

From: Heather Main [<mailto:heatheremain@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 9:43 AM
To: Bay, Sueann; Smith, Tricia
Subject: Aug. 19th, NC Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting

Correspondence to the Commission for meeting for August 19th Meeting in Raleigh to discuss Potential Management Proposals

Dear Honorable NC Marine Fisheries Commission Members,

I would like to ask for more regulation of pound nets and gill nets to reduce by-catch and sea turtle strandings/drownings or to consider completely banning gill nets and pound nets in NC. Gill nets and pound nets are outlawed in most states on the East coast because of needless by-catch waste and to reduce impact on juvenile fish and to improve nursery management of estuarine waters. Many juvenile fish are caught in gill nets and cannot be sold to fish markets= WASTE. Gill nets and pound nets are often not tended for several days, pound nets are not tended for a week at a time causing stress for captured birds and turtles.

Let's put more emphasis on supporting farm raised fish and shellfish farming, entities that are known to have better market potential for fishermen who want to make a living on our NC coast rather than depleting the juvenile fish in our waters. Gill nets and pound nets should be banned from our state because of their devastating impact on fish and other wildlife including sea turtles and birds.

Please also consider more effective regulation of the considerable run-off of fertilizer into the estuarine waters in winter and spring from large farms that causes large algae blooms. This fertilizer run-off gravely affects our fish populations.

Citizens, like me, are concerned about our NC coastal waters management. Keep them safe and regulated. Thank you.

A Concerned Citizen of NC,
Heather Main
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