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Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 6:40 AM
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Subject: [External] May 2019 Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting Public Comments

May 2019 Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting Public Comments

Decades of mismanagement have left many of our fisheries in worse shape than when stricter regulations started being implemented. It is time to think about trying other options that would benefit everyone and the resource. Hatcheries and habitat enhancements are proven management tools that focus on improving fisheries rather than restricting the public's freedom to access them. Wise use of these tools can create more seafood and recreational opportunity while generating new revenue.

We need to have a serious discussion about how, when, and where we should stock seafood and make habitat improvements. North Carolina's waters provide a wonderful opportunity for restoration, enhancement, and regionally stocking a wide variety of native species. We can simultaneously create world-class sportfishing and more wild-caught seafood in ways that preserve nature's balance.

Hatcheries and habitat enhancements can also help protect the public's freedom to access public waters and promote food security for all NC citizens. These solutions would help keep independent commercial fishermen working while limiting corporate consolidation and genetic manipulation of our food supply.

Does anyone have a better idea for sustainably improving our fisheries in ways that benefit everyone?

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

Thank you,

Chris McCaffity