



Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan

Draft Amendment 2

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

MFC Meeting | Charlton H. Godwin and M. Todd Mathes | May 20, 2021



Presentation Outline

- **Goal and Objectives**
- **Issue and information papers**
- **Timeline**
- **Next steps**



Draft Amendment 2 – Goal and Objectives

Goal:

Manage the estuarine striped bass fisheries to achieve self-sustaining populations that provide sustainable harvest based on science-based decision making processes. If biological and/or environmental factors prevent a self-sustaining population, then alternate management strategies will be implemented that provide protection for and access to the resource.

Objectives:

- Implement management strategies within North Carolina and encourage interjurisdictional management strategies that maintain and/or restore spawning stock with adequate age structure and abundance to maintain recruitment potential and to prevent overfishing.
- Restore, enhance, and protect 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 bass stocks.
- Use biological, social, economic, fishery, habitat, and environmental data to effectively monitor and manage the fisheries and their ecosystem impacts.
- Promote stewardship of the resource through public outreach and interjurisdictional cooperation regarding the status and management of the North Carolina striped bass stocks, including practices that minimize bycatch and discard mortality.



Draft Amendment 2 – Issue and Information Papers

Sustainable Harvest

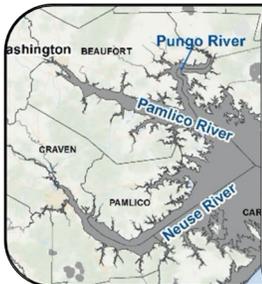


Albemarle-Roanoke

End overfishing and rebuild the spawning stock to achieve long-term sustainable harvest.

Example Options

Reduce TAL, no possession provision, size limit changes, gear modifications including possibly phasing out gill nets



Tar-Pamlico and Neuse Rivers

Promote natural recruitment by expanding the age structure of the stock to achieve a self-sustaining population.

Example Options

Continue the no-possession provision and gear modifications



Cape Fear River

Consider implications of allowing harvest given high hatchery contribution to the stock, low overall abundance, limited natural recruitment, and impediments of locks and dams on spawning migration.

Example Options

Continue no-possession or allow limited harvest by area

Across Systems



Hook & Line as Commercial Gear

Evaluate the purpose and benefit of hook-and-line as an allowable gear in the commercial striped bass fishery and examine concerns and logistics of implementing the use of hook and line gear.



Stocking Information Paper

Describes the history of striped bass stocking strategies in North Carolina and gives an overview of future stocking strategies by system. Strategies are developed through the North Carolina Interjurisdictional Fisheries Cooperative (COOP) annual work plans.

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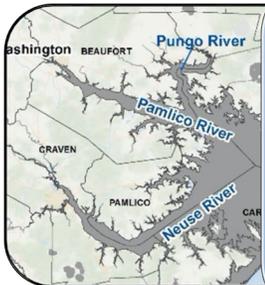


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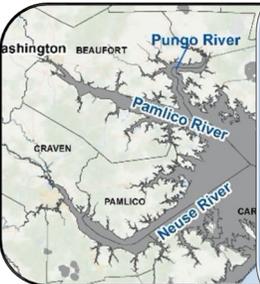


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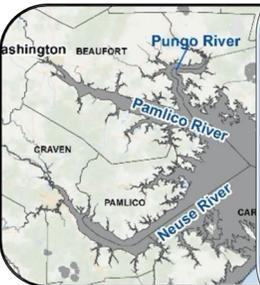


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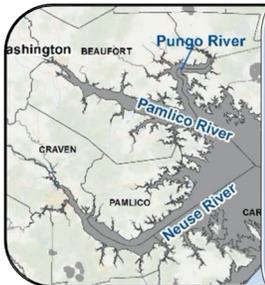


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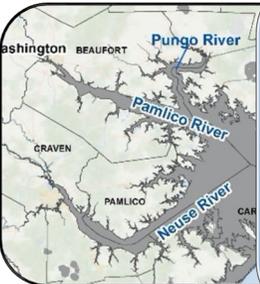


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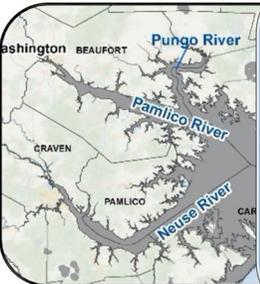


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Estuarine Striped Bass Amendment 2 Timeline

• Division holds public scoping period

• Marine Fisheries Commission approve goal and objectives of FMP

• **Division drafting FMP**

Next Step

• Division holds workshops to further develop draft FMP with plan advisory committee

• Division updating draft plan

• Marine Fisheries Commission vote to send draft FMP for public and advisory committee review

• Commission advisory committees meet to review draft FMP and receive public comment

• Marine Fisheries Commission select preferred management options

• Department of Environmental Quality secretary and legislative review draft FMP

• Marine Fisheries Commission vote on final adoption of FMP

• Division and Marine Fisheries Commission implement management strategies

Questions?

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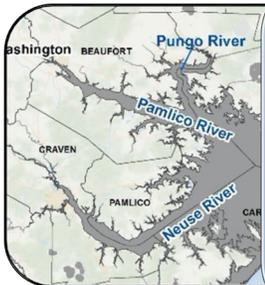


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