



ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENT

MFC Comments

August 23, 2021, 5 p.m.

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
172	08/23/2021 - 5:01pm	Rhianna	Sears	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
171	08/23/2021 - 5:01pm	Rhianna	Sears	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
170	08/23/2021 - 5:01pm	Rhianna	Sears	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
169	08/23/2021 - 5:00pm	Larri	Flynt	North Carolina	<p>There's already enough rules & regulations, Commercial fisher men feed the world.</p>
168	08/23/2021 - 5:00pm	Vicki	Basnight	North Carolina	<p>I ask that you please let our commercial fishermen continue to provide our restaurant with fresh Drum, round head, trout and other fun fish caught by small mesh gill nets. We use these fish for blackened fish, fish cakes, seared fish and on numerous other dishes at Basnight's Lone Cedar Cafe in Nags Head. If the small mesh gill nets are not allowed in our sounds we will not be able to provide our customers with some of NC's best. We serve ONLY NC seafood and this</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
167	08/23/2021 - 4:59pm	Stewart	Smith	North Carolina	<p>would make our selection of fish even more scarce. Thank you for your time. Vicki Basnight Basnight's Lone Cedar Cafe Nags Head</p> <p>In the 16 community colleges, there should be a wide range of classes pertaining to the environment on the coast, range of fishes, pollution, insurance of the local fish of survival. Prevention of other agencies, states, countries to harvest any fish for a period of 5 years. The ocean boundary of fishing for all nations of the world extended to 20 miles for 5 years. Declare a national moratorium for limits of a catch at the request of the NCMFA, for divisions of in-state residents and out of state residents. Boats must declare at the local appointed venue to fish and declare in state or out of state permission for weekly or less days fishing and must return daily for catch check. Boats that do not follow rules are subject to \$1500 fine and one month suspension.</p> <p>Fishermen who rely on "fishing" for a lively hood . must adhere to rules by the NCFA. Too, they are to receive state an federal subsidies, like an normal NC farmer for disaster based on their previous years' catch per month. They should not suffer monetary loss due to something they cannot control, the weather.</p> <p>The community colleges should be able to use the waters of the sounds for research and propagation of all fish species.</p> <p>Declare a state emergency for the fishing industry until all NC fishing agencies deciare a plan of recovery and adopted by the house and senate of the state of North Carolina</p>
166	08/23/2021 - 4:59pm	Dawson	Brooks	North Carolina	<p>I've heard about the new regulations on the gill nets for the pamlico sound. I am young and have invested quite a bit of money into commercial fishing and if the</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					new regulations are made it will be harder for me to make a living. What are the reason for these new laws? The gill nets are very important because they put food on the table and in a small town like I live in it's all we have to do it's how we make a living.
165	08/23/2021 - 4:57pm	Julisa	Calderon	North Carolina	Thanks
164	08/23/2021 - 4:57pm	Tiffany	Ivey	North Carolina	I am opposed to this new law or regulation.
163	08/23/2021 - 4:56pm	Linda	Daniels	North Carolina	I am in opposition to this new regulation, Our men need to be able to fish and provide for their families.
162	08/23/2021 - 4:55pm	Mickey T	Daniels li	North Carolina	I am not in favor of this law/bill. Our fishermen can hardly make a living now.
161	08/23/2021 - 4:54pm	Nancy	Calderon	North Carolina	Gracias
160	08/23/2021 - 4:53pm	Dustin	Daniels	North Carolina	I am in opposition to this law, this will devastate us.
159	08/23/2021 - 4:53pm	Zachary	Leonard	North Carolina	I think it's wrong what you're trying to do gillnet should stay open I think you should open flounder fishing back up you are ruining peoples livelihoods Americans want fresh seafood not imports you will be destroying a lot of livelihoods if this happens keep it open !!!!!
158	08/23/2021 - 4:53pm	Julian	Midgett	North Carolina	I am opposed to any changes to small gill netting laws
157	08/23/2021 - 4:52pm	Julian	Midgett	North Carolina	I am opposed to any changes to small gill netting laws
156	08/23/2021 - 4:52pm	Zachary	Leonard	North Carolina	I think it's wrong what you're trying to do gillnet should stay open I think you should open flounder fishing back up you are ruining peoples livelihoods Americans want fresh seafood not imports you will be destroying a lot of livelihoods if this happens keep it open !!!!!
155	08/23/2021 - 4:52pm	Julian	Midgett	North Carolina	I am opposed to any changes to small gill netting laws
154	08/23/2021 - 4:52pm	Mickey	Daniels	North Carolina	This law will devastate our fishing industry.

# ▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
153	08/23/2021 - 4:51pm	Noemi	Ornelas	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
152	08/23/2021 - 4:49pm	Ted	Midgett	North Carolina	I am opposed to any changes in small gill nets laws
151	08/23/2021 - 4:49pm	Vincent	Iannace	North Carolina	I am a consumer and would be very upset and affected by this law
150	08/23/2021 - 4:49pm	Cesar	Silva	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
149	08/23/2021 - 4:48pm	Amy	Silva De Calderon	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
148	08/23/2021 - 4:48pm	Mona	Midgett	North Carolina	I opposed to any small gill net change!!!
147	08/23/2021 - 4:48pm	Letitia	Daniels	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.
146	08/23/2021 - 4:42pm	Jesus	Tovar	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
145	08/23/2021 - 4:38pm	Jack	Graham	North Carolina	I am an avid recreational fisherman and charter captain here in our backwaters on the outer banks. And from what I have seen we have an extremely healthy fishery. There is no need to cut out yet another major economic pulse here in our state. The fishing community here relies on this resource to get them through hard winters and it is a very important fishery for many families. We have probably the healthiest fishery in our sounds we have had in years right now so please take into consideration the impact on hard working coastal families, many of whom are generational, and help them to continue to make an honest, healthy and sustainable living. Sincerely, Captain Jack Graham
144	08/23/2021 - 4:31pm	ID	Midgett	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
143	08/23/2021 - 4:30pm	Braden	ONeal	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					<p>contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
142	08/23/2021 - 4:30pm	Caleb	Oneal	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
141	08/23/2021 - 4:30pm	Linda	Oneal	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
140	08/23/2021 - 4:30pm	Colby	ONeal	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
139	08/23/2021 - 4:29pm	Lara	ONeal	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood.</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
138	08/23/2021 - 4:29pm	Bill	Evans	North Carolina	Gill nets need to remain at status quo for North Carolina waters. Fisheries in North Carolina are regulated and suppressed as being managed in any sense of that word.
137	08/23/2021 - 4:28pm	Kaitlyn	Iannace	North Carolina	I am a consumer and I would be very upset and deeply affected by this law
136	08/23/2021 - 4:27pm	Spurgeon A.	Stowe	North Carolina	This is not ok I have family and friends who make a big portion of their living small mesh gillnet fishing in the sounds. Please consider these families and children in making a decision on it. They are of no threat to endangered species. These fisherman will become the endangered species if they are stopped from making their living.
135	08/23/2021 - 4:24pm	Britt	Harper	North Carolina	This is what I copied and pasted... I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
134	08/23/2021 - 4:24pm	Sophia	Harper	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
133	08/23/2021 - 4:24pm	Nicole	Harper	North Carolina	<p>This is what I copied and pasted...</p> <p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
132	08/23/2021 - 4:24pm	Benjamin	Oneal	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
131	08/23/2021 - 4:19pm	Ryan	Arthur	North Carolina	<p>3rd generation commercial fishing, 100% of my income how I support my family. Need to get politics out of everything. Start listening to the best scientists you have available, us commercial fisherman. We are out there day in and day out. We do not want to catch the last fish. We are all for having a good supply of fish for everyone to catch. Small mesh gill nets and trawlers are not the problem. The problem is in the big city TO MANY POLITICS. LET US FISH AND SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES ITS ALL WE KNOW!!</p>
130	08/23/2021 - 4:16pm	Ralph	Griffin	North Carolina	<p>As a life long resident of our great state I have witnessed fisheries come and go. Some due to some sort of human cause and effect. In others there have been a natural effect. Whether a storm has washed away habitat or a freeze has caused a major fish kill. It seems that these type of occurrences are never spoken about to the state wide public. The majority of my friends love nothing better than to catch trout and drum and for that matter flounder. Almost all continue to claim it's the best fishing they've ever experienced. My first question to them is how can it be? The next question I ask them is , when was the last time we have had a hard</p>

#▼

[SUBMITTED](#)[FIRST
NAME:](#)[LAST
NAME:](#)[STATE:](#)[PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:](#)

freeze on the coast?

After they try to remember I ask them doesn't a previous mild winter contribute fishing successes the following year?

In my personal experience being raised on and around the water and all types of fishing nature does a pretty good job of weeding out the strongest and fittest. I'm not a marine biologist by no means but there are generations of North Carolinians who live by/raised on and make a living to support their families on our public trust waters.

It is my belief that they are the ones as well as the recreational angler who should have a say!

2 weeks for flounder season ?

Recreational or Commercial is ridiculous considering almost all states north and south of us are allowed to catch and keep theirs.

What happens if we have a hurricane?

Do the people who depend of this seasonal fishery go without for the year?

Shrimping in the sounds and bays have provided some of the best tasting ones on the market. People figured out that not only was there an abundance of shrimp they learned how to efficiently and quite effectively catch them.

What I read last month is that there is a push to stop all inland fishing for shrimp.

My question to the board is why??

There is an industry in our state which has complied for the most part with every regulation and restriction placed on them.

They are hard working tax paying citizens of our great state.

All want nothing more than provide for their families and families of their employees.

Not all have boats that can shrimp in the ocean due to size of the vessels.

I feel that public trust waters are for all residents of our state not just one group!

By restricting access you are denying our rights as tax paying citizens.

Back to one of my first statements about our rec fishing friends.

Almost every single one of them blame shrimping.

I ask why?

They say they are killing all the fish!

Then I asked them How can you be experiencing the best inshore fishing ever!!!?

Most have only listened to one side of the argument.

Or they are upset because someone set a net.

Closing our sounds to inland netting doesn't do any good for anyone except the people who believe they can save a resource by governing.

Obviously this hasn't worked.

You've arbitrarily closed or shut down fisheries in the past when commercial fishermen could tell you what and when and how much. But by setting nets or doing trawls in the wrong places at the wrong time of year!

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					<p>For some reason the catfish have taken over the Albemarle sound estuary but there doesn't seem to be a belief that they can hurt another species population. Strippers, white perch, and herring are all affected due to this explosion. Commercial fishermen are the best resource y'all have. Politics shouldn't be a part of taking away a persons way of life period!!! Why would anyone want to buy imported shrimp raised in a pond and fed waste products as food. I will not!</p>
129	08/23/2021 - 4:15pm	Michael	Beane	North Carolina	<p>I feel there should be no changes to the existing regulations their sufficient data with observers trip ticket and other observations to show that this fishery is sustainable and does not require any further regulations nor restriction just unfortunately is yet another example of the CCA attempting to push their propaganda and hide it as science or logic</p>
128	08/23/2021 - 4:14pm	Robert	Ziglar	North Carolina	<p>No further restrictions are needed for small mesh gillnet fisheries. Gillnet fishing in state waters is very important to commercial fishermen, coastal communities, and the consumers that want high quality fresh seafood. Please let science dictate the rule making, not politics. The elitist group CCA and it's members have no interest in fisheries management other than to end commercial fishing all together and reallocate the entire resource to the recreational sector. Small mesh rules are unnecessary and therefore not supported by NC statutes!</p>
127	08/23/2021 - 4:02pm	Evan	Davis	North Carolina	<p>I make my living Spanish mackerel fishing in the Pamlico sound . It is very important to me to be able to use 2000 yards of net .</p>
126	08/23/2021 - 3:55pm	Will	Blount	North Carolina	<p>I make my living Spanish mackerel fishing in the Pamlico sound . It is very important to me to be able to use 2000 yards of net .</p>
125	08/23/2021 - 3:36pm	Ashley	ONeal	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>

# ▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
124	08/23/2021 - 3:02pm	Zachary	Davis	North Carolina	<p>I feel very strongly that the options of status quo should be upheld and recommended moving forward with the Small Mesh Gillnet Rules Modification process. This fishery has an effort that is at an all time low. Those left in the fishery are struggling to make ends meet because of substantial reductions in ability to keep marketable species of fish. These fish, even though they must be discarded due to regulation are perfectly marketable and would otherwise be a profitable bycatch. The Marine fisheries needs to consider allowing a higher percentage of by catch fish to be marketed instead of discarded. As a whole the marine fisheries seems to be using reducing trip ticket landing to justify stock level reductions when in actuality there is far less effort being put into landing certain species of fish than in year past. Catch Per Unit Effort has been skewed by the restrictions on areas that can be fished as well as the time of year that fishing can occur. You cannot justify CPUE unless it is compared to the same areas and times that were allowed when landings were at higher levels. Further restrictions on these fisheries will do nothing but take fresh seafood off of the consumers table in North Carolina.</p>

MFC Comments

August 23, 2021, 2:50 p.m.

#▼	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
123	08/23/2021 - 2:34pm	David	Sneed	North Carolina	<p>The MFC appears to have a pretty light agenda this week but there are some hidden issues in there if you take the time to look close enough. In combination, the Commission has real opportunities ahead of them to address a multitude of problems that have faced our coastal fisheries for decades if they are willing to seize the opportunity.</p> <p>From the Protected Resources Program Update: “Estimated observer coverage was less than the required 7% for large-mesh gill nets in Management Unit C and overall, for the season, and less than the required 1% for small-mesh gill nets in Management Units C, D2, and E. This is despite 286 attempts overall to find effort on the water (i.e., No-Contact trips). The Observer Program continues to have difficulty scheduling observed trips with fishermen. Out of 312 calls or in-person contacts during spring, observers spoke with a fisherman 34% of the time and successfully scheduled an observed trip only three times.”</p> <p>Why is the Division spending limited time and resources developing an application for renewal of the sea turtle and sturgeon ITPs when the current program has been out of compliance for years and is a drain on the time and resources of the DMF, not to mention it does absolutely nothing to help rebuild overfished stocks or create sustainable fisheries? The Commission should fully support the addition of a plan to phase out anchored large mesh gill nets before the renewal of the ITPs as part of the rebuilding plan in Amendment 3 to the Southern Flounder FMP.</p> <p>The Commission will hear an update on the 2021 Amendment to the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan and vote to send draft plan out for public and advisory committee review. It is very disappointing that the plan contains no reference to the impacts of bottom disturbing gear on habitat. The use of shrimp otter trawls and mechanical oyster dredges is a direct impediment to everything the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan is trying to accomplish: rebuild SAV, improve water clarity and light penetration, reduce sediments and nutrients, and slow the loss of marshlands. How you can hope to reach the goals of the CHPP without discussing the impacts of shrimp trawling, oyster dredging and crab trawling? The goal of the CHPP is, “More Fish and More Habitat”. If we stopped trawling in nursery areas and tearing up the sound bottoms, would we not immediately have more fish and more habitat?</p> <p>A lot of people seem to be investing a lot of time and effort into getting a CHPP</p>

#▼

SUBMITTED

FIRST
NAME:

LAST
NAME:

STATE:

PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:

plan in place that would help improve our coastal water quality, a goal we can all support. But it seems like a big waste of time and money if you are not going to address the impacts of bottom-disturbing commercial fishing gear. What the MFC decides to do with the next Shrimp FMP should be a part of the CHPP steering committee discussions. After all, the goals of the new Shrimp FMP are in alignment with the CHPP as it relates to reducing habitat destruction, and reducing finfish and shellfish bycatch waste, but without bringing this issue up in the CHPP steering committee meetings, how many of your partner agencies know about the impact of shrimp trawling on what they are trying to accomplish? Seems like a great place to be working together towards a common goal of More Fish and More Habitat. We hope the Commission will address these issues on Thursday.

The Commission will also be asked to provide input and or recommendations for small mesh gill net rules modifications and advise the Division of Marine Fisheries on further development toward rulemaking.

Then Secretary of DEQ, Michael Regan, directed the Division to conduct a thorough review of the small mesh gill net fishery to simplify regulatory complexity, to reduce bycatch, and to sustain stocks important to recreational and commercial fishermen. The commercial industry has dismissed this effort as not being scientifically based, and more about user conflicts, thus endorsing more status quo. Division staff offers that "Bycatch is a concern in all fisheries managed by the MFC and small mesh gill nets, under certain configurations and times of the year, have the potential to be a large source of this unintended catch. Regulations such as minimum mesh size, attendance requirements, and seasonal or permanent area and set time restrictions have the potential to reduce the incidence of bycatch and ultimately dead discards." The DMF does acknowledge that user conflicts are an issue that needs better management stating, "Lastly, these regulatory measure in combination with one another can more discretely define how and where small mesh gill nets can be utilized to maximize efficiency of the gear and reduce competition and conflicts with other gear types and user groups."

CCA NC was disappointed when gill net removal was not selected as a possible management option. The Southern Advisory Committee did approve a recommendation that the Marine Fisheries Commission consider the prohibition of small mesh gill nets in Internal Coastal Waters as a management option. The Commission should fully consider this recommendation. Looking only at options within the white paper, CCA NC supports the following measures to be implemented concurrently to minimize the impact of small mesh gill nets:

#	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
122	08/23/2021 - 2:19pm	John	Ludford	Virginia	<p>Yardage: Option 5 should be selected. Nets should be limited to 800 yards north of Highway 58 and to 500 yards south of Highway 58.</p> <p>Attendance: Option 4 should be selected. All gill nets in operation should be attended throughout NC.</p> <p>Time/Area: A combination of three different management measures should be used together. Option 4 requiring mesh size to be greater than or equal to 3 inches. Option 5 stating no weekend netting, and Option 9 prohibiting nets in areas of high conflict (selected by MFC) should be used in tandem to minimize impacts in NC waters by these nets.</p> <p>In conclusion, DMF staff offers that "The Work Group acknowledges that the list of issues identified is not exhaustive and that other issues may arise through discussion by the MFC." The Commission has an opportunity here to further address the bycatch problems and user conflicts associated with this gear and should not be limited by the current options.</p> <p>With these issues, and other big decisions ahead on Amendments to the Southern Flounder, Shrimp, Estuarine Striped Bass, and Spotted Sea Trout FMPs, this Commission has the chance to end overfishing of important species and begin to rebuild, restore, and create sustainable fisheries for current and future generations. It just requires being bold enough to lead in a new direction.</p> <p>Good day. My family and I vacation in coastal NC every year on at least 3 separate occasions. This year we vacationed in the Outer Banks on four separate occasions and spent over \$7,000.00 just in lodging expenses. We spent over \$1,000 on food (mostly seafood) during the same trips. We will only buy from local markets that guarantee local fishermen caught the seafood. We are vehemently opposed to any regulations that would impede, restrict, curtail or otherwise damage ANY NC commercial fisheries including but not limited to inshore shrimping, trawl shrimping, gill netting, small mesh gill netting, crabbing and shellfishing. We want to encourage NCMFC and the State of NC to limit oyster aquaculture to small to medium size operations of local ownership and give the highest priority to granting aquaculture permits to individuals who currently hold NC commercial fisheries licenses (cards). Do not approve large scale aquaculture operations proposed by foreign or out-of-state companies trying to set up shop in NC waters.</p> <p>Thank you for reading and sharing our comments and concerns,</p> <p>John C. "Chris" Ludford Jennifer Ludford Cole Ludford</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					James Carson Ludford Jase Ludford 
121	08/23/2021 - 2:14pm	John	Foss	North Carolina	1 man with a rod and reel that's willing to buy a fishing license is should not be as limited on what and how many is caught he will not deplete any stock with a fishing pole not worth buying the license then especially since added cost for mountain trout and we're on the east coast pay more money and keep no fish oh 1 red drum maybe and that's your day
120	08/23/2021 - 2:13pm	Caleb	Gibbs	North Carolina	Commercial fishing is and important part of North Carolina economy and history along with the people who love seafood and and the family depending on the income Instead of takeing commercial fishing away how bout make the people stop changes going people money to catch the same fish in the same quantity
119	08/23/2021 - 2:09pm	Boyd	Brown	North Carolina	Highly recommend MFC adopt Option 4. Gill nets should be attended at all times. Too many sea turtles, sea birds, large red drum, etc. are trapped and drown in unattended gill nets Also recommend Option 9 prohibiting gill nets in high conflict areas. For instance, north of the Stella bridge on the White Oak River. The river gets very narrow north of the bridge and is choked with gill nets in fall and winter making the area virtually unusable for anyone else.....also unnavigable.
118	08/23/2021 - 1:31pm	Chas	Rowe	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
117	08/23/2021 - 1:30pm	Bay	Rowe	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing

#▼	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
116	08/23/2021 - 1:29pm	Barbara	Chainey	North Carolina	<p>regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
115	08/23/2021 - 1:28pm	John	Gardner	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
114	08/23/2021 - 1:28pm	Kai	Gardner	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The</p>

#▼	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
113	08/23/2021 - 1:27pm	Jayden	Gardner	North Carolina	<p>commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p> <p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
112	08/23/2021 - 1:07pm	Holly	Spencer	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
111	08/23/2021 - 12:49pm	Mark	Cable	North Carolina	<p>As a "senior citizen" from the middle of the state, I have many fond memories of trips to the NC coast to fish. I have definitely seen a decline in the numbers/size of fish available and my own success rate over the past few decades, I have spent a lot of money on gas, lodging, tackle, food, etc. at coastal establishments over time and contributed to the local economy. The decline in the resource has made it much harder for me to justify the expense of a "beach fishing trip" for myself and family. I would like to see resource management improved so that "future generations" will be able to enjoy what I have been able to in years past. I follow the advice of the "Coastal Conversation Association" and support the following available options for "small mesh gillnets".</p> <p>Yardage: Option 5 should be selected. Nets should be limited to 800 yards north of Highway 58 and to 500 yards south of Highway 58.</p> <p>Attendance: Option 4 should be selected. All gill nets in operation should be attended throughout NC.</p>

#▼	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
110	08/23/2021 - 12:17pm	Cameron	Whitaker	North Carolina	<p>Time/Area: A combination of three different management measures should be used together. Option 4 requiring mesh size to be greater than or equal to 3 inches. Option 5 stating no weekend netting, and Option 9 prohibiting nets in areas of high conflict (selected by MFC) should be used in tandem to minimize impacts in NC waters by these nets.</p> <p>I am reaching out to show my support for small sustainable Gill net fisheries in NC. Many coastal communities benefit from small sustainable Gill net fisheries and it provides great economic impact. These fisheries provide consumers access to a fresh sustainable locally sourced product.</p>
109	08/23/2021 - 12:01pm	Thomas	Newman	North Carolina	<p>Mr. Chairman and Commissioners,</p> <p>In regards to Small Mesh Gill Net Rule Modification, we strongly believe no further restrictions or laws are necessary without scientific justification and consideration to actual yardages historically used by our industry leaders. This whole mess began with user conflict in a few small areas. Scant scientific data and limited professional commercial fisherman input was used to set the current small mesh gill net regulations issued through proclamation M-14-2021. This was an unnecessary and unfair restriction on our state's gill net fisheries with no justification.</p> <p>That being said; we as a group of dedicated NC fishermen, who are financially dependent on small mesh gill nets, also believe special consideration should be given to the Pamlico Sound drift net fishery. We should be allowed well over the current 800 and 1,500 yard limits which have been issued through proclamation since early 2019. We have historically used an average of 2400 yards or more drift gill nets depending on fish abundance, fish prices, weather, tide/moon cycles, fuel prices, etc. We need this additional yardage to keep the Spanish mackerel drift net fishery economically viable in years when these variables change.</p> <p>According to data obtained from the North Carolina Trip Ticket Program, over the past 6 years (2015-2020) there have been 16 to 22 active vessels in the Pamlico Sound gill net fisheries with annual harvests of over 10,000 lbs. of Spanish mackerel. Only about half of these vessels in this same period harvested more than 20,000 lbs. annually. Data from NCDMF also supports how economically important the drift net fishery is for our dedicated Spanish mackerel fishermen. Total annual ex-vessel value for these 16-22 vessels in this period averaged over \$340,000 in Spanish mackerel sales alone. This revenue directly supports</p>

#▼

SUBMITTED

FIRST
NAME:

LAST
NAME:

STATE:

PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:

our families, our crew and their families, as well as our local fish houses, their employees, and many other aspects of our small commercial fishing communities.

We also have over a decade of North East Federal observer data coverage in the Pamlico Sound drift net fishery. From this abundance of observation, there is a large data set that shows:

(1) Yardage used for each vessel (well over the current proclamation limits of 800 and 1,500 yards)

(2) Zero endangered or threatened species interactions

(3) Low discard rates

The Pamlico Sound drift net fishery is an integral part of our state's commercial Spanish mackerel fishery. The drift net fishery in the Pamlico Sound has been documented as accountable, sustainable, and profitable. The NC commercial Spanish mackerel fishery overall is diverse. Our internal drift net fishery allows our commercial Spanish mackerel vessels to spread out and not concentrate pressure in other productive areas in the state waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

If the drift net fishery becomes economically unfeasible, pressure will definitely shift to the ocean Spanish mackerel fishery. Hurricanes, ever changing inlet conditions, wind direction, and limited productive areas in the ocean already limit when and where gill nets are used to harvest Spanish mackerel in NC's coastal waters. The ocean gill net fishery occurs almost entirely in water less than 25 feet deep in areas with no bottom snags; these conditions alone limit the amount of vessels who can participate in the ocean Spanish mackerel fishery.

We have included observer data and North Carolina state trip data compiled at our request from the North East Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) and from NCDMF staff to support our argument. We are also in the process of receiving a second more specific data request from NEFSC to provide documentation of the lengths of drift net that have historically been used in the Pamlico Sound drift net fishery.

Please contact us for any clarification or further questions.

Thank you for your time,

SUBMITTED FIRST NAME: LAST NAME: STATE: PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:

Thomas Newman F/V Gotta Go
[REDACTED]

John W. Smith F/V Jana Marie
[REDACTED]

Edward Lee Morris F/V Miss Stevie
[REDACTED]

Charles Van Salisbury "Good Time Charlie's Fisheries"
[REDACTED]

Mac Bishop F/V Still Kickin
[REDACTED]

Matt Huth F/V Lil' Finn
[REDACTED]

Richard "Catfish" Bass F/V Big Mac

Charlie Locke F/V Salvation
[REDACTED]

Parker Williams F/V Logan's Luck
[REDACTED]

Logan Williams F/V Stubborn One
[REDACTED]

Reuben F. Trant III F/V Hatterasser
[REDACTED]

Mark Jordan F/V Resurrection
[REDACTED]

[108](#)

08/23/2021 -
11:57am

Sara

Hallas

North
Carolina

I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood and there are already sufficient management measures in place. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already very well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the

#▼	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
107	08/23/2021 - 11:05am	James	Hayes	North Carolina	<p>midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions. Thank you for considering.</p>
106	08/23/2021 - 10:39am	John	McQuaid	North Carolina	<p>I support the following gill net regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal of all inshore gill nets 2. minimum gill net length - Option 5 3. gill net attendance mandatory - option 4 4. Time/Area: A combination of three different management measures should be used together. Option 4 requiring mesh size to be greater than or equal to 3 inches. Option 5 stating no weekend netting, and Option 9 prohibiting nets in areas of high conflict (selected by MFC) should be used in tandem to minimize impacts in NC waters by these nets.
105	08/23/2021 - 10:28am	Mikey	Daniels	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
104	08/23/2021 - 10:27am	Jeffrey	Tysinger	North Carolina	<p>My Gill net choices</p> <p>Yardage: Option 5 should be selected. Nets should be limited to 800 yards north of Highway 58 and to 500 yards south of Highway 58.</p> <p>Attendance: Option 4 should be selected. All gill nets in operation should be attended throughout NC.</p>

#▼	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
103	08/23/2021 - 9:59am	Amanda	Champlin	North Carolina	<p>Time/Area: A combination of three different management measures should be used together. Option 4 requiring mesh size to be greater than or equal to 3 inches. Option 5 stating no weekend netting, and Option 9 prohibiting nets in areas of high conflict (selected by MFC) should be used in tandem to minimize impacts in NC waters by these nets.</p> <p>while of what is available this are my choices no gill nets allowed should be the way you are moving if you want our fishery stock to actually recover so our grandchildren will actually have some fishery stock left.</p> <p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>

MFC Online Comments

August 23, 2021, 9:53 a.m.

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
102	08/23/2021 - 9:42am	Casey	Rowe	North Carolina	<p>Forgive the mass text —you are receiving this in an effort to be concise and time is urgent! We need everyone to click the link and copy/paste the comments in the</p> <p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
101	08/23/2021 - 9:40am	Casey	Gardner	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
100	08/23/2021 - 9:33am	Adolphus	Hines	North Carolina	<p>We need accurate Recreational Catch Data so we can get a handle on our Fish Populations come Management time.We can't keep going on educated Guesstimates when we have up to 1 million Rec anglers a yr in our waters.The small mesh and large mesh is already the most restrictive fishery effort at all time low no need for anymore Regulations in either Large or small Mesh.We need Accurate Recreational Catch Data before we ban any more Commercial gear.Our State guessing what 1 million Recs catch a yr is more of a problem than Gillnets will ever be.SAVE THE GILLNETS BAN THE REC CATCH</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					<p>GUESSTIMATES.All these Fishery Management plans have been and are Bogus till we get Accurate Recreational catch Data we have the resources to get it done tomorrow.</p>
99	08/23/2021 - 9:31am	Glenn	Skinner	North Carolina	<p>The North Carolina Fisheries Association (NCFA) opposes any further action, by the MFC, towards initiating rule-making for the use of small mesh gill nets in North Carolina.</p> <p>Our Board views the current small mesh gill net restrictions implemented through proclamation M-14-2021 and any further restrictions such as, yardage limits, or outright gear bans as arbitrary, unnecessary, and unduly burdensome upon those individuals engaged in the small mesh gill net fishery.</p> <p>The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries states that the primary issues to be addressed, through rulemaking on small mesh gill nets, concern the streamlining and simplification of all rules that directly or indirectly regulate small mesh gill nets, reduction and increased survival of bycatch, greater flexibility with constraining harvest of quota managed fisheries, and reducing conflict between gill net users and other stakeholders, but has provided no information demonstrating the necessity of addressing these issues through rulemaking.</p> <p>We believe the MFC has a duty to review all relevant information in regarding the use and impacts of small mesh gill nets, and compare this information to all other gears with similar uses and impacts before determining whether or not rulemaking is “necessary.”</p> <p>The MFC chose to consider rule making on small mesh gill nets, at the request of the DEQ Secretary and DMF Director, with no reasonable justification for doing so. To date, no document produced by the DMF, to the public, Standing Advisory Committees, or the MFC, contains any information regarding the use of small mesh gill nets, that would cause a reasonably intelligent individual to conclude initiating further rule-making for this gear is “necessary” for the MFC to fulfill its statutory duties.</p> <p>Instead the information produced by the Division has been nothing more than conclusory statements, “justifying” the decision to consider rule-making with no underlying logic or reasonable explanation for doing so.</p> <p>While the MFC has the authority to adopt rules for management, protection,</p>

#▼

SUBMITTED

FIRST
NAME:

LAST NAME:

STATE:

PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:

preservation, and enhancement of the resources within its jurisdiction, statute requires that these rules must be “necessary” and cannot be arbitrary or capricious in nature.

In our opinion, a vote by the MFC to initiate rule-making in hopes that the Division will provide information justifying rule-making sometime in the future, is itself arbitrary and capricious. Simply put, if the MFC chooses to initiate rule-making on small mesh gill nets with no compelling information providing rule-making is necessary, we have to assume you have taken this action simply because it is your will to do so and are abusing your delegated power to further personal agendas.

In regards to the issues of concern identified by the Division we would like to provide you with our perspective as to why rule-making to address these issues is not necessary.

Streamlining and simplification of Gill Net Rules

Admittedly measures regulating the use of small mesh gill nets in North Carolinas estuarine waters vary greatly by area but these measures, many of which have been in place for decades, are understood and accepted by the fishermen engaged in the small mesh gill net fishery. The patchwork restrictions regulating the use of small mesh gillnets were adopted to address species specific concerns or conflicts between user groups and were often implemented in specific areas to avoid creating undue burden to fisheries occurring in areas where the concerns or conflicts were not an issue. We believe that the administrative record clearly shows that past commissions have thoroughly scrutinized the use of small mesh gill nets and determined that the restrictions, implemented by them, were not “necessary” in all of our state’s estuarine waters. This said, without clear and definitive data demonstrating that current restrictions are not adequate or that the use of small mesh gill nets poses a greater threat to the resource that does the use of other gears it would be unwise to conclude that rule-making for this gear is necessary.

Reduction and Increased Survival of Bycatch

Past commissions have used data to effectively address the issues of bycatch and discard mortality in small mesh gill nets for species like Red Drum, through the FMP process, significantly reducing dead discards from this gear. Again, the Division has not provided any data to suggest that the overall abundance of any species is currently threatened by the use of small mesh gill nets in NC or

#▼

SUBMITTED

FIRST
NAME:

LAST NAME:

STATE:

PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:

that bycatch mortality from this gear exceeds the impacts of other gears like recreational hook and line, for example. Until species specific concerns are identified or discard mortality in small mesh gill nets is determined to pose a greater threat than mortality resulting from the use of other gear types, rule-making is unnecessary.

Greater Flexibility with Constraining Harvest of Quota Managed Fisheries

North Carolina already has the greatest flexibility for managing quotas of any coastal state, through proclamation authority NC has, for decades, efficiently managed commercial harvest in quota managed fisheries for all commercial gear types, including small mesh gill nets, by proclamation. The soul purpose of proclamation authority is to allow the state to quickly adjust restrictions affected by variable conditions such as allowing or prohibiting harvest in quota-based fisheries. Harvest varies greatly from year to year and is affected by many factors including effort, species abundance, and market demand, making it impossible to effectively manage quotas through set in stone rules. Restricting the use of small mesh gill nets, through rule, without the flexibility to adjust those rules by proclamation could prevent fishermen from successfully harvesting their allowed catch in the future, unnecessarily reducing food production in sustainably managed fisheries.

To even suggest that rule-making was “necessary” for NC to constrain harvest in quota managed fisheries when the DMF Director already has the authority to regulate harvest within 48 hours of notice is absurd!

Reduce Conflict Between Gill Net Users and Other Stakeholders

For the Commission to determine that rule-making on small mesh gill nets was “necessary” to reduce user conflict between gill net users and other stakeholders they would first have to assume gill net users’ actions were the sole source of the conflict. Furthermore, to consider options for statewide restrictions they would have to assume that conflicts were occurring in all coastal water bodies and again that all gill net users were the sole source of these assumed conflicts, not likely. Like the other issues of concern, user conflicts have been dealt with numerous times in the past and without exception were dealt with on a localized level as statewide user conflicts have never occurred.

There are several ways the state can deal with user conflicts including rule-

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					<p>making, mediation, proclamation, and the FMP process but the first step must be identifying and confirming a localized conflict. Simply stating that conflicts are occurring is not enough to conclude rule-making is necessary, without first providing adequate information to confirm there is a real and substantial conflict that needs addressing.</p> <p>Even if a conflict is occurring assuming that gill net users are to blame and initiating rule-making for that gear alone, without adequate information could result in an unnecessary rule. Again, no information has been provided to the commission to suggest rule-making for small mesh gill nets was “necessary” to address this issue or any other.</p> <p>For these reasons and many more the NCFCA recommends that the MFC instructs the DMF Director to remove the small mesh gill net restrictions implemented through proclamation M-14-2021 and refrain from adopting any further unnecessary restrictions regulating the use of small mesh gill nets through rule-making or any other process.</p> <p>Glenn Skinner Executive Director North Carolina Fisheries Association, Inc [REDACTED]</p>
98	08/23/2021 - 9:28am	Gregory	Judy	North Carolina	<p>I oppose any move to place current small mesh gill net proclamations into rule. These proclamations have proven to be an effective tool in the management of fisheries using small mesh gill nets. Some proclamations have been in effect for many years and the user groups affected by them are aware of the restrictions; but by being in proclamation the restrictions can be changed to address any changes that might be warranted by unforeseen events or conditions. Putting these proclamations into rule would only make managing our fisheries more difficult, due to the lack of flexibility.</p>
97	08/23/2021 - 9:26am	John	Smith	North Carolina	<p>My name is John W. Smith, and I am a full-time commercial fisherman and up until this year I have been a sole provider (with God’s help) for a family of five. Throughout 35 years of commercial fishing, I have experienced a lot of change in fishery management and rules – some good and some bad. It appears the small mesh gillnet fishery in North Carolina has become a target of special interest groups and certain recreational fishermen. One small mesh fishery in particular is the float net fishery for Spanish Mackerel and Bluefish in the Pamlico Sound. This float net fishery stands alone as far as small mess</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					<p>fisheries go. After, at least, 10 years of observer coverage, here are the facts: Interactions with endangered or threatened species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turtles – 0 • Sturgeon – 0 • Dolphins – 0 <p>Taking these statistics into consideration, the float net fishery should take its place as the poster child for small mesh gillnetting. Couple these statistics with the fact that there is also no measurable bycatch and literally no interactions with the recreational sector, it would seem a tragedy to allow this fishery to be eliminated. That would be a slap in the face to the fishermen who have worked hard to establish such clean, well-regulated fishery.</p> <p>I said in the beginning of this letter that some regulatory changes have been good, and some have been bad. To do away with such a proven fishery would not only be bad, it would also be totally unfair to blanket manage this fishery with all other small gillnet fisheries when in reality, there is no comparison. In addition, it would be disastrous to those of us who heavily depend on this fishery.</p> <p>I ask that an open-minded consideration be given to this float net fishery and that the right, just and honorable decision be made.</p> <p>John W. Smith ██████████</p>
96	08/23/2021 - 8:42am	Trey	Johnson	North Carolina	<p>The real dilemma....</p> <p>As The time progresses I find myself in amazement of the NCDMF. The numbers the marine fisheries are getting from “data” are so out of whack. I’m from ██████████ an avid weekend fishermen to the bay river and surrounding areas. Me and my buddies usually 1 or 2 go down in October/ November for the big trout run. I don’t think I’ve ever seen more recreational boats then I have in the past 2 years and every year it’s getting worse. On an average day me and my buddies can catch between 30-40 trout and usually and a couple of keeper drum to go along with them and we save our limits to take home. What about the people that don’t have access to the water like I do where are they going to get there fresh fish from. Don’t you think it’s unfair to them they’re not allowed access to fresh fish like me and my friends do? Last year trout fishing I think I remember seeing one commercial operation boat working a guy in his 50’s and his son maybe 30 on the boat helping. I felt bad for them working all day for a living on the cold water it’s bad enough to have to work in those elements on a daily basis and then the ncdmf is trying to put more regulations on them? You’re joking right... getting back to the “data” out of the past 3 years fishing</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					almost every weekend in the fall I've only been checked by an ncdmf officer once. I could of hauled in hundreds of fish and no one would of ever known. So I'm not sure how the ncdmf is calculating numbers for either side. There are atleast 20 recreational fishermen to 1 commercial guy. I fish for fun and to get out of the house the commercial side does it for a living I'm not sure how I'd like to be regulated out of my job or how'd I feel everything I've learned my whole life snatched piece by piece from me. Anyways my 3 minute speech is up hopefully you give these guys a fighting chance!
95	08/23/2021 - 8:28am	David	Shields	North Carolina	I appose any additional regulations on gillnetting and support removing some of the ones in place now. We are way over regulated as it is and so far most of the regulations have spotty at best data to back your closers
94	08/23/2021 - 8:19am	Johnathon	Myers	North Carolina	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I'm 67 years old and have grew up in the coastal community of North Carolina for 52 years of my life. I've enjoyed the waters of the coast for many weekends catching trout, drum, flounder hook and line. Generally I take my grandson out these days and enjoy the waters with him and let him catch the fish. The problem we're having today is not commercial fishermen but the guys from Raleigh coming down in there 100,000 dollar boats with the 10,000 dollars in electronic systems telling them where every fish is hiding on the bottom. Just 10 years ago there wasn't a 1/3 of the recreational fishermen. And nowadays you can't even find a boat ramp without it being full in the mornings to go catch a trout on an October morning. If you take it back 20 years ago there wasn't another recreational fishermen to be seen. Just commercial fishermen doing there normal day to day work making a living, a hard living at that. And to see their lively hoods stripped of them is shameful. I'm not sure how the department of NCDMF was raised but you don't bully ppl out of jobs like you're doing. It's bad enough to cut them down to 2 weeks of flounder fishing per year in each division of the sound...especially when that's when the trawl season opens up north where I grew up in New Jersey and the price of flounder drop to the yearly low. You have done nothing but hunt and pecked at the commercial families of the coast for years now and now you're trying to put another nail in there coffin. You the NCDMF is bowing down of the almighty dollar out of Raleigh and eventually Raleigh will sell you out also...I hope that you read this and feel ashamed on what you're trying to do to the last of a dying breed on this coast. North Carolina was built on commercial fishing.</p>
93	08/23/2021 - 8:12am	Sherrie	Styron	North Carolina	We have enough laws on us now. Please do some more research on this. Recreational and sports fishermen has more commercial fishing license than the real commercial fishermen. To me they should hold different licenses.

#	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					<p>Recreational fishermen are catching way more than a real commercial fisherman. In the pass 10 years commercial fishing boats downeast has dropped 80%. You would see this if the real commercial fisherman had different licenses.. Why more laws is it because of the CCA?? I have never seen has many fish or shrimp as I have in the past 10 years. Yes the numbers of catch is down. Why less fishermen and less boats as a real fisherman. I guess NC known for the best seafood has to ship imported seafood with more laws. What ashame on your part.. why more laws?? Don't we has real commercial fishermen deserve to fish?? God made us fishermen so please no more laws. Why not put some laws on the sports fishermen. Stop them from having commercial fishing license the ones that take people out fishing. Why do they have commercial fishing license?? Why wouldn't they have sports fishing license just like recreational... why are they allowed to catch big marlins? Which this day and time is hard to catch a 600 lb one here. Oh I know its all about that \$\$\$... all those little Dolphins coming in at the dock just for the poundage what's going on with that? There are more recreational sports boat taking people out then what they are real commercial fishermen we need to have different license and then you will see. Please we don't need no more laws on us don't you think we won't protect our fish we have sanctuaries that protect our fish we have sanctuaries that protect our shrimp .. Down East depends on fishing some of these boys and their generation has been fishing for 300 years ... It's bad that we can't even supply the restaurants around here and they have to order imported seafood while ashamed I blame this on you all. Please let us fish our lively hoods depend on it and so does our restaurants around here. I do believe we have enough laws in effect on us start on the sports fishing ones please when I go to a big rock event all I see is the fish coming in dead where does that go and what do they do all them big marlins why all the boats catching a bling Marlin how many of those were caught and release? Do u think that big fish lives after that fight for survival hell no??? What ashame what is being done to our fishermen.. if aanything save our marches from being build on. Save our water quality.. just fly over after a storm and see all the Chemicals leaching in our Is bays,sounds an ocean.. Do some research on this do the research on recreational fishermen sports fishermen and then the real commercial fishermen and you will see what's going on I have. May the dear Lord help us poor commercial fishermen... thank you</p>
92	08/23/2021 - 8:05am	David	Beresoff	North Carolina	<p>Please reconsider any drastic restrictions on small mesh gill nets . Fisheries are in a constant state of changing . Fishermen are struggling but gill netting is a viable way to make a good living . Have the commercial fishermen come together through a round table discussion to bring forth a better understanding of the do's and don't's of this gear and it's targeted species. So much bad</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					<p>propaganda is out there against gill nets that is untrue and unwarranted. Common complaint is discards , some of those are regulatory, others could be adjusted by attendance rules or mesh size adjustments.</p> <p>I'm still an active commercial fisherman I care about my marine Resources. We all need to understand one another to protect and utilize the resource together! Thank you for considering my comments</p>
91	08/23/2021 - 8:05am	Tyler	Egan	North Carolina	<p>I can share my feeling across the entire board of how multiple fisheries are managed in the state of North Carolina but being this regulated small mesh gill nets I will keep it on that topic. There is absolutely no reason to regulate gill nets any further that it has been. Zero legit data of proof proving so. You already can't set small mesh nets in majority of the state so why go after a fishery that strikes fish and hauls their gear while culling through perfectly live fish back to the waters. Topic of discussion should be all the gut hooked fish we see on a daily basis. Focus more on water quality and do the state the favor. If fishing was in such decline you wouldn't as a state be seeing an increase of sales in recreational licenses, building of more boat ramps, these little tackle shops literally buying out large commercial grocery stores to make a miniature bass pro shops after being in business for a couple years, the list is endless. The overfishing isn't from commercial. It's recreational with thousands of pounds being unaccounted for when the man that "has to be out there rain, wind, or shine" has every scale accounted for via trip ticket program. Enough is enough with these one sided regulations. No further regulations should be made unless adequate and fair data is shown on both sides. The commercial side is pretty concrete and the state knows it when recreational is a computer based algorithm with wildlife boat ramps surveys. I don't care where I commercial fisherman launches their boat or leaves it. If he wants to get paid and sell his catch by law it has to be recorded. We uphold up to our standard. I'll end with this. After this last year with Covid 19 and as many people are out of jobs, struggling to get by, and even homeless. The state of North Carolina should feel ashamed of themselves by even considering this action and what it's doing to our coastline communities.</p>
90	08/23/2021 - 7:56am	Carl	Smith III	North Carolina	<p>I am a fourth generation commercial fisherman in ██████ County. This has been a way of life for our family's for a very long time, as it is a way of life for many others in our great State. Commercial fisherman are already heavily regulated and extremely outnumbered compared to recreational fisherman. We love and respect our waters and wildlife and wish to keep our deep rooted heritage alive for future generations of waterman.</p>
89	08/23/2021 - 7:52am	Ervin	Sadler	North Carolina	<p>I'm Ervin Sadler, a commercial fishermen from ██████ county. I've commercially fished for the past 20 years. The issues on small marsh gill nets</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					<p>need to be addressed. The marine fisheries has already taken away flounder fishing for the commercial fishing community basically. So now all we have left is small mesh fishery. Spots,croakers, speckled trout, mullets,drum etc. for years the data shows less and less fish but the truth to the matter is there are less commercial fishermen inputting that data. There are roughly 1600 commercial license still in use to this day and roughly 500-700k Rec license sold annually. If you go out on any given day of the week no matter what part of the sound you'll see 20 rec boats to 1 commercial fishing operation. In the fall of the year when the trout bite is "hot" the numbers are far more greater. One creek can have 20 rec boats in it. Out of those 20 boats there is usually 2-3 ppl per boat and usually limit out on trout "8-12" fish. Vs that one commercial operation that catches the 75 fish limit. So for that one creek 20 recreational boats all out roughly 160-200 fish and injuring more by loss of hooks, baits etc. And the one commercial boat comes out with 75. Small marsh gill nets are regulated enough to the 800 yard limit. And the maximum of 4" webbing. The nets aren't the problem in this day and age it's the number of ppl going out and catching them. With the past year it has been a struggle in the U.S.A. With COVID-19 the last thing the NCDMF needs to think about is regulating more people out of a job. I'm not sure about you but I know my family or I will not eat imported seafood at any cost.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p>
88	08/23/2021 - 7:15am	Charles	Dunn	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
87	08/23/2021 - 5:11am	Frederick	Fulghum	North Carolina	<p>Hello, I'm a full time commercial fisherman out of ██████████, NC. Looking over the small mesh gill net rules modification document a few things concern me. Yardage limits, i do believe there should be some sort of limit, in my part of the state 800 yards of gillnet for internal waters inside the inlet might would be ok, although north towards Pamlico sound and beyond fishing practices are totally</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					different and they might require more especially for the Spanish mackerel fishery. As for attendance requirements in my part of the state just about everyone attends set gill nets in internal waters, it's a whole different fishery than the northern part of the state and I'm not familiar with there fishing practices so can not speak for them, with the mesh size I would like to see it stay at 2.5 ISM, anything more than that would ruin my spring sea mullet fishing which is a large part of my income that I depend on.
86	08/23/2021 - 4:29am	Jake	Griffin	North Carolina	<p>Panels and Commission,</p> <p>Please look into the reality of what's proposed and what's at stake. North Carolina's small mesh fishery has the most participants, made up from full time fishermen to those who do it in the winter to pick up slack to keep bills paid and families fed. The majority of this is to appease a certain user group, as stated in the last sentence under ISSUE. "The greatest extent practical to reduce conflict between gill net users and other stake holders", we can find a solution without going to the greatest extent to appease certain stakeholders. What stocks are of concern? Juvenile or adult abundancies? Didn't read where that was the main concern, because determining that would better address the issue at hand. Mesh size restrictions and seasons could save smaller fish while allowing a fishery. North Carolina is very diverse, getting two migrations of stocks. Please regulate it accordingly not just picking a simple "fix all" answer.</p>
85	08/22/2021 - 10:34pm	Keanan	Brickhouse	North Carolina	<p>Hello I am a commercial fishermen and single dad to 3 kids. I count on fishing nets to help provide for my family. I don't have much by catch at all and what by catch I do have I throw back alive. There is no reason to shut down nets and hurt us commercial fishermen even more. We already have Covid were dealing with. Thanks Keanan B.</p>
84	08/22/2021 - 10:30pm	Keanan	Brickhouse	North Carolina	<p>Hello I am a commercial fishermen and single dad to 3 kids. I count on fishing nets to help provide for my family. I don't have much by catch at all and what by catch I do have I throw back alive. There is no reason to shut down nets and hurt us commercial fishermen even more. We already have Covid were dealing with. Thanks Keanan B.</p>
83	08/22/2021 - 9:43pm	Larry	Daddy jr	North Carolina	<p>The way it is with the rules now ther is no way no longer than we can leave nets set..or just drop neting doesn't bother anything or anyone but it only makes it harder for people to make a living if we can't fish</p>
82	08/22/2021 - 9:11pm	donnie	davis	North Carolina	<p>what scientific evidence is there to support a small gillnet closure? as a full time guide with 20+ years of guiding experience in the albemarle and pamlico sounds it appears the speckled trout and red drum stocks are extremely</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					healthy. again, i ask, what scientific or even anecdotal evidence is there to support a closure of the small mesh gillnet fishery?
81	08/22/2021 - 9:10pm	donnie	davis	North Carolina	what scientific evidence is there to support a small gillnet closure? as a full time guide with 20+ years of guiding experience in the albemarle and pamlico sounds it appears the speckled trout and red drum stocks are extremely healthy. again, i ask, what scientific or even anecdotal evidence is there to support a closure of the small mesh gillnet fishery?
80	08/22/2021 - 9:10pm	Mark	Jordon	North Carolina	I been gill netting for 30 plus years and the problem is not the Gill nets it's the pollution you keep letting the farmers dump millions of gallons of pesticides and bio defoliant spray on the fields and all that floating down the river killing everything in its path!! Thanks a lot for destroying fishermen lives!!
79	08/22/2021 - 9:05pm	Allen	Mason	North Carolina	Do not shut down gill netting in the Pamlico sound. It is a way of life for many people around hyde county and many other counties. You've got to think of all the lives you will hurt by shutting this down.
78	08/22/2021 - 7:30pm	Matthew	Huth	North Carolina	I'm a commercial fishermen in NC. With the over abundance of Spanish mackerel there is no need to have less than 2000 yards of net for harvesting. It is an environmentally clean and economically valuable fishery to NC.
77	08/22/2021 - 6:41pm	Ken	Savage	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.
76	08/22/2021 - 6:33pm	Amanda	Savage	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.
75	08/22/2021 - 5:48pm	Nicole	Blount	North Carolina	<p>Forgive the mass text—you are receiving this in an effort to be concise and time is urgent! We need everyone to click the link and copy/paste the comments in the section. It takes LESS than one minute! Even though this may NOT be our specific fishery—we have to unify together as commercial fishermen and families and stand for the next generation!</p> <p>Please share with others!! Comments due by 5:00 tomorrow!</p> <p>Copy/Paste:</p> <p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
74	08/22/2021 - 5:41pm	Charlie	Locke	North Carolina	<p>As a commercial fisherman you may be surprised to hear me say I believe in the Science. Here in North Carolina we have ample real data to support keeping our inshore Gillnet fisheries thriving. Unfortunately politics has stuck its nose into fishery management and that is not a direction to go for the citizens that rely on a sustainable local wild seafood supply. We heavily rely on the inshore gillnet fishery to give more opportunities to small scale fisherman that cannot access ocean waters due to either the size of there vessel or the ocean conditions that we face off of the Carolina coast. We are regulated to death as it is, and the management measures that are already in place are insuring a healthy sustainable population of almost all the species we fish for. The Spanish mackerel drift net fishery is probably the most consistent fishery we have for over 4 months of the year. This fishery also has some of the best observer data available further backing up the efficiency and lack of by catch. North Carolina fisherman just want to work and provide a safe local sustainable seafood product to the citizens that do not have the means to go harvest it themselves, we are there link to this public trust resource. Please don't take</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					that away from us and the citizens of this great state. Thank you for your time. Charlie Locke [REDACTED]
73	08/22/2021 - 5:20pm	Brenda	Davis	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
72	08/22/2021 - 5:20pm	John	Silver	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.
71	08/22/2021 - 5:13pm	Shannon	ONeal	North Carolina	We need to remain at status quo in regards to small mesh Gill net modifications.
70	08/22/2021 - 4:20pm	Ryan	Speckman	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
69	08/22/2021 - 4:07pm	Reuben	Trant	North Carolina	I am opposed to a small mesh gill net ban in the Pamlico Sound.
68	08/22/2021 - 3:47pm	Dinah	Jennings	Virginia	To whom it may concern: I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. NC Waters are well-managed and any further modifications would impact North Carolina seafood productions thus impacting American families who provide seafood to the consumer which stimulates the economy. Thank you for allowing this platform to voice a concern.
67	08/22/2021 - 3:16pm	Charles	Van Salisbury	North Carolina	All gillnet effort is at a all time low already, with anymore regulations placed probably destroying the only means of harvesting fresh healthy fish from the sounds and bays.. fish are food and should be available for everyone, not just one user group... there is no reason to put anymore regulations on a fishery that is already over regulated , there is no scientific reason only political reason to even consider anymore regulations... I've carried observers with me since the 90's and it's no secret the small mesh gillnet fishery is a clean fishery... seriously if anything should be done , the small mesh gillnet fisheries should be giving more fish quotas and options , the bycatch drum fishery is a joke with flounder, black drum (large mesh fishery) being used as a bycatch (close most of the year) , blue fish and mullet which is not always available , why wouldn't trout or Spanish mackerel or any edible fish not allowed to be used for bycatch?... recreational harvested 2 million 600,000 lbs of speckled trout compared to the commercial quota of 500,000 lbs , please consider the fish eating public, people not capable to recreational fish , tourists that want to eat fresh local fish and people in the western parts of the state the have just as much rights to enjoy fresh fish caught by commercial gillnets... there is NO REASON for any more gillnet regulations... Chesapeake Bay allows small mesh gillnet fishing for the same species of fish we target in North Carolina (with unattended gill nets) , please North Carolina commercial fishermen are running out of options to make a living, anymore regulations will end a way of life for many people... Charles Van Salisbury , good time Charlie's fisheries [REDACTED] North Carolina. [REDACTED] ... thank you
66	08/22/2021 - 3:14pm	Charles	Van Salisbury	North Carolina	DUPLICATE All gillnet effort is at a all time low already, with anymore regulations placed probably destroying the only means of harvesting fresh healthy fish from the sounds and bays.. fish are food and should be available for everyone, not just one use group... there is no reason to put anymore regulations on a fishery that is already over regulated , there is no scientific reason only political reason to even consider anymore regulations... I've carried observers with me since the 90's and it's no secret the small mesh gillnet fishery is a clean fishery...

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
65	08/22/2021 - 3:13pm	Kaitlyn	Daniels	North Carolina	<p>seriously if anything should be done , the small mesh gillnet fisheries should be giving more fish quotas and options , the bycatch drum fishery is a joke with flounder, black drum (large mesh fishery) being used as a bycatch (close most of the year) , blue fish and mullet which is not always available , why wouldn't trout or Spanish mackerel or any edible fish not allowed to be used for bycatch?... recreational harvested 2 million 600,000 lbs of speckled trout compared to the commercial quota of 500,000 lbs , please consider the fish eating public, people not capable to recreational fish , tourists that want to eat fresh local fish and people in the western parts of the state the have just as much rights to enjoy fresh fish caught by commercial gillnets... there is NO REASON for any more gillnet regulations... Chesapeake Bay allows small mesh gillnet fishing for the same species of fish we target in North Carolina (with unattended gill nets) , please North Carolina commercial fishermen are running out of options to make a living, anymore regulations will end a way of life for many people... Charles Van Salisbury , good time Charlie's fisheries [REDACTED] North Carolina. [REDACTED] ... thank you</p>
64	08/22/2021 - 1:27pm	Michael	Sadler	North Carolina	<p>Forgive the mass text —you are receiving this in an effort to be concise and time is urgent! We need everyone to click the link and copy/paste the comments in the section. It takes LESS than one minute! Even though this may NOT be our specific fishery—we have to unify together as commercial fishermen and families and stand for the next generation!</p> <p>Please share with others!! Comments due by 5:00 tomorrow!</p> <p>Copy/Paste:</p> <p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
63	08/22/2021 - 1:25pm	Louie	Reber	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
62	08/22/2021 - 1:18pm	Isaac	Reber	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
61	08/22/2021 - 1:09pm	Dakota	Banton	North Carolina	Please exempt Spot and Kingfish from rule 3M101.
60	08/22/2021 - 12:55pm	Jacob	spruill	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
59	08/22/2021 - 12:54pm	michael	spruill	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
58	08/22/2021 - 12:53pm	Reggie	Bishop III	North Carolina	<p>Forgive the mass text—you are receiving this in an effort to be concise and time is urgent! We need everyone to click the link and copy/paste the comments in the section. It takes LESS than one minute! Even though this may NOT be our specific fishery—we have to unify together as commercial fishermen and families and stand for the next generation!</p> <p>Please share with others!! Comments due by 5:00 tomorrow!</p> <p>Copy/Paste:</p> <p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
57	08/22/2021 - 12:51pm	Richard	Baum	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
56	08/22/2021 - 12:50pm	Brandi	Miss	North Carolina	<p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user group, eliminates a food source for millions.</p>
55	08/22/2021 - 12:49pm	Jon	Steeves	North Carolina	<p>Additionally to the agreed statement below further continuous reduction in quota/landings without subsidies ie. Farmers for NC producers, processors, packers will result in the necessary closure of businesses statewide and the loss of jobs, taxes, and income for the industry and state. Additional supplier businesses and tourist industry we supply fresh product to will all be harmed. Commercial fishing is one of the world's oldest industries why are we not protected and subsidized similar to US farmers when government is responsible for taking the fishermen's livelihoods?</p> <p>I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
54	08/22/2021 - 12:49pm	Floyd	Gibbs	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
53	08/22/2021 - 12:38pm	Patrice	Clarke	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. We are in the midst of a pandemic, not a time to limit food. Any modifications would hurt commercial fishermen. We need to support our commercial fishing industry. Don't try to destroy it.
52	08/22/2021 - 12:25pm	Sadie	Daniels	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
51	08/22/2021 - 12:22pm	Ella	Mann	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
50	08/22/2021 - 12:22pm	Blane	Mann	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
49	08/22/2021 - 12:21pm	Carter	Mann	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
48	08/22/2021 - 12:19pm	Sarah	Alligood	North Carolina	Please listen: I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages. I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
47	08/22/2021 - 12:17pm	Leonard	Daniels	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
46	08/22/2021 - 12:15pm	Anthony	Rocco Gurrera	New York	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
45	08/22/2021 - 12:09pm	Gray	Blount	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.
44	08/22/2021 - 11:57am	Micah	Daniels	North Carolina	I am in opposition to any small mesh gill net rules modifications. Any additional regulations would limit consumers access to NC Seafood. The waters and their contents are a public trust resource and are already well-managed. Increasing regulations would decrease the access consumers have to NC seafood. Furthermore, in the midst of a global pandemic where production is limited due to labor shortages, I'm unsure why regulations would be implemented to decrease access to food as well as devastate the livelihood of commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen provide a food source to many Americans; implementing regulations to eliminate this user groups, eliminates a food source for millions.

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
43	08/22/2021 - 11:38am	Andrew	Trant	North Carolina	I am opposed to a gill net ban in Pamlico Sound.
42	08/22/2021 - 11:18am	Morton	Gaskill	North Carolina	I am in favor of maintaining status quo in regards to gillnets. There are already regulations in place that are working as intended.
41	08/22/2021 - 9:40am	Jamie	Wescott	North Carolina	I believe we need to remain at status quo for the small mesh gill net fishery
40	08/22/2021 - 9:17am	Mac	Bishop	North Carolina	<p>My name is Mac Bishop and I am I full time commerical gillnetter. For the last five years I have participated in the drift net fisheries in the Pamlico sound. The last two years my profits have decreased due to yardage limits.</p> <p>With ample observer coverage, we know this is a clean, zero to minimal interaction with endangered species and marine mammals. This should be the deciding factor in if the fishery is effected, not a complaint about a part-time fisherman who was more than likely trying to catch trout.</p> <p>Because we work at night we have zero interaction with recreational fisherman. Fishery after fishery that has been taken away was done so by science. Well that data shows there was no changes needed to be made, let alone a complete gillnet ban in internal waters.</p>
39	08/21/2021 - 7:35pm	James	Siebold	North Carolina	<p>I am full time gill net fisherman on the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] rivers. Are small mesh gill net fishery. Is one of the most regulated on the east coast. There is no science in any of the regulation measures the state wants to propose. It is political. If the minimum mesh size is increased it will destroy are spring time spot and croaker fishery which is essential for us to make it through the spring. With us not being able to set net and relying on drop netting it not only extremely sustainable. Bicatch and bycatch survival rate is very high. Change is not necessary. Science is necessary, not politics. Any the area I fish under the age of 50, there is one other full time gill net fisherman. There is less of us every year. We depend on the small net fishery to not become more regulated. And the crab potters on years like this where crabbing is not good depend on the small mesh gill net fishery to make it by. Any more change would cripple are spot drop net fishery.</p>
38	08/21/2021 - 2:57pm	Randy	Jett	North Carolina	<p>I have been a commercial fisherman for 30 of my 49 years on this earth. Fishing has always been a passion of mine, and over the past 25 years I have watched my way of providing for my family, slowly be regulated almost out of existence. Not because of factual information but politics. It is being destroyed not on observational evidence but on numbers derived from a book.</p> <p>Our coastal resources are rich, and it must be protected, but not at the expense of livelihood and communities that depend on that resource to live. It is not just</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					my job in jeopardy of being lost, but fish houses, wholesalers, restaurants, and countless other businesses that rely these resources. Where do you want your food coming from, local fishermen or Chinese fishermen? If we are regulated out of this industry, then your options for fresh seafood will only be imported from unregulated countries.
37	08/21/2021 - 1:21pm	Edward	Scarborough	North Carolina	I have been fishing since age 8. I am now 43. I depend on drift gill net fishing to provide for my family in the summer months. Due to the increase in regulations this fishery is absolutely vital to my ability to continue to commercial fish. This is the most selective fishery with an untraceable amount of bycatch. There is more fish than ever in the Pamlico Sound and the Atlantic Ocean off of Capr Hatteras. All user groups can thrive. No further regulation is needed except for the fact one user group wants the resource for the elite. All residents and visitors have the God given right to enjoy fresh locally caught seafood.
36	08/21/2021 - 10:21am	Steve	Heins	North Carolina	I support the exemption for spot from the no mutilation requirement under Rule 3M101.
35	08/21/2021 - 8:34am	Charles	Dew	North Carolina	Regulations should not limit finfish without size limits from being used as bait. Fishermen could be required to retain an identifiable portion to satisfy the bag limit requirement. It doesn't matter if the fish is kept for food or bait so long as the bag limit is observed.
34	08/21/2021 - 3:05am	Michael	Peck	North Carolina	I can understand the need for a bag limit on spot but please make an amendment to rule 3M101 allowing us fisherman to continue to use Spot as a cut bait fish.
33	08/20/2021 - 10:47pm	Brandi	Smith	North Carolina	This is beyond ridiculous.
32	08/20/2021 - 6:37pm	John	Selwanes	North Carolina	Please consider exemption of spots and whiting for new mutilation requirements.
31	08/20/2021 - 5:37pm	Robert	Leitch	North Carolina	Allow Gill Net Fishing: Everybody fishes or nobody fishes! We all pay taxes in this state so we should be able to fish in this state. If there is a shortage of fish then nobody should fish no matter what you use to catch them.
30	08/20/2021 - 4:42pm	edward	vosnock	North Carolina	I buy a rec. comm. gear license every year. Have had one most of my life. Am now 71 years old. You are making it harder every year to fish. Fisheries just wants to get rid of us. We cause no damage to the stock and only keep what

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
					we can eat. The fishing industry is over regulated and N. C. Marine Fisheries is no friend of the fisherman.
29	08/20/2021 - 4:23pm	Kerick	Hammonds	North Carolina	No limit on spots
28	08/20/2021 - 4:21pm	Alison	Brooks	North Carolina	No limit on spots
27	08/20/2021 - 4:19pm	Raquel	Brooks	North Carolina	No limit on spots
26	08/20/2021 - 3:57pm	Mitchell	Lassard	North Carolina	How can you make rules on Laws that are still in the House and Senate. You are not voted into office. You are a political hack. You go against the North Carolina Constitution. Let the Law makers do their job. Don't try and be the judge, jury, and executioner.
25	08/20/2021 - 2:51pm	Robert	Padavich	North Carolina	I have been recreational net fishing for over 50 years. Flounder seems to be plentiful in this area. These fish are caught for my use and my family's use only. The only benefit I see in this change is the price increase for restaurants and retail fish markets. Middle income people who enjoy seafood will suffer most in their ability to purchase seafood. If this is such a critical problem that we fish with nets, why are you waiting until the 25 to have a meeting to make this decision when the limited season begins September 1. Why should we purchase license if we cannot fish? Vote to keep recreational net fishing open for flounder and spots.
24	08/20/2021 - 2:37pm	Chris	Patterson	North Carolina	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the amendment to rule 3M101 under consideration at the Aug. NCMFC meeting. Under rule 3M101, fish with a size and daily bag limit shall not be mutilated and must remain with head and tail connected. I'm writing to add spot, sea mullet, and croaker to the exempted list for this rule.</p> <p>As a local resident of the outer banks of NC and avid red drum fishermen, harvested spot, sea mullet, and croaker are some the preferred baits in the red drum fishing community. Local tackle shops sell spot for cut bait, many fishermen will also buy these species from local seafood markets for cut bait. Collecting the heads from these species at the local fishing pier cleaning stations is a very popular way to acquire bait at times but with that being said it's only the fish heads you will have possession of. This amendment to rule 3M101 would put marine fisheries law enforcement in the unenviable position of ticketing anglers who are not harvesting above the prescribed bag limit. I call on the commission to add these species to the exempt list.</p>

#▼	SUBMITTED	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	STATE:	PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:
23	08/20/2021 - 2:09pm	Jeffrey	Gaskins	North Carolina	I would like spots and bluefish be added to list I along with a lot of others use them as bait
22	08/20/2021 - 2:08pm	Terry	Rose	North Carolina	With regards to the proposed amendment to rule 3m101. Because Spot are regularly used as bait pl3as3 either add spot as an exemption or amended it to remove the bag limit portion of the rule.

MFC Online Comments
August 20, 2021

#	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
21	08/20/2021 - 1:49pm	Hoy Scott	Poole	North Carolina	Sure it ok to use spot and crokers
20	08/20/2021 - 1:32pm	Joshua	Sloop	North Carolina	Requesting spot be exempt or The rule be amended to size limit only
19	08/20/2021 - 1:05pm	Jonathan	French	Virginia	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the amendment to rule 3M101 under consideration at the August NCMFC meeting. Under rule 3M101, fish with a size and or daily bag limit shall NOT be mutilated and must remain with head and tail connected. I am writing to add spot, sea mullet, and croaker to the exempted list for this rule.</p> <p>Fall fishing for large red drum from the surf and piers is a significant driver for tourism in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and is the primary reason my family visits the state. While striped mullet and shad are occasionally available for sale at local tackle shops, the most reliable fall bait source are the heads of harvested spot. Drum anglers will often catch spot to supplement their bait, or receive the heads of spot from other pier anglers who clean their catch before departing the pier. Drum anglers also will use sea mullet (whiting) and croaker heads if spot and striped mullet are not available to use as bait.</p> <p>Not being allowed to utilize spot heads would be a significant detriment to pier anglers, and would put marine fisheries law enforcement in the unenviable position of ticketing anglers who are not harvesting above the prescribed bag limits for spot. I do support the bag limit. But, for species which do not have a size limit and serve as a bait source, I call on the Commission to add those species to the exempt list.</p> <p>Thank you, Jonathan French [REDACTED] VA</p>
18	08/20/2021 - 12:36pm	Mitchell	Lassard	North Carolina	Let the lawmakers make the laws not this commission.
17	08/20/2021 - 12:33pm	Jon	Worthington	North Carolina	We use Spot cut into several pieces for cut bait for Red Drum. This has been a standard bait for me since I was 7 years old and I am now 55 years old. The economic impact for passing this regulation is tremendous when you think about all of the Red Drum fishermen that travel to the Outer Banks to spend money at

<u>#</u>	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
					piers, tackle shops, restaurants and hotels. I believe this regulation is a solution looking for a problem and I don't appreciate my choice of bait being outlawed unless you can show me a good reason and through my research and conversations with scientists in fisheries management and they agree this regulation is not needed.
16	08/20/2021 - 12:19pm	Free	Person	North Carolina	Spots and blues need to be exempt from the "mutilation" rule. They are great to eat as well as use for bait. There is absolutely no reason that we should not be able to at least head them off and use that for bait
15	08/20/2021 - 12:03pm	Ryan	Powell	Virginia	Please exempt spot and Spanish mackerel, they are the best bait
14	08/20/2021 - 11:52am	Ernest	Brooks	North Carolina	Remove bag limit for spots
13	08/20/2021 - 11:07am	Brian	Yeatts	North Carolina	I do not support this amendment as it would negatively effect a sportsman's ability to use well known and widely use types of bait to target specific species of game fish.
12	08/20/2021 - 10:56am	Rob	Green	North Carolina	Amend to remove spots from the limits
11	08/20/2021 - 10:53am	Terry	Plumlee	North Carolina	I agree that for spot and other small fishes (kingfish, bluefish) used as bait for larger species such as red drum should be exempt from the mutilation prohibition for fish with creel or size limits. These are some of the most used baits for red drum.
10	08/20/2021 - 10:38am	Howard	Crumpler	North Carolina	Spots should be add to the exemption list because they're used for bait. Also under this rule we would no longer be allowed to clean them on the pier.
9	08/20/2021 - 10:28am	Nick	Bashford	North Carolina	Add spot to the exemption list or remove the bag limit rule
8	08/20/2021 - 10:15am	Eric	Bregman	North Carolina	I would like to ask the MFC to amend rule 3M101 to include Spot on the exemption list, so that Spot can be used as Cut bait without concern the same as stripped mullet. Another option would be to amend the rule to remove creel limit and only apply the rule to species with a minimum length.
7	08/20/2021 - 10:15am	Scott	Williams	North Carolina	My name is Scott Williams and i am hoping that you can add an amendment to rule 3M101 to exclude spots and bluefish like striped mullet and shad already are. Spots and bluefish are a prominent bait in the red drum fishery, which is 100% catch and release. Thank you for your time.

<u>#</u>	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
					<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>I am writing in regard to Rule 3M101 which requires species with daily bag limits or a size limit to remain intact (head and tail connected) while still fishing or leaving or returning to port, beach or pier. While I understand the importance of this rule, I also understand certain species can be made exempt from this rule. I believe striped mullet and shad currently are exempt, as they are regularly used as bait.</p>
<u>6</u>	08/20/2021 - 10:12am	Dave	Vachet	Virginia	<p>I am requesting that spot be made exempt from this rule. Since spot are now being regulated with a bag limit (one I fully support), they are also frequently used as bait. I am a surf fisherman that regularly targets large red drum, particularly in autumn. Spot heads are considered prime bait by many of us. I travel from Virginia to fish your waters, sometimes purchasing spot in seafood markets to use as bait. This is common practice, but nowhere near the tune of 50 fish per day.</p> <p>Please exempt spot from the mutilation rule so we may continue using them for sportfishing, while supporting the commercial industry by making purchases in markets.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<u>5</u>	08/20/2021 - 8:05am	Travis	Kemp	North Carolina	<p>I believe spot should be added to the exemption list due to its popularity as a bait fish. However another good option would be to remove to creel limit portion of the current rule to allow fish without a size limit to be used as cut bait.</p>
<u>4</u>	08/20/2021 - 7:09am	LANCE	LUKE	North Carolina	<p>Spot, should NOT be in this rule, thats ridiculous that yall even are making us ask for thos not to be added.... there is no point in spot being in this rule. Please find something better to do.</p>
<u>3</u>	08/18/2021 - 3:47pm	Chris	Mccaffity	North Carolina	<p>Please focus more on enhancing our fisheries and food supply than restricting the public's freedom to access them. Wise use of hatcheries and habitat enhancements can be the perfect blend of public-water aquaculture and wild-caught seafood that lives free and self-sufficient until harvested by independent fishermen. This solution would benefit EVERYONE and the environment while keeping fish and fishermen out of corporate cages to remain wild and free. Our license fees along with a realignment of management priorities could fund enhancement efforts.</p>

MFC Comments
August 18, 2021
11:00 a.m.

<u>#</u> ▼	<u>SUBMITTED</u>	<u>FIRST NAME:</u>	<u>LAST NAME:</u>	<u>STATE:</u>	<u>PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE BOX BELOW:</u>
<u>2</u>	08/17/2021 - 11:24am	Ralph	Gallo	North Carolina	This is the peoples resource and is being decimated by inshore trawling! I live on the intracoastal and i see the abuse to the nursery in real time. This must stop NOW not further down the road. The commissioners are supposed to represent the people, so grow a spine and take action NOW. Thank You for reading, Ralph Gallo
<u>1</u>	08/16/2021 - 1:18pm	william	glover	North Carolina	When are we going to end nets and trawlers in the bays and estuaries in North Carolina? We are the only state in the Union that still allows it while we whittle down fishing limits and seasons. We talk a lot about saving the industry, but you guys do nothing. What's next, One Flounder a day, One Redfish a day, One Trout a day?



North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
PO Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557

August 17, 2021

Dear Members:

Please see attached letter the North Carolina Watermen United would like read at the MFC meeting scheduled for Aug 25-27.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Perry Wood Beasley

Perry Wood Beasley
President, NCWU

PWB: wj

Board of Directors

Andrew Berry	Billy Maxwell
Capt Sonny Davis	Greg Mayer
Ernie Doshier	Jamie Reibel
Ernie Foster	Britt Shackelford
Tom Harper	Duke Spencer
Glen Hopkins	Rom Whitaker

The North Carolina Waterman United (NCWU) Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to voice our opposition to the proposed North Carolina Shrimp Fishery Management Plan / Amendment 2. If passed, this amendment would ultimately close approximately 75% of North Carolina's inland waters where the state's shrimp are harvested. Currently, nearly half, or 996,690 acres of North Carolina's estuarine waters are permanently closed to shrimp trawling and another 76,160 acres are managed with seasonal closures. Results would have a devastating blow not only to our hard-working coastal fishermen but to wholesale/retail businesses and ultimately the consumers of fresh NC caught shrimp.

Knowing the closure of additional available waters will not be beneficial, let us not forget the most important factor of all, mother nature. Most shrimping takes place in the summer months and fall, right in the heart of hurricane season. In addition, runoff by excess rain, water quality and of course regular weather have a role in preventing our shrimpers to even attempt to be on the water.

The demand for NC caught shrimp is increasing and Amendment 2 would only further restrict our efforts to supply the consumers. The lack of fresh caught shrimp has resulted in businesses across North Carolina to "mislabel" their product. A recent article published in Raleigh's *WRAL INVESTIGATES* dated May 26, 2021 quoted John Bruno, a marine ecology professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "We've tested over 100 shrimp from vendors from the coast, across the Piedmont and in the mountains, and about a third is mislabeled." Over the past four years, Bruno said his team has sampled shrimp from markets a total of seven times and only once was the shrimp from East Coast waters.

Without the ability to supply the demand for NC caught shrimp, imported shrimp, where there are few regulations on quality and chemical contaminants, could and will become a major supplier. The USFDA has sampled imported seafood including shrimp only to find cancer-causing chemicals and antibiotics (including fluoroquinolone) that are banned in the US for human consumption. Yet, another reason to allow our fisherman to supply the ever-increasing demand.

The main reasoning for Amendment 2 on the shrimp management plan is to protect the by-catch, primarily croaker and spot. But the NCDMF has measurements and restrictions already in place to protect and help prevent the catch of these species. Following these requirements on limited days and times, large currently closed areas and of course the weather greatly decrease the actual number of days a commercial fisherman can be on the water. Examining the equipment already in use: every shrimp net is required to now have 2 (two) fish excluders installed and the tail bag has been enlarged to better facilitate a decrease in by-catch. In addition, turtle excluder devices (TED) have been in place for over thirty years to promote conservation by addressing the interaction between sea turtles and trawl fishing gear.

Dan Zapf, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries biologist supervisor, noted on the NCDMF website, "NCDMF fishery surveys show juvenile Atlantic croaker and spot remain some of the most abundant species in North Carolina estuaries and neither, while studies have shown reason for concern and commercial landings for both species have declined, fishery surveys show stable and increasing abundance...neither species is at risk of going away."

The NCWU implores the NC Division of Marine Fisheries to consider not only the economic and social ramifications to our coastal fisherman but also the negative impact on supplying the consumers of North Carolina a product that is in such high demand. Our Board of Directors also believe further studies are needed before any action should be taken by the Commission in reviewing Amendment 2 during your August 2021 meetings before sending to the Marine Fisheries Commission for their October 13th meeting.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on our position.

From: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
To: [Gillikin, Dana](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Re: Public Comment- August 2021 Business Meeting (Shrimp Trawl Effort: Pamlico Sound and Nearshore Ocean Waters)
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:54:53 AM

Lara K. J. Klibansky
Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison
Executive Assistant for Councils and Commissions
NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Department of Environmental Quality



252 515 6020 mobile (direct)
252 726 7021 main office
Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov

P.O. Box 769
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties

From: Rob Bizzell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 4:07 PM
To: rick sasser [REDACTED]
Cc: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Public Comment- August 2021 Business Meeting (Shrimp Trawl Effort: Pamlico Sound and Nearshore Ocean Waters)

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Yes

“Take care of business and make things happen”

On Aug 23, 2021, at 2:17 PM, rick sasser [REDACTED] wrote:

As my "public comment" this goes into the public record, officially, correct?

From: rick sasser [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Rob Bizzell [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Public Comment- August 2021 Business Meeting (Shrimp Trawl Effort: Pamlico Sound and Nearshore Ocean Waters)

I saw that, which is GREAT! We have plenty of time to incorporate the points in my email below into the draft FMP. Thanks

From: Rob Bizzell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 1:34 PM
To: rick sasser [REDACTED]
Cc: Rawls, Kathy <kathy.rawls@ncdenr.gov>; j.kornegay.mfc@ncdenr.gov <j.kornegay.mfc@ncdenr.gov>; Tom Roller <Tom.Roller.mfc@ncdenr.gov>; Robert.B.McNeill.mfc@ncdenr.gov <Robert.B.McNeill.mfc@ncdenr.gov>; Martin Posey <martin.posey.mfc@ncdenr.gov>; David Sneed [REDACTED]; Tim Gestwicki [REDACTED] Daniel, Louis [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Fred Harris [REDACTED] Gail & Wilson Laney [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Public Comment- August 2021 Business Meeting (Shrimp Trawl Effort: Pamlico Sound and Nearshore Ocean Waters)

Rick, we are not taking this up until at least November when we can do it face to face.
Rob

"Take care of business and make things happen"

On Aug 23, 2021, at 11:07 AM, rick sasser [REDACTED] wrote:

Kathy/Rob

As you know, I am pushing hard for NC to honestly come to the table in good faith to address how unsustainable shrimp trawl bycatch is affecting croaker, spot and weakfish stocks. Weakfish is of particular concern.

When I began this effort back in 2012, I ran a very simple extrapolation on how Pamlico Sound juvenile weakfish mortality in the shrimp trawl fishery affects the total stock.

NCDMF/NOAA trawl characterization studies show that weakfish represent approximately 7% of trawl bycatch in the Pamlico Sound. In 2008, the ASFMC estimated the total weakfish spawning stock biomass to be 4.5-million pounds. During that 2008 shrimp season, Pamlico Sound trawlers killed 1.7-million pounds of juvenile weakfish or 46-million individual juvenile gray trout. A gray trout becomes sexually mature at about one year of age and 3/4 of a pound in weight. If only 5% of those 46-million juveniles killed as shrimp trawl bycatch made it to sexual maturity, the spawning stock biomass would have increased by 1.7-million pounds or 38% in one year. By eliminating trawling bycatch, the potential ability of the stock to rebound is huge.

The Pamlico Sound must be closed to all trawling, or at minimum, severely limited to small trawlers, daytime trawling and three days per week.

The Division's proposed "Permanent Closure Line" and "Seasonal Closure Line" fail to protect economically important juvenile finfish in undesignated secondary nursery areas.

The Permanent Closure Line, everything west of a line from Oregon Inlet to Point of Grass on Cedar Island, is a complete failure for the June-August period when the whole Pamlico Sound acts as essential fish habitat- an undeclared nursery area.

<June Aggregate Abundance.jpg>

Adding the Seasonal Closure Line on August 1 does a better job of protecting all species as weakfish have concentrated north of Bluff Shoal and other species have concentrated west of the permanent closure line. The problem is there are no open travel corridors for juvenile escapement.

Escapement is well documented for both shrimp and juvenile finfish, they move South, which means both Hatteras and Ocracoke Inlets are major points of escapement.

<September Aggregate Abundance.jpg>

Short of closing the whole sound, the Division should consider the following as a recommendation to the Commission. A limited trawling area should be open to smaller vessels only with less than 50-feet of headrope, M-W-F trawling and 6am to 6pm.

Note: I've included the 2020 AIS tracking for trawling effort of the vessel Capt. Ralph for reference.

<Limited Trawling Area.jpg>

Of additional concern, is the new and fast expanding near-shore ocean trawl effort. Much of this new effort is occurring in key fall and early winter staging areas for juvenile croaker, spot and weakfish as they prepare for the annual migration to offshore winter grounds. It is no surprise that much of this effort is near the inlets. Escapement from the sound's nursery areas needs support by including protections in key near-shore staging areas.

Below is pictured near-shore effort using Global Fishing Watch (GFW). The algorithm GFW uses fails to identify all trawl effort. My personal research using AIS tracking and satellite imaging has found that as much as 50% of the effort is by vessels "running dark"- failure to adhere to federal AIS laws. Smaller vessels (very few in the ocean), less that 65-feet in length, are not required to run AIS.

The pictured effort corresponds with NCDMF trip tickets showing an increase in ocean shrimp landings as compared to estuarine shrimp landings. In 2019, ocean landings exceeded estuarine landings for the first time. NCDMF has not released 2020 data. I have to question the accuracy of the 2018 effort as reported by NCDMF trip tickets given the level of effort shown by GFW. 2018 was the year of Hurricane Florence. Commercial fishermen received millions of dollars in Florence Relief Payments based on a 2015-2017 average compared to 2018. There was huge incentive for 2018 landings to be underreported.

<Shrimp Effort for AC Seats.jpg>

Again, the effort (2014-2020) shown is significantly underestimated due to the GFW algorithm and vessels running dark.

Starting in 2016, the increased ocean effort is obvious.

<Effort- July-December, 2014.jpg>

<Effort- July-December, 2015.jpg>

<Effort- July-December, 2016.jpg>

<Effort- July-December, 2017.jpg>

<Effort- July-December, 2018.jpg>

<Effort- July-December, 2019.jpg>

<Effort- July-December, 2020.jpg>

Best Regards,

Rick

From: [Thomas Newman](#)
To: [Bizzell, Rob](#); [Blanton, Mike](#); [Cross, Doug](#); [Hendrickson, Tom](#); [Kornegav, K](#); [Posey, Martin H](#); [McNeill, Robert](#); [Roller, Thomas N](#); [Romano, Sam](#); [Gillikin, Dana](#)
Cc: [John Smith](#); [Eddie Morris](#); [Charlie Van Salisbury](#); [Mac Bishop](#); [Matt Huth](#); [Charlie Locke](#); [REDACTED]
[Logan Williams](#); [Andy Trant](#)
Subject: [External] Data to Support Our Public Comment
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 12:23:05 PM
Attachments: [NCDMF Data Analysis .pdf](#)
[NEFSC Observer Dataset.pdf](#)
[August2021PublicComment.txt](#)

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.<<mailto:report.spam@nc.gov>>

Chairman and commissioners,

We, Pamlico Sound drift net fishermen, apologize for not mailing this information to the division in the allotted time period, but this information is very relevant to our public comment in regards to “Small Mesh Rules and Modifications” and this data did not transfer properly on the public comment web page.

We have attached two data sets, one from the NCDMF trip ticket information program and the other from the North East Fisheries Science Center federal observer statistics office.

To make sure this information stays connected with our public comment we have also attached the public comment previously sent through the comments web page. Thank you all for your time and commitment to our states greatest public resource.

Thomas Newman
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners,

In regards to Small Mesh Gill Net Rule Modification, we strongly believe no further restrictions or laws are necessary without scientific justification and consideration to actual yardages historically used by our industry leaders. This whole mess began with user conflict in a few small areas. Scant scientific data and limited professional commercial fisherman input was used to set the current small mesh gill net regulations issued through proclamation M-14-2021. This was an unnecessary and unfair restriction on our state's gill net fisheries with no justification.

That being said; we as a group of dedicated NC fishermen, who are financially dependent on small mesh gill nets, also believe special consideration should be given to the Pamlico Sound drift net fishery. We should be allowed well over the current 800 and 1,500 yard limits which have been issued through proclamation since early 2019. We have historically used an average of 2400 yards or more drift gill nets depending on fish abundance, fish prices, weather, tide/moon cycles, fuel prices, etc. We need this additional yardage to keep the Spanish mackerel drift net fishery economically viable in years when these variables change.

According to data obtained from the North Carolina Trip Ticket Program, over the past 6 years (2015-2020) there have been 16 to 22 active vessels in the Pamlico Sound gill net fisheries with annual harvests of over 10,000 lbs. of Spanish mackerel. Only about half of these vessels in this same period harvested more than 20,000 lbs. annually. Data from NCDMF also supports how economically important the drift net fishery is for our dedicated Spanish mackerel fishermen. Total annual ex-vessel value for these 16-22 vessels in this period averaged over \$340,000 in Spanish mackerel sales alone. This revenue directly supports our families, our crew and their families, as well as our local fish houses, their employees, and many other aspects of our small commercial fishing communities.

We also have over a decade of North East Federal observer data coverage in the Pamlico Sound drift net fishery. From this abundance of observation, there is a large data set that shows:

- (1) Yardage used for each vessel (well over the current proclamation limits of 800 and 1,500 yards)
- (2) Zero endangered or threatened species interactions
- (3) Low discard rates

The Pamlico Sound drift net fishery is an integral part of our state's commercial Spanish mackerel fishery. The drift net fishery in the Pamlico Sound has been documented as accountable, sustainable, and profitable. The NC commercial Spanish mackerel fishery overall is diverse. Our internal drift net fishery allows our commercial Spanish mackerel vessels to spread out and not concentrate pressure in other productive areas in the state waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

If the drift net fishery becomes economically unfeasible, pressure will definitely shift to the ocean Spanish mackerel fishery. Hurricanes, ever changing inlet conditions, wind direction, and limited productive areas in the ocean already limit when and where gill nets are used to harvest Spanish mackerel in NC's coastal waters. The ocean gill net fishery occurs almost entirely in water less than 25 feet deep in areas with no bottom snags; these conditions alone limit the amount of vessels who can participate in the ocean Spanish mackerel fishery.

We have included observer data and North Carolina state trip data compiled at our request from the North East Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) and from NCDMF staff to support our argument. We are also in the process of receiving a second more specific data request from NEFSC to provide documentation of the lengths of drift net that have historically been used in the Pamlico Sound drift net fishery.

Please contact us for any clarification or further questions.

Thank you for your time,

Thomas Newman F/V Gotta Go
[REDACTED]

John W. Smith F/V Jana Marie
[REDACTED]

Edward Lee Morris F/V Miss Stevie
[REDACTED]

Charles Van Salisbury "Good Time Charlie's Fisheries"
[REDACTED]

Mac Bishop F/V Still Kickin
[REDACTED]

Matt Huth F/V Lil' Finn
[REDACTED]

Richard "Catfish" Bass F/V Big Mac

Charlie Locke F/V Salvation
[REDACTED]

Parker Williams F/V Logan's Luck
[REDACTED]

Logan Williams F/V Stubborn One
[REDACTED]

Reuben F. Trant III F/V Hatterasser
[REDACTED]

Mark Jordan F/V Resurrection
[REDACTED]

From: Whitten, Meredith Meredith.Whitten@ncdenr.gov
Subject: RE: [External] Data Request
Date: Aug 20, 2021 at 16:48:56
To: Thomas Newman [REDACTED]
Cc: Bianchi, Alan alan.bianchi@ncdenr.gov

Hi Thomas,

Please see your requested data in the attached workbook. To answer all of your questions, I split the data out into separate worksheet tabs, which are explained below. Also, when we send out trip ticket data, we have to be mindful of confidentiality concerns. Any data with fewer than 3 vessels, dealers, or participants is considered confidential, so I had to aggregate some of the data you requested to allow you to see as much of the data as possible, while also maintaining our confidentiality standards. I'll explain those cases more below. In each worksheet, you will see a column labeled "Conf" which will show an asterisk if a particular row of data is confidential.

Worksheet 1 – This sheet shows landings, value, number of trips, and number of vessels by drift and small mesh gill net broken out by year in Pamlico Sound, for vessels that landed over 10,000 lbs annually of Spanish Mackerel. As Alan mentioned, we do not have a way of calculating yardage from our data.

Worksheet 2 – This sheet is the same as Worksheet 1, but shows data for vessels landing over 20,000 lbs annually of Spanish Mackerel. There are two years where the drift gill net fishery only had one or two vessels, making this data confidential, so I had to remove the landings data for those two years.

Worksheet 3 – This worksheet shows the annual landings, value, number of trips, and number of vessels broken out into the poundage categories you requested. In 2017, landings in the 3501+ category were confidential, so I combined them with the 2501-3500 category for that year, and created a new category '2501-3501+ lbs.' In 2020, landings in the 2501-3500 category were confidential, so I combined those with landings in the 1501-2500 category, and created a new category '1501-3500 lbs.' Since there were so few trips in the two confidential categories, combining them with the next highest poundage category did not substantially inflate the number of trips in the next highest category.

Worksheet 4 – This worksheet shows pounds and value by month for each year requested, as well as the number of trips and vessels. I also included the number of dealers in case you were interested, since you had asked about state dealers and pounds landed. Due to very few trips occurring in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Nov, and Dec, a large portion of the data for those months were confidential. In order to share more of the data with you, I aggregated the landings for Jan-Apr and Nov-Dec, and then broke out the rest of the months separately.

Worksheet 5 – This worksheet shows pounds and value broken out by month and county for each year, as well as value, number of dealers, number of trips, and number of vessels. Carteret, Hyde, and Dare were the only counties that ever had greater than 5% of the landings. I aggregated the months again into the same categories as in Worksheet 4, but

there were still a few rows for the months with lower landings that ended up being confidential. The pounds and value for those rows are blank and you will see an asterisk in the confidential column.

Worksheet 6 – The last worksheet shows the best approximation I can give you of landings for dealers without a federal permit. As Alan mentioned, all federal dealers are required to report electronically, so I pulled data for all of the dealers that do not report electronically, indicating that they are definitely not federal dealers. However, this is likely an underestimate because some state only dealers also report electronically, but do not hold federal permits.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information or explanation! Have a great weekend.

Meredith Whitten

Marine Fisheries Biologist
Division of Marine Fisheries
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

252 808 8095 Office

252 515 6690 Cell

252 726 3903 Fax

Meredith.whitten@ncdenr.gov

3441 Arendell Street

PO Box 769

Morehead City, NC 28557-0769

Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties



From: Thomas Newman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Whitten, Meredith <Meredith.Whitten@ncdenr.gov>
Cc: Bianchi, Alan <alan.bianchi@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Data Request

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious

Worksheet 1

Year	Gear	Pounds	Value	Vessels	Trips	Conf
2015	Gill Net (drift)	65,308	\$127,181	9	161	
2015	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	98,129	\$190,069	9	339	
2016	Gill Net (drift)	2,702	\$5,230	5	8	
2016	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	157,015	\$290,564	13	479	
2017	Gill Net (drift)	123,512	\$221,492	7	261	
2017	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	114,428	\$200,999	11	286	
2018	Gill Net (drift)	108,129	\$151,622	8	259	
2018	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	113,765	\$181,733	12	361	
2019	Gill Net (drift)	51,929	\$79,717	3	96	
2019	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	208,376	\$298,713	13	457	
2020	Gill Net (drift)	72,833	\$103,328	7	119	
2020	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	143,501	\$204,863	15	378	

Worksheet 2

Year	Gear	Pounds	Value	Vessels	Trips	Conf
2015	Gill Net (drift)	44,335	\$88,372	6	98	
2015	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	66,975	\$128,565	4	149	
2016	Gill Net (drift)			2	4 *	
2016	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	102,802	\$190,936	7	225	
2017	Gill Net (drift)	74,090	\$132,729	4	133	
2017	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	87,362	\$154,079	6	145	
2018	Gill Net (drift)	68,438	\$99,426	4	175	
2018	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	70,862	\$112,681	5	123	
2019	Gill Net (drift)			1	49 *	
2019	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	141,441	\$204,695	6	212	
2020	Gill Net (drift)	63,310	\$89,203	5	88	
2020	Gill Net Set, < 5 in. mesh	85,832	\$121,480	10	156	

DATA SPECIFICATIONS	
GEAR	Included all gillnet gear codes in this data pull because of the uniqueness of each vessel's net and our standardized program definitions for each gear type. 100 = GILL NET, FIXED OR ANCHORED,SINK, OTHER/NK SPECIES, 105 = GILL NET, ANCHORED-FLOATING, FISH, 116 = GILL NET, DRIFT-FLOATING, FISH, 117 = GILL NET, DRIFT-SINK, FISH.
TARGET SPECIES	Spanish Mackerel
AREA	Trips occurred within the Pamlico Sound, Stat area 401
COMPLETE VS LIMITED TRIPS	Different types of observed trips on gillnet vessels; Complete trips have all kept and discarded species recorded. Limited trips have only kept species and discards of some large pelagic species (ex. sharks, sturgeon) and incidental takes - focus of sampling is observing for incidental take interactions.
TIME	Included any data from 2005 to present
DESCRIPTION OF DATA VARIABLES	
YEAR	Year trip landed
NESPP4	4-digit species code
COMNAME	Common name for the species recorded
CATDISP	If the species was KEPT or DISCARDED on the haul
WEIGHT	Sum of weight of the kept/discarded species for that haul in pounds (lbs)
Number of Nets Hauled on Gillnet Trips Targeting Spanish Mackerel in the Pamlico Sound	Read this data as: <i>In 2013, 1 trip hauled 4 nets, 1 trip hauled 15 nets, 1 trip hauled 20 nets, 2 trips hauled 24 nets, etc.</i>
NETSHAULED	Number of net panels hauled
TRIP_COUNT	Number of trips that hauled that many nets
Number of Hauls on Gillnet Trips Targeting Spanish Mackerel in the Pamlico Sound	Read this data as: <i>In 2013, 3 trips had 1 haul, 1 trip had 5 hauls, 1 trip had 6 hauls, etc.</i>
NHAULS	Number of hauls
TRIP_COUNT	Number of trips with that number of hauls
TARGSPEC_1	4-digit species code for target species of trip
INCTAKE_SPP	Common name of incidental take species
ANMLCOND	Description of animal condition at time of interaction
BEGIN_LOC	Lat/Lon of haul begin (DD MM.MM)
END_LOC	Lat/Lon of haul end (DD MM.MM)

Catch Summary on Complete Gillnet Trips Targeting Spanish Mackerel in the Pamlico Sound

YEAR	NESPP4	COMNAME	CATDISP	WEIGHT
2015	570	COBIA	DISCARD	41
2015	900	CROAKER, ATLANTIC	DISCARD	0.2
2015	1219	FLOUNDER, SUMMER (FLUKE)	DISCARD	0.3
2015	1330	GARFISH (NEEDLEFISH)	DISCARD	0.2
2015	1670	HERRING, NK	DISCARD	0.2
2015	1740	HERRING, ATLANTIC THREAD	DISCARD	0.4
2015	2210	MENHADEN, ATLANTIC	DISCARD	1119.5
2015	2680	LADYFISH	DISCARD	63.7
2015	2720	POMPANO, FLORIDA	DISCARD	9.7
2015	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	DISCARD	3.5
2015	3810	SPADEFISH	DISCARD	0.7
2015	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	DISCARD	20.1
2015	4590	TRIPLETAIL	DISCARD	1
2015	4871	SHARK, BLACK TIP	DISCARD	21
2015	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	DISCARD	0.2
2015	6739	RAY, BULLNOSE	DISCARD	3
2015	6865	CRAB, SPECKLED, NK	DISCARD	0.2
2015	7000	CRAB, BLUE	DISCARD	8.6

2015	7350	SHRIMP, NK	DISCARD	0.5
2015	8171	SEAWEED, NK	DISCARD	1
2015	230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	2406
2015	511	BUTTERFISH	KEPT	0.2
2015	570	COBIA	KEPT	35
2015	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	116.8
2015	2720	POMPANO, FLORIDA	KEPT	6.1
2015	3450	SEATROUT (WEAKFISH), SPOTD	KEPT	10.2
2015	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	5873
2015	7000	CRAB, BLUE	KEPT	6.5
2015	7380	SHRIMP, PENAEID (SOUTHERN)	KEPT	0.2
2016	230	BLUEFISH	DISCARD	38.2
2016	570	COBIA	DISCARD	2
2016	1656	HARVESTFISH	DISCARD	0.8
2016	1740	HERRING, ATLANTIC THREAD	DISCARD	1.2
2016	2210	MENHADEN, ATLANTIC	DISCARD	274.4
2016	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	DISCARD	0.5
2016	3810	SPADEFISH	DISCARD	3.8
2016	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	DISCARD	48.7
2016	6621	PIPEFISH/SEAHORSE, NK	DISCARD	0.3
2016	6740	RAY, COWNOSE	DISCARD	30

2016	6871	JELLYFISH, NK	DISCARD	191.3
2016	6875	EELGRASS	DISCARD	3
2016	7000	CRAB, BLUE	DISCARD	12.5
2016	7010	CRAB, LADY	DISCARD	1
2016	7130	CRAB, TRUE, NK	DISCARD	1
2016	7380	SHRIMP, PENAEID (SOUTHERN)	DISCARD	0.7
2016	230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	1175.8
2016	511	BUTTERFISH	KEPT	4
2016	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	132.4
2016	1685	HERRING, ATLANTIC	KEPT	0.3
2016	2130	RUNNER, BLUE	KEPT	3.4
2016	2210	MENHADEN, ATLANTIC	KEPT	100
2016	2680	LADYFISH	KEPT	24
2016	2720	POMPANO, FLORIDA	KEPT	5.8
2016	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	KEPT	14
2016	3450	SEATROUT (WEAKFISH), SPOTD	KEPT	32
2016	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	4088.5
2016	4657	TUNA, NK	KEPT	1
2016	4681	TUNA, LITTLE (FALSE ALBACORE)	KEPT	16
2016	6617	KINGFISH, SOUTHERN	KEPT	13.3
2016	6690	HOUNDFISH	KEPT	27

2016	7380	SHRIMP, PENAEID (SOUTHERN)	KEPT	0.2
2017	230	BLUEFISH	DISCARD	5.2
2017	511	BUTTERFISH	DISCARD	3
2017	570	COBIA	DISCARD	22.8
2017	1070	DRUM, RED	DISCARD	72
2017	1219	FLOUNDER, SUMMER (FLUKE)	DISCARD	0.2
2017	1340	SHAD, GIZZARD	DISCARD	1.2
2017	1656	HARVESTFISH	DISCARD	0.5
2017	2120	MACKEREL, ATLANTIC	DISCARD	9
2017	2210	MENHADEN, ATLANTIC	DISCARD	868.8
2017	2680	LADYFISH	DISCARD	30.7
2017	3420	SEA ROBIN, STRIPED	DISCARD	0.1
2017	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	DISCARD	4.1
2017	3474	SHAD, AMERICAN	DISCARD	1.5
2017	3810	SPADEFISH	DISCARD	1.6
2017	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	DISCARD	88.3
2017	4760	SHARK, BONNETHEAD	DISCARD	4.5
2017	4871	SHARK, BLACK TIP	DISCARD	3.5
2017	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	DISCARD	35.1
2017	6740	RAY, COWNOSE	DISCARD	17
2017	6830	DEBRIS, PLASTIC	DISCARD	5.5

2017	7000	CRAB, BLUE	DISCARD	92
2017	7380	SHRIMP, PENAEID (SOUTHERN)	DISCARD	0.1
2017	230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	1885.9
2017	511	BUTTERFISH	KEPT	4.4
2017	1070	DRUM, RED	KEPT	2.5
2017	1330	GARFISH (NEEDLEFISH)	KEPT	6
2017	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	38.2
2017	2210	MENHADEN, ATLANTIC	KEPT	97
2017	2680	LADYFISH	KEPT	6.8
2017	2720	POMPANO, FLORIDA	KEPT	23
2017	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	KEPT	17
2017	3450	SEATROUT (WEAKFISH), SPOTD	KEPT	10.9
2017	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	6485
2017	4060	SPOT	KEPT	1
2017	4590	TRIPLETAIL	KEPT	7.3
2017	5260	FISH, NK	KEPT	0.5
2017	6690	HOUNDFISH	KEPT	10.5
2017	7000	CRAB, BLUE	KEPT	1.1
2017	7350	SHRIMP, NK	KEPT	4
2018	230	BLUEFISH	DISCARD	12.2
2018	870	JACK, CREVALLE	DISCARD	0.3

2018	1656	HARVESTFISH	DISCARD	1
2018	2210	MENHADEN, ATLANTIC	DISCARD	338.7
2018	2680	LADYFISH	DISCARD	37
2018	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	DISCARD	0.7
2018	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	DISCARD	20.1
2018	4560	TRIGGERFISH, NK (LEATHERJACKET)	DISCARD	9
2018	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	DISCARD	1.2
2018	7000	CRAB, BLUE	DISCARD	54
2018	7130	CRAB, TRUE, NK	DISCARD	1
2018	230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	785.7
2018	511	BUTTERFISH	KEPT	1
2018	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	26.3
2018	1940	MACKEREL, KING	KEPT	14
2018	3450	SEATROUT (WEAKFISH), SPOTD	KEPT	2.7
2018	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	1030
2018	4681	TUNA, LITTLE (FALSE ALBACORE)	KEPT	55
2018	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	KEPT	40
2018	7000	CRAB, BLUE	KEPT	4

Catch Summary on Limited Gillnet Trips Targeting Spanish Mackerel in the Pamlico Sound

YEAR	NESPP4	COMNAME	CATDISP	WEIGHT
2010	0230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	212
2010	0511	BUTTERFISH	KEPT	13
2010	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	39
2010	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	1330
2011	0230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	691
2011	0511	BUTTERFISH	KEPT	3
2011	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	36
2013	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	DISCARD	1.4
2013	0230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	217.4
2013	0511	BUTTERFISH	KEPT	1
2013	0870	JACK, CREVALLE	KEPT	34
2013	0900	CROAKER, ATLANTIC	KEPT	4.9
2013	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	10.1
2013	2720	POMPANO, FLORIDA	KEPT	2
2013	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	KEPT	1.2
2013	3450	SEATROUT (WEAKFISH), SPOTD	KEPT	9.8
2013	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	465.9

2013	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	KEPT	69.2
2014	0230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	234.6
2014	0511	BUTTERFISH	KEPT	4.5
2014	0570	COBIA	KEPT	17.5
2014	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	44.3
2014	1940	MACKEREL, KING	KEPT	15
2014	2210	MENHADEN, ATLANTIC	KEPT	16.5
2014	2680	LADYFISH	KEPT	3
2014	2720	POMPANO, FLORIDA	KEPT	1.1
2014	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	KEPT	9
2014	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	214.1
2014	4681	TUNA, LITTLE (FALSE ALBACORE)	KEPT	24
2014	6617	KINGFISH, SOUTHERN	KEPT	1
2016	0230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	1135.8
2016	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	29.8
2016	2210	MENHADEN, ATLANTIC	KEPT	0.9
2016	2720	POMPANO, FLORIDA	KEPT	8.2
2016	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	KEPT	3.7
2016	3450	SEATROUT (WEAKFISH), SPOTD	KEPT	3.4
2016	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	3482.2

2016	5260	FISH, NK	KEPT	10.1
2016	6617	KINGFISH, SOUTHERN	KEPT	2.8
2017	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	DISCARD	15
2017	0230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	225
2017	0511	BUTTERFISH	KEPT	1
2017	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	7
2017	2720	POMPANO, FLORIDA	KEPT	1.5
2017	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	953
2017	4590	TRIPLETAIL	KEPT	3
2017	7350	SHRIMP, NK	KEPT	0.5
2018	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	DISCARD	0.5
2018	0230	BLUEFISH	KEPT	165
2018	1050	DOLPHINFISH (MAHI MAHI)	KEPT	16
2018	1656	HARVESTFISH	KEPT	0.2
2018	1940	MACKEREL, KING	KEPT	8
2018	2130	RUNNER, BLUE	KEPT	3
2018	3446	WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE SEA TROUT)	KEPT	30
2018	3810	SPADEFISH	KEPT	3
2018	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	KEPT	907
2018	4661	TUNA, SKIPJACK	KEPT	65

2018	4681	TUNA, LITTLE (FALSE ALBACORE)	KEPT	533
2018	4821	SHARK, SANDBAR (BROWN SHARK)	KEPT	7
2018	4941	SHARK, ATL SHARPNOSE	KEPT	517.5
2018	6785	MOONFISH, ATLANTIC	KEPT	6

Incidental Take Encounters on Gillnet Trips Targeting Spanish Mackerel in the Pamlico Sound

YEAR	MONTH	NEGEAR	TARGSPEC1	TARGET_SPP	NESPP4	INCTAKE_SPP	ANCONDDDESC	BEGIN_LOC	END_LOC
2016	05	116	3840	MACKEREL, SPANISH	6351	PELICAN, BROWN	ALIVE, SEE COMMENTS	350706, 761224	350712, 761300

From: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
To: [Gillikin, Dana](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Rule 3m101
Date: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:22:46 AM

Lara K. J. Klibansky
Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison
Executive Assistant for Councils and Commissions
NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Department of Environmental Quality



252 515 6020 mobile (direct)
252 726 7021 main office
Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov

P.O. Box 769
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

*Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the
North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties*

From: Bizzell, Rob <r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] Rule 3m101

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Eric Bregman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Bizzell, Rob; Cross, Doug; Blanton, Mike; Hendrickson, Tom; Kornegay, K;
Robert.b.Mcneil.mfc@ncdenr.gov; martin.posey@ncdenr.gov; Roller, Thomas N; Romano, Sam
Subject: [External] Rule 3m101

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Dear members of the marine fisheries commission.

I would like to request that consideration be given to amending rule 3m101 that would include Spot as a species exempt from having to remain intact, or spot to be treated the way striped mullet and shad are treated. Spot is a commonly used cut bait and should be able to be used as such.

Another option would be to only apply the rule to species that have a minimum length, which is completely understandable.

Thank you

--

Eric D, Bregman, CPA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
To: [Gillikin, Dana](#)
Subject: FW: [External] suggestion regarding release regulations for tarpon and large red drum
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:44:10 AM

Lara K. J. Klibansky
Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison
Executive Assistant for Councils and Commissions
NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Department of Environmental Quality



252 515 6020 mobile (direct)
252 726 7021 main office
Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov

P.O. Box 769
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties

From: Bizzell, Rob <r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] suggestion regarding release regulations for tarpon and large red drum

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Jerry Dilsaver [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:36 AM
To: Willis, Carole; Bizzell, Rob
Subject: [External] suggestion regarding release regulations for tarpon and large red drum

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Good Morning All,

I have a suggestion I ask you to consider regarding the release citations for tarpon and red drum for anglers fishing from the N.C. ocean piers.

I agree with the new regulations that do not allow tarpon to be gaffed or speared. However, the current requirements for a tarpon release citation require touching the leader. I believe for fishermen from the ocean piers that if a witness, which is required for the release citation anyway, will confirm that the angler had fought the fish back to the pier and had it under control, they should be allowed to intentionally pull the hook or break the line and still be eligible for the citation. There is no need to subject these fish to the stress of being worn down so they can be beached or near beached to meet a technical requirement for a release citation.

I believe these same considerations should be given for red drum releases for pier anglers. Big red drum are a little easier to handle and can be led into a pier landing net, then hoisted up to the pier deck, the hooks removed or leader cut and lowered back to the water. However, this also has to stress the fish. Some red drum are intentionally caught by pier anglers using circle hook rigs, but many are caught by fishermen after king mackerel and they are using wire leader rigs with treble hooks. Many times the treble hooks may be too deep to remove without harming the fish and the leader would need to be cut even if lifted to the pier deck.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jerry Dilsaver

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 13, 2021

William Blackwell
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

I am pleased to welcome you as a member of the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee, which will assist the Division of Marine Fisheries in amendment development.

The committee is comprised of 6 members representing the scientific, recreational, commercial, and conservation communities. Meetings usually last four or five hours, and will be scheduled late September-early October. Also, please be aware that advisers are required to attend at least 75 percent of the meetings of their committee.

Please find an orientation package enclosed. If you have any questions concerning your orientation to the advisory committee process, feel free to contact Dana Gillikin at Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8022.

Speaking for the Marine Fisheries Commission, I want to thank you for your interest in managing our state's resources. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 13, 2021

Gregory Judy
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Judy:

I am pleased to welcome you as a member of the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee, which will assist the Division of Marine Fisheries in amendment development.

The committee is comprised of 6 members representing the scientific, recreational, commercial, and conservation communities. Meetings usually last four or five hours, and will be scheduled late September-early October. Also, please be aware that advisers are required to attend at least 75 percent of the meetings of their committee.

Please find an orientation package enclosed. If you have any questions concerning your orientation to the advisory committee process, feel free to contact Dana Gillikin at Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8022.

Speaking for the Marine Fisheries Commission, I want to thank you for your interest in managing our state's resources. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 13, 2021

Jot Owens



Dear Mr. Owens:

I am pleased to welcome you as a member of the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee, which will assist the Division of Marine Fisheries in amendment development.

The committee is comprised of 6 members representing the scientific, recreational, commercial, and conservation communities. Meetings usually last four or five hours, and will be scheduled late September-early October. Also, please be aware that advisers are required to attend at least 75 percent of the meetings of their committee.

Please find an orientation package enclosed. If you have any questions concerning your orientation to the advisory committee process, feel free to contact Dana Gillikin at Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8022.

Speaking for the Marine Fisheries Commission, I want to thank you for your interest in managing our state's resources. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

COMMISSIONERS

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 13, 2021

Paul Lane
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Lane:

I am pleased to welcome you as a member of the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee, which will assist the Division of Marine Fisheries in amendment development.

The committee is comprised of 6 members representing the scientific, recreational, commercial, and conservation communities. Meetings usually last four or five hours, and will be scheduled late September-early October. Also, please be aware that advisers are required to attend at least 75 percent of the meetings of their committee.

Please find an orientation package enclosed. If you have any questions concerning your orientation to the advisory committee process, feel free to contact Dana Gillikin at Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8022.

Speaking for the Marine Fisheries Commission, I want to thank you for your interest in managing our state's resources. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

COMMISSIONERS

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 13, 2021

Stuart Creighton
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Creighton:

I am pleased to welcome you as a member of the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee, which will assist the Division of Marine Fisheries in amendment development.

The committee is comprised of 6 members representing the scientific, recreational, commercial, and conservation communities. Meetings usually last four or five hours, and will be scheduled late September-early October. Also, please be aware that advisers are required to attend at least 75 percent of the meetings of their committee.

Please find an orientation package enclosed. If you have any questions concerning your orientation to the advisory committee process, feel free to contact Dana Gillikin at Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8022.

Speaking for the Marine Fisheries Commission, I want to thank you for your interest in managing our state's resources. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 13, 2021

Thomas Smith
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am pleased to welcome you as a member of the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee, which will assist the Division of Marine Fisheries in amendment development.

The committee is comprised of 6 members representing the scientific, recreational, commercial, and conservation communities. Meetings usually last four or five hours, and will be scheduled late September-early October. Also, please be aware that advisers are required to attend at least 75 percent of the meetings of their committee.

Please find an orientation package enclosed. If you have any questions concerning your orientation to the advisory committee process, feel free to contact Dana Gillikin at Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8022.

Speaking for the Marine Fisheries Commission, I want to thank you for your interest in managing our state's resources. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 16, 2021

Alexander Szigedi

Dear Mr. Szigedi:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser on the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at www.ncfisheries.net for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 16, 2021

Robert Dail Booth
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Booth:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser on the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at www.ncfisheries.net for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 16, 2021

Douglas Mumford
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Mumford:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser on the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at www.ncfisheries.net for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 16, 2021

George Beckwith, Jr.
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Beckwith:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser on the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at www.ncfisheries.net for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 16, 2021

Ivan Christopher Cahoon



Dear Mr. Cahoon:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser on the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at www.ncfisheries.net for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 16, 2021

Richard Kalet
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Kalet:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser on the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at www.ncfisheries.net for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

August 16, 2021

Michael Waine
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Waine:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser on the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at www.ncfisheries.net for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Lara Klibansky