

NCFA UPDATE: 02/26/2021
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232)
Fax: (252) 726-6200
www.ncfish.org

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for 2/26/2012:

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Please note the additional 3 bills below.
H-181 included proclamation authority for the Wildlife Resources Committee.

S-26 TERMINAL GROIN DEFINITION;

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/Senate/PDF/S26v0.pdf>

Currently in the Senate Agriculture, Energy & Environment Committee

H-2 BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN AS STATE MARINE MAMMAL

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/House/PDF/H2v1.pdf>

Currently in the House State Government Committee; if favorable to House Marine Resources Committee

H-87 FUNDS/NEW NORTH CAROLINA MARITIME MUSEUM

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/House/PDF/H87v1.pdf>

Currently in the House Committee on Appropriations; if favorable Rules.

Here are bills that have been filed and will be assigned to a committee on Monday:

H-161 ADDRESS ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS;

sponsored by Hanig, McElraft, Iler & Shepard; not yet assigned to a

committee

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/House/PDF/H161v0.pdf>

H-181 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AMENDMENTS;

sponsored by Adams, Yarborough & Wray; not yet assigned to a committee

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/House/PDF/H181v0.pdf>

H-182 INCREASING MEAT PRODUCTION AND CAPACITY;

The above is the "short title"; full title is: AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE MEAT AND SEAFOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN NORTH CAROLINA BY MAKING PERMANENT THE "INCREASING SEAFOOD AND MEAT PRODUCTION AND CAPACITY" GRANT PROGRAM sponsored by McNeely, Gillespie, Hanig, and Elmore; not yet assigned to a committee

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/House/PDF/H182v0.pdf>

FEDERAL:

In late January, Congressman Don Young from Alaska introduced **House Bill 628, Shellfish Aquaculture Improvement Act of 2021**

Congressman David Rouzer from NC is a co-sponsor.

NCFA UPDATE: 02/26/2021
 NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
 "Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
 PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557
 Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232)
 Fax: (252) 726-6200
www.ncfish.org

The bill would amend Title 46, United States Code, to exclude certain aquaculture workers from treatment as seamen for the purpose of liability in the event of injury or death, and for other purposes.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/628>

The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

God bless,

Jerry

States Schedule Public Hearings on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Amendment 7 Public Information Document

The Atlantic coastal states of Maine through Virginia have scheduled their virtual hearings to gather public input on the Atlantic Striped Bass Draft amendment 7 Public Information Document (PID). The details of those hearings follow:

As the first step in the amendment process, the PID seeks input from those interested in striped bass about changes observed in the fishery/resource and potential management measures. It has been 18 years since the last plan amendment to the Atlantic Striped Bass FMP was adopted (Amendment 6). Since then, the status and understanding of the striped bass stock and fishery has changed considerably which raises concern that the management program no longer reflects current fishery needs and priorities. The results of the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment in particular led

Date	State/Agency Jurisdiction	Contact
Monday, March 8 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	New Hampshire Fish and Game	Cheri Patterson , 603.868.1095
Tuesday, March 9 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources	Megan Ware , 207.446.0932
Wednesday, March 10 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Virginia Marine Resources Commission	Pat Geer , 757.247.2236
Monday, March 15 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Potomac River Fisheries Commission	Martin Gary , 804.456.6935
Tuesday, March 16 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife	John Clark , 302.739.9108
Wednesday, March 17 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management	Nicole Lengyel Costa , 401.423.1940
Thursday, March 18 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries	Michael Armstrong , 978.282.0308 x109
Monday, March 22 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources	Michael Luisi , 443.758.6547
Tuesday, March 23 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation	Maureen Davison , 631.444.0483
Wednesday, March 24 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection	Justin Davis , 860.447.4322
Thursday, March 25 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	New Jersey Fish and Wildlife	Joe Cimino , 609.748.2020

NCFA UPDATE: 02/26/2021
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232)
Fax: (252) 726-6200
www.ncfish.org

the Board to discuss a number of prominent issues facing striped bass management. Consequently, the Board initiated the development of Amendment 7 in August 2020.

The purpose of the PID is to solicit stakeholder input on prioritizing the importance of each topic for continued development and potential inclusion in the Draft Amendment. The PID considers the following management topics: (1) fishery goals and objectives; (2) biological reference points; (3) management triggers; (4) stock rebuilding targets and schedule; (5) regional management; (6) management program equivalency (conservation equivalency); (7) recreational release mortality; (8) recreational accountability; (9) coastal commercial quota allocation; and (10) other issues raised in public comments.

Webinar Instructions

To register for a public hearing please click here: [Public Hearing Registration](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, which can be accessed using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. When connecting to audio, we strongly encourage participants to use computer voice over internet (VoIP) so you can ask questions and provide input. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial 1-213-929-4232 and enter access code 527-210-568. Those joining by phone only will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input at the hearing. For technical assistance setting up and logging into GoToWebinar, contact Toni Kerns at 703.842.0718.

If you are connected only by phone in listen only mode, you will not show up as a webinar attendee. In the event that there are no webinar attendees, the public hearing will be cancelled unless state staff request that the hearing content is presented.

The Commission will also post a recording of the hearing presentation on the [Commission's YouTube page](#) so that stakeholders may watch the presentation and submit comment at any time during the comment process. This recording will be available by March 1, 2021.

Submitting Comments

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on the PID either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The PID is available at http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassAm7PID_PublicComment_Feb2021.pdf or via the Commission's website at <http://www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>. Public comment will be accepted until **5 PM (EST) on April 9, 2021** and should be forwarded to Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass PID). If your organization is planning

NCFA UPDATE: 02/26/2021
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232)
Fax: (252) 726-6200
www.ncfish.org

to release an action alert in response to the PID, please contact Emilie Franke at 703.842.0740, so she can work with you to develop a unique subject line to enable us to better organize and summarize incoming comments for Board review.

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board will meet at the Commission's 2021 Spring Meeting in May to consider public comment and provide direction to staff for items to be included in Draft Amendment 7. For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

FW: MAFMC and ASMFC to Hold Public Hearings for Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are seeking public comment on management options under consideration in the Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment. This amendment contains alternatives to:

- Revise the fishery management plan (FMP) goals and objectives;
- Modify the bluefish allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors;
- Modify the commercial allocations to the states;
- Initiate a rebuilding plan;
- Revise the quota transfer processes;
- Revise how the FMP accounts for management uncertainty; and
- Revise the *de minimis* provisions in the Commission's FMP.

Comments may be provided at any of 5 virtual public hearings to be held between **March 24** and **April 8, 2021** or via written comment until **April 23, 2021**.

We encourage you to visit the Council's [Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment](#) web page or the Commission's [Public Input](#) web page, where you can read the Public Hearing Document, the Draft Amendment, and watch the public hearing presentation (to be posted by March 12, 2021).

The Council's [Public Hearing Document](#) is an abbreviated version of the amendment which summarizes proposed management options and impacts. The Commission's [Draft Amendment](#) is a more comprehensive management document that will resemble the Commission's final amendment once approved. Both documents contain identical options for public input, but each have been developed according to each management body's differing requirements. Commenters need only to submit comment on one of the documents. We have also developed a [Quick Reference Guide](#) which provides an overview of the alternatives under consideration in the amendment.

Virtual Hearing Schedule

Interested members of the public are encouraged to provide oral comments at any of the following public hearings. While we encourage you to attend the hearing that is targeted toward your state or

NCFA UPDATE: 02/26/2021
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232)
Fax: (252) 726-6200
www.ncfish.org

regional grouping, anyone is welcome to participate in any hearing. See the [hearing announcement](#) for a list of hearing contacts.

- **Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.:** North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida
- **Thursday, March 25, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.:** Delaware, Maryland, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and Virginia
- **Tuesday, March 30, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.:** Connecticut and New York
- **Thursday, April 1, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.:** Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island
- **Thursday, April 8, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.:** New Jersey

Webinar Connection Instructions

To register for a public hearing please click here: [Public Hearing Registration](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, which can be accessed using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. When connecting to audio, we strongly encourage participants to use computer voice over internet (VoIP) so you can ask questions and provide input. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial 1-866-901-6455 and enter access code 140-544-592. Those joining by phone only will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. For technical assistance setting up and logging into GoToWebinar, contact Dustin Colson Leaning at 703-842-0714.

Please note that if you are connected only by phone in listen only mode, you will not show up as a webinar attendee. In the event that there are no webinar attendees, the public hearing will be cancelled unless state staff request that the hearing content is presented.

Written Comments

Written comments may be submitted through April 23, 2021 by any of the following methods:

1. **ONLINE:** <https://www.mafmc.org/comments/bluefish-allocation-rebuilding-amendment>
2. **EMAIL:** mseeley@mafmc.org
3. **MAIL:** Dr. Christopher Moore, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901
4. **FAX:** 302-674-5399

Please include "Bluefish Amendment" in the subject line if using email or fax, or on the outside of the envelope if submitting written comments.

Tips for Providing Public Comment

NCFA UPDATE: 02/26/2021
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232)
Fax: (252) 726-6200

We value your input. To be most effective, we request that your comment include specific details as to why you support or oppose a particular alternative. Specifically, please address the following:

- Which proposed alternative(s) do you support, and which do you oppose?
- Why do you support or oppose the alternative(s)?
- Is there any additional information you think should be considered?

Contacts

If you have any questions, please contact:

- **Matthew Seeley**, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, mseeley@mafmc.org, 302-526-5262
- **Dustin Colson Leaning**, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, dleaning@asmfc.org, 703-842-0714

MAFMC PRESS CONTACT: [Mary Sabo](mailto:Mary.Sabo@mafmc.org), 302.518.1143

ASMFC PRESS CONTACT: [Tina Berger](mailto:Tina.Berger@asmfc.org), 703.842.0749

Public Hearings for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment Begin This Week

The first two public hearing webinars for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment will be held this week, on Wednesday, February 17 and Thursday, February 18. Additional hearings will be held on February 24, March 1, and March 2. All hearings will begin at 6:00 p.m. Written comments may also be submitted through March 16, 2021.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are developing this joint amendment to consider adjusting the allocations of catch or landings between the commercial and recreational fisheries for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The amendment also considers options that would allow a portion of the allowable landings to be transferred between the commercial and recreational sectors each year.

Learn More

Complete details about the management alternatives being considered in this amendment are available in the Public Hearing Document. We have also developed a new Alternatives Quick Reference Guide which provides an overview of the alternatives under consideration in the

NCFA UPDATE: 02/26/2021
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232)
Fax: (252) 726-6200
www.ncfish.org

amendment. This guide should be used in conjunction with the Public Hearing Document and is intended to help members of the public provide comments on specific alternatives.

Finally, we have posted a recording of the Public Hearing Presentation. If you are not planning to attend a public hearing, we encourage you to watch this video before submitting written comments.

Additional background information and related documents are available on the action page for this amendment.

Public Hearing Schedule

You are encouraged to attend any of the following five virtual public hearings and to provide oral or written comments at these hearings. While we encourage you to attend the hearing that is targeted toward your state, anyone is welcome to participate in any hearing.

Wednesday, February 17, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.: Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Thursday, February 18, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.: New Jersey

Wednesday, February 24, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.: Delaware and Maryland

Monday, March 1, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.: Virginia and North Carolina

Tuesday, March 2, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.: Connecticut and New York

To register for a public hearing please click here: [Public Hearing Registration](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, which can be accessed using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. When connecting to audio, we strongly encourage participants to use computer voice over internet (VoIP) so you can ask questions and provide input. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial 1-877-309-2074 and enter access code 128-060-916. Those joining by phone only will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. For technical assistance setting up and logging into GoToWebinar, contact Savannah Lewis at 703-842-0715.

If you are connected only by phone in listen only mode, you will not show up as a webinar attendee. In the event that there are no webinar attendees, the public hearing will be cancelled unless state staff request that the hearing content is presented.

Written Comments

Written comments may be submitted through March 16, 2021 by any of the following methods:

1. ONLINE at <http://www.mafmc.org/comments/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment>

NCFA UPDATE: 02/26/2021
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232)
Fax: (252) 726-6200
www.ncfish.org

2. EMAIL to kdancy@mafmc.org

3. MAIL or FAX to Dr. Christopher Moore, Executive Director

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

800 North State Street, Suite 201

Dover, DE 19901

FAX: 302.674.5399

Please include "Fluke/Scup/Sea Bass Allocation Amendment" in the subject line if using email or fax, or on the outside of the envelope if submitting written comments.