what happens in the other coastal states, and vice versa. Thank you for taking important steps to ensure that our grandchildren will have the</p>

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		<p>opportunity to appreciate these amazing fish. Sincerely, William Conrad [REDACTED]</p>
Drew Whalen Drew Whalen	New Hampshire	I support Option 3.
Tyler Richman	Rhode Island	I support option 3
Daniel Drabkin	Massachusetts	<p>I support Option 3.</p> <p>I am a licensed guide in Massachusetts and have targeted false albacore every fall for the past 8 years. I support the most conservative monitoring and conservation options available, and I hope New England states will follow North Carolina's lead in protecting a species whose recreational value and appeal far outweigh its commercial value.</p>
Stephen Gross	Rhode Island	I fully support all efforts to preserve this valuable recreational species.
Kathleen Bergeron	North Carolina	<p>I support this effort to preserve and protect false albacore. The proposed rule is written in such a way to provide guidance to both sport fishers and commercial entities so that sufficient stock will be available while insuring a bright future for this particular species. North Carolina has a unique opportunity to show leadership in how other states consider this issue.</p> <p>Kathleen Bergeron Board Member and Chair of the Conservation Committee Fly Fishers International</p>
Durbin Wells	Rhode Island	<p>It is way past time for us to learn from our mistakes in mishandling many of our fisheries, both recreational and commercial. As a 76 year old lifelong fisherman, I say "KUDOS" to NC for taking action now to address what might become an unfortunate situation in the future impacting the enjoyment of fishing for this remarkable gamefish for generations to come. Prudently and pro-actively monitoring this fishery today, and taking necessary steps as needed in the future, will not only guarantee the continued joy of targeting this species, but also maintain the financial success of those businesses that rely on it. Thank you.</p>
Timothy Kubiak	New Jersey	I support option 3. Enough exploitation has occurred on the East Coast's fisheries. Start here and continue your due diligence. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Charles Locke	North Carolina	<p>Why are we wasting time to add another regulation on the fisherman of this state on False Albacore?? The SAFMC as well as the ASMFC have declined to form a management plan on such an unknown species with such low landings. It seems like the only reason to waste energy and time on such an unneeded regulation is to appease Commissioner Tom Roller</p>

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		and his organization Saltwater Guides Association. Is this the precedent this Commission wants to set? Are we supposed to start regulating without a proper FMP in place? Are we no longer following the process that is applied to every other fishery in the state? If we are going to start regulating without science and data are we really managing or are we caving to the wants of special interests?? As a commercial fishermen in this state I have plenty of wants to! I'd like to see mandatory recreational reporting for ever fish that is harvested by every angler in the state. Now that would be a proactive management measure. I am all for sound scientific management but I think we can all agree that implementing any rules or regulations without following the established protocols is anything but scientific!! Thanks for your time. Charlie Locke F/V Salvation
Robert Fitzgerald	Massachusetts	I strongly support 15A NCAC 03M .0523 FALSE ALBACORE. A great sport fish up and down the coast. We need to protect the fish and the diverse economic ecosystem fishing supports.
Jack Creighton	Massachusetts	I support Option 3.
Thomas Williams	Pennsylvania	As a former homeowner in coastal NC, and as an avid sprot fisherman, thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Taylor Vavra	New York	I support Option 3. Thank you for taking these steps to protect False Albacore. While I believe there is more that can be done on a coast wide level, you are leading the way and setting a great example for others to follow. False Albacore are an important resource and it's time for them to be managed as such. Thank you for your time!
Todd Cox	North Carolina	People come from all over the world to fish for Albee's here in the fall. It is a big part of my decision to move here from Vermont. It has a very significant economic impact on Eastern North Carolina.
Patrick Hay	Rhode Island	I support Option 3 for protection of False Albacore. Although I am an angler in Rhode Island I believe that as the popularity of targeting these fish has increased over the past decade that there needs to be some way to ensure that we can protect this exceptional fish. I applaud NC for considering any actions as False Albacore have little regulations. I believe that it is critical to protect recreational fisheries as much as it is for commercial. The contribution to local economies by recreational fisherman is significant and has a direct impact on local small business such as tackle and charters which are the back bone of the American economy. Not only does the protection of these fisheries provide protection for the natural resource but also helps to protect the future of our small business.
John Stone	New Jersey	Sirs: Preliminary science shows this is a connected, coastal stock. What is done in NC impacts the entire coast. The majority of the guiding community in North Carolina relies on fishing for false albacore every fall.

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		<p>The 3500lb commercial daily limit is in line with the spanish and king mackerel fisheries. This is not something new. 58% of commercial landing were under 50lbs per day. These new limits would not hurt any businesses. In fact, they would solidify a sustainable fishery for the long term.</p> <p>False albacore, the guides, anglers, and the state of NC deserve a bright future. Please vote for Option 3.</p> <p>Respectfully, J. Stone</p>
David Nguyen	Connecticut	<p>I support option 3. As a recreational fly angler from CT, the fall false albacore run is one of the most exciting fishing opportunities that we have. I believe that proper management in North Carolina will benefit all false albacore fisheries. These fish are notoriously difficult to catch even when in abundance. Their decline would obviously make things even more difficult.</p>
Joel Benoit	Rhode Island	<p>Just leave the fish alone. We are already struggling with stripped bass. Soon we'll have nothing. Look at the cod fishery. Smarten up and stop being greedy.</p>
james kilmartin	Rhode Island	<p>I'm writing to express my strong support for Option 3, emphasizing the importance of every stakeholder's voice in safeguarding the future of the false albacore fishery in North Carolina. This fishery's value, both ecologically and economically, cannot be overstated. Option 3 aligns with preliminary science indicating the fishery's coastal connectivity and addresses the urgent need for management to protect a key component of our recreational economy. It proposes a sustainable approach, mirroring successful limits in similar fisheries, ensuring the long-term viability of this vital resource without impacting businesses negatively.</p> <p>By choosing Option 3, we can secure a sustainable future for the false albacore, supporting not only the guiding community and anglers but also the broader interests of North Carolina. Your support for this option will contribute significantly to the conservation of this essential fishery.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my viewpoint.</p> <p>Best regards, James Kilmartin</p>
Eric Spicer	Rhode Island	<p>As a recreational angler and someone who works in a tackle shop, I support Option 3. I genuinely want to say thank you to the legislators of North Carolina for even considering this action.</p> <p>Eric Spicer</p>
Kenneth Cirillo	Massachusetts	<p>I support Option 3.</p>

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Michael Duclos	Massachusetts	False Albacore are one of the the premier fly rod fish on the East Coast, I would strongly recommend any and all legislation that is meant to support the year classes, this includes restrictions on taking commercially as well as by individual fisherman. Save this important fishery.
Robert Andrew Robertson	New Hampshire	Please adopt Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0523 . The False Albacore fishery is important to the entire East Coast both as a recreational fishery and an economic catalyst (fishing gear, boat sales and registrations, tourism) and deserves to be managed accordingly. Thank you!
Jared Tausig	Massachusetts	<p>Preliminary science shows this is a connected, coastal stock. What we do in NC impacts the entire coast.</p> <p>It is unimaginable that a fish that is so valuable to the recreational economy of NC, and other key states along the east coast, is unmanaged.</p> <p>The majority of the guiding community in North Carolina relies on fishing for false albacore every fall. We can't afford to lose this fishery.</p> <p>North Carolina requires fisheries management that benefits the general public. Accepting Option 3 would satisfy that state requirement while providing the bare minimum management to ensure a bright future for a valuable fishery.</p> <p>The 3500lb commercial daily limit is in line with the spanish and king mackerel fisheries. This is not something new. 58% of commercial landing were under 50lbs per day. These new limits would not hurt any businesses. In fact, they would solify a sustainable fishery for the long term.</p> <p>False albacore, the guides, anglers, and the state of NC deserve a brighter future than we have right now. Please vote for Option 3.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Jared Tausig		
Alex Ciocca	Pennsylvania	As a recreational angler that looks forward to the Fall False Albacore run every year, I support Option 3. The amount of time, effort, early wake ups, and long days spent fishing for these speedsters is enough evidence of the almost lunatic levels some anglers go for this fish. It is easy to say that they are one of my favorite fish to target, and the coast is in dire need of some guardrail legislation that will protect these fish for years to come. I hope

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		that your state is the first to provide some protection for these fish so that we can enjoy them for many years to come and follow suit in our Northern states. Thank you.
Bill Fiora	Massachusetts	I am writing in support of the proposed rule to place commercial and recreational limits on false albacore catch .
James Goodhart	Massachusetts	I'm a recreational angler who visits North Carolina every year to fish for false albacore. I support Option #3.
Max Cavallaro	Massachusetts	Help conserve an amazing fishery
Dan Leary	New York	The albies provide some exciting action in the New York Area. I would love to see guidelines and protections for the albies put into place. Let's be proactive and protect the stock before the numbers start to slide. Striped bass regulations have always been reactive rather than proactive and that has led to serious depletion of their stock.
Michael Hoar	Massachusetts	I support Option 3.
Chris Osborn	North Carolina	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Todd Kunst	North Carolina	"Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!"
Joe Tunstall	North Carolina	<p>Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!</p> <p>As a year round full time fishing guide and lifelong Carteret County Resident, False Albacore are a huge draw to NC in the fall months. Many guides, restaurants, tackle shops, motels, marinas, stores, private ramps and plenty of other local resources benefit much from the National and international tourism that results in our renowned World Class False Albacore fishery annually. Please don't discount their value and DO take the necessary steps NOW to protect this asset for future angling generations. Thank you!</p>
William Yingst	North Carolina	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3.
Darryl Forrester	Rhode Island	<p>Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!"</p> <p>This is important for everyone along the East Coast!</p>
Danny D'Huyvetter	New Jersey	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Cameron Pappas	North Carolina	I am in complete favor of 15A NCAC 03M .0523 getting passed. I am a full time guide in wilmington NC and focus on these fish almost solely for two months out of the year. I have clients fly in from all over the US to chase these fish and they are very important for my business as well as many other guides in the area. Not only are they just targeted by

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		<p>guides but also recreationally by the people of NC who need to have these fish protected to ensure they will be around for many years to come. False Albacore are vital to fishing communities and need guard rails to prevent them from getting overly harvested. Studies are showing that this is one coastal stock and what we do here in NC affects all the other states that also rely on these fish to be abundant.</p>
Lee Nettles	North Carolina	<p>Dear NC Marine Fisheries Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed striped mullet restrictions being considered. As the Executive Director of the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, an entity responsible for promoting visitation to Dare County's Outer Banks with particular emphasis on non-summer months, I am concerned with the restrictions being placed on our fishing industry and the impact it will have on the future of tourism, especially in the shoulder seasons here on the Outer Banks. Tourism is currently a \$1.9 billion dollar industry and almost half of the jobs in Dare County alone. Tourism spending in Dare generates \$66,000,000 in State tax revenue annually.</p> <p>Fishing has long been a vital component of the Outer Banks economy, contributing significantly to the overall well-being of the region. Surf fishing is at its peak in the spring and fall, driving the local economy and helping to supplement the summer beach revenue. Recreational fishing not only brings visitors to the Outer Banks but also spurs tourism-related spending, benefiting local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and bait and tackle shops.</p> <p>The fall season in particular hosts several important surf fishing tournaments which bring revenue dollars to our area as well as community support from the non-profit organizations that run these events. Below are tournament statistics from a few events that help show the impact of fall fishing on our region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Carolina Beach Buggy Association - 500+ angler tournament in October • Capital City 4 Wheelers - 450+ angler tournament in October • Cape Hatteras Anglers Club - World's largest surf fishing tournament - 120 teams of 6 anglers for a total of 720 anglers In November <p>These tournaments also encourage visitation from non-fishing family members who spend their day patronizing local businesses. This flow of money through various businesses amplifies the overall economic impact of fishing in the Outer Banks.</p>


Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>I ask that you consider only placing restrictions on the mullet fishery in the off season (December - March) to help rebuild the stock with less impact on my industry and other tourism-related businesses.</p> <p>If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lee Nettles Executive Director Outer Banks Visitors Bureau</p>
James Edwards	North Carolina	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Pat Myers	Maryland	Thanks you for taking steps to protect the Albacore population on the east coast. I support Option 3
David Nuttall	Massachusetts	I support option 3 on albies
Justin Wilson	Florida	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Cameron Siegal	Massachusetts	I support option 3. Option 3 provides the best chance for the fishery longterm so my children will have the same opportunities I've had. Thanks.
Alexander Tilley	North Carolina	I support option 3 for false albacore management
Charles Mello	Massachusetts	Option 3 is the right call. With the fading striped bass fall run, tons of people have turned to albie hunting. Basic guardrails are important.
Tim James	North Carolina	<p>I am one of the owners of Frank & Fran's Bait & Tackle in Avon, NC as well as an avid fisherman. I am concerned with the restrictions being placed on our fishing industry and the impact it will have on the future of tourism, especially in the shoulder seasons.</p> <p>Fishing has long been a vital component of the Outer Banks economy, contributing significantly to the overall well-being of the region. Surf fishing is at its peak in the spring and fall drives the local economy and helps to supplement the summer beach revenue. Recreational fishing not only brings visitors to the Outer Banks but also spurs tourism-related spending, benefiting local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and bait and tackle shops.</p> <p>The fall season in particular is riddled with surf fishing tournaments which bring revenue</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>dollars to the island as well as community support from the non-profit organizations that run these events.</p> <p>Below are tournament statistics from a few events that help show the impact of spring and fall fishing on our region:</p> <p>Ocracoke Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament - 70 teams of 6 for a total of 420 anglers in April/May</p> <p>North Carolina Beach Buggy Association Red Drum Tournament - 450 angler tournament in October</p> <p>Capital City 4 Wheelers Tournament - 450 angler tournament in October</p> <p>Cape Hatteras Anglers Club Tournament - World's largest surf fishing tournament - 120 teams of 6 anglers for a total of 720 anglers In November</p> <p>Nags Head Surf Fishing Tournament - 80 teams of 6 anglers for a total of 480 in October</p> <p>Hatteras Village Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament - 70 teams of 6 anglers for a total of 420 anglers in September</p> <p>These tournaments also drive non-fishing family members to the area who spend their day patronizing local businesses. This flow of money through various businesses amplifies the overall economic impact of fishing in the Outer Banks.</p> <p>Ideally, I ask that the restrictions on mullet fishing be lifted until a recent stock assessment can be completed. At a minimum, I ask that you consider only placing restrictions on the mullet fishery in the off-season (December - March) to help rebuild the stock with less impact on my industry and other tourism-related businesses.</p> <p>If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tim James Vice President Frank & Fran's Bait and Tackle</p>
Heather James	North Carolina	<p>I am one of the owners of Frank & Fran's Bait and Tackle in Avon, NC. We count on healthy sustainable fisheries to drive angler participation thus driving our business revenue. However, we are in favor of finding ways to sustain the population while limiting the impact on our island businesses. Fall fishing here on Hatteras Island brings in tournament anglers from up and down the east coast and our revenue is at its peak during this time. Once the tournaments are over, we have an influx of non-resident property</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>owners and fishing clubs that hit the island for their annual fall retreats. Limiting striped mullet fishing during this peak of our season will have economic impacts on Hatteras Island including property rentals and small business revenue including grocery stores, restaurants, and tackle shops.</p> <p>Striped mullet is the number one selling product during this time making it the backbone of our revenue stream. The fall red drum run is typically at its peak during this time and mullet is the bait of choice. Without mullet sales, our anglers will not need to purchase rods, reels, tackle, or ice. The economic contribution of striped mullets to my shop and the recreational fishing economy is significant. It is the loss leader product that helps to drive incremental sales and maintain jobs through the end of the season thus supporting local families.</p> <p>In 2022, the Dare County Board of Commissioners commissioned an economic impact study for Hatteras Island. Brent Lane, an economic strategist, completed the study. He is a fellow at the UNC Global Research Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The study found that “as of 2020, the combined Hatteras Island economic impact of the recreational fishing sector is reported as: economic output, \$35.7 million; employment, 443 jobs; labor income, payroll \$18.1 million; property income, investment income \$14.4 million; total income, \$32,543,754; state and local taxes, \$2,174,815.” The economic contribution of striped mullet to my shop and the recreational fishing economy here on Hatteras Island are key to driving these numbers. 25% of our annual revenue is typically generated between October and November. The potential impact of limiting mullet fishing during this time will have a major impact on these numbers.</p> <p>I am very concerned that the proposed restrictions will impact local businesses. I ask that the Division of Marine Fisheries review the economic impact this approach will have across the board, specifically here on Hatteras Island. I would like to see an approach that will minimize the negative economic impact of the restrictions on the businesses that are sustained by the recreational fishing community but still provide relief to the striped mullet fishery. I would like to propose that we return to the status quo and lift any restrictions on mullet fishing until a new stock assessment can be completed. At a minimum, if mullet restrictions could be limited to December through March, that would help rebuild the fishery while limiting the economic impact here on Hatteras Island. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.</p> <p>Sincerely, Heather James</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		President/Owner Frank & Fran's
Terry Nugent	Massachusetts	I'm a charter captain in Massachusetts and North Carolina. Please consider option 3. A healthy false Albacore fishery is a huge factor in the success of many small charter businesses. I bring over 100 anglers in 2 months to Morehead City to fish albies every fall. They stay at local hotels and eat at local restaurants . The money spent during a shoulder season helps far more than just fisherman.
T Simcoke	Florida	I support Option 3. Thank you for taking this action to support false albacore.
Sarah Machesko	Florida	Good Morning. My name is Sarah Machesko. I was born and raised on the east coast of Florida. We have always had "bonita" (albies) in our waters. They have an important role in our ecosystem and provide fun angling opportunities throughout the year. I support Option 3 for management in North Carolina. I hope your state can set an example for appropriate management and that my state will follow in the coming years.
Dennis Lahiff	Delaware	I fished for albies in Harkers Island for several years, until the catch suddenly dropped, making me switch to Montauk. I have no objections to sound albie management, but don't make it too restrictive. 10 fish per day sounds OK to me, but I wonder how you are going to calculate the maximum annual catch, since most recreational anglers catch and release for albies. They're not really edible.
Zackary Allen	Rhode Island	I support Option 3!!!
Jason Porter	Colorado	Go out for the Albies every year and would hate to see the fishery decline in any way. Especially if there are things that can be done about it.
Philip Romano	New York	I am an avid recreational fisherman from NY. When the opportunity arises, I target False Albies from the beach on the south shore of Long Island. Apparently these fish travel the entire east coast shoreline, and it seems a tremendous mistake to have virtually no management plan for this species, especially with the poor stock assessments for Striped Bass, Fluke and Bluefish. Let's not have another important species of recreational fishing fall into the abyss. I support option #3. Thank you
Tom Houde	Rhode Island	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Mark Dondero	Connecticut	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Capt. Cody Rubner	Florida	Thank you NC Marine Fisheries Commission for considering guardrail management for false albacore. I support Option 3. I'm a fishing guide on the Treasure Coast of Florida. I target these fish throughout the summer. Even with all of Florida's diversity, this species supports business and saves trips for much of our guide community. Recent tagging


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		<p>studies have shown that we share this resource. These fish leave New England and head to NC before visiting FL and heading back north. I have seen commercial efforts on these fish expand in my local waters the last couple years. They are an unmanaged fishery here as well. North Carolina has the opportunity to set the bar for false albacore along the east coast, while doing so in a way that doesn't exclude or limit any current operating businesses. Please consider the often underappreciated and rapidly growing community that appreciates and values this fishery by supporting Option 3.</p>
Kenneth Spicer	Rhode Island	<p>As a resident of Rhode Island and salt water fisherman for the past 60 years I encourage and applaud the proposed restrictions concerning False Albacore. I am hopeful that the restrictions being proposed will set an example for other coastal states, including Rhode Island, to follow suit in efforts to protect this important game fish now and for future generations.</p>
Christfried Arfsten	New York	<p>I strongly support your efforts to establish basic guardrails for false albacore if the state finds a significant increase in landings compared to a five year average of landings. Little is known about the false albacore fishery and with striped bass, bluefish and summer flounder in decline or over fished, I encourage you to get out in front of this unregulated fishery and protect it for future generations to enjoy.</p>
GARRETT MOORE	New York	<p>I support Option 3</p>
Casey Bryan	South Carolina	<p>My name is Casey Bryan. I live in Columbia, SC, and travel to the Outer Banks, NC to target false albacore with a fly rod.</p> <p>I was introduced to this NC fishery several years ago. I had watched videos and heard stories of catching albies with a fly rod. A friend from work heard me talking about them and invited me to take a trip to experience these fish. He had been making annual trips for several years. Once I hooked up to my first albie on a fly rod, I was literally ruined. Nothing will really compare to the thrill that these fish provide.</p> <p>I tie flies all year long for these trips. I research new tips and tricks. I work an extra job to save up to pay for the trip. I count down the days until we leave for our next annual trip. These fish have allowed me to connect with a friend that will last forever. I can't wait to introduce my kids to this area of the country and specifically, these fish!!</p> <p>Every year, we support the guides we hire for 3 full days. We rent a hotel for 4 nights, and we support local restaurants and gas stations while we are there.</p> <p>The numbers of fish we've seen on our annual October trips have decreased significantly.</p>

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		<p>Two years ago, we didn't see a single fish in three days of looking. Last year we had minimal success.</p> <p>Something has changed. I'm starting to question whether spending the time and money to make these trips are worth the risk of not seeing fish. I am not a "fair weather fisherman". I value way more about these trips than just hooking up to albies. However, albies are the reason we started this tradition. Without change, we are considering other fall options.</p> <p>Please protect this fishery. Please regulate these fish.</p> <p>Casey Bryan </p>
Chris Detmer	Massachusetts	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3
Roman Dudus	Connecticut	I believe we need to put measures in to prevent overfishing and stock depletion so it doesn't become another striped bass issue. Thank You.
Patrick Rudman	Maine	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Emily Contrelli	New York	I choose option 3
Kathryn Contrelli	New York	I am in support of option 3
Thomas Contrelli	New York	I support options 3
Ronald Contrelli	New York	I support option 3
Patty Flaherty Donahue	Massachusetts	Please pass this protective marine regulation. It is a win-win for the Albies, marine science, anglers, and NC.
Chris Contaras	Connecticut	I agree with managing and protecting the resource of false Albies and the the proposed rules from NC
Brian Donahue	Massachusetts	False Albacore are an incredible sport fish, marine resource , and economic resource that needs management and protection. Research is now showing migratory patterns from the FL keys to New England. NC needs to help now by passing this protective legislation. And lead by example to other states. Please pass this important regulation to protect the fishery.

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
Jot Owens	North Carolina	<p>Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0523 I am in favor of this proposed rule. I believe it is a very good idea to be proactive in the management of false albacore. This way in the future, we can react if the fishery starts to take a significant increase in landings.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Jot Owens</p>
Jarrett Miller	Oklahoma	<p>Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!</p>
Robin Grossman	Rhode Island	<p>Thank you for considering sensible restrictions on false albacore catches. I support option 3.</p>
Parker Corbin	Connecticut	<p>Albies are a huge passion for anglers so the. Northeast come the fall. My daughters and I make it a ritual to chase them in Martha's Vineyard when they first arrive. Albies fever is real. Thank you for the the focus on this important fish.</p> <p>I strongly support Option 3</p> <p>Parker Corbin</p>
Thomas Skinner	North Carolina	<p>Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3.</p>
Steven Hess	North Carolina	<p>Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!</p>
Blane Chocklett	Virginia	<p>I support option 3</p> <p>I've been a fishing professional for 34 years, from a tackle shop owner, to a full time guide and brand ambassador to some of the top outdoor brands in the sport. I've been a host to many fishing destinations all over the world and one of my favorite destinations is the Outerbanks of North Carolina specifically Cape Lookout. I've been traveling here since the late 90's bringing friends clients and family, I have booked many of the charter captains that call this place their home and rely on the False Albacore every spring and fall for their charter business. It is important as a industry professional and recreational angler to make sure these great fish and the fishery are protected. It is time that these fish have some sort of recreations the science shows that these fish are the same meaning the Albie's I've enjoyed in Cape Cod and Florida are the same fish we catch in North Carolina. We need to have these fish protected in some way to insure their survival in the future is</p>

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		protected and sustainable. Thank you for your time Blane Chocklett
Beverly Landstreet	Rhode Island	My friends and I are avid fishermen and we can't wait until the Fall, when the false albacore travel through RI and Long Island on their way south. Just my group of friends expend a lot of money and time targeting these fish and we wholeheartedly support the gaurdrail management plan proposed for North Carolina. We support Option 3. Thanks...
Jon Ritter	Massachusetts	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
charles plumly	Georgia	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Brian Brazeau	North Carolina	Dear NC Marine Fisheries Commission, I am writing to strongly support establishing and enforcing restrictive keeper limits to protect false albacore for both recreational and commercial fishermen. False albacore are a unique fishery for North Carolina - they deserve robust protective measures. Best Regards, Brian Brazeau
Jason Kenyon	Massachusetts	I live in Massachusetts and fish for these amazing fish. Science is showing that this is a connected, coastal stock, and decisions made will impact the entire coast. This valuable fishery needs protecting
Richard Taylor	Connecticut	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
Martin Carmichael	New Hampshire	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3
Val Kropiwnicki	Connecticut	We are all connected up and down the Atlantic coast by a flowing system of water and sea life. The environmental actions any one individual takes has potential to effect change hundreds of miles away. I am in support of option 3. Please, let's all work together, up and down the east coast, to not only preserve but grow our marinecredources for the appreciation of future generations.
Raymond Matteson	Rhode Island	I support Option 3.

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
James Sabatelli	New York	I support Option 3 for the management of False Albacore. Lack of meaningful regs is destroying this passion of mine. I am fishing less and less each year and may eventually stop fishing in the northeast due to the poor fishing opportunities we have here from the surf. The way things are going to may have to wait until I move to Florida to enjoy a strong surf fishery.
Matthew LaBella	Connecticut	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore! I support option 3! Thank you!
Norm Davidson	Massachusetts	I support option #3
Al Adam	North Carolina	<p>The North Carolina Beach Buggy Association represents approximately 4000 members, the majority of whom visit our beaches to enjoy surf fishing. They are a tiny portion of those who enjoy our great public beaches and bring with them a substantial amount of money in support of the local economy in areas that are otherwise financially challenged. We understand that our October Red Drum Tournament, attracting 455 anglers and another 100 out of area guests in 2023, is estimated to contribute in the seven figure area in dollars spent. This comes at a time in the late shoulder season when the flow of seasonal tourist spending has otherwise dropped off substantially. In addition to supporting our local Hatteras Island businesses the revenue from that event is our biggest fund raiser of the year. We are a 501c3 nonprofit organization that gives our proceeds back to various local charities and causes including such things as a marine studies lab at Cape Hatteras Secondary School, four annual scholarships for worthy Dare and Hyde County students, emergency responders and food banks. Our mission is to support beach access and resource protection. We are aware that resource management, including that of fish stocks, is a very important part of the present and future well being of an industry that is vital to coastal NC. In addition to our fall tournament there are a minimum of 5 more that bring a combination of over 2500 anglers and other guests to our coastal communities, representing a relatively small number of the total anglers who seek to catch the red drum, for which the primary bait is striped mullet.</p> <p>The proposed striped mullet regulations represent a combination and permutation of management options that are not only difficult for the layman to understand but some, if adopted, will be more than just a challenge for the enforcement team but a veritable nightmare. A regulation that proves unenforceable is simply an exercise in overcomplicated bureaucratic ramblings. With no disrespect intended for the NC Marine Fisheries group and affiliates who developed the management options under consideration it occurs that some of them should be eliminated out of hand for being overly complicated. While periodic closures during peak spawning periods or possible migratory phases may be realistic the day of week or weekend closures seem almost arbitrary.</p> <p>It is my understanding that resource management proposals are supposed to consider</p>


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		<p>economic impact while much of what is being proposed in these regulations would have a profound negative effect on numerous of our small businesses, primarily tackle shops, that rely on bait sales for a significant part of their income and some who will be likely to fail without these sales. It is further confounding that we were told the November 7th thought December 31st 2023 closure, during what we were told is peak of spawning season, would provide time to subsequently evaluate what is expected to be positive results. This brings into question how that decision could lead to additional management changes in a period of time which has been too brief for actual evaluation. If that is the case it would appear that particular closure was little more than harassment and not actually intended to benefit the stock.</p> <p>While the 2023 closure period created a hardship for many of our businesses many were able to make workarounds such as buying striped mullet from markets in other states while hurting our local suppliers. In the name of fairness to the stock, local businesses and anglers we ask that the 2023 closure impact results would be properly evaluated before further regulations are considered if found to be required.</p> <p>Respectfully, Al Adam, President North Carolina Beach Buggy Association</p> 
Sam Barnard	Massachusetts	<p>I am a recreational fly fisherman in Buzzards Bay. We are very fortunate to have a great run of these wonderful fish every Aug through part of Oct as they head south to No. Car. Since I and those that I know are strictly catch and release we would be devastated with dwindling numbers of this amazing sport fish. Frankly up here there is absolutely no market for a commercial fishery and I am wondering what you do with them in No. Car. that makes them commercially viable.....pet food?, fertilizer? They certainly are not a gastronomical delicacy.</p>
Kyle Schaefer	Maine	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>I support option 3.</p> <p>North Carolina requires fisheries management that benefits the general public. Accepting Option 3 would satisfy that state requirement while providing the bare minimum management to ensure a bright future for a valuable fishery.</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>Thank you,</p> <p>Capt. Kyle Schaefer</p>
Joe Gugino	Massachusetts	<p>Hi my name is Joe Gugino.</p> <p>I live and primarily fish in Boston Harbor, but fish the entire east coast from Maine to Florida.</p> <p>I fly fish and spin fish and 99% a catch & release fisherman.</p> <p>Thank you for considering management for false albacore.</p> <p>In recent research, we have learn that our false albacore fishery along the east coast is likely one connected stock. These fish have great value to my community and the brand I represent.</p> <p>I support Option 3 and would love to see NC enact simple, precautionary guardrails should landings significantly increase.</p> <p>This is a shared resource I hope to be able to enjoy with my children for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you for reading and accepting my comment.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Joe Gugino</p>
Paul Khalil Saucier	Pennsylvania	<p>It is imperative that we start taking seriously the interconnected nature of the earth. The migratory paths of the False Albacore is evidence, no doubt, of a unified and integrated whole. What is done in one state unquestionably will impact other fisheries and ecosystems. With the exception of coastlines, oceans and that which live in it have no boundaries and by extension don't conform to state legislative practices. Protect the Albie! I support option 3.</p>
Bryan Kappenberg	New York	<p>I support Option 3</p> <p>Good for NC to take pro-active steps and recognize the recreational benefits of False Albacore. Personally, I would be ok with a zero limit. We love pursuing them...and sometimes catching.</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>Thank you, Bryan Kappenberg [REDACTED]</p>
John Perrone	Massachusetts	I support action 3
David Christiano	Connecticut	"Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!"
Thomas Roth	New York	Thank you for taking this action to ensure a bright future for false albacore. This is a connected coastal stock and your actions will set the benchmark for other states to protect this vital fishery. I support option 3!
Jake Fischenich	South Carolina	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
John Coltin	Massachusetts	I support option #3
Thomas Brightman	New Hampshire	<p>Hi: Thank you for taking my comments.</p> <p>As an angler who fishes recreationally in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts, I greatly value the False Albacore as a game species. Preliminary science has shown that this is a connected, coastal stock. What you do in North Carolina impacts the entire coast.</p> <p>I am concerned that a fish that is so valuable to the recreational economy of NC, and other states along the Atlantic seaboard, is unmanaged.</p> <p>The majority of the guiding community in North Carolina relies on fishing for false albacore every fall. NC can't afford to lose this fishery.</p> <p>North Carolina requires fisheries management that benefits the general public. Accepting Option 3 would satisfy that state requirement while providing the bare minimum management to ensure a bright future for a valuable fishery.</p> <p>The 3500lb commercial daily limit is in line with the spanish and king mackerel fisheries. This is not something new. 58% of commercial landing were under 50lbs per day. These new limits would not hurt any businesses. In fact, they would solify a sustainable fishery for the long term.</p> <p>False albacore, the guides, anglers, and the state of NC deserve a brighter future than we have right now.</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>Thank you! Tom Brightman ██████████</p>
Jason Avila	Massachusetts	I am recreational fisherman in Massachusetts and completely agree with the idea of monitoring and managing the False Albacore population. I fully support Option 3 of this measure.
Walt Bezaniuk	Massachusetts	<p>The harvesting of false albacore needs to be regulated as soon as possible. There are lessons to be learned from the current management stripped bass , if you stall , catching up is difficult once the breeding stock numbers are in a decline.</p> <p>Use common sense, regulate now for the species to survive in the future.</p>
Lou Tirado	Maine	<p>I support Option 3 for False Albacore Management. Thank you for starting the process to protect this stock and species.</p> <p>Capt. Lou Tirado</p>
James Manchester	Texas	I support option #3.
Robert Scanlon	Massachusetts	I am in support of all management toward conservation of our shared marine resource.
James Adamo	Michigan	<p>I strongly support option 3. With new technologies and increased fishing pressure it is incumbent upon North Carolina as well as other states to manage the albie population.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Brendan Guthrie	North Carolina	<p>I SUPPORT OPTION 3!</p> <p>As a NC native who studied Marine Biology, worked for NOAA supporting benthic habitat mapping missions for management and who turned my love for the ocean in NC to a career through water sports and recreational fly fishing, please vote to support the false albacore protection and migration in NC waters.</p> <p>Preliminary science shows this is a connected, coastal stock. What we do in NC impacts the entire coast.</p> <p>It is unimaginable that a fish that is so valuable to the recreational economy of NC, and other key states along the east coast, is unmanaged.</p> <p>The majority of the guiding community in North Carolina relies on fishing for false albacore every fall. We can't afford to lose this fishery.</p>

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		<p>North Carolina requires fisheries management that benefits the general public. Accepting Option 3 would satisfy that state requirement while providing the bare minimum management to ensure a bright future for a valuable fishery.</p> <p>The 3500lb commercial daily limit is in line with the spanish and king mackerel fisheries. This is not something new. 58% of commercial landing were under 50lbs per day. These new limits would not hurt any businesses. In fact, they would solify a sustainable fishery for the long term.</p> <p>False albacore, the guides, anglers, and the state of NC deserve a brighter future than we have right now. Please vote for Option 3.</p> <p>Respectfully, Brendan Guthrie</p>
Joseph Moran	South Carolina	<p>Please put these new regulations in place immediately. We have a chance to get ahead of declining stock before this becomes a disaster. I have fished out of Beaufort for 20 years, the number of fish has been markedly diminished over the last 3 years. NC is the capital of RECREATIONAL Albie fishing! This is a fishery that attracts thousands of recreational fishermen to N.C. every fall and generates millions of dollars in revenue in terms of hotels, restaurants, ramp fees, licenses, guide fees, boat sales, tackle expenditures and fuel. This is a commonsense measure that hopefully will spread to other coastal states.</p>
Len Miller	New Jersey	<p>I support option 3. I currently have a week of redfishing booked in NC and am planning a fall albie trip to NC. Both trips will be with local guides and supporting local businesses. Albies bring money to the NC economy.</p>
Captain Lou Cavaliere	Connecticut	<p>False albacore, the guides, anglers, and the state of NC deserve a brighter future than we have right now. I support Option 3.</p>
Jesse Gordon	New York	<p>As a recreational angler from NY, the false albacore population in important to me. What you do in North Carolina impacts the entire coast. Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!</p> <p>Thanks, Jesse Gordon</p>
Daniel Self	North Carolina	<p>Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!</p> <p>I am a proud North Carolinian, law student, and recreational angler. It's incredibly important to me that North Carolina's commercial and recreational fisheries are protected</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>in the present so that future generations may enjoy this incredible natural resource.</p> <p>As you know, no state or federal law (to my knowledge) protects False Albacore. North Carolina's proposed rule could set a precedent and provide guidelines for other states to follow. I'd be incredibly proud for North Carolina to pioneer such a standard for our country, and in the process, protect a beautiful and ecologically essential species of fish.</p>
Robert Verity	New York	<p>As with all fisheries today, most are overfished. A management plan is needed to do stock assessments and to make sure stock levels remain stable. Option 3 seems the best option. Thank you.</p>
Arthur Howe	Maine	<p>Dear N.C. Marine Fisheries Commissioners,</p> <p>Though I live out of state, I have fished the saltwater in your state and have friends who guide there. You have a remarkable opportunity in your management of the False Albacore. As a recreational angler, I have had the real pleasure and joy of catching hundreds of these fish in the eastern portion of Long Island, usually in New York, often in CT, and sometimes in R.I. This fish is well sought after along the Atlantic coast and has an economic impact at least into the tens of millions of dollars, more likely hundreds of millions. Though not a table delicacy, few fishermen would argue that this fish is an extremely desirable and respected target due to its speed, stamina, and strength. You now have the remarkable opportunity to put this species on a long term, more sustainable basis. I strongly encourage your support of Option 3. Your leadership on this is likely to have effects on many other states that are watching your actions and may complement your move. I look forward to your thoughtful decision.</p> <p><@((((((((((((<>,<</p> <p>Art Howe </p>
Shawn FitzMaurice	Massachusetts	<p>Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3.</p>
Tim Maloy	Massachusetts	<p>I support option 3. Conserving false albacore for future generations is most important to me. To achieve this goal with challenging scientific and environmental obstacles a conservative approach is best.</p>
Jeffrey Perry	Rhode Island	<p>I support Option 3, please help keep this valuable resource viable.</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
Edmund Brodie	Virginia	Thank you for protecting the false albacore fishery. I am one of many out of state anglers who travel to NC multiple times a year and spend tourism dollars to fish for albies. I support option 3
Jeffrey Prrry		
Matty Bauer	Rhode Island	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3. As a New Englander the arrival of false albacore is one of the most special times in the fishing season.
Capt wayne Macmasters	Virginia	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3. Capt Wayne macmasters
Joseph Macaluso	New York	Thank you for taking this step to ensure a bright future for false albacore. I support Option 3!
karl elias	Connecticut	Thank you for taking this step to ensure the future for false albacore. I support Option 3.
Michael Bombardier	Massachusetts	I support option #3 on the False albacore!
Jim Gibson	Rhode Island	I applaud the proactive approach for regulating the False Albacore fishery. We practice catch and release for the Albies and look forward to many many more amazing fall runs off the RI coast. JG
Joseph Esposito	Connecticut	I support option 3.
Germain Cloutier	Maine	I Support Option 3. As someone who fishes for False Albacore from Massachusetts to North Carolina. There needs to be a good baseline to ensure this species does not get over harvested/overfished. Thank you.
Dave Surdel	Massachusetts	To whom it may concern, Regarding False Albacore, I support Option 3. I am an out of state angler who has visited NC every fall for the Albie run for 20 years. What I have seen over the last 10 years is a gradual decline in the numbers and quality of false albacore. For that reason, It's unlikely that I will return to NC unless the numbers of fish improve. The complete lack of management for False Albacore needs to be fixed. Albies are a public resource. They need to be preserved for the enjoyment of the public. Albacore are a coastal stock that thousands of anglers enjoy fishing for every year. Albies support local economies during the offseason in places like morehead city. Good fishing draws anglers to hotels, restaurants and tackle shops. I hope NC will take a leadership position to ensure False

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		<p>Albacore are managed with an eye towards restoring abundance. We can't afford to lose these fish. The rest of the east coast is watching.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dave Surdel.</p>
Adam Cooperstock	New York	I support Option 3 for false albacore!
Matthew Griswold	Massachusetts	I support option 3 for false albacore
PETER FARRELL PETER FARRELL	Rhode Island	I support Option 3
Jeff Arnold	Louisiana	<p>Hi there</p> <p>I'm a fishing guide in Southern Louisiana. We are currently fighting a similar problem with our Red Drum stock. I have fellow guide friends up there (everywhere actually) and we all understand that we have to follow the science and do what is best for our fisheries.</p> <p>I whole heartedly support option 3.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Abram Pearson	Maine	I support option 3. I believe having management strategies in place is very important to protect the species. Hopefully by doing so we can avoid problems in the future.
Justin Wilson	Florida	I support option 3 and proper conservation management for False albacore.
Jessica Davenport	North Carolina	This will gravely impact my husband who is a hard worker. He simply wants to work, provide a healthy food source for our community, and provide financially for his family of five. Please think about how this will affect our Dare County Commercial Fishmen and the loved ones they support.
Haleigh Cressman	Washington	As a former resident of NC, I support Option C!
Andy Cressman	Washington	Previous NC resident and still traveling there to fish for albies multiple days a year - I support option 3.
Patrick Huban	Connecticut	<p>As a professional fishing guide in Connecticut, the majority of my fall season is spent fly fishing for False Albacore. It's a special experience for me and my clients to interact with these wonderful fish.</p> <p>It's becoming clear that these fish traverse virtually all of the Eastern seaboard at various times during the year. What happens in North Carolina has a direct impact on everyone who loves fishing for False Albacore.</p> <p>With this in mind I support option 3. North Carolina has a unique opportunity to set the</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>tone for other states in providing basic gaurdrails for this species. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Patrick Huban Wandering Albatross LLC</p>
PETER BRAVO PETER BRAVO	Connecticut	I completely support option 3 for the protection of false albacore.
Nick Cancelliere		I support Option 3
Adam Sweet	Massachusetts	I support Option 3.
Brian Kelly	Massachusetts	<p>I support option 3.</p> <p>I am a full-time guide and Charter Captain. I rely on the False Albacore rub here locally in Cape Cod. As the stripers stocks diminished these are the most frequently requested trips from Late August to the end of October.</p> <p>Thank you, Brian Kelly</p>
Jerry Audet	Massachusetts	<p>Hello NC Fisheries Commission!</p> <p>I just want to comment that I support option 3 for the upcoming proposal on false albacore management.</p> <p>While I live in New England 1) Albie management in NC will impact us up here (positively) 2) I have fished many, many days and nights in the Outer Banks for all species.</p> <p>Thank you! Jerry Audet [REDACTED]</p>
Shannon Richards	New York	<p>I support Option #3</p> <p>Compliments to North Carolina for demonstrating proactivity and leadership in taking steps to ensure false albacore do not suffer from a lack of sensible backstop measures to prevent undo pressure on these fish so valuable to North Carolina; and to those states who also share in these fishes migration range and resulting angling opportunities. Someone always ends up going first and North Carolina is to be commended for your courage and scientific sensibility.</p> <p>Bravo & Thank you!</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
Woody Joyner	North Carolina	<p>ADDRESSING THE STRIPED MULLET FMP AMENDMENT 2.</p> <p>The April 2022 Stock Assessment of Striped Mullet in North Carolina Waters supplied the data to view the stock status and the necessary reductions, if needed, required to rebuild the stock. This assessment used as a basis the commercial harvest relative to commercial landings in 2019. It is our position this data is flawed and we are not working with the best available science. Even a quick glance at the data gathered from 2015 to 2019 bookended two years with major early October landfall hurricanes. Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and 2018 saw Hurricane Michael. We also appreciate the inability of the Division to conduct a meaningful assessment in the years of the Covid 19 pandemic.</p> <p>I presented an in-person comment to the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission at the May 2023 meeting and voiced the opposition of the North Carolina Watermen United to November 7 through December 31, 2023 proposed closure for Amendment 1 Supplement A. I stressed the importance of the striped mullet shoulder season to our watermen and quoted your estimated value lost per person on 2019 data of \$1,278.00. This monetary figure was woefully short regarding our watermen and additionally reinforced the premise that the final impact would be much greater not only on the fishermen but to our supporting industries.</p> <p>After attending a meeting in mid-February 2024 of local bait & tackle shop owners and concerned fishermen at Frank & Fran's Bait & Tackle in Avon, I realized the true financial loss to the Dare County owners and operators. These locally owned businesses rely on the fall fishing shoulder season for the sale of mullet, the desired tackle, clothes, and other supplies. Not only were they not allowed to even have in their possession frozen locally caught North Carolina striped mullet but had to bear the financial burden of stocking the bait fish from Virginia. Many fear any continued seasonal closings will have an extremely negative perception on our visiting fishermen. It is easy to extrapolate this to other industries that rely on tourism...restaurants, shops, hotels, property rentals, etc. These last few years have in fact shown larger than average harvest yields but it is our contention the species is not experiencing over-fishing. However, the Division is striving to meet the directive for a 21.3 to 35.4% reduction in the overall commercial harvest. To meet this end, the Division is recommending the most conservative reduction of 35.4% to increase the probability of rebuilding success. Knowing a reduction is going to recommended by the commission, using data from Option 5 table 2.13., compared to 2019 commercial landings, day closures of Saturday-Sunday for January-September and Saturday-Sunday-Monday for October-December will approach the Divisions desired reduction.</p> <p>The North Carolina Watermen United favors an option that will focus on day of week closures only with no trip limits. Using the data from this same table, day closures of</p>

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		<p>Saturday-Sunday for January-December will result in a 25.7% commercial harvest reduction. The Division can then gather all data at the end of the 2024 calendar year to determine where the stock status registers. Again, we do not agree with the over-fishing view but this ruling will surely meet the current NC Statue that the FMP must end over-fishing in a specific time frame.</p> <p>Woody Joyner North Carolina Watermen United - President</p>
Katie Morgan	North Carolina	<p>Dear Members of the NC Marine Fisheries Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to express profound concern regarding the proposed restrictions on striped mullet fishing. These regulations, if enacted, pose a significant threat to our local fishing industry and the broader tourism economy of Dare County.</p> <p>As representatives tasked with overseeing marine fisheries, it is imperative to consider the far-reaching implications of such measures. Fishing is not merely a recreational activity but a cornerstone of our economy, driving tourism and sustaining countless businesses along the Outer Banks.</p> <p>The fall surf fishing tournaments, in particular, are pivotal events that inject vitality into our region during the shoulder seasons. However, the imposition of restrictions on striped mullet fishing jeopardizes the success of these tournaments and threatens to drive away potential visitors.</p> <p>Furthermore, the rationale behind these regulations appears opaque at best. It begs the question: why enact laws that seemingly serve no practical purpose other than to burden local fishermen and dampen economic activity in our state? Surely, North Carolina should strive to keep revenue within its borders rather than inadvertently encouraging it to flow elsewhere.</p> <p>I implore you to reconsider the proposed restrictions on striped mullet fishing with careful consideration of their impact on our local economy and community livelihoods.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Katie Morgan</p>
Peter Susca	Connecticut	<p>To whom it may concern, I believe that the actions the NC are planing to mänge false albacore are an esstial first step for the east coast. The are presently no regulations and very little science in place to assure that this very important game fish is properly managed and protected. I fully support the proposed regulations. Thank you.</p> <p>Pete Susca</p>
Scott Dietrich	Massachusetts	<p>I would like to support option #3.</p> <p>As a Cape Cod, Massachusetts fly fisherman, I look forward every year to the arrival of</p>

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		the False Albacore to our Cape Cod waters. This is the ultimate fly fishing target fish. Anything we can do to protect this valuable game fish is always appreciated. It is so important to the species and to future generations of fishermen.
Jake Naso-Kushner	Rhode Island	Hello, I am a Rhode Island resident and avid surfcaster. Please take measures to protect the false albacore by supporting option 3. Thank you.
John Dimig	North Carolina	The restrictions on Stripped Mullet are unnecessary . I'm in and on the water of the Pamlico Sound on a frequent basis. Mullet are as abundant as they have ever been. I suspect you data gathering is flawed.
Ronald Contrelli	New York	I am 100% in support of managing this fishery. I live on Long Island. I spend about 40 days a year fishing from shore for Albies. This year was definitely a down year. I only caught 41. All released. I have seen the mis management of striped bass. We should manage for abundance.
Daniel salmon	Massachusetts	I would like to support Option #3 to protect Albies. It's the high-light of ourfishing year when the Albies travel back to Cape Cod. A lot of us Travel to NC to fish for them we also enjoy the Southern hospitality and food. Please do all you can to protect this wonder fish. Thank you Dan Salmon
David Prockop	Rhode Island	Yes, please get out ahead of potential over-fishing of false albacore! This species is so exciting to chase and catch that it's the highlight of the year for many anglers on the east coast. That means that we recreational anglers spend a great deal of money targeting false albacore. It's therefore incredibly important to the viability of everyone from tackle shop owners in Massachusetts to guides (and hotels, restaurants, etc.) in the Carolinas. Let's do all we can to keep this fishery vibrant! It seems that you have the opportunity right now to do a great deal of long-term good by imposing minimal short-term pain. Please take advantage of this opportunity to protect false albacore!
Chris Ryan	Massachusetts	Dear NC Marine Fisheries Commission- I wanted to take this opportunity to comment on the False Albacore fishery. I feel option 3 would be best for this fishery. I have spent hours chasing these fish in NC waters during

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		the fall. Economically, I come to NC and spend money on hotels, restaurants, guides, fly shops to fish for this species specifically. The impact of this is substantial as I am not the only fisherman who travels to your great state to fish for False Albacore. Please protect sustainability of this fishery. Best - Chris Ryan
Tim Drummey	Massachusetts	Thank you for the proposed rule on Albies and I supported option three. Congratulations on being a leader and showing other states what it takes to protect the false albacore. Hopefully other states like Massachusetts another states up and down the coast will follow North Carolina lead.
Henry Godin	Massachusetts	I totally support option 3. I have travelled to NC to fish Albies over 10 times. The money I've spent on hotels, restaurants car rentals etc is definitely a boon to the local economy and businesses.
Lou Bartolotta	Massachusetts	I support Option #3. We have a very active, exciting and entertaining False Albacore fishery here on Cape Cod. As more fly fishermen target these wonderful fish, we must have effective management of the species to ensure its health into the future.
Vincent Foti	Massachusetts	I would very much like to support option 3. I have traveled numerous times from Cape Cod to the Morehead City area to fish for Albies in and around Harkers Island. Please try and protect these amazing gamefish for future generations. Vin Foti
Christopher Gill	Massachusetts	I'm writing to voice my support of NC beginning to manage and pay attention to False Albacore stocks. Up and down the east coast False Albacore are a very important, and under appreciated, gamefish for recreational anglers, and Cape Lookout, NC is the epicenter of "albie" fishing. Fisherman from around the country come to NC in the fall to chase albies, and they spend thousands of dollars on guides, tackle, hotels, restaurants, etc; False Albacore contribute a pile of money to NC's economy. I personally come to the Cape Lookout area for a month every autumn and spend thousands of dollars on house rent, a marina slip, food, fuel, etc. I've been doing this for almost ten years and hope to keep doing it for years to come. I encourage NC to manage and protect False Albacore so everyone has a chance to enjoy them into the future.
Rick Enz	Massachusetts	I have been fishing for false albacore for over 40 years and they are one of the hardest fighting inshore fish. In Massachusetts the fishery has been in constant decline I think it should be declared a sport fish catch and release only.
HENRY MARCUCELLA	Florida	The false albacore fishery needs to be protected. Many fisherman look forward to albacore fishing in North Carolina and spend heavily on lodging, food and guides in North Carolina. Excellent fishery for sportsman fly anglers.
Michael Radon	Massachusetts	I support option #3. My love and passion are fishing for false albacore.
Steve Unsworth	Massachusetts	Option 3. They are a great game fish

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
Harry Alverson	Massachusetts	The false albacore fishery is one that should be proactively managed. First, there are a large number of recreational fishermen for whom this is a “cult” species, and who spend significant amounts of money chasing them up and down the East Coast. Secondly, in the absence of regulations the fish oil and other industrial users will continue to harvest (yet another species) to the point of exploitation. Lastly, in the absence of hard scientific data on the movements and lifecycle of albies the prudent course of action is to protect them until our knowledge of their impact on the marine ecosystem is more complete.
Nan Perkins	North Carolina	The proposed new closure areas for trawling will will negatively affect not only commercial fishermen and their families, but all related businesses, the economy of the surrounding areas, and the ability of North Carolinians, to have access to fresh seafood. The people whose lives will be affected are some of the most avid conservationists Their lives depend on a healthy ecosystem. This proposal is not a solution.
James Jewkes James Jewkes	Massachusetts	I would like to thank you for taking the first steps in some protections on false albacore
Matthew Robertson	Connecticut	I support option 3. Thank you for the proposed rule on albies.
Reece McDowell	Massachusetts	I’m a recreational false albacore angler from southern new England and looking forward to my first trip to North Carolina this fall to Chase albies. NC setting a standard for management of this recreational gamefish, of growing importance every year, would get the ball rolling for neighboring states to implement restrictions on the species as well and help to protect what is becoming one of the major gamefish for the northeast coast.
Bob Lewis	Massachusetts	I support option #3. I am a longtime fly fisherman for false albacore and have traveled from Cape Cod MA to Morehead City NC countless times and spend lots of money on hotels, restaurants, fly guides, fly shops, rental cars, etc. This is a big money win for NC if they can stop the mass harvesting of false albacore, which have little value as a dead fish for fertilizer or whatever they are used for. Learn from what all the other major fishing destinations have been doing, like the Bahamas, the Florida Keys...they realize catch and release fisheries are a sustainable cash cow for their economies. I also travel to Montauk NY and West Palm FL to fish for false albacore. Now we are finding it might all be the same fishery through research from the albie project.
Bonnie Harvell	North Carolina	Don’t close our shrimping areas. These areas have been used for hundreds of years without damage. We don’t want seafood from China. We want local seafood. Your inference has not helped the sounds you have closed and you have no proof that closing them accomplished your goal. DON’T PUT OUR SHRIMPER’S OUT OF BUSINESS!
Chris McCaffity	North Carolina	Please focus more on enhancing our fisheries and food supply than restricting the public's freedom to access our Public Resources. Please support a moratorium on any new Public Water leases that restrict the public's freedom to access our Public Resources. Public Water aquaculture should be limited to stocking native seafood that can naturally

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		reproduce. We should not be introducing genetically sterilized or otherwise modified species in our Public Waters. 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 harvested by independent fishermen. This practical solution promotes food security and freedom. A realignment of management priorities along with our license fees could fund enhancement efforts that would benefit everyone and the environment.
Catol Spencer	North Carolina	If you plan to close an area . Please offer results from said closure from areas you have already closed. Please explain how an area can be over fished or over shrimped by commercial fishermen when there are not as many fishing today was there were 20 years ago. Has anyone given any thought to grass areas dying off due to development or the increase in pleasure boating has increased. Bigger boasts, faster boats more people on the water , more trash in the water. I understand that as long as a problem doesn't impact certain social classes they don't care about the results. But they might if you tell them they can't built a house over a marsh or come down on a weekend and bring there speed boat. Conservation of our waterways is important. But be wise and have facts to show why you are doing something that effects so many peoples lives.
Brian Sittlow	Rhode Island	<p>I support Option 3 for False Albacore fisheries management.</p> <p>Implementation of the first ever management policies of False Albacore would provide guardrail rules that will help recognize this sport fish as an important part of a likely interconnected stock that ranges from New England to the Gulf of Mexico.</p> <p>I applaud NC for considering this option and hope other states implement similar management strategies that helps ensure the future viability of this very important stock.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Ivan Byrd	North Carolina	This is getting out of hand when people sitting behind a desk determine rules and regulations, they should be hands on the shrimp and fishing boats and the hard work before making decisions.
Steve Smith	North Carolina	I'm trying to be nice when I say this, there is no possible way that the small fleet of trawlers left in eastern Nc can do near as much damage as the overpopulation and runoff from all the new construction just in Carteret county can do. If you really cared about "sea grass " you would figure out a way to limit the building on our coastline and wetlands. I have grown up in Carteret county and have been catching mullet in bogue and core sound since the mid 90s and can't recall a decline in grass bottom. Certainly there are places that used to have grass and maybe it has declined a little, but there are several places that didn't use to have grass that do now. Most places that I have noticed a decline in sea grass

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		<p>are places that have increased in population like the mouth of north river around Beaufort. The areas of grass are mostly in places that are too shallow for even small trawlers too tow so your argument doesn't even make sense. You close down bogue sound and nothing has changed. So what is the real reason for this attack of the commercial community? Maybe it's time for you to utilize the commercial fleet and learn from the people who really know what the hell is going on and quit relying on your so called "biologist " who have little to no real world experience. Us locals who actually have common sense are getting tired of arguing with you, especially when you have no proof of any of this crap you are claiming. You should be ashamed of yourself for even threatening to shut down the little bit of fishery that eastern Carolina has left.</p>
Douglas Gould	North Carolina	<p>Fish and shellfish in North Carolina waters are a resource that BELONGS TO THE CITIZENS OF NC. It does not belong to the state government nor to so-called experts obsessed with "Green Fever" political bias who deliberately misrepresent results to achieve a political agenda (like misusing statistical algorithms and processes to skew results).</p> <p>As a citizen of NC, I pay your salaries. I am sick and tired of activists trampling the rights and resources of NC Citizens.</p> <p>The destruction of estuarine environments in NC is due to political grifters granting every construction permit possible without regard to environmental impact. It is NOT due to overfishing or to the actions of commercial fishermen. Construction is responsible for this damage.</p> <p>Rather than PUNISH the citizens by ROBBING us of these Natural resources permanently, TAX those builders and construction companies who are directly responsible for the damage.</p> <p>I challenge you to Assess the cost of environmental restoration to repair the last 5 year's damage to every development project along our waterways during the same time period, AND a moratorium on new construction along the waterways, until these critical estuaries are restored. Those whose wanton construction destroyed it should be burdened to bear the cost of its restoration - and we, the People of NC, do not deserve to be penalized and ROBBED of our natural resources to support the profiteering of builders and developers.</p> <p>I am also in favor of heavily penalizing those who authorized the destruction of these resources.</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>NO FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON FISHING, SHRIMPING OR SHELLFISHING - WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH !</p> <p>Your duty is to the Citizens of NC.</p> <p>Thank you for dilligently maintaining the *availability* of these resources to NC Citizens.</p>
Robert Buckley Robert Buckley	North Carolina	<p>It really disturbs me to see the unreasonable rules that you want to put in place to hinder fishermen from making a living and trying to feed their families and assure that local residents enjoy fresh shrimp. Please continue to allow the fishermen to have the right to fish for shrimp</p> <p>Respectfully, Robert Buckley</p>
Hetty Wallace	North Carolina	<p>These proposed closures affect the family owned small fisherman who's heritage revolves around this industry! Local people who work hard to provide for their family's financially!!! These fishermen also provide fresh seafood to the people of our area, we depend on them!!!! These closures most certainly affect the smallest fishermen who legally go on their own private boats to supply their family with food!!!! It is wrong to affect peopkes lives that have done this all their lives!!! Has any studies been done or restrictions been put in place about all the building taking place in areas that never were intended to be inhabited!!! Such as barrier island? Do we need to be educated what a barrier island actually is? I'm pretty sure it should not be where the wealthy build and build to have ocean front homes! It's past time to fix the real problem causing issues!!!!</p>
Stuart Creighton	North Carolina	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I have several comments that I would like to share with regard to some key items on your meeting agenda for next week. You have an opportunity to select from a long list of management measures for striped mullet as well as to help recover key SAV habitat by voting on shrimp trawl restrictions.</p> <p>At a recent meeting of the habitat AC, several areas were designated as key locations to protect, buffer, and recover SAV. In the shallow areas of Pamlico Sound, there is no more important habitat than the sea grass beds</p> <p>These nursery areas serve as spawning grounds for species such as speckled trout, as forage bases and cover for countless others. Healthy sea grass beds are full of countless juvenile species of fin fish, crabs, shrimp, and other invertebrates. Predators such as redfish, speckled trout, porpoises, and sea turtles cruise their edges; often making feeding</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>forays into the grass. These SAV ecosystems must be given full protection and allowed the chance to recover to their historic range. It is well known that trawling is a destructive fishing practice, disturbing the bottom over hundreds of square miles of the Sound. Trawling re-suspends sediments, releases pollutants, most notably heavy metals, previously sequestered in the bottom strata, and has been shown in recent studies to be one of the largest sources of re-releasing carbon to the atmosphere. Because of this, these area restrictions to trawling should be approved in their entirety.</p> <p>Next, the MFC will be selecting preferred management measures for striped mullet. We have seen DMF, once again, back off of their initial guidance, just as they did with the latest shrimp plan. In a move that cautaus to the NCFA, they are now recommending only a weekend closure to the mullet fishery with no trip limits and no quotas. Be clear, these management measures will not work!!! To achieve the desired reductions in harvest from the terminal year of 2019, ~880,000 lbs can be harvested. In 2021, over 2.1 million pounds was harvested; for 2022, that number rose further to 2.7 million pounds. What do the numbers in 2023 show? How can these reductions possibly be achieved without further limitations on harvest? Will Director Rawls immediately enact proclamations to address this rapidly rising harvest trend? I guess we will find out.</p> <p>DMF is recommending status quo for the beach seine fishery; another mistake. As we saw last season, ONE haul from ONE person can harvest nearly 80,000 pounds. That translates to ~9% of the harvest from one beach set. Since this practice can be so impactful and is done by so few people, it should be disallowed until the stock recovers.</p> <p>There had been discussion of a split season to be fair to the anglers in the Southern part of the state. I guess you forgot about that.</p> <p>Why is the recreational allowance being cut in half? Fairness? DMF statistics show that the recreational mullet harvest is overwhelmingly white mullet, a stock that is not in trouble. Only in one month do they take any striped mullet (29% during the roe run). If you do the math, the public sector is responsible for less than 1% of the striped mullet harvest. Division staff has stated that no reductions in the recreational harvest will have any effect on stock recovery. So, why cut their allowance by 50% knowing it will not aid in stock recovery? Fairness? More like arbitrary and egregious!!</p> <p>Finally, the CFRF announced a surplus of \$1.5 million for 2023. What a great opportunity to fund two badly needed items: Shellfish sanitation guideline enforcement for the rapidly expanding oyster farming industry, and the desperately needed shrimp trawl observer program. Those funds should be used for the execution of the industry, not wasted on PR campaigns to further dupe the public.</p>

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Luwona Ferguson	North Carolina	There appears to be covert reasoning that are not being disclosed. Somebody, or "bodies" seem to have an agenda that does not work for the common good nor have the environment nor the people of this area effected by such change who will be impacted by this as a concern. Some body or "Bodies" is trying to make money: at first the changes will be slight just inch-by-inch; and later, greater and negative impacts on the community at large and it will be too late to do anything about it. And there will be dredging, and killing of the environment at we know it. The there will by oil companies and foreign take overs. This is how other countries come into our state, country and our communities and consuming our land and our posterity: if it isn't broken what are you trying to fix. My question is: did any one ask the American people if they are in favor of this change?
Bear Eyre	North Carolina	Stop trying to pass laws prohibiting trawling for shrimp. Prohibiting trawling will cause an unnecessary hardship to the Fishermen, their Families & the consumers.
THOMAS COLTRAIN	North Carolina	I see that Big Money has won again. If you think that stopping gillnetters on the weekend will make any difference in pounds caught then you have your head in the sand. Gill-Strike Netters are going to get every mullet and trout and sell them for a dollar day and night during the week days. The trip ticket is a failed system when a netter can catch over 300 trout in one night and sell them under other peoples name- YES I said it and he TOLD it and laughed at NCDMF and YOU! Pounds and fish per day mean Nothing to a netter. Removing the nets is the only way to stop killing every last mullet for the Roe. Wake UP People they work for a dollar and every fish is a Dollar legal or illegal. GET THE NETS OUT LIKE EVERY OTHER STATE HAS DONE! Have you ever seen what a strike netter can do to a school of mullet or trout? If you keep on doing what you have done it will not be many years that the netters and you will not have a job because all FISH will be GONE!!! PLEASE Do what is right and protect the RESOURCE and not the BIG MONEY DOLLARS!
Edith Mason	North Carolina	This proposal is just another example of “We’re from the Government and we’re here to help you”. NOT! The need for the proposed closure is scientifically unsubstantiated and unnecessary. If approved, it will negatively impact thousands of shrimpers and their families, not to mention consumers. This should not be done unless and until there is a scientific study performed of the area affected, unequivocally showing that the closure is beneficial and necessary.
Benjamin Currin	North Carolina	I wish to provide comments on the Striped Mullet plan amendment. I am pleased to see that measures will be enacted to address overfishing. However, weekend closures for the commercial fishery will never achieve the needed reductions due to compensatory harvest. You need only look at past MFC temporal closures to see that they do not work.

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>Please avoid the use of weekend closures to manage the commercial industry unless a strict quota is enacted.</p> <p>I am fine with a recreational limit of 100 per day. Few anglers will require or use that many.</p>
Janice Creel	North Carolina	<p>I do NOT support shrimp closures!!</p> <p>-When this same presentation was given in 2021, Bogue Sound was closed. Here we are again. So the question is—has there been an increase in growth of SAV since the Bogue Sound closure? Scientists were asked this question twice in the January 17 meeting. The first answer was along the lines of “we don’t really know”. The second time it was asked, public commenters were told that they didn’t want to open it back up for discussion. So as a scientist—you presented a proposal to close down the majority of commercial shrimpers in our county. You got a piece of what you wanted in the closure of Bogue Sound. And then you failed to do further research to determine if the closure allowed for better growth of SAV? Every single elementary school student is taught the Scientific Method. The final steps are analyzing data and drawing conclusions. It seems to me, that if the goal was ACTUALLY to protect SAV (instead of meeting another agenda), I would be testing and broadcasting that data. So why was Bogue Sound not used as a study area? Why not use Bogue Sound as an SAV study area and see if grass increases. At that point, then address the benefit/cost of area closures. At the time of Bogue Sound’s closing, there was not a plan to use this as a study area.</p> <p>-One concern brought forth was the amount of money that it would take to patrol and enforce the proposed closures. Due to the expense, it would be more cost effective to close larger major areas than draw lines to allow for shrimping. SAV areas in ALL western Carteret County tributaries, as well as Neuse and Pamlico Rivers are already protected with a 9’ depth contour boundary to trawling. These are designated crab pot areas. There is no trawling allowed in these areas in less than 9’ of water. The cost of enforcing was addressed with that change as well, yet fishermen have abided by them. In other words, we’ve done our part of follow the laws but are made out to be criminals when the trawling boundary lines are confusing to the general public.</p> <p>-South River-there is a small percentage of area (approximately 1%) that is suitable for the growth of SAV. The proposal was to close ALL of South River to trawling. 99% of an area that is not suitable for SAV would be closed as well. Why? Because that’s the agenda-to close all inshore trawling.</p>

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		<p>-Core Sound would be mostly closed except a small area off of Davis (which no one trawls in anyway).</p> <p>-Straits (the area between Harkers Island and Gloucester/Marshallberg) would be closed to trawling. This is where one of our captains spends the bulk of his time. One suggestion was to leave open the main channel to trawling. This would allow some trawlers to continue to work there. However the folks who use skiffs for shrimping don't typically use the channel anyway. This would eliminate them.</p> <p>-In the past, similar attacks have been geared towards larger boats. It is important to note that this affects your neighbors and friends. The effect would be widespread. It affects the man who takes his kids shrimping in his skiff to teach him about our heritage and stock the freezer. The man who works full time as a shrimper. It affects the supply of fresh local shrimp to feed your family. This is a proposed closure of trawling. Can we channel net? Absolutely. Will we? You bet. Are there enough spots for channel net sets? No, but we can go back to like it was in the "old days" where everyone races every night to get the best spots first. You may not think that it will have an effect on you, but you might just be surprised.</p>
Noah Wescott	North Carolina	I am opposed to this idea because this is how me my family and a lot of my community make a living.
Brittany Benfield	North Carolina	Please consider a compromise between the numerous recommended closures to protect sea grass and the livelihood of our local shrimpers and our community who eats this local shrimp. Also consider if we arent able to get our shrimp from local shrimpers the increase in need from larger boats who are doing more harm by killing more than just shrimp in their nets. There has to be a compromise and some kind of follow up research done to see if the closures are in fact helping and if they aren't then open it back up. That is basic science and should have been done for Bogue Sound.
Millard Thomas	North Carolina	Please don't close Dare County, NC to net/trawling fishing. Thank you.
Carson Dunn	North Carolina	This is one of the most ridiculous reasons for a ban on trawling. I find it hard to believe that SAV has done enough field data collecting to justify this tip of ban on trawling. Most bottom grass thrives on the shallower shoals where very little or no trawling takes place. But the majority areas on the map that are intended to be close are not ideal areas for the growth of these grass beads. This is just another long shot at crippling an industry that is already struggling.
Stormy Heroux	North Carolina	Hello, my name is Stormy Heroux and I'm from Wanchese, NC. I don't work on a trawl boat but I have grown up in a wonderful fishing village and I can see how much of a

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>negative impact this trawling ban would have on our local commercial fisherman. Plus I enjoy FRESH, LOCAL shrimp and other seafood. I like to know that the food I am eating is fresh and locally caught, by a hard working fisherman that is working to feed their family. This is part of our heritage. And every year there is something trying to take it away and make it harder and harder for commercial fisherman to make a living. And now it's freaking grass?! This is just insane to me. Why would you people want to take away something that so many people love and are proud to do? Having fresh seafood is a blessing a lot of people don't have. No offense, but I don't want that farm raised stuff and I won't eat it. I can promise you that commercial fisherman, their families, and our communities do not take the FRESH, LOCAL seafood for granted. Nor do we take the jobs it provides for granted. And I bet when y'all go out to eat, and you order seafood, you are wanting that fresh locally caught food. So think about that next time you are eating shrimp and other seafood. Think about how you can help in keeping someone in a job and their family taken care of, how you and everyone else is getting to enjoy fresh food straight from North Carolina waters. Or you could be the ones to help push a lot of people out of jobs, destroy heritage, stop allowing us the blessing of local seafood, and bring in the farm raised crap.</p> <p>The choice is yours and we the people of all fishing and non fishing communities are begging you to make the right choice.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Dana Davenport	North Carolina	<p>My name is Dana Davenport and I was born and raised here in Dare County. I have countless number of friends and family who make a living in the commercial fishing industry. This industry is how this great community was created and how most of our residents make a living. This proposal will 100% without a doubt negatively affect this fishing village we are so lucky to call home. Winter months in Dare County are hard enough to survive with all the rules and regulations that already burden the commercial industry. I strongly oppose these regulations that are trying to be proposed by NC Marine Fisheries. NC Marine Fisheries should be ashamed of themselves for making commercial fishermen's careers harder than it already is.</p>
John Silver	North Carolina	<p>I 100% oppose this proposal. I am a full time commercial and charter fisherman in Wanchese, NC. This would be devastating for my family. In the summer months I run shrimping charters. These closure areas would destroy my charter business, which provides fresh seafood and educates the general public on how their seafood is caught. Throughout the rest of the year commercial trawling generates the majority of my remaining income. Where would this leave me and many others?</p>
Ella Silver	North Carolina	<p>Dear NC Marine Fisheries Commission,</p>

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>I'm writing to express deep concern about the proposed trawling restrictions as this may have severe economic impacts on local fishermen. I urge you to reconsider these closures, ensuring a balanced approach that considers both environmental concerns and the livelihoods of the fishing community.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention</p> <p>Sincerely, Ella Silver</p>
David Quillen	North Carolina	I live on the Newport River Area (Crab point) there's not that many commercial fisherman left. Between high fuel, cheap import prices. Let them die in peace.
Robert Ranno	North Carolina	The proposed closures only address one half of the problem. Until a nonbiased analysis of both the impacts to SAV and the economic impact to the community is known, no action should be taken.
Gene Springle	North Carolina	Year after year commercial fisherman have to fight to keep they're jobs just so they can keep a roof over they're family's heads and food on the table.its uncalled for knowbody wants important seafood it's disgusting and not healthy.
Mary Hall	North Carolina	<p>Scientists who try to make decisions without the knowledge of the commercial fisherman that know the local waters and affects of various changes on their harvest need to be brought in and consulted on. I live around a creek and river where oysters, crabs, mullet, shrimp and other fish are commercially fished and value the input by the fisherman in our community.</p> <p>It has always made me laugh when we are polled about our catch by NC DMF at the boat ramp. We had not run into any pollers in over 10 years until a year ago. The number of flounder my son catches annually on hook and line is incredible, but we have never been asked “how many today”? Flounder stocks are not dwindling and have never been based on our families catches.</p> <p>You can’t count what you can’t see underwater. Do not put these small family businesses out of business by making laws when you are guessing about what is needed. These fisherman have worked a lifetime and are more knowledgable about the stocks in our waters than anyone sitting in an office. One interview with a fisherman is not a consultation either.</p>
Alexander Tilley	North Carolina	As a recreational angler who loves these fish and hires a guide annually to chase these fish I implore a limit be placed on recreational and commercial fisherman for false albacore.

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		<p>This feels like a good step while scientists gather more information about the health of the fishery.</p> <p>Without studies and regulations for these fish, a large industry could potentially be developed that could net huge amounts of these schooling fish and greatly affect the fishery.</p> <p>I ask the state to please take reasonable precautionary measures and limit the keeping of false albacore until further data is gathered.</p>
Diana Harris	North Carolina	I fully support enacting regulations to protect false albacore in NC.
Joseph Harris	North Carolina	I fully support the proposed regulations on false albacore to protect this species from destruction.
John Smolko	North Carolina	<p>As a fishing guide who is dependent on False Albacore for part of my yearly income I support the Proposed Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0523. Albacore are a significant driver for the fall tourist season along the NC coast and becoming an increasingly valuable resource for the state and its citizens. Rarely do we get an opportunity to preemptively enact measures to protect as fishery before it is a crisis. With no regulations currently protecting False Albacore, this measure would facilitate the status quo for current recreational and commercial anglers while providing safeguards from potential future overfishing. It would also showcase North Carolina as a leader in managing its fishery. The False Albacore fishery is a world class resource in our backyard and is one that is worth protecting. Thank you.</p>
Marc Boettger	North Carolina	<p>I am unsure how lowering the recreational limit on mullet from 200 to 100 per day will impact conservation in a positive way. As of now hardly any recreational fisherman are keeping 100 mullet, let alone 200 per day. This seems to be only a symbolic gesture. Rules proposed for commercials can easily be overcome by shifting effort to weekdays. DMF has previously stated that recreational effort accounts for hardly any of the mullet harvested in the state. More stringent rules should be placed on the commercial fishery if a real impact is to be made. Mullet are a keystone species in our states marine ecosystems and should be treated as such. We need to focus on ensuring an abundant and sustainable supply not just for humans, but for the many species who prey on them. In the end this would benefit all stakeholders.</p> <p>The current rules surrounding shrimp trawling in NC are detrimental to many other fisheries and the environment. The harm caused to millions of juvenile fish and the habitats they depend on cannot continue. Otter trawls are some of the most destructive and wasteful gear used to harvest fish in NC, especially with the lax rules surrounding their</p>

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		operation. Again, limiting their use to protect SAV will benefit our estuaries and the many species who reside in such places. This in turn will benefit all stake holders. A more holistic approach to our fisheries must be taken to truly ensure their sustainability for current and future generations, instead of the steady decline we have witnessed over the past decades.
Preston McQueen	North Carolina	I'm for the fishery being kept in good/great shape for all to enjoy!!!! Please take action to make this happen. Remember, we all live downstream. Think about that...
Tom Fuda	Connecticut	I am an avid recreational angler that devotes a lot of time and money to the pursuit of false albacore. I support adoption of Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0523 for the management of false albacore. Although I am not a resident of North Carolina, I have traveled to your state in the past, and will likely do so again in the future for the specific purpose of catching (and releasing) these great game fish on light tackle and fly gear. These fish are too valuable to go without some basic protections in terms of bag limits and commercial catch limits. Recent science has shown these are far ranging fish, and it is likely that some of the fish being caught in NC waters pass through my home waters off of CT at some point during their travels. So, what you do in NC may benefit my home fishery as well. There is a significant economic benefit up and down the coast from anglers afflicted with "albie fever". This economy depends on abundant stocks of false albacore. These fish deserve better than to go unmanaged and be subject to what is basically an unregulated bait fishery. Thank you.
Clarence Hilliard	North Carolina	Commissioners, please consider the following suggestions for recreational flounder fishing. Season, april 1st thru November 30th. Bag limit, 30 per season, size 17 inches tail length. Reason for suggestions: current regulations allow, if you were to harvest your limit in both seasons 75 fifteen inch flounder, Suggest 30 flounder per above suggested season, each flounder having to be tagged as with deer harvest, providing a more accurate harvest record. Other benefits, families could have more options for vacation, economic impact to motels, restaurants, bait and tackle stores, fuel and boat maintenance. Please respond to [REDACTED]
David Belk	North Carolina	DMF needs to set quotas for the commercial harvest of Striped Mullet in addition to the weekend closures. Setting a quota is the only way to ensure a reduction of commercial landings.

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
Jeffrey Sears	North Carolina	The DMF recommended actions now include only weekend closures for commercial harvest that are estimated to achieve a 34.9% reduction from 2019 commercial landings. It is difficult to understand how this will have any measurable effect on commercial landings without any set quota. Commercial fishermen harvested 1,362,277 pounds in 2019, the terminal year of the stock assessment, so a 34.9% reduction would put the target at 886,842 pounds. Commercial harvest in 2021 was 2,140,620 pounds and 2,720,344 pounds in 2022. Please get serious about removing seine nets form our sounds and SAVE our fisheries. Its no wonder the NCDMF stays in law suits with the recreational fishermen and women of NC
Larry White	North Carolina	I would like to submit my support for Precautionary Measures to protect Albies. I have fished for this species for years and often wondered about it's future. I have seen shrimp trawlers yank them into the boat in large numbers for what has to be little return on investment. The abundance of this species is remarkable, but without scientific evidence to support restrictions, I fear it will come under attack and suffer irreversible damage. Please support precautionary measures to protect this fishery.
Dan Benfield	North Carolina	I support any action to protect and conduct important studies for the false albacore population. I encourage the commission to in act protective measures to protect the false albacore from over harvesting. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments
Kevin Fuller	Texas	I am not from North Carolina - I'm a Texican but I love to come to your state and fish for Albie's in the fall. I encourage y'all to take steps to protect these amazing sport fish. Each year I spend thousands of dollars on guides, lodging, meals and fishing stuff while I'm chasing Albies in your state. Best thing is, when I catch fish I leave them there, just like my cash. When I come to North Carolina and catch lots of "water rockets" I tell my Texan fishing friends what a great trip I had and they go do the same thing - bring lots of cash to your state and leave the Albies in the water. All that is good for North Carolina, good for me and good for my fishing friends. The guides tell me the Albies are at risk and they are fearful all this wonderfulness is gonna collapse. Y'all don't mess this up. Establish some sane limits. Save the Albies. Keep the cash.
Jeff Aycock	North Carolina	Take action now to protect the species while the data is gathered. Good long term science based management can only be done once you have data! We know conservation measures work. Please be proactive & not reactive. A large commercial entity moving into that fishery would decimate it!
Michael McCarthy	Pennsylvania	I support precautionary measures to study and protect False Albacore. They are so much fun to catch for recreational fishers and these fisheries are a source of tourism and income.
Matt Mehl	North Carolina	Dear Sirs - on Feb 23, there is an item on the MFC agenda to vote on a proposal for False Albacore Management in NC. The False Albacore is a fantastic gamefish and North

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
		<p>Carolina is considered one of the top places on the country for anglers to fish for them. However, there are currently no regulations in place to protect this wonderful fishery, leaving the door open for selfish interests that could decimate the population.</p> <p>We've seen downward spirals in species like Gray Trout, Striped Bass, and Southern Flounder that caused us take drastic measures in an attempt to save the population, which still have not recovered. With the False Albacore, I encourage us to have more foresight and put the proper precautionary measures in place in the form of conservative keeper limits for both commercial and recreational anglers. By doing so, we can ensure there is a sustainable population of these wonderful fish for generations to enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Matt Mehl</p>
Sandy Harris	North Carolina	<p>Regulation of the harvest of False Albacore despite no real commercial interest would assure that this fishery is studied enough to determine fish stock size and natural mortality. That would provide a fair assessmant of harvest effects by commercial and recreational fishing.</p>