

**N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
November 2023 MFC Business Meeting
Written Public Comment**

Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below.
William Holland	North Carolina	<p>Reference to the striped mullet proposals</p> <p>My recommendation is to not close the season during the fall run If a closure has to occur do it in the summer when the fish don't have the value If you have to close the fishery close it to bait fishing Closing or partial closing will only hurt the honest fisherman Also any closures puts more pressure on other species in which would bring on more regulations initiated by the commission Also closing this fishery takes away another fish that enables the fisherman to harvest red drum Fall and winter the blues have left the rivers the flounder fishing is close black drum are scattered at best The mullet is the main fish we target in the fall and winter</p>
THOMAS COLTRAIN	North Carolina	<p>Please for the sake of the Spotted Sea Trout get the Gill Nets out of the creeks and rivers. You have managed to shut down every fishery in NC except for the trout. There is nothing else to fish for and everyone is after these fish and it is a matter of time before you will have to shut down this fishery too. Tackle stores, Guides, and Tournament Fishermen are trying to kill the biggest female trout for a dollar with all these contests. Do something right and protect these big female trout. No trout over 21 inches should be kept in NC period. NCDMF is the laughing stock of all the states at how YOU have managed fish in NC for a DOLLAR. For once do something proactive instead of reactive! SAVE THE TROUT!</p>
John Dunn	North Carolina	<p>I write to encourage the commission to undertake meaningful commercial fishing license reform to protect the true heart of North Carolina's fishery; the actual fisherman. Earning a living from the water is hard and getting harder and we need to reserve the privilege of using the resource commercially for those that truly earn a living at it and are tax paying citizens of the State of North Carolina. Please consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The only person who should be able to purchase a commercial fishing license in NC should be a resident of North Carolina that pays income tax in North Carolina and that derives more than 50% of their income from commercial fishing activities and you need to report atleast \$25,000.00 of taxable income. I recognize that this will not apply for the first year of a license but to renew your license you should pass this litmus test. If you fail the litmus test you should be ineligible to apply again for 10 years. 2. Additionally, the tax paying citizen needs to report the commercial catches what correspond to their income. Only one license should be issued to each North Carolina tax ID.

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		<p>3. Finally, any vessel engaged in commercial fishing activity needs to be captained by a commercial fisherman that meets the criterion above and needs to pay property tax on the vessel in question in the State of North Carolina. No shrimp trawler from another state or netter from another state should come deplete our resources operating under the license of a commercial fishing entity in North Carolina. They are doing so at the expense of North Carolina's true commercial fisherman.</p> <p>Done right, license reformation will protect the way of life of North Carolina's commercial fisherman and bolster their incomes. It also ensures that individuals or entities don't circumvent the harvest requirements imposed on recreational fisherman simply by purchasing a more expensive license, that out of state interest do not profit in any way from our natural resources and that no commercial fisherman uses related entities to circumvent catch requirements.</p>
Chris McCaffity	North Carolina	<p>Please start focusing more on enhancing our fisheries and food supply than restricting the public's freedom to access them. Wise use of proven management tools like hatcheries and habitat enhancements is the only practical way to increase abundance and harvest simultaneously. Does anyone have a better idea for producing more wild-caught seafood and recreational opportunities? Please support a moratorium on any new public water leases that restrict our freedom to access public waters and resources. Please also support a moratorium on introducing genetically sterilized or otherwise modified species in public waters. Existing leaseholders should be Grandfathered in and exempt from new moratoriums. Thank you!</p>

PUBLIC COMMENTS for MFC MEETING
NOVEMBER 15,2023

Fishery Management Plans are your way to hide from your mission. You volunteered to protect the saltwater resource. Instead you update your fishery management plans to ignore the problem that is destroying our saltwater resource, gillnets!

Trash your MFP's and work on gillnet management! Every other state on our oceans have addressed gillnets!

In 1990 South Carolina restricted the length of gillnets, mesh size and areas of use.

In 2008 Georgia banned the use of gillnets.

In 1995 Florida banned the use of gillnets.

In 2008 Alabama restricted the length of gillnets, mesh size and areas of use.

In 1997 Mississippi restricted the length of gillnets, mesh size, material construction and areas of use.

In 1995 Louisiana banned the use of gillnets.

In 2008 Texas banned the use of gillnets.

Are you going to continue to hide and destroy our saltwater resource or are you going to embrace your mission!

Ron McCoy
Hampstead NC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron McCoy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and address.