



## Your Weekly News & Updates

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### LAST WEEK'S MFC MEETING:

At last week's Marine Fisheries Commission meeting, they took several actions. However, at the public comment period, NCFA's Chairman Brent Fulcher and Executive Director Glenn Skinner both addressed the Commission.

**Note from Jerry:** "The business meeting began on Wednesday afternoon, prior to the public comment session, so before public comment, some of the commissioners addressed concerns about the lack of observer coverage in the large mesh gillnet fishery. It should be noted that when that same issue came up when Louis Daniel was Director, NCFA, and in particular Chairman Brent Fulcher, suggested that the Division implement a call in system similar to the way it's done with some federal permits. However, those suggestions never went anywhere and so the criticism of the lack of observers continues. The point here, is that the criticisms of the observer program have been ongoing, but when we make suggestions to make it better, it gets ignored. Hopefully, under new leadership at the MFC and DMF, we can seriously discuss solutions rather than pointing

- Promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of habitats and environmental quality.
- Encourage research and education to improve the understanding of the overall cumulative impacts of shrimp trawl bycatch on fish population dynamics.

State law requires the Division of Marine Fisheries to review fishery management plans every five years. Amendment 1 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan was adopted in 2015, and scheduled for review in 2020.

The decision to move forward the Shrimp Plan review schedule means the Division of Marine Fisheries will be developing four fishery management plans this fiscal year. Three of them -- the Blue Crab, Southern Flounder, and Shrimp plans -- are for top state fisheries. The division is also developing an amendment to the Estuarine Striped Bass Plan jointly with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

In other business, the commission:

- Voted to continue the current management measures for striped mullet, as recommended by the

fingers.”

Brent welcomed the new commissioners and said he looked forward to working with them all. He spoke of the continuing success of the shrimp bycatch reduction efforts and noted that North Carolina leads the country in bycatch reduction in that fishery. He also reminded the commissioners that NCFA had suggested to DMF in the past that they institute a call in requirement for those involved in the gillnet fishery that require observers. He said in certain federal fisheries that require observers, it's mandated that the boats call in to let them know where they intend to fish and when they plan to leave the dock. He said it's a fairer system because the same few fishermen aren't always the ones taking out observers. Brent also made the point that the advisory system seems to work better at the federal level and cited the frustration that many advisors have with the North Carolina process because their input is diminished or ignored when it gets to the Commission.

Glenn also welcomed the new commissioners and reiterated what he wrote in an email to all Commissioners prior to the meeting that they should not take any action on controversial issues due to the fact that there are two vacancies on the Commission as a result of Sammy Corbett and Alison Willis resigning earlier in the week.

From the Commission:

On Thursday the MFC voted to begin development of Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Amendment 2 to the Shrimp Plan will include the following general focus areas:

- Continue minimizing waste and enhance economic value of the shrimp resource by promoting more efficient harvesting practices.
- Further reduce mortality of non-target species of finfish and crustaceans and protected, threatened and endangered species.

division. Amendment 1 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan requires the division to initiate further analysis of the striped mullet data if commercial landings fall below 1.13 million pounds or above 2.76 million pounds in any given year. In 2016, commercial landings fell, triggering the analysis. A 2018 update of the state's 2013 striped mullet stock assessment found that overfishing is not occurring; however, it cannot be determined if the stock is overfished.

- Elected Chuck Laughridge as vice chairman.
- Set the 2018-2019 Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Pool cap at 500.
- Approved the goal and objectives for Amendment 3 to the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan.
- Agreed to write a letter to U.S. Coast Guard stating concern about the collision of two trawlers in North Carolina waters and asking the Coast Guard to be more vigilant in ensuring such vessels are following regulations regarding safety equipment.

## Summer Taste of Core Sound

Summer Taste of Core Sound with special guest, local seafood ambassador and Triangle restaurateur **Chef Ricky Moore**

*Friday, August 24 --- Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center, "At the End of the Road," Harkers Island*

Core Sound is delighted to welcome local seafood ambassador, chef, and restaurateur Ricky Moore to this year's Summer Taste. The night and menu will be a mix of what you've come to expect from the Taste of Core Sound with a twist from the celebrated Durham icon.

Core Sound's summer Taste will conclude with the Summer Raffle drawing for a golf cart or \$5000 cash, along with other prizes. Tickets | \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members; to reserve tickets, please call 252.728.1500 or go online to purchase tickets at [coresound.com](http://coresound.com).

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## Calendar

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018 10 a.m.**

**NCFA Board Meeting- Washington Civic Center,**

**4. Revising the FMP objectives for summer flounder:** This amendment proposes revisions to the current FMP objectives for summer flounder management to provide more meaningful and up-to date guidance to managers.

**Written Comments**

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018 6 a.m.**  
**Summer Flounder Commercial  
Issues Amendment Public  
Hearing #2 – NC DMF Washington  
Regional Office 943 Washington Square  
Washington, NC**

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are soliciting public input on a draft amendment to address several potential changes to the management of the commercial summer flounder fishery, as well as modifications to the fishery management plan (FMP) goals and objectives for summer flounder. Ten public hearings will be held between September 10 and September 27. Written comments will be accepted through **October 12, 2018**.

The specific issues under consideration in this amendment include:

- 1. Requalifying criteria for federal commercial moratorium permits to address latent effort in the fishery:** The amendment includes options to reduce the number of eligible commercial federal moratorium permits by implementing requalifying criteria for existing permits.
- 2. Modifying commercial quota allocation:** The amendment proposes several options for revising the current commercial allocation to the states, which has been in place since 1993 and is based on average landings from 1980-1989.
- 3. Adding commercial landings flexibility as a framework issue in the Council's FMP:** This action does not consider implementing landings flexibility policies at this time but considers allowing the Council to implement landings flexibility through a future framework action instead of an amendment. The Commission's adaptive management process already allows for landings flexibility.

Given the joint nature of this management effort and to streamline the public comment process, comments should be directed to Council contact information below. In addition to providing comments at any of the scheduled public hearings, you may submit written comments by **11:59 PM, Eastern Time, on Friday, October 12, 2018**. Written comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

- 1. ONLINE:** [www.mafmc.org/comments/summer-flounder-amendment](http://www.mafmc.org/comments/summer-flounder-amendment)
- 2. EMAIL:** [nmfs.flukeamendment@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.flukeamendment@noaa.gov)
- 3. MAIL OR FAX TO:**

Chris Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
North State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901  
FAX: 302.674.5399

Please include "Summer Flounder Commercial Issues Amendment Comments" in the subject line if using email or on the outside of the envelope if submitting written comments by mail. All comments, regardless of submission method, will be compiled into a single document for review and consideration by both the Council and Commission. **Please do not send separate comments to the Council and Commission.**

**Learn More**

Additional information about the amendment and the management alternatives being considered can be found on the Council's website at [www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment](http://www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment) and on the Commission's website at <http://www.asafc.org/about-us/public-input>

**Wednesday, September 19 at 6 p.m.**  
**Southern Flounder Fishery Management  
Plan Advisory Committee**

N.C. Department of Environmental Quality  
943 Washington Square Mall, Washington  
Contacts: Mike Loeffler or Anne Markwith  
Phone: 252-264-3911 or 910-796-7292  
Email: [Michael.Loeffler@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Michael.Loeffler@ncdenr.gov) or  
[Anne.Markwith@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Anne.Markwith@ncdenr.gov)

**Saturday, September 22, 2018 10 a.m.-  
6 p.m.**

**Mattie Arts Center and Seafood Festival**  
10 Oyster Creek St, Swan Quarter, NC  
<https://mattieartscenter.org/>

