



Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan

Amendment 2

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

NC Marine Fisheries Commission
Daniel Zapf and Jeffrey Dobbs | November 17, 2022



Background

Fishery Management Plan:

- Adopted April 2006
- Established minimum and maximum commercial landings triggers of 1.3 and 3.1 million pounds
- Established a daily possession limit of 200 mullets (white and striped combined) per person per day in the recreational fishery

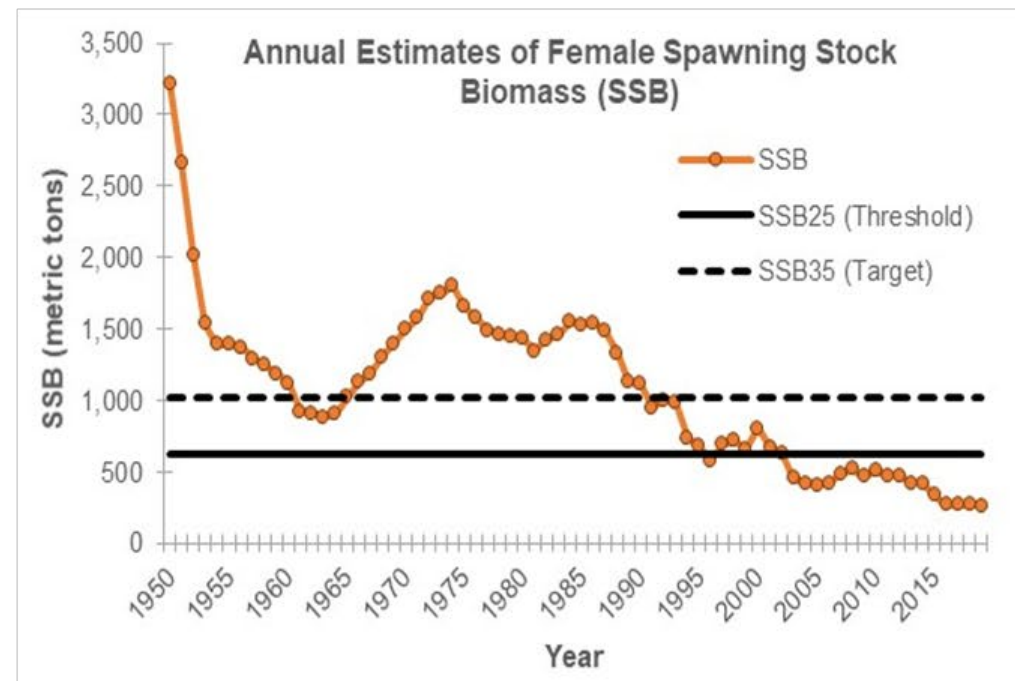
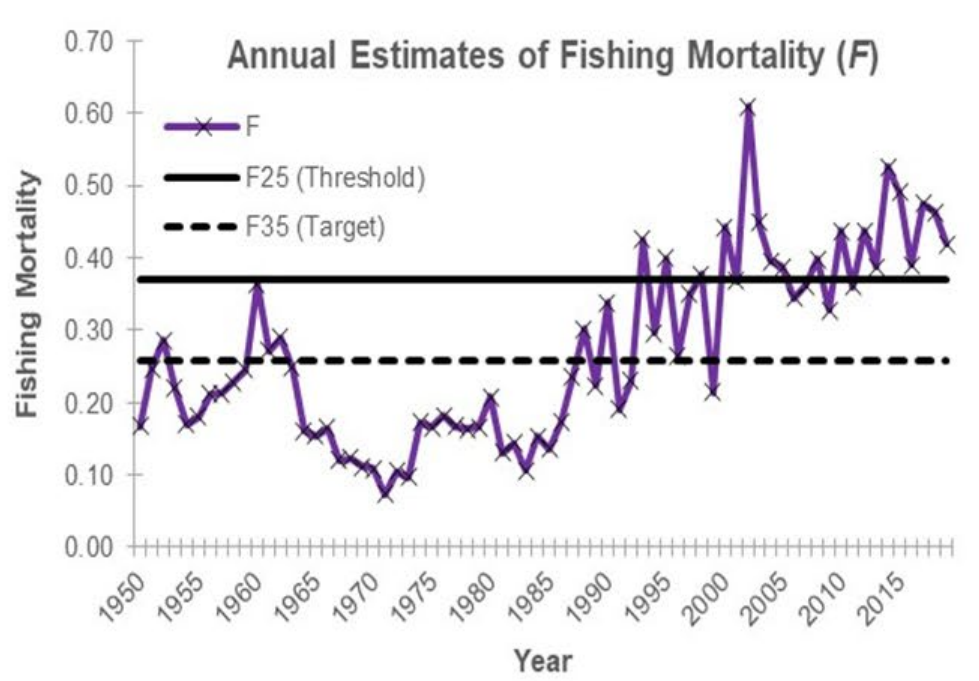
Amendment 1:

- Resolved issues with Newport River gill net attendance and mitigate known user group conflicts
- Updated minimum and maximum commercial landings triggers to 1.13 and 2.76 million pounds



Stock Assessment (2022)

- Terminal year 2019
- Stock is overfished
- Overfishing is occurring
- Management required to address sustainability



FMP Timeline



• Division holds public scoping period	• Sept 26 – Oct 7, 2022
• Marine Fisheries Commission approve goal and objectives of FMP	• Nov 2022
• Division drafts FMP	• Nov 2022 – May 2023
• Division holds FMP workshop to further develop draft FMP with advisory committee	• June 2023
• Division updates draft FMP	• June – July 2023
• Marine Fisheries Commission reviews draft FMP and votes to send for public and advisory committee review	• Aug 2023
• Public and advisory committee review period	• Oct 2023
• Marine Fisheries Commission selects preferred management options	• Nov 2023
• DEQ Secretary reports FMP progress to legislative bodies for review	• Dec 2023 – Jan 2024
• Marine Fisheries Commission votes to adopt the FMP	• Feb 2024
• Division and Marine Fisheries Commission implement management strategies	• March 2024

Scoping Period

The Scoping Process Serves To:

1. Provide notice to the public that a formal review of the FMP is underway by the division.
2. Inform the public of the stock status (if available).
3. Solicit public input on the list of potential management strategies identified by the division or identify other relevant strategies for consideration.
4. Recruit potential advisors to serve on the AC for the FMP.



Scoping Period

Outcome of Scoping Period:

- Scoping Period for Striped mullet Amendment 2 was held Sep. 26 through Oct. 7, 2022
- More than 60 people attended three meetings and 153 responses to an online questionnaire were received
- Comments centered on:
 - Concerns over stock assessment results
 - Need for regional management
 - Gear specific management
 - Year-round fishing needs
 - Support for adaptive management
 - Recreational harvest concerns



Action Item: Vote on FMP Goal and Objectives

Goal:

- Manage the striped mullet fishery to achieve a self-sustaining population that provides sustainable harvest using science-based decision-making processes.

Objectives:

- Implement management strategies within North Carolina that sustain and/or restore the striped mullet spawning stock with adequate age structure abundance to maintain recruitment potential and prevent overfishing.
- Promote the restoration, enhancement, and protection of critical habitat and environmental quality in a manner consistent with the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, to maintain or increase growth, survival, and reproduction of the striped mullet stock.
- Use biological, social, economic, fishery, habitat, and environmental data to effectively monitor and manage the fishery and its ecosystem impacts.
- Advance stewardship of the North Carolina striped mullet stock by promoting practices that minimize bycatch and discard mortality.



Discussion and Input on Potential Management Strategies

Potential Striped Mullet FMP Amendment 2 Management Strategies

Sustainable Harvest	Recreational Fishery	Small Mesh Gill Nets
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quota management• Fishing Seasons• Trip Limits• Size Limits (min/max/slot)• Fishing days• Gear modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Characterize recreational fishery• Support sustainable harvest• Non-quantifiable measures• Mutilated finfish rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As tasked by MFC• Support sustainable harvest• Regulatory complexity• Bycatch reduction• Conflict
Stop Net Fishery	Migration Corridors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effectiveness of current management• Support sustainable harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Migration corridors to support sustainable harvest	



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Action Items and Input

Action Items

- Vote on final approval of Amendment 2 goal and objectives

Input

- Provide input on potential management strategies for Amendment 2





Questions?



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