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**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2018 3:44 PM

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**Subject:** [External] May 2018 MFC Meeting Public Comment

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May 2018 Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting Public Comment

Please focus more on enhancing our fisheries and food supply than restricting our freedom to access them. Please do not approve any new shellfish leases until NC hatcheries can provide native shellfish that can naturally reproduce. Please put a moratorium on farming fish in public waters due to the record of disease, parasites, and pollution plaguing ecosystems around existing concentrations of caged fish. Wise use of hatcheries and habitat enhancements can be the perfect blend of open-water aquaculture and wild-caught seafood that lives free and self-sufficient until harvested. This approach would benefit everyone without restricting our access to public waters. Does anyone have a better idea for sustainably increasing recreational opportunity and wild seafood production?

I am always happy to answer any questions and/or go into greater detail.

Thank you,

Chris McCaffity